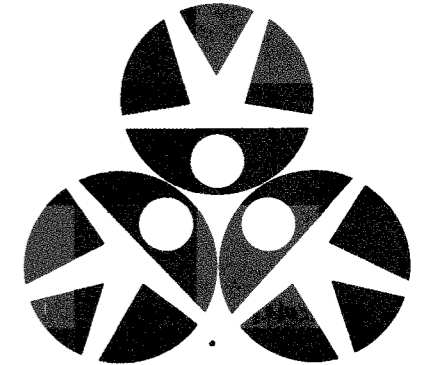


# ACSPRI newsletter

Australian Consortium  
for Social and  
Political Research  
Incorporated



Number 1 March 1980

ISSN 0158-6882

## CONTENTS

The Newsletter	1
Current Member Institutions and Representatives	2
Background	3
The Role of the ANU Survey Research Centre	3
Access to ICPSR Data Sets and Code Books	3
The ICPSR Summer Program	5
Reports on the 1979 Summer Program:	
Ken Brewer, Director, ANU Survey Research Centre	5
Tony Goldsworthy, Surveys Manager, Centre for Applied Social and Survey Research, Flinders University	7
Further Objectives of ACSPRI	10
Archiving of Australian Data Sets	11
Australian Data Sets Currently Available	11
Instructional Packages Available from ICPSR	15

## THE NEWSLETTER

The ACSPRI Newsletter has been established to provide researchers in member institutions with information on

the current activities of ACSPRI, with the aim of encouraging wider interest in the use of available data for secondary analysis and teaching, and of the facilities provided through membership of ACSPRI. If the Newsletter proves successful, then we intend to produce two issues annually in March and September.

In this first issue, the emphasis has been on describing the development of ACSPRI from its formation in 1976, the procedures for accessing ICPSR data sets, the ICPSR Summer Program, and progress in other fields of activity. Future issues will expand on these developments, report on new data acquisitions and on the ways in which data sets available through ACSPRI are being used.

Contributions from readers are encouraged, and reports on the problems encountered and the successes achieved with secondary analyses of data would be of particular interest. It is hoped that these will generate wider recognition of the value of archived survey data and thus encourage investigators to make their own data available for use by others.

Contributions to the Newsletter and enquiries about membership of ACSPRI should be addressed to:

Roger Jones,  
The ANU Survey Research Centre,  
Australian National University,  
PO Box 4, Canberra 2500.  
Telephone (052) 494400

CURRENT MEMBER INSTITUTIONS AND REPRESENTATIVES

University of Melbourne	Mr K.G. Armstrong Department of Political Science (Chairman of ACSPRI)
University of Sydney	Dr T. Beed Sample Survey Centre (Vice-Chairman of ACSPRI)
The Australian National University	Mr R.G. Jones ANU Survey Research Centre (Secretary-Treasurer of ACSPRI)
University of Queensland	Professor J.S. Western Department of Anthropology and Sociology
Flinders University of South Australia	Dr D. DeBats American Studies Discipline
University of Tasmania	Professor R. Crook Department of Sociology
Western Australian Institute of Technology	Mr D. Charnock Department of Social Science
Australian Council for Educational Research	Dr M. Rosier
Darling Downs Institute of Advanced Education	Mr T. Earle Centre of Applied Research Methodology
Gippsland Institute of Advanced Education	Mr I. Hamilton School of Business and Social Sciences
Griffith University	Dr G. McDonald Institute of Applied Social Research
La Trobe University	Mr D.H. Borchardt Chief Librarian
Macquarie University	Mr M. Goot Department of Politics School of History, Philosophy & Politics
Monash University	Professor D. Kemp Department of Politics
University of New South Wales	Professor S. Encel School of Sociology
Prahran College of Advanced Education	Mr M. Long School of General Studies
Swinburne College of Technology	Miss Kath McGrath Periodicals Librarian
University of Wollongong	Dr G. Sherington Department of Education

BACKGROUND

The Australian Consortium for Social and Political Research Incorporated is an association of universities and colleges formed in 1976 primarily to take up national membership of the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) in Ann Arbor, Michigan. ICPSR possesses the world's most comprehensive collection of academically-based social science data sets, organized into a Survey Research Archive, an Historical Archive and an International Relations Archive. Data sets held in these archives are thoroughly checked, wherever possible to eliminate errors, completely documented and stored for release to members with the intention that they should be widely used for research and teaching. Members receive copies of the code books and related ICPSR publications, as well as advice on the survey analysis packages produced and supported by ICPSR, and the opportunity for subsidised attendance at the summer schools held by the Institute for Social Research in Ann Arbor.

The Australian National University, through the Research School of Social Sciences, held institutional membership of ICPSR from 1966, and the University of Melbourne joined in 1974. In 1975, ICPSR suggested the formation of a federation of tertiary institutions to take out Australian national membership and a meeting of representatives of Australian tertiary institutions and other interested parties was held in February 1976 at the ANU, with Professor Parker in the chair. The representatives of eleven institutions stated their interest in the proposed national membership of ICPSR, and a steering committee was formed to finalise the details.

