

8460)
 International Conflict Episodes, 1945-1979 (ICPSR 8303)
 Japanese-American Research Project (JARP): A Three-Generation Study, 1890-1966 (ICPSR 8450)
 National Mortality Followback Survey, 1966-1968 (ICPSR 8370)
 Offender Based Transaction Statistics (OBTS), 1979: Hawaii (ICPSR 8042)
 Offender Based Transaction Statistics (OBTS), 1983: California, Minnesota, Nebraska, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Utah, Virgin Islands and Virginia (ICPSR 8449)
 The Evangelical Voter in the United States, 1983 (ICPSR 8354)
 War Ledger Data, 1870-1974 (ICPSR 9000)
 Annual Survey of Governments, 1983: Employment Statistics and Finance Statistics (ICPSR 8447)
 Annual Survey of Governments, 1984: Employment Statistics and Finance Statistics (ICPSR 8448)
 Aspirin Myocardial Infarction Study, 1975-1979: {United States} (ICPSR 8474)
 Census of Population, 1980 {United States}: Journey-to-Work (ICPSR 8465)
 Census of Population and Housing, 1980 {United States}: County Migration by Selected Characteristics, 1975-1980 (ICPSR 8471)
 County Income Data, 1982: {United States} (ICPSR 8478)
 Current Population Survey, May 1984: Adult Education (ICPSR 8461)
 Firearms Violence and the Michigan Felony Firearm Law: Detroit, 1976-1978 (ICPSR 8509)
 Health Maintenance Organizations in the United States, 1984 (ICPSR 8468)
 International Data Base (ICPSR 8490)
 National Corrections Reporting Program, 1983: {United States} (ICPSR 8363)
 National Indigent Criminal Defense Survey, 1982: {United States} (ICPSR 8417)
 National Preventive Dentistry Demonstration Program, 1977-1981 (ICPSR 8494)
 National School Health Services Program

Evaluation, 1981-1982 (ICPSR 8302)
 National Study of Tolerance and Political Ideology, 1973 (ICPSR 8487)
 Population (1984) and Per Capita Income (1983) Estimates {United States}: Governmental Units (ICPSR 8463)
 Population Migration Between Countries Based on Individual Income Tax Returns, 1982-1983: {United States} (ICPSR 8477)
 Survey of Aging Veterans, 1983: {United States} (ICPSR 8479)
 Survey of Disability and Work, 1978: {United States} (ICPSR 8491)
 World Military and Social Expenditures, 1983 and 1985 (ICPSR 8486)
 Youth and Deterrence: Columbia and South Carolina, 1979-1981 (ICPSR 8255)

OVERSEAS DATA SETS RECEIVED

University of Waterloo, Ontario, Canada

Lambert, Ronald D. et al. 1984 Canadian National Election Study.

ESRC Data Archive, University of Essex

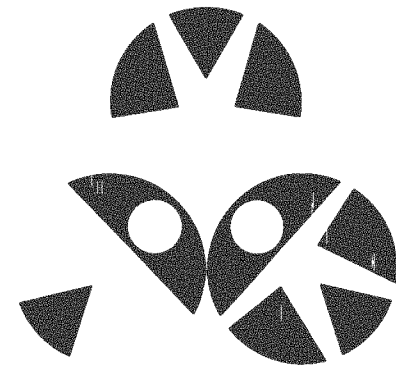
European Values Study, 1981 (ESRC Study No. 2062)

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NEWSLETTER

Contributions from readers - articles for inclusion, suggestions, notices of forthcoming meetings and events, letters - are encouraged and reports on the use of data supplied through ACSPRI would be of particular interest. Contributions and enquiries about ACSPRI should be addressed to:

Dr Roger Jones
 Social Science Data Archives
 Australian National University
 G.P.O Box 4, Canberra ACT 2601

ACSPRI newsletter



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 for Social and
 Political Research
 Incorporated

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ACSPRI MEMBERS

Since the publication of the last newsletter we have had two departures and one new member join ACSPRI. The Institute of Family Studies and the Darling Downs Institute of Technology withdrew from membership during the year, and Deakin University commenced membership from 1 July 1986. The representative for Deakin is Dr Ken

Ross, from the School of Education. Dr Brian O'Toole has replaced Ms Leonie Gibbons as the representative for the University of Sydney.

