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ICPSR BULLETIN

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Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research



Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research

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The Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR), located at the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, is the world's largest repository of computer-readable social science data. For 40 years, the Consortium has served the social science community by acquiring, processing, and distributing data collections on a broad range of topics. Researchers at the Consortium's member institutions may obtain any of these data collections at no charge; researchers at nonmember institutions may also use the data, after paying an access fee. To find out more about ICPSR's holdings or about a specific data collection, visit the ICPSR Web site at www.icpsr.umich.edu.

The *ICPSR Bulletin* is published to inform interested scholars, including Official Representatives at the member campuses and ICPSR Council members, about topics and events relevant to ICPSR and its data collections. For subscription information, please contact the Editors.

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Editors: Ruth Shamraj and Elizabeth Sikkenga

ICPSR DIRECT

Ilona Einowski
University of California, Berkeley

"ICPSR Direct: Immediate Data Access for All Campus Users"—thus began the article that appeared in the Spring 2001 *ICPSR Bulletin* announcing the implementation of the much discussed, long awaited—and sometimes feared—new service providing individuals with access to the ICPSR data holdings. With ICPSR Direct, Official Representatives (ORs) no longer have the responsibility of acquiring data files for local users on their campuses; instead, individual researchers and students are empowered to download data themselves. This new level of access to data moves us that much closer to the ideal electronic research environment, in which all of the resources and tools necessary for social science research are on the desktops of data users.

As I said, this new service was previously sometimes feared. One fear expressed by ORs was that we would become obsolete. If users could get data for themselves, why would they need an OR? What would the role of the OR be in this new world in which researchers could access the data themselves? If all these resources were available on the Internet, why, for that matter, would our universities even want to belong to an organization like ICPSR?

To address these types of concerns, ICPSR staff, with input from users, spent many hours considering the purpose, features, and functionality of ICPSR Direct service as they set about designing the technological aspects of the system. Once research-

ers had the vision, they could see the advantage of this type of service and eagerly awaited implementation. It was clear that ICPSR Direct would facilitate data exploration, give individual researchers control over data access, and eliminate the step of waiting for data requests to be filled by the OR.

Now that the Web is an integral part of our everyday activities, we can see that our role as ORs has not become obsolete. Rather, it has changed and evolved. We now spend less time managing the routine, physical activities involved in acquiring data and more time in our role as consultants and data-use facilitators. While researchers can download data themselves, they still rely on their ORs for assistance in locating these files, because not even the best search engine can replace the wealth of knowledge ORs have gained from experience. We are also finding that more and more researchers in a variety of disciplines are now seeking data for secondary analysis, so our user base has expanded and many of these new users are in need of our assistance and expertise.

At last count, over 250 member institutions were participating in ICPSR Direct. From my discussions with many of you, it appears that you are extremely pleased with this service. For those of you who are still waiting, for whatever reason, to sign up, I hope that the following information about our experience here at the University of California, Berkeley will encourage you to implement ICPSR Direct service on your campus.

Ilona Einowski is the Director of User Services at the University of California Data Archive & Technical Assistance (UC DATA) at the University of California, Berkeley, where she has been the data archivist since 1979. She has served as the ICPSR Official Representative at Berkeley since 1983, and is a member of the 2002-2004 ICPSR Council. She has been active in the International Association for Social Science Information Service and Technology (IASSIST) since 1979, and is the chair of the IASSIST International Outreach Action Group, coordinating efforts to provide funding for information professionals from developing economies to attend IASSIST conferences. She is currently active in the development of the California Digital Library on-line data access system, Counting California.