ACSPRI came into being in May of that year, with the ANU and the University of Melbourne as founder members, and with firm commitments to join the Consortium from 1 July 1976 for the next two years at least being given by Flinders University, James Cook University, La

Trobe University, the Universities of New South Wales, Sydney and Queensland, and the Western Australian Institute of Technology. The membership of ACSPRI has since grown from nine to eighteen institutions.

THE ROLE OF THE ANU SURVEY RESEARCH CENTRE

In accordance with an agreement between ACSPRI and the Australian National University, the ANU Survey Research Centre acts as ACSPRI's agent in the servicing of requests for data from ICPSR, in supplying the representatives of member institutions with copies of code books and related documentation, and in acting as the channel for ICPSR services generally. The University provides the necessary administrative support, including arrangements for the payment of subscriptions and accounts through a restricted fund.

Requests for data sets from the ICPSR archives are sent to the ANU Survey Research Centre which forwards them on to ICPSR and receives back the data tape and accompanying documentation. All data sets obtained as a result of these requests are copied by the Centre, stored and catalogued before being passed on to the member. In this way, a collection of the data sets is built up here in Australia, and future requests can be serviced more quickly and cheaply from this local collection. The Centre now holds copies of about 200 of the ICPSR data sets and it seems likely that most of the future requests for data will be serviced from this local holding.

ACCESS TO ICPSR DATA SETS AND CODEBOOKS

The Australian National Membership of ICPSR held by ACSPRI allows researchers in member institutions to obtain copies of data sets held in the ICPSR data archives at a minimal cost. A list of data sets held in these archives is published in the ICPSR Guide to Resources and Services a copy of which

is held by the Representative of each member institution.

ICPSR classifies its data sets into four classes, depending on the level of processing which has been devoted to a data set. The fully processed data sets - designated Class I - have been thoroughly checked corrected if necessary, formatted to ICPSR specifications, and a printed code book for the data set is available. The agreement between ACSPRI and ICPSR allows us to receive seven copies of each Class I code book, and these are distributed to the seven code book centres located at the University of Melbourne, University of Sydney, Australian National University, University of Queensland, Flinders University, University of Tasmania and the Western Australian Institute of Technology. This ensures that researchers in other member institutions can obtain access to these code books without having to travel too far.

When a Class I data set is ordered from ICPSR, no further documentation is supplied and the researcher is expected to use the code book available at the local code book centre. However, additional copies may be bought at cost price should the researcher require a permanent copy. A price list is given in the Guide to Resources and Services.

Class II, III and IV data sets are usually less well documented, and copies of the documentation are only supplied with data requests. ACSPRI receives two copies, one of which is sent to the requester and the second is retained by the ANU Survey Research Centre with a copy of the data set. When further requests for one of these studies are made, copies of the data set are made locally, thus reducing the cost of supplying members. In many cases, documentation is machine-readable and can also be provided locally, but otherwise further printed copies must be ordered from ICPSR and charged to the researcher.

#### Request Procedures and Costs

Thus in requesting studies held by ICPSR, the researcher will first consult the current Guide to Resources and Services, which contains a list and brief description of data holdings and their processing class. Having chosen the studies required, he/she should consult the computer listing of studies held at the ANU Survey Research Centre and separate the request into those to be supplied locally and those to be supplied from ICPSR.

A rough estimate of the cost of the request can then be made. Charges are made on the basis of the number of tapes required, being \$75 for data tapes supplied by ICPSR and \$37.50 for locally filled requests. In most cases, the description of a study given in the Guide to Resources and Services indicates the number of card-image equivalents used, and the total number of card-images for all studies requested can therefore be calculated. Dividing this total by 240,000 (an estimate of the number of card-images per tape, although this depends on the block size used) gives the number of tapes required and hence the cost.

To this tape cost should be added the cost of code books. For Class I data sets, this will only arise should the requester require a permanent personal copy. For other data sets, documentation will have to be ordered if the copy is to be made locally and no documentation is available from the local code book centre. A listing of documentation held by each member institution is held by the representative, and the cost of documentation that has to be ordered is given in the Guide to Resources and Services.

All requests for data must be forwarded through the local representative to the ANU Survey Research Centre for processing.

#### THE ICPSR SUMMER PROGRAM

In July-August each year, ICPSR conduct the Training Programs in Quantitative Methods of Social Research at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. The Program serves Consortium member colleges and universities by offering a comprehensive, integrated program of studies in research design, statistics, data analysis and social methodology, and virtually all instruction is co-ordinated with and reinforced by active participatory data analytic experiences.