The 1986-1987 membership of ACSPRI now stands at 21 research and academic institutions.

THIRD ACSPRI SUMMER PROGRAM

The third ACSPRI Summer Program will be held at the Australian National University from 31 January to 13 February 1987. There will be 3 course streams: an introductory course in social science data analysis using SPSS-X spanning the entire period, and two shorter streams of one week's duration, back-to-back, covering specific and more advanced data analysis techniques.

Special emphasis is given to practical applications of the techniques with participants learning through a combination of lectures and computing laboratory sessions or tutorials. Full supporting and interactive computing facilities will be available.

Each day begins with the (optional) Maths for Social Scientists course from 8.30-9.30 am. The main courses then run from 9.30 am to 5.30 pm with lunch from 12.30-2.00 pm, each day from Monday to Friday. Introductions to the computing facilities at ANU are held on each weekend.

Stream 1

Stream 1 contains three courses at the introductory level, and spans the entire 2 week period, less one weekend. The first course, Introduction to Computing, consists of two half days of lectures and tutorials on the use of the VAX/VMS computing system at the ANU. It is considered an essential prerequisite for the main course in this Stream, assuming that participants have little or no computing experience.

The bulk of the work in Stream 1 is in Data Analysis with SPSS-X, to be conducted over the ten week days by John Pidgeon, Brian Phillips and Peter Jones of Swinburne Institute of Technology.

The course will provide instruction and workshop sessions in techniques for elementary data analysis using pen and paper, calculators and SPSS-X. Attention will be given to both the collection, coding and analysis of new data as well as to the reanalysis of existing datasets such as Census data. Particular attention will be given to the interpretation of measures generated by SPSS-X procedures commonly used in the analysis of both experimental and survey data.

Brian Phillips will also conduct an introductory course in Maths for Social Scientists in week 1. This course caters for those with little or no recent mathematics, introducing the mathematical topics that form the foundation of quantitative work in the social sciences. Participants in Stream 1 with a stronger mathematical background may prefer the optional mathematics course Vectors and Matrices in week 1 instead of the introductory course. In week 2 Vectors and Matrices is repeated, alongside Linear and Non-Linear Functions and participants may choose to attend either.

Streams 2 and 3

Stream 2 runs from Monday to Friday of the first week of the program, while Stream 3 runs for the same period in the second week. Topics are at the intermediate and advanced levels, with

each course spanning the full five days of the Stream. There are six courses to choose from in each stream.

We are again able to offer a course in each Stream from Denise Lievesley, the Assistant Director of the SCPR Survey Methods Centre in London.

Denise lectures in survey methods at the City University, is consultant on the statistical aspects of sample surveys, and conducts research on survey methods. She is also a Vice-President of the Royal Statistical Society, Secretary of the Social Statistics Section, and UK representative to the International Association of Survey Statisticians.

Her Stream 2 course, Survey Research Design, provides an overview of the major steps involved in conducting a sample survey, from initial problem definition through choice of data collection method and development of the questionnaire. The course will concentrate on the latest methodological findings and literature and should thus serve as a review for those who have been involved with surveys as well as a formal introduction to the methods of survey research.

Analysis of Survey Errors, the course which Denise will conduct in Stream 3, provides an overview of the sources of errors, particularly non-sampling errors, in social surveys and reviews the methods used for the detection and reduction of these errors. The results of latest research will be presented and the techniques discussed and illustrated using a wide variety of examples.

Dr David Gow, from the University of Queensland, conducts Multiple Regression in SPSS-X in Stream 2, and Data Analysis in SAS in Stream 3. The first course is an applied introduction to multiple regression techniques, with each day consisting of 2-3 hours of lectures plus 2-3 hours of practical exercises using SPSS-X. The second course will provide an applied "hands on" introduction to the SAS program, for data management, statistical analysis and report generation.