Preparing for ICPSR Direct

ICPSR began positioning the organization to implement direct access with the redesign of its Web site in February 2001. Just as the Internet changed the way we work and how we serve our clients, the new ICPSR Web site was designed to “provide to the social science research community efficient search capabilities, quick, easy access to data, information about ICPSR and its programs, and appropriate support and documentation.”¹

In Fall 2000 ICPSR had enlisted a limited number of institutions of varied sized and types to participate in their experiment for open access. The original seven beta test participants were:

- UCLA
- University of California, Berkeley
- University of Michigan
- University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
- Northwestern University
- State University of New York, Binghamton University
- Southern University

UC Berkeley was eager to participate in the beta testing phase of ICPSR Direct for several reasons. We have an active research community who are experienced users of ICPSR data. In addition, we were seeing ever-increasing use of the ICPSR resources by undergraduates and departments outside of the mainstream of social science research. Further, our goal has been to incorporate reference, discovery, and access to electronic data into the mainstream of research on our campus. We wanted to make it possible to include catalog records for electronic data files in the same stream as books, journals, sound recordings, and images, through the University Library catalog.

As we prepared for beta testing of ICPSR Direct at UC Berkeley, we worked closely with the Web Support staff at ICPSR to set up the new service. In the same way that member institutions now prepare for ICPSR Direct access, each beta test institution supplied ICPSR with a set of IP addresses that defined machines on their campus network, the name of a technical person at the institution for help with network problems (keeping the set of IP addresses up-to-date, dealing with other campus authentication systems), a local support contact (not necessarily the OR) to whom ICPSR could refer users for technical support and questions about the data, and text for the “Authorized Download Page.” The purpose of this page is to present information specific to local practices regarding print codebooks, office location and hours, or any other information relevant to ICPSR services on our campuses.

In order to provide ICPSR with the designated IT contact on our campus, I spoke with the local person I have always interacted with on technical matters. After I explained what we needed, she connected me with the appropriate person in the campus IT group who could provide me with the IP ranges. This person also agreed to serve as our technical contact for ICPSR.

Since we began ICPSR Direct service, we have had several instances in which a new IP, out of the range previously supplied to ICPSR, was deployed and had to be added. This was not totally unforeseen since we were aware that the Library was installing additional computers in the new Reference Room and a new dormitory complex was opening. The process for updating the IP range is not complicated: you use the same on-line form as when you originally signed up for ICPSR Direct service and indicate that the information is an “Update” rather than a “New Submission.”

As always, ICPSR staff was extremely helpful in consulting with us as we set up these new procedures. Once we delivered the information to the ICPSR Web Support staff, it took about a week for them to set it up on their end. Updating IP information was considerably faster.

When we got the go-ahead from ICPSR for the implementation of ICPSR Direct, we sent an e-mail to individuals and departments who were heavy users of ICPSR and created a news item for our UC DATA Web site (www.ucdata.berkeley.edu) announcing the test and the new method of direct access. We found that experienced users of our archive tried it almost immediately and were quite excited. Many users sent e-mails praising the new service, saying they would miss the frequent interaction with our staff, but really liked the speed and the flexibility it gave them for their research.



Helping Users

As could be expected, it was the new users (or those less technically sophisticated) that seemed to have the most difficulty. We discovered that even though we understood the information in the “Authorized Download” message, inexperienced users did not “get it.” The first paragraph on this page lays out the parameters for access:

Manifests

As a student, faculty or staff member at the University of California, Berkeley, you are authorized to access ICPSR data, so long as you are affiliated with the University of California, Berkeley, and the institution maintains a membership in good standing with ICPSR. The study you have requested is the property of ICPSR's member institutions. By downloading the data, you signify that you agree not to share the data with anyone other than faculty members, students, or staff of the University of California, Berkeley. You further agree to the terms of use specified in ICPSR's Responsible Use Statement.

The second paragraph tells them where to go for help:

For local assistance with the process of downloading and using your data, contact UC Data Archive & Technical Assistance (UC DATA) at the Survey Research Center (e-mail: archive@ucdata.berkeley.edu).