The full program runs for eight weeks, divided into two four-week sessions, and is partitioned into three instructional tracks. Track I introduces prerequisite skills for participants in Tracks II and III. Track II forms the core of the program and consists of nine courses given as a series of lectures or as seminar/workshops. Topics covered include theories of political analysis, public policy analysis, linear models, multi-level analysis, experimental studies and multivariate analysis. Some of these courses act as prerequisites for extended study in Track III, which also includes some substantive content-specific seminar/workshops such as the analysis of crime, criminal justice, media or the aging, courses on new advances in social methodology and workshops on technical support for computing specialists and data librarians. All courses run for four weeks in either the first or second session, and participants with the appropriate prerequisites may choose to attend the second, more advanced, session only.

Concurrently with the ICPSR Summer Training Program, the Survey Research Centre of the Institute for Social Research sponsors an eight-week Summer Institute which focuses on the methodology of survey research. Courses covering study design, questionnaire construction, interviewing, coding, sampling, some computer technology, and methods of analysis are scheduled so cannot imagine anyone (considered by his

that participants in the Summer Program may participate.

Through the National membership of ICPSR, ACSPRI is allowed six places on the Summer Program and ICPSR provides some financial support to ACSPRI for assistance with travel costs. The current provision is about US\$1200, and this is apportioned between the six selected applicants by the ACSPRI Executive Committee. Academic staff or students will be considered, and anyone wishing to attend should contact their local representative for further details.

Over recent years, ACSPRI has supported applications from a number of scholars to attend the Summer Program, and all have found it to be very worthwhile. Two of those who attended in 1979 have submitted reports on the program, and their impressions and experiences are printed below.

#### KEN BREWER, DIRECTOR, THE ANU SURVEY RESEARCH CENTRE:

Participation in an ICPSR Summer Program is an unforgettable experience. Whether or not it is a rewarding one seems to be very much up to the individual. The type and quality of the courses offered is highly variable, and a great deal depends on choosing the right ones. Although intending participants are expected to choose their courses beforehand, the opportunity is offered to modify these choices on the first day of the Program, and a certain amount of guidance is given then as to their content and their appropriateness for the individual participant. My own experience may help people to decide whether or not the Program is for them, and if so which courses they should choose.

#### Level of Courses

The first thing to note is that these courses are given at three levels. The first (Track I) is so elementary that I

University or CAE here as a suitable person for travel to the USA) wishing to attend one. The second level (Track II) is also generally fairly elementary. When you read the descriptive material carefully this is clear enough, but it is easy to imagine from a quick reading that it is somewhat more advanced. Mathematics for Social Scientists (Greg Marcus) and Introduction to Linear Models (Bob Hoyer) were two of these second-level courses. The first contained little or nothing that a mathematically inclined student would not meet at high school (yet there was a first-level course that was still more elementary!). I had imagined that the latter would start from linear regression but in fact it started from 'What is a straight line?', warming up towards the end with a study of recursive models and path analysis. Despite its elementary content I continued to attend this course. Bob Hoyer was a delight to watch, and if nothing else I picked up many hints on teaching.

The third-level courses (Track III) are, by contrast, quite demanding. They are largely staffed by outsiders brought in from other universities for the Program, and some of these were definitely disappointing, but wherever University of Michigan staff were used the standard was excellent. The Time Series course (Greg Marcus) had a particularly good reputation here. Even those courses which were not so well presented demanded a good deal of work from the students. The Multivariate Dimensional Analysis course was poorly presented but redeemed itself with an excellent reading list, and any participant prepared to read and understand enough to do the exercises would have come away with a good knowledge of the topic. In this course and the Discrete Multivariate Analysis course, the more experienced participants took things into their own hands, raising issues in class to ensure that things were sorted out properly, and helping the less experienced out in their spare time. This helped to keep morale high in a difficult situation.

### Projects

Further evidence of what could be achieved in these third-level courses is provided by the types of project undertaken by the more experienced participants to familiarize themselves with the capabilities of the techniques and computer programs involved. Bob Powell (La Trobe) and I attended the Multivariate Dimensional Analysis course, which was primarily concerned with multidimensional scaling. Bob demonstrated, as his project, that the technique was highly robust against poor and ill-assessed comparisons of distance. I showed, on the other hand, that it was not robust at all against severe outliers: that the (non-negative) stress measure which the program seeks to minimize could actually be reduced to zero by pushing such severe outliers to infinity, regardless of the configuration of the remaining observations.

### Seminar Workshop on the Aging

The most interesting of the courses which I attended was the Seminar-Workshop 'Empirical Research Issues in Aging.' The seminar part of this was presented by a galaxy of excellent guest lecturers (including the pioneer Ethel Shanas) who knew their stuff, knew how to put it over, and knew how to relate to that particular audience. Had I followed up their reading lists conscientiously I could have become an instant gerontologist. But I was even more intrigued by the Workshop side of the operation, which threw all of us in at the deep end. This is how it went: 'Which of these half-dozen data sets do you want to work on? O.K. here it is, here are your fellow-workers on this data set, and here is someone who will help you to communicate with the computer. Your group will be expected to prepare a written report and a verbal presentation before the end of the four weeks. It had better be good. Off you go!'