Dr Michael Adena, of Intstat Australia Pty. Ltd. will again give two courses covering aspects of log-linear modelling techniques. His Stream 2 course Log Linear Modelling in GLIM will outline the breadth of applications of log-linear modelling and the modelling process using the powerful interactive package GLIM. The theoretical background of these models will be explained in simple terms, the emphasis being on the interpretation of log-linear models. The course will assume familiarity with regression and analysis of variance, but will not require prior knowledge of GLIM.

Dr Adena's Stream 3 course Analysis of Contingency Tables - Log Linear Modelling in SPSS-X will also outline applications of log linear modelling but using SPSS-X rather than GLIM. As such it is not as advanced or wide-ranging as the GLIM course in Stream 2. Familiarity with SPSS (although not SPSS-X) is assumed, and knowledge of regression and analysis of variance would be useful.

Noel Crockett and Professor Don McNeil, from Macquarie University are presenting a course in Stream 2 called Graphical and Exploratory Methods. Their experience is that more time is often spent on exploratory analysis of data than on final analysis, and that researchers should therefore understand and use the correct techniques. The course starts from first principles assuming only basic statistical knowledge and covers the many purposes of exploratory analyses using examples from a variety of areas of social and medical sciences, and will make use of the Minitab program, and other graphical methods to illustrate techniques used.

John Dehoog, from the OCAE will again present a course on Analysis of Contingency Tables - Association and Flow Graphs in Stream 2. This course will introduce a systematic approach to delineating multi-variate causal structures from data typically collected through social surveys. It will draw on two related methodological areas; firstly on the so-called "elaboration

model" in which the careful use of percentage differences derived from three-way contingency tables are used to explore the various ways in which the variables might be causally interrelated and secondly, the use of directed graphs to formulate causal structures.

Demographic Analysis, conducted by Dr Peter McDonald of the Institute of Family Studies, in Stream 2, will deal with techniques developed to describe the occurrence of events to a specific population over a period of time. Occurrence of events is normally observed in one of two ways: continuous registration or monitoring and retrospective recall in an interview survey. Although the techniques applied are the same for each type of observation, special problems are associated with each type and these will be described. Basic algebra is the only mathematical requirement of this course.

Victor Minichiello, from Lincoln College of Health Sciences, will conduct the first ACSPRI course dealing with Principles, Strategies and Analysis of Qualitative Data, in Stream 3. This course will deal with some of the theoretical and methodological issues in the use of qualitative data for maximum effect. Emphasis will be placed on outlining systematic methods for use with testing and drawing conclusions on qualitative data, fieldwork strategies, coding and analysis of qualitative data, not only in narrative text, but with the use of networks, matrices and graphical methods.

Preparing to Use the 1986 Census Results, in Stream 3, will be taken by Dr Graham Harrison, from Census Applications. His course will focus on the data collected, the output which will be available, analysis techniques and available software packages, and comparison with other small area data sources, as well as linking with data from the 1981 Census. The week will be structured around practical examples, including the preparation of specific research programs related to the participants' areas of interest.

Structural Equation Models, also in Stream 3, will be conducted by Dr Trevor Williams of A.C.E.R. The principal focus will be the development of structural equation models as formalization of "theories" which seek to portray either or both of: the relationships between latent variables and their indicators (measurement models); the causal relationships among latent variables (structural models). As the second part of the course, attention will be given to the estimation and interpretation of the parameters of these models, using the LISREL program.

Richard Volpato, from the University of Tasmania, will this year be conducting a course in Correspondence and Cluster Analysis in Stream 3. The course should prove useful to anyone who has to analyse, display and interpret large data sets as wholes (rather than a few variables at a time). The approach will be exploratory and graphical, and will encourage the researcher to gain a sense of the multivariate nature of the data in question. The course should be a useful follow-up to introductory exploratory data analysis courses.

Optional Courses

Two Maths for Social Scientists courses are available. Vectors and Matrices will be held twice, once in each week, while Linear and Non-linear Functions will be held in the second week only.