As we all know, the general tendency is to do a cursory read of any document on the Web and then barrel ahead. We found that after new users read that second paragraph, they went no further on the ICPSR site but instead fired off an e-mail to us requesting the login and password. In response, we sent them an e-mail explaining the ICPSR Direct access procedure and giving step-by-step instructions. We also referred them to the bullet item on our home page, "Open Access to ICPSR Data from the Berkeley Campus Network." The hyperlink from the term "ICPSR Data" sends them to a page that begins:

UC Berkeley Users: You do NOT need a login or password to download data from ICPSR. Access is based on a list of our campus IP addresses on file at ICPSR. If you encounter a problem downloading, please send an email to archive@ucdata.berkeley.edu.

In most cases, this step-by-step method, leading them through the process and explaining what to expect at each step, answered their questions and got them on their way. We did see a slight increase in instances of users contacting us for help because after they downloaded the data, "it was nothing but numbers" and they couldn't "open the file in Excel." There was also some confusion because, depending on how the user's browser was configured, different screens or prompts came up as they were proceeding through the download. We learned to recognize these situations and alert them as to what to expect with their particular configuration. We also relied on the ICPSR Tutorial for New Users and the FAQ pages to answer many of these questions from users.

When a campus user downloads a study via ICPSR Direct service, ICPSR generates a manifest — much like the ones we were receiving for the OR FTP orders. These manifests are sent to a designated account and used by the ORs to monitor the ICPSR Direct access activity.

In the beginning of the beta test period, the manifest did not provide any distinguishing information on the user who had downloaded the file. I remember examining the manifest for the first month and a half of the test. Between October 31 and December 14, 2000, UC Berkeley downloaded a total of 26 titles, consisting of 84 separate files. The manifest provided information on the Study (ICPSR Number, Dataset Number, File Name, and complete Study Name) but no information on who had ordered the study.

ICPSR staff, responding to input from the beta test participants, reworked the manifest to include information on the requester. This is done through an expansion of the "Authorized Download" page. After providing the descriptive information about ICPSR Direct, the user is instructed "Please enter your e-mail address to continue." The text explains:

We will use your email address to determine whether or not you have downloaded data from our site in the past. If you are a first-time user, we will ask you to register and to provide some more specific information.

The registration information consists of general information on affiliation, department, general reason for using data, and the option to provide contact information. It also provides the user's e-mail address if the user has responded "Yes" to the question:

The Official Representative at your institution may wish to contact you to provide you with printed codebooks (when electronic versions are not available) or to assist you with your data needs. Is it all right for your local ICPSR representative to contact you as described above?

This information gathered from the registration page is now included in each manifest along with the study information. This allows ORs to collect information on campus users ordering via ICPSR Direct. We at UC Berkeley use this information to create reports by category of user and department. We also keep an electronic file of these manifests to refer back to when necessary. It is also possible to request from ICPSR a cumulative report for your institution or a custom report for a specific period.

Hardcopy Codebooks: No Longer an Issue

Early on during the beta test period, there were still a significant number of codebooks available only in hardcopy form. For the test implementation of ICPSR Direct, the same rules applied for codebook distribution that had applied under the OR order-only system. The campus OR was automatically sent a codebook if:

- A data file was ordered by anyone on that campus
- The documentation was not available in electronic format
- ICPSR had not supplied a copy to the OR in at least two years

At UC Berkeley, we have an extensive ICPSR codebook collection. The implementation of ICPSR Direct meant that several times a month a new codebook would arrive from ICPSR because of a campus user's order via the ICPSR Direct service. We *never* had the experience of a user alerting us before the fact that he or she had downloaded a file and were expecting a hardcopy codebook. When these codebooks arrived, it was necessary for us to review the manifests for the previous two weeks and look for the download of that particular study. Once we located the contact information of the user who had downloaded the data, we sent them e-mail notifying them that the codebook had arrived. Now that ICPSR's codebook retrofit project is virtually complete and all codebooks are available in electronic format, we will no longer need to track down these users.