[6]

I chose the Harris Poll data set 'Myth and Reality of Aging'. Using only weighted means, and their estimated variances and covariances, I produced some startling contrasts between the self-image of aged people, their images of other aged people, and younger people's images of the aged. After the workshop was over I obtained some additional results, wrote an article, and submitted it to The Gerontologist for publication. In the meantime two of the other workshop participants are using it in their teaching programs.

### Stipends

A warning here. Before the event I was attracted to the 'Empirical Research Issues in Aging' course, partly by the offer of an Agency on Aging stipend. I soon found that I did not qualify for this, not being a US citizen, but at least one other overseas participant managed to get the rules stretched for him. Terry Beed (Sydney), a 1978 participant, was granted a stipend by the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration. So make an application, but don't count on the result being favourable.

### SRC Summer Institute

During the second half of the Program I attended a course offered in the University of Michigan's Survey Research Center's Summer Institute. The courses offered there appeared to be held in consistently high repute. The one which I chose to attend, on OSIRIS IV, was conducted very competently, and I was disappointed that I had to leave it early. The emphasis was heavily on learning by doing. Each participant was given a file of 'dirty' data in non-OSIRIS format to begin with and was expected to end up by subjecting a cleaned OSIRIS file to a variety of tabulations and analyses. As usual, a good deal of after-hours activity was necessary to keep up.

To summarise my experiences of the Program, I would say that for the type

of person who might consider visiting from Australia, the courses are very much what you make them. You can coast along, do very little, and still get away with it: even get credits towards a Ph.D. at an American university on the strength of it. The computer set-up is excellent, and there are many people ready to help you use it. The whole environment is conducive to study and research. The rest is up to you.

I should not close without mentioning that Ann Arbor is a very pleasant place to live. I stayed at University Towers, together with many other Summer Program participants. I found it basic but comfortable enough, even if the cockroaches were a bit troublesome at night. The Arboretum is not to be missed. Meetings were going on throughout the summer, and there were plays and concerts to attend for those interested. Personally, I look back at two months pleasantly and (I believe) profitably spent.

TONY GOLDSWORTHY, SURVEYS MANAGER,  
CENTRE FOR APPLIED SOCIAL AND SURVEY  
RESEARCH, FLINDERS UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH  
AUSTRALIA;

Unfortunately my itinerary was such that I could only attend the Second Session of the Summer Program (July 23-August 17) thereby limiting my choice of courses as eligibility to some courses was conditional on attending the First Session (June 25-July 20).

### The Courses

The ICPSR Training Program courses I enrolled in were as follows:

- (1) Introduction to Computing, Peter Joffis, ICPSR, University of Michigan (5-day workshop: July 23-27):

An excellent course dealing with aspects of computing on the Michigan Terminal System (MIS) and more specifically the use of the MIDAS (Michigan Interactive Data Analysis System) computer program

[7]

ACSPRI Newsletter

for performing statistical analysis and data manipulation. I found this course to be very informative, well structured and well delivered, and was very impressed with MIDAS as an efficient and expedient means of analysing social science data.

- (2) Data Analysis and Public Policy, Larry Mayer, Princeton University (4-week lecture series: July 23-August 17):

Although the content and structure of this course appeared to be designed to appeal more to political scientists, I found the series of lectures to be very enjoyable and interesting, in particular that Section of the course critically appraising large-scale analytic models of the energy and health-care types. The orientation of this course diverged a good deal from that of the majority of courses offered at the Summer School to the extent that the various analytic designs examined and formulated were done so on the broader policy decision-making plane rather than analyses of the rigorous mathematical/ statistical type.

- (3) Experimental Studies, Marilyn Dantico, Florida Atlantic University (2-week seminar/workshop: July 23-August 3):

My decision to enrol in this course was made on the basis of the course description in the ICPSR handbook and its perceived relevance to the work I was involved in at the Centre for Applied Social and Survey Research (CASSR) at Flinders University, particularly in the area of research design and analysis of experimental data. However, in my opinion, the theoretical side of the course was poorly structured and presented, with virtually the only redeeming feature of the course being the opportunity to conduct computer analyses on various data sets that had been made available.

- (4) Multi-level Analysis, Leigh Burstein, University of California, Los Angeles (August 6-10). Treatment of new methods of

Angeles (2-week seminar/workshop: August 6 - August 17):

A well prepared and competently delivered course, although I would have much preferred a more applied treatment to the highly theoretical line that was adopted in looking at the use of aggregate data to study individuals. Again, the access to various data files prepared by Dr Burstein was an appealing feature of the course.