An Introduction to ANU Computing will be given on the 1st February and repeated on the 8th, to give participants in Streams 2 and 3 the basic system and editing commands of the VAX/VMS computer. It will be the only such instruction throughout the program.

For further information and application procedures, see the 17 page guide to all courses in the program, including details on accommodation, registration and social events, available from all ACSPRI Representatives or from Dr Roger Jones at the Social Science Data Archives, A.N.U. ((062) 49 4400). Applications close 14 November 1986.

ICPSR SUMMER PROGRAM - 1986 REPORT

Each year ICPSR holds its Summer Program in Quantitative Methods of Social Research, at the campus of the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, in the months of July and August. The intention of the Summer program is to offer a comprehensive, integrated program of studies in research design, statistics, data analysis and social methodology, with an emphasis on courses and subjects not normally an integral part of the curricula of member institutions.

Reprinted below are extracts from a report prepared by an Australian participant to the 1986 Program, Dr Frank Vanclay, from the School of Australian Environmental Studies, Griffith University. Dr Vanclay also included in his report practical details concerning day to day life in Ann Arbor, which have not been included here for reasons of space. Copies of these comments are available from the SSDA, and Dr Vanclay would also be pleased to speak to anyone wanting to know more about the Program.

Anyone interested in attending the 1987 Summer Program should contact the SSDA, to arrange for further information to be sent, when it becomes available.

"I have mixed feelings about the ICPSR Summer School. I left Australia thinking that I was going to a Summer School that would be the best in the world. Well, the program was good, and probably the best in the world, but nowhere near as good as I had expected it to be. It is not much better than what is available in Australia through the ACSPRI Summer Schools, or in undergraduate or postgraduate courses in some departments of various universities.

ICPSR caters for graduate students who, on the whole, do not have a particularly strong background in mathematics, statistics or computing. Thus for someone with a good background in these areas, the program was disappointing. But this is no fault of the ICPSR program. It caters to the requirements of the academic situation in the US, in the

same way that ACSPRI fills a niche in Australia. Therefore, an Australian wanting further training in social science statistics would be equally served by ACSPRI, saving the expense and trouble of going to the University of Michigan.

The two programs are organised somewhat differently. ACSPRI is in the form of 2 X one week intensive workshops, whereas ICPSR has 2 X one month lecture and workshop programs. Graduate students can get credit towards their own studies by taking the workshops. A one month workshop, two hours per day plus homework, is equivalent to a full semester subject. Students would take one morning and one afternoon workshop, or else attend non credit lectures in the morning and an afternoon workshop. The pace at ICPSR is therefore much slower, allowing time to sample the ample cultural attractions in Ann Arbor. ICPSR also offer a small number of specialized intensive one week workshops akin to the format of the ACSPRI program. These tend to be very good and very advanced.

ICPSR courses do go to greater depth than ACSPRI courses. They don't necessarily cover more material, but cover the material in greater detail. This is largely due to the greater time available. However, at times, I did feel that I was being spoon fed much too much. ICPSR do have more courses than ACSPRI covering a very wide range of specific topics. These tend to be the one week workshops, although some are month long workshops.

ICPSR would appeal, and I would recommend it, to people with a special interest in one of those areas. However, going to Michigan from Australia for one or two one week workshops may not be cost efficient. Other than that, going to ICPSR is a lot of trouble, rather expensive, somewhat disappointing, although it is enjoyable. I would not recommend it unless the intending person did not have to pay fees, had most of their expenses paid for, was going for the full two month program, and could take extra time to tour the US or visit other Universities etc."

1983 AUSTRALIAN HEALTH SURVEY

In 1983 the Australian Bureau of Statistics conducted the second national Australian Health Survey, to obtain information about the health of Australians, and their use of and need for various health services and facilities. The first Health Survey, for which unit record data is held by the SSDA (Study No. 196), was conducted during 1977-1978.

The ABS publication "Australian Health Survey, 1983" (cat.no. 4311.0) contains an overview of the survey and data collection, as well as a summary of data collected on particular topics. Briefly, the survey was conducted by personal interview of respondents aged 15 years and over, with those under that age being represented by a person responsible (usually the mother). Separate questionnaires were used for the two age groupings, because of the differences in applicability of certain topic areas.