Benefits of ICPSR Direct

UC Berkeley, a research institution with over 23,000 undergraduates and almost 9,000 graduate students, has been an ICPSR member since 1963. Nearly 30 years ago when I was first involved with ICPSR, ordering a dataset consisted of:

- Typing up a paper order form
- Mailing the form and a blank tape reel to ICPSR
- Waiting between four and six weeks for the data to arrive
- Inventorying the tape and paper documentation received
- Logging the original tape into the local computing center tape library

- Making a backup copy of the files
- Doing a "dump" of the backup tape to check that the files were the same as on the original tape
- Creating a paper file containing all the tape documentation materials sent from ICPSR (file information, a partial dump of each file contents)
- Adding the study and file information to our record system (ID number, file number, file name, file size)
- Cataloging the codebook
- Notifying the requester (usually by phone) that the data had arrived
- And, sometimes, photocopying the codebook for the user

The total amount of UCB staff time necessary to process *one order* was approximately *eight hours*.

In comparison, in October 2002, 22 Berkeley campus users downloaded 80 studies using ICPSR Direct. The total amount of time UCB staff spent dealing with these 22 *orders* was approximately *two hours*.

Before ICPSR Direct, even though we had the capability to FTP files through the OR site and many requests for data were received, ordered, and uploaded to our UNIX server in a matter of hours, we *always* told users that the files would be available in three to five working days. If we needed to wait for a hardcopy codebook, we told them it would be seven to ten working days. We found that if we told them it would be available in two hours, they wanted it in an hour — and they would be on the phone asking where it is in half an hour. Since three to five (or even the seven to ten) working days is better than the previous four to six weeks, they are pleasantly surprised when we notify them a day later that the files are available for use.

With the advent of the ICPSR Direct service, the number of studies we downloaded and installed on our UNIX server declined. We keep fewer physical copies of the data we obtain from ICPSR. Whereas before ICPSR Direct service we were adding approximately seven gigabytes of ICPSR data files per month to our campus UNIX server, we now add only a small fraction of that amount. This means that we have not requested additional space on our UNIX server for the past year. The only files we continue to add are those requested for use by professors for instructional purposes or for the occasional user who is not using a desktop machine for processing and wants to analyze the data on a departmental UNIX machine.

Lessons Learned

So, what have we learned? We no longer expend resources in archival activities — we make very few backups, keep few physical copies unless a study has many files, is very large, or is being used by a professor for a class project. Archive staff, freed from the clerical tasks associated with maintaining a local data collection, have more time to spend enhancing user services, developing metadata, building new access tools, and promoting data use on our campus. We find that we are providing a lot more technical assistance in the use of data files, in understanding the content, in how to use a codebook, in how to use PDF files, and in how to link raw data to the SPSS/SAS data definition statements. We have found that on the rare occasions when the ICPSR server is down and someone wants a file, users are now so accustomed to getting it quickly via ICPSR Direct, that they are less tolerant of such delays. When this happens, Archive staff console themselves with our mantra “There is no such thing as a data emergency, there is no such thing as a data emergency, there is no such thing as a data emergency.”

Users have learned that they have the power to quickly and easily explore the content of studies while their research ideas are fresh. They spend less time waiting and more time doing. The trade-off is that they must acquire good data management skills — standardized naming practices, disk space management, backups — all those tasks previously handled for them by the local OR. In general, once they “get it,” there has been complete acceptance of ICPSR Direct, and I suspect that the next generation of users will not only accept but expect this type of service.

Is there a downside? If a campus IRB (Institutional Review Board) decides that every researcher has to get an exemption each and every time they use data, even public data, there will be serious impediments to continue to use ICPSR Direct. In addition, security measures implemented by some institutions may interfere with ICPSR Direct access if the off-campus users are not coming in through a proxy server.