SRC Summer Institute

In addition to the four ICPSR courses outlined above, I was enrolled in a series of three professional-level mini courses on new methodological studies in survey research techniques which were offered by the Survey Research Center (SRC) of the Institute for Social Research and scheduled concurrently with the ICPSR Summer Training Program. Each course covered one week of five-day sessions, the series commencing on Monday, July 23 and finishing on Friday, August 10.

The Survey Research Center's courses I was enrolled in included:

- (1) Experiments in Question Wording, Howard Schuman, Survey Research Center, University of Michigan (July 23-27). An examination of the wording of attitude and belief questions and recent experimental work in determining the effects of question form on survey results.
- (2) Models of Non-Sampling Errors, Robert Groves, Survey Research Center, University of Michigan (July 30-August 4). A look at alternative approaches for conceptualising and estimating errors in survey data arising from interviewers, coders, etc.
- (3) Experiments on Methods of Personal and Telephone Interviewing, Charles Cannell, Survey Research Center, University of Michigan (August

questionnaire design and interviewing in both telephone and face-to-face interviews designed to improve response validity.

All three mini courses were of a lecture/seminar format which I found to be very stimulating and enjoyable and, although the major emphasis was placed on telephone interviewing - a survey research phenomenon not nearly as widely exploited in Australia as in the United States - the focus of each course was particularly relevant to my work with CASSR.

General Comments on the Summer Program:

From my experience the ICPSR Summer Training Program, together with the Survey Research Center's Summer Institute, provide an excellent forum for those interested in the sphere of social science research. The opportunity to meet and work with a large number of people involved in quite diverse social science fields was an exciting feature of the program. Other aspects that greatly impressed me were the organization and running of the Summer School, the computing facilities made available to participants and the help afforded participants by course instructors and ISR personnel.

One feature that did concern me, however, was the wide variation between courses (even in the relatively few that I took) in content, structure and presentation, occasioned by the ability of the instructors involved. Further, I feel that the Program would be better served if the course descriptions appearing in the ICPSR Summer Program handbook could be made more explicit, and a comprehensive reading list and bibliography for the courses be made available to intending participants prior to the commencement of the Summer School rather than at its completion. (For interested persons CASSR now has a copy of the Reading List and Bibliography for the 1979 ICPSR Summer Training

Program: I also have comprehensive notes and printed matter pertaining to the courses I attended.) In addition, I secured two ISR publications which are also now available in the CASSR library: 'A Guide for Selecting Statistical Techniques for Analyzing Social Science Data' (Frank Andrews, Laura Klem, Terrence Davidson, Patrick O'Malley, Willard Rodgers) and 'Experiments in Interviewing Techniques: Field Experiments in Health Reporting, 1971-77' (eds. Charles Cannell, Lois Oksenberg, Jean Converse).

In terms of relevance to my own work with CASSR, the Survey Research Center's Summer Institute courses I attended were of greater value to me than those of the ICPSR Summer Program.

One further comment: I would recommend that any person intending to participate at future ICPSR Summer Programs do so over the entire eight weeks of the program (First and Second Sessions) rather than do what I did, i.e. attend only the one session: a greater flexibility in the choice of courses is thereby achieved.

Accommodation

I had made no previous arrangements regarding housing in Ann Arbor opting instead to "play it by ear" upon my arrival. In retrospect, however, I deem my wisdom in this matter to have been somewhat suspect, although I did manage to secure (with an element of good fortune I might add) relatively inexpensive, if somewhat less than lavish accommodation, at Couzens Hall, one of the many university residence halls on the University of Michigan campus. I would recommend, therefore, in the light of my own experience, that future Australian participants in the ICPSR Summer Program organize accommodation well in advance of their arrival. For the remainder of the six-week visit, accommodation posed no problem.

FURTHER OBJECTIVES OF ACSPRI

Apart from holding Australian National Membership of ICPSR, the foundation objectives of ACSPRI were

- to collect and disseminate information relating to machine-readable social science data, and
- to investigate the desirability and feasibility of establishing an archive of Australian social science data in Australia or elsewhere, and if found desirable and feasible, to facilitate the establishment of such an archive.

In relation to the first objective, projects aimed at providing researchers with information on social science surveys were already under way at the ANU Survey Research Centre and the Sample Survey Centre of the University of Sydney when ACSPRI was established.

Information Sources

The ANU Survey Research Centre is conducting a systematic search of Australian social science journals for articles reporting the use of survey data, and the Centre's publication, Australian Social Surveys Journal Extracts 1974-1978 is a result of this work. A questionnaire approach has also been made to investigators in universities and colleges to obtain details of their survey work in recent years. Over 600 returns have been received giving details of sample design and size, major variables, results and publications. These returns are being processed at present and will be available this year.

The University of Sydney Sample Survey Centre's publication, Australian Opinion Polls 1941-1977 provides a detailed guide to national surveys conducted by the four major opinion research organizations since polling began, and that Centre's Newsletter contains a Survey Digest in which surveys reported in the mass media are work of data archivists goes into the

described in brief extracts highlighting major findings.

These projects have done a great deal of the necessary groundwork for locating and describing the social science survey work being conducted by Australian researchers. A more detailed description of these projects will be given in future issues.

Desirability of an Archive

The Australian Research Grants Committee (ARGC) has agreed to a proposal by ACSPRI that applicants in the social and political sciences should be willing to lodge any data arising from their research with ACSPRI or any other archive for re-use by other investigators, normally within two years of the termination of the fieldwork. Grants given by the Education Research and Development Committee will include a similar requirement to deposit data with the Australian Council for Educational Research and the data will be made available through ACSPRI. The Executive Committee of the Academy of Social Sciences has also supported a request that members deposit research data with ACSPRI. This support and the rapid growth of ACSPRI membership encourages our belief that there is increasing interest among Australian social scientists in the use of available data sets for secondary analysis and teaching and the desirability of establishing facilities for the depositing of Australian data sets.

Feasibility of an Archive

The feasibility of establishing a full archiving facility in Australia depends largely on the availability of funding, and as yet no suitable granting agency has been found. There is little point in obtaining copies of data sets unless accompanying documentation, including a description of the sample design, copies of the questionnaire, and a codebook describing the data file, can also be made available, and much of the

"cleaning" of data sets to ensure that this is the case. With the limited resources currently available to ACSPRI, the main responsibility for the provision of these materials must fall on the depositor. Because of this limitation, little effort has been made in the past to contact potential depositors.

ARCHIVING OF AUSTRALIAN DATA SETS

Approaches have been made to the four major polling organizations, and Irving Saulwick and Associates have agreed to deposit their "Age-Poll" data for release two years from completion of the survey. At present, earlier surveys are being processed by the Department of Political Science, University of Melbourne, to remove multi-punching and provide codebooks. Thirteen data sets collected between 1972 and 1974 are currently available. Australian National Opinion Polls have agreed in principle to deposit their data sets and this agreement will mean that the Australian Morgan Gallup Polls deposited there will be available to ACSPRI members.

However, the wide range of data generated by government agencies and by scholars working in university and college departments remains virtually untapped. There is perhaps an understandable reluctance among researchers to deposit their data while they are still conducting their own analysis. If the researcher finishes with a data set before deciding to deposit it, however, new projects will arise, documentation will be put aside and eventually will be forgotten or discarded, and the data set lost to future researchers. Yet every researcher develops a codebook while analysing the data and writes a description of the study design, and considers the possible effects on the analysis. If these and the data set are deposited then, very little additional work is necessary. ACSPRI acknowledges the possessiveness felt for one's "very own" data, and allows the depositor to impose an embargo period on its use.

Thus the researcher can deposit the data while the methodology and documentation are still fresh in his memory, and conduct the primary analysis without worrying that a secondary analyst might exploit the data either first or simultaneously.

Researchers who hold copies of data sets and associated documentation which they are willing to make available for use by others, either now or in the future, are asked to contact their local representative who will make appropriate arrangements for copying and distribution. Why not clear all your old data tapes and shelves of survey materials you no longer use in the knowledge that they will be available for future use?

AUSTRALIAN DATA SETS CURRENTLY AVAILABLE

Department of Demography, Australian National University

Australian Family Formation Project: Melbourne Survey

Interviews were conducted with 2552 currently married women aged less than 60 years who had not previously been married. The sample is self-weighting and represents slightly less than 1% of the eligible women living within the Melbourne Statistical Division in 1971. A three-stage areally-stratified cluster sample was used, with 24 local government areas selected at the first stage and 1029 blocks at the second stage. Addresses in selected blocks were listed and sampled giving 5398 addresses, of which 2158 contained no eligible women. The remaining 3240 addresses contained 3271 eligible women, of whom 204 were inaccessible, 393 refused completely and 22 were partial refusals. Fieldwork was conducted from 9 August until 31 December 1971.

The records for the 2652 respondents contain data on accommodation, family background, education, work, religion,

marriage, children, family planning, the pill, pregnancy, abortion, attitudes to migrants and population growth. The data is in card-image format with 18 cards per case. A codebook containing the questionnaire, list of variable identifications, frequency distributions and list of publications has been distributed to all codebook centres and is supplied with the data.

Data will only be supplied with the agreement of the principal investigator.

\* \* \*

Jones, F.L., Department of Sociology, Research School of Social Sciences, Australian National University.

Social Stratification in Australia, 1965.

Interviews were conducted with 1925 working males aged 21 and over by the Roy Morgan Research Centre Pty Ltd (Australian Gallup Poll) from February to May 1965. The sample is a two-stage design, with 23 of the 122 Federal electoral districts (excluding the Northern Territory) selected from the first stage, and 10 names, representing ten starting addresses selected from the electoral roll within selected districts. Interviewers were instructed to call at the starting address and adjoining dwellings until 10 interviews with eligible addresses were located, yielding 1925 completed interviews. The main causes of non-response were refusals (10% of the total contacted) and insufficient English among recent immigrants (4%).

The records contain data on education, living costs, income, occupation, socio-economic status and social class attitudes. The data is in card-image format with one card/case. Documentation consists of labelled frequency distributions from an SPSS system file.

[12]

\* \* \*

Bethune, G., Urban Research Unit, Australian National University (currently with South Australian Department of Housing and Urban Affairs).

Survey of Tenants and First-time Home Buyers.

Interviews were conducted with 227 private tenants and 218 people who had recently moved from rented accommodation to their own home. An attempt was made to contact all eligible persons in the study area, which consisted of the local government areas of Fitzroy, Collingwood, Northcote, Heidelberg, Doncaster, Templestowe, Diamond Valley and parts of Eltham and Melbourne. Tenant's addresses came from electricity authority records supplemented where necessary by council rate books, local government electoral rolls and field counts. Buyers were surveyed on the basis of addresses of properties sold in each LGA during the relevant period obtained from the Valuer General, local councils and electricity authorities. The estimated response rates were 72% for buyers and 65% for tenants.

The records contain comparable data on housing experience, housing attitudes, costs of accommodation, household characteristics, income, wealth, and policy issues. The data is in card-image format with eight cards for buyers and six cards per tenant. Documentation consists of copies of the questionnaires, a description of the methodology and labelled frequency distributions from an SPSS system file.

Data will only be supplied with the agreement of the principal investigator.

\* \* \*

Urban Transport Study Group of New South Wales.

Sydney Area Transportation Study Home Interview Survey.

Interviews were conducted in 22044 households from April to October 1971, representing a 3% sample of the areas bounded by Warringah, Hornsby, Baulkham Hills, Windsor, Penrith, Liverpool, Camden, Campbelltown, Sutherland and the coastline. Personal interviews were conducted on Tuesdays and Saturdays only, for travel information on the immediately preceding day. As far as possible, each member of the household was interviewed regarding personal and travel information. The data set consists of two files, a 'person' file and a 'trips' file. The person file contains 65207 cases with three card images per case and contains vehicles, number of residents, family income, and the person's age, sex, employment, and main mode of travel. The trips file contains 152935 cases with eight card images per case and includes household data, data on persons within the household and the person making the trip, and the origin and destination, time, purpose, mode, and parking arrangements for the trip. Documentation provided by the Urban Transport Study Group is available, but is currently being modified to take account of the conversion to card-image format.

\* \* \*

Royal Commission into the Non-Medical Use of Drugs - South Australia.

Drug Use in Adelaide 1978.

Interviews were conducted with 2928 respondents aged 13 to 60 years usually resident in the Adelaide Statistical Division. A sample of 4003 private dwellings was selected by the Australian Bureau of Statistics using a three-stage area sample. The Adelaide Statistical Division was divided into 29 area strata, and an even number of census collector's districts (CDs) was selected to represent a stratum. Each CD is divided into blocks, and blocks (usually one) were selected to represent the CD.

Dwellings were then selected within blocks. The sample of eligible respondents within selected dwellings was stratified into three age groups - 13 to 17, 18 to 34, 35 to 60 - with a maximum of two interviews possible in each dwelling, and with over-sampling in the younger age group. There was non-contact at 82 dwellings (2%) and total refusal at 174 dwellings (4%). Appropriate weights for the sample were supplied by the ABS and are included on the data file.

The questionnaire consisted of 13 sections with questions on knowledge of drugs, beliefs about marijuana, prevalence and patterns of use of over-the-counter drugs, sedatives and pain-killers, marijuana, tranquilisers and anti-depressants, and appetite suppressants, use of drugs if legal, existing laws and penalties for marijuana and heroin use, attitudes towards mood-altering substances, their use and harmful effects, and demographic information. The data is in card-image format with three card images per case. A copy of the Commission's Report containing a description of the methodology and the questionnaire, and a description of the data file has been distributed to local representatives.

\* \* \*

Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Census Data.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics allows ACSPRI to distribute census data tapes, on condition that the charges made by ACSPRI are not less than those made by the ABS. Thus data from the 1976 Census is currently charged at \$50 per tape, and there is no advantage to the researcher at present in ordering the tapes through ACSPRI rather than directly from the ABS. Copies of the 1971 and 1966 census data tapes are available at the standard rates. These data sets provide the most comprehensive record of the characteristics of the Australian population, and it is

[13]

## ACSPRI Newsletter

essential that they be preserved in good order for future researchers. ACSPRI has already had one researcher interested in 1966 Census data referred to it by the ABS, indicating the need for this back-up.

\* \* \*

Irving Saulwick and Associates.

"Age-Poll" Data.

Irving Saulwick and Associates have agreed to deposit copies of all the "Age-Poll" data sets with ACSPRI for release two years from completion of the survey. At present, earlier surveys are being processed by the Department of Political Science, Melbourne University, to remove multi-punches and provide codebooks. Thirteen data sets covering 1972 to 1974 are currently available and include:

- two surveys conducted in 15 marginal electorates during the 1972 Federal election campaign.

The first survey was conducted at the start of the campaign in October, and the second one week before the election, with questions on importance of issues, popularity of party leaders, party identification, vote intention and demographic characteristics included in the two surveys. One hundred voters were sampled in each electorate from 50 random starting points.

- a series of six surveys conducted monthly from July to December 1974 with samples of about 2000 different respondents in each survey selected from 80 Federal electorates.

Questions on economic conditions, popularity of political leaders, vote in last election, vote intention and demographic characteristics are included in all surveys.

- The remaining surveys are one-off:

a) February 1972: Melbourne and Sydney: 500 respondents in each city

b) June 1972: Melbourne and Sydney: 500 respondents in each city

c) November 1973: 80 electorates: 1952 respondents

d) February 1974: 80 electorates: 1695 respondents

e) April 1974: 25 electorates: 1810 respondents.

\* \* \*

The University of Sydney Sample Survey Centre.

Surveys Conducted for the Committee of Inquiry into Education and Training.

This data set contains data from two surveys conducted during 1977: The National Educational Survey of students enrolled in the major sectors of post-secondary education in Australia, and the National Survey of Post-Secondary Teaching Staff. Both surveys were conducted by mail, with two follow-ups in the student survey and one in the staff survey. In both surveys, the three tertiary sectors - Universities, CAE's and TAFE - were sampled separately, with the same institutions being used in the two surveys.

Response rates in the student survey were 82.7% (3137 returns) in the University sector, 80.1% (3020) in the CAE sector, and 56.0% (2053) in the TAFE sector. This survey probes aspects of students' career planning and history, educational experience, and expectations. There are 180 variables with 3 cards for each respondent.

Response rates in the staff survey were 56.3% (1403) in the University sector, 59.0% (1249) in the CAE sector, and 64.6% (1401) in the TAFE sector. There are three data files for this survey, due to variations in the questionnaire used in each of the three

sectors, although many questions were common to all three instruments. There are 222 variables (4 cards per case) in the data from the university sector, 224 variables (4 cards per case) in the data from the CAE sector and 191 variables (3 cards per case) in the data from the TAFE sector.

In both surveys, the code values of certain variables, site identifiers in particular, have been suppressed to ensure anonymity among respondents. Documentation containing a description of the study design, questionnaires, and codebooks is available from Dr T. Beed, Sample Survey Centre, University of Sydney.

INSTRUCTIONAL PACKAGES AVAILABLE FROM ICPSR

ICPSR hold a number of computer-based teaching packages in a form appropriate for classroom instructional use in various substantive areas. Full details can be found in the Guide to Resources and Services.

Supplementary Empirical Teaching Units in Political Science (SETUPS).

The SETUPS: American Politics package was designed for use in teaching courses in American government and politics. The ten modules in the package are intended to demonstrate the process of examining evidence and reaching conclusions, and to stimulate students to independent critical thinking and a deeper understanding of substantive content. They enable students with no previous training to make use of the computer to analyse data on political behaviour.

The SETUPS: Cross-National and World Politics package now has nine modules and is intended for use in teaching courses in comparative politics and international relations.

Manuals for each module are available at cost upon application to the American Political Science Association, 1527 New Hampshire Ave., N.W., Washington DC 20036. Members of ACSPRI are eligible for a discount price. The data sets and SPSS job control cards, or OSIRIS files, are available from ACSPRI in the normal manner.

ICPSR Instructional Subsets

ICPSR also distribute a series of "Instructional Subsets" intended to reflect the major theoretical and topical foci of the larger studies upon which the subsets are based while presenting the data in relatively simple descriptive formats. The subsets customarily contain a selection of variables (sometimes recoded for ease of use) but all the cases of the original studies.

Each of the subsets includes the data file, an SPSS job control language set-up file or OSIRIS dictionary file, and a codebook file which can be duplicated locally.

Some of the data sets available in this form are:

- Justifying Violence: Attitudes of American Men, 1969, by Monica Blumenthal, Robert L. Kahn and Frank M. Andrews.
- Quality of American Life, 1971, by Angus Campbell, Phillip E. Converse and Willard L. Rodgers.
- General Social Survey, 1975, by James A. Davis.
- American National Election Study, 1976, by Warren Miller and Arthur H. Miller.
- Women and Men in Italy, Denmark and Britain, by Jacques-Rene Rabier and Ronald Inglehart.

Full descriptions of these subsets and of other teaching materials available from ICPSR are contained in the ICPSR Guide to Resources and Services.