Apart from demographic and background characteristics such as age, sex, country of birth, occupation, education levels and income, the survey dealt principally with a range of health related actions in a stated period of time, and focused on reasons for taking actions, such as treatment for specific illnesses and injuries, tests, checkups, and supervision of ongoing conditions. Further information was collected on where the action took place, type of treatment, medications and frequency of consultations. Details of illnesses and injuries where no action was taken, were also sought.

Information on actions taken will provide a measure of the community's usage of facilities and services, while information on illnesses and injuries, whether action was taken or not, will provide an indication of the health status of the population and future demand for services.

The ABS plans to release further publications on specific topics,

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including conditions and actions, use of health services, and consequences of illness, as well as a publication giving an outline of the concepts, methodology and procedures of the survey. It is also hoped that a planned unit record data tape will be available by the end of 1986.

ABS NEWS

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) has announced the development of a Directory of Social Statistics, in the form of a microcomputer database program which will provide information about data available from the ABS as well as user friendly facilities to obtain that data.

The Directory will provide information on publications, surveys, tables, definitions and items of data, and will help the user to understand how the ABS structures its information. It will also include facilities to order data.

The system will consist of an easy to use database provided on microcomputer floppy disks which will expand as more data becomes available. In the first instance, the directory will contain social statistics information since 1980 (cat. nos. 4000 and part of the 6000 series), and it should be available by March 1987.

Further information from

Data Methods Subsection
A.B.S
Cameron Offices
P.O Box 10
Belconnen ACT 2616

MICROCOMPUTERS - SOFTWARE INFO

* Issue No. 58 (March 1986) of the European Political Data Newsletter reprints an article originally published in the Social Science Microcomputer Review (3:3, Fall 1985), entitled "Statistical Packages for Microcomputers: New Vistas for Social Science Researchers". This piece, by Edwin

Carpenter from the University of Arizona-Tucson, investigates and identifies statistical software used on microcomputers, which could allow the user to "approach or equal the abilities of popular statistical packages that are currently used on mainframe computers".

Detailed tabulations provide information on hardware and operating systems, software characteristics and a checklist of data handling capabilities for each of the packages covered, along with an extensive review of the advantages and disadvantages of use of particular packages for specific problems. A list of addresses for statistical software vendors is also supplied. This article should be of interest to any potential micro purchasers, or owners interested in upgrading or maximising their current capabilities - a viewing copy is available at the SSDA.

* From the P-Status Newsletter No.12 (April 1986) comes details of the availability of the complete documentation for P-STAT 8 release 1.22 and above. As the Newsletter modestly quotes the April 1986 issue of "Digital Review" "The P-STAT manual is probably the most concise, well-written and well organized piece of documentation in the pack; it strikes the right balance by integrating instructions on user commands with background information on statistics". Copies of the manual, and further information can be obtained from P-STAT Inc, P.O Box AH, Princeton New Jersey, 08542, USA.

* GLIMANZ (No.2, April 1986), the Australasian GLIM Newsletter, announced that GLIM Version 3.77 is now available for MS-DOS micros and in several mainframe versions. Implementation for mainframes not currently included, and for CP/M and Apple Macintosh micro systems is now being carried out.

The April issue also includes a ten page selected reference list of articles and monographs which cite and discuss GLIM methodology and applications in research. Comments on or important additions to this collection could be sent to the editor,

GLIMANZ Newsletter
c/o INISTAT Australia Pty Ltd,
Box C155,
Sydney NSW 2000

* The latest edition of "Software for Statistical and Survey Analysis" (prepared for the Study Group on Computers in Survey Analysis {SGCSA} by David Cable et.al) contains over 160 entries, providing a fairly concise survey of what's available in the market for software for survey analysis, for both micro and mainframe users. Whilst not pretending to be an exhaustive guide, the volume provides details on applications for each package, language, operating environment and a summary description. The next update to the guide should appear in 1987.

Further information from the treasurer of SGCSA

David Cable,
Central Statistical Office,
Great George Street,
London SW1