As I said earlier, our goal has been to incorporate reference, discovery, and access to electronic data into the mainstream of research at UC Berkeley. One of the ways we have been facilitating access is by utilizing SDA, a set of programs for Survey Documentation and Analysis. Since we now have ICPSR Direct, and spend less time with the clerical tasks of archiving, we have more time available to transform files for use in SDA. You can analyze the data from the studies in SDA from a Web browser. Cross-tabulation, comparison of means, comparison of correlations, and other types of analysis are available on-line.

SDA can produce codebooks either for printing or for browsing on the Web. The documentation for each study contains a full description of each variable, indexes to the variables, and whatever study-level information is available. Another procedure available in SDA allows users to generate and download a subset of the data files. In addition to generating the data file, the subset procedure produces a codebook for the subset and data definition statements for SAS, SPSS, and Stata. We are working on a plan to streamline data discovery, downloading, and transformation into SDA to further assist our users in their research.

Conclusion

In preparing this article, I talked to a number of ORs, some of whom are already using Direct and others who are not. Every OR who had implemented Direct had basically the same experience I described at UC Berkeley. Every campus using Direct is extremely positive about the experience. One OR told me it had reduced his work by 99 percent! Although I think this is an exaggeration, it is typical of the enthusiastic responses I encountered. As to those ORs not currently using Direct, they had a variety of reasons. One said he didn’t get enough requests for data to “bother” setting up ICPSR Direct access. Another new OR was just becoming familiar with ICPSR and interacting with users but intended to “work on setting up ICPSR Direct access in the near future.” Within a month, that campus was indeed signed up for Direct Service. In a recent discussion with the OR she said that ICPSR Direct has had a significant impact on data use on her campus. For her users, who are scattered in offices throughout the city, this type of remote access is most appealing.

For those ORs who have not yet implemented ICPSR Direct, I strongly encourage you to do so. It is not difficult to set up and ICPSR staff is always available to assist you. It will change your way of doing business — but in a very positive way.

¹ Vardigan, Mary. 2001. “Rebuilding ICPSR’s Web Site: From Concept to Implementation.” *ICPSR Bulletin*, Summer 2001 XXI (4): 2-3.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ICPSR Hosts Professor James Lee

James Z. Lee, Professor of History at California Institute of Technology, is spending the 2002-2003 academic year at ICPSR while working with the University of Michigan Department of History, the Population Studies Center, and the Center for Chinese Studies. Professor Lee, who received his Ph.D. from the University of Chicago, is an expert on the social and economic history of China as well as the comparative historical and contemporary demography of East Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa. Among his publications are *One Quarter of Humanity: Malthusian Mythologies and Chinese Realities, 1700-2000*, Harvard University Press, 1999 (with Wang Feng); and *Fate and Fortune in Rural China: Social Organization and Population Behavior in Liaoning, 1774-1873*, Cambridge University Press, 1997 (with Cameron Campbell).

Erik Austin Named ICPSR Assistant Director

Erik W. Austin has recently been named ICPSR Assistant Director and Director of Archival Development. This new title reflects the expanded responsibilities that Erik has taken on since he stepped down as ICPSR Interim Director in August 2001.

Erik brings to this role over 30 years of experience as an archivist and an historian. A graduate of Dartmouth College (A.B. in History) and the University of Michigan (M.A. and Ph.D. coursework, also in History), Erik has played a prominent role throughout his career in building and extending the holdings of the ICPSR Archive, particularly in the areas of political science, history, and demography.

Erik has served as Executive Director of the Social Science History Association since 1993 and is the author of *Political Facts of the United States Since 1789* (New York, NY: Columbia University Press, 1986); co-author (with Jerome M. Clubb and Gordon W. Kirk, Jr.) of *The Process of Historical Inquiry: Everyday Lives of Working Americans* (New York, NY: Columbia University Press, 1989); and has written numerous articles on historical and data archival topics.

ICPSR Hires Acquisitions Director

ICPSR is pleased to announce that Amy Mehraban Pienta will be joining the ICPSR staff in May 2003 as Acquisitions Director. In this position, Dr. Pienta will identify and pursue the acquisition of data collections in all fields of the social sciences with the goal of arranging for their deposit in the data archive at ICPSR.

Dr. Pienta, who is currently Assistant Professor in the Institute on Aging and Department of Health Policy and Epidemiology at the University of Florida, received her Ph.D. in Sociology from the State University of New York at Buffalo. Her research interests are in work and retirement, population health and aging, and marriage and family in later life. She is the author of several articles, including "Understanding the Retirement Behavior of Married Couples," *Journal of Applied Gerontology* (in press); "Social Change and Adult Children's Attitudes Toward the Support of Elderly Parents: Evidence From Nepal," *Hallym International Journal of Aging* 3(2), 2001:211-235 (with Jennifer S. Barber and William G. Axinn); and "Who Continues to Work Past 62: The Retirement Plans of Married Couples," *Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences*, 2002, 57B:S199-S208 (with Mark Hayward).

New Deadline for Application to MCRDC Announced

To benefit its members, ICPSR is purchasing a "seat" in the Michigan Census Research Data Center (MCRDC), and researchers from ICPSR member institutions may apply to use the seat without paying MCRDC laboratory fees. The MCRDC enables qualified researchers with approved projects to conduct research using unpublished data from the Census Bureau's economic and demographic programs. All MCRDC research is conducted within its secure laboratory facility located in the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan.

Researchers are invited to submit proposals to use the MCRDC. All research in MCRDC must have a Census Bureau purpose. Please refer to the MCRDC and the Census Bureau Center for Economic Studies (CES) Web pages (see below) for information about the proposal process and about available datasets. Researchers with projects in the MCRDC must have special sworn status with the Census Bureau. The MCRDC assists researchers in obtaining this status.

The next deadline for proposal submission is *May 15, 2003*. Subsequent deadlines are in mid-September and mid-January. **IMPORTANT:** Researchers aiming to use the MCRDC starting in late summer of 2003 should contact the MCRDC as soon as possible to begin the proposal process.

To apply to use the ICPSR-supported seat, researchers should submit a copy of their MCRDC research proposal, together with a brief letter requesting use of the ICPSR seat, to Erik Austin, ICPSR Assistant Director and Director of Archival Development, at least one week before submission of a proposal to the MCRDC. Note that ICPSR's role in the application process is only to verify ICPSR membership and does not involve proposal review. More detailed information about the MCRDC as well as tips on writing successful proposals can be found on the MCRDC Web site.

To contact staff at the center, send email to mcrdc@umich.edu. For more information about ICPSR support for research at the MDRDC, contact Erik Austin at erik@icpsr.umich.edu.

For more information:
MCRDC brochure: www.isr.umich.edu/src/mcrdc/brochure.pdf
MCRDC Web page: www.isr.umich.edu/src/mcrdc/mcrdc.html
CES Web page: www.ces.census.gov/ces.php/home
Email: mcrdc@umich.edu

OR Meeting Planned for October 2003

The 27th Biennial Meeting of ICPSR Official Representatives (ORs) will take place October 9-12, 2003, in Ann Arbor on the University of Michigan campus. ORs are encouraged to attend this special meeting, which will also serve as a forum to celebrate ICPSR's 40th anniversary. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us in October for this important milestone. More information about the meeting will be available soon on the OR pages of the ICPSR Web site.

ICPSR's Union Catalog in Process

With funding from the National Science Foundation's "Infrastructure in the Social Sciences" program, ICPSR has begun to augment its electronic catalog with metadata records describing externally-held social science data resources. The goal of the union catalog project is to expand and facilitate "one-stop shopping" for research data through ICPSR's on-line catalog. The category "external resources" complements the range of in-house resources ICPSR currently makes available and includes individual datasets, data analysis tools, instructional materials, and Web sites. Adding metadata descriptions for these external resources and seamlessly connecting them to ICPSR finding aids will simplify the data discovery process and provide users with more comprehensive search results. The minimal-level DDI-compliant metadata records being added to the catalog for this project are also being indexed using the ICPSR subject thesaurus.

New Look for ICPSR

As we hope you will have noticed, ICPSR has developed a new logo which effectively communicates our fundamental mission of preservation and accessibility. We are in the process of updating our Web site, publications, and promotional materials to incorporate the new logo and a unifying graphic design theme.

We are phasing in some content changes as well to make the publications more useful and informative. For the *Bulletin*, you will note that we have eliminated the lengthy list of studies released in the last quarter in favor of email distribution of recently released studies at more frequent intervals, in order to provide users with up-to-the-minute information.

The transition to the new publications design is a gradual process, which we hope to complete over the next year. In the meantime, some of the publications, like the *2001-2002 Annual Report*, will reflect the old logo and design.

ICPSR Web Site Revised

ICPSR released a new version of our Web site in March 2003, with improvements in both design and navigation. Web site enhancements include:

- New site organization and navigation that streamline the process of accessing data
- Centralization of all of the data finding aids on one page with explanations of the utility of each approach
- Extensive revision of the data downloads page to clarify the relationship between studies and data files, and to solve display problems that stem from studies with a large number of files
- Improved batch downloading function, with this capability available to all users, not just Official Representatives
- Increased accessibility of the Bibliography of Data-Related Literature and Online Analysis through links appearing on the downloads page
- A simpler, cleaner design for the front page with a new logo and a smaller set of links
- A Javascript utility that displays different versions of the front page for users with older computers or smaller screens

Please visit the new site and contact us with comments or suggestions at web-support@icpsr.umich.edu.

DDI Alliance Established

On February 8, 2003, the Steering Committee for the newly created Data Documentation Initiative (DDI) Alliance met for the first time in Washington, DC, to formally start up Alliance operations. Members of the Steering Committee include the following individuals from Alliance host institutions and associations:

- Ann Green, Yale University, representing the International Association of Social Science Information Service and Technology (IASSIST)
- Myron Gutmann, representing the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR)
- Bjorn Henrichsen, Norwegian Social Science Data

Archive, representing the Council of European Social Science Data Archives (CESSDA)

- Ekkehard Mochmann, Zentralarchiv für Empirische Sozialforschung (ZA), representing the International Federation of Data Organizations (IFDO)
- Richard Rockwell, representing the Roper Center for Public Opinion Research
- Mary Vardigan, ICPSR, DDI Alliance Director
- Peter Joftis, ICPSR, DDI Alliance Associate Director

The DDI is a project of the social science research community to develop an international specification for technical documentation describing social science data. Version 2.0 of the specification, which is written in XML, will be available shortly on the DDI Web site at www.icpsr.umich.edu/DDI or www.ddialliance.org. Development of Version 2.0 was supported in part by the National Science Foundation.

The DDI effort is being restructured as a membership Alliance. Membership in the Alliance is open to for-profit or not-for-profit educational, commercial, or governmental organizations that want to have a voice in the decision-making process for the standard. Members are entitled to send one representative to meetings of the new DDI Expert Committee, whose first formal meeting will be held in Ann Arbor in conjunction with the Official Representatives meeting in October 2003.

Before that first meeting, an informal open meeting of the members of the original DDI Committee, the DDI Alliance Steering Committee, and all interested individuals will be held during the upcoming IASSIST conference in Ottawa, Ontario, May 25-30, 2003. The meeting will invite a discussion of where the DDI is going and what the Alliance hopes to achieve.

For more information on joining this effort, please contact the DDI Secretariat, which is housed at ICPSR, at: secretariat@ddialliance.org.

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Regression Analysis III: Advanced Methods

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Mathematics for Social Scientists I
Mathematics for Social Scientists II
Statistical Computing in S

Advanced Topics in Social Research*

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July 21-August 15

Workshops

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Categorical Analysis
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Longitudinal Analysis
Mathematical Models: Rational Choice
Regression Analysis II: Linear Models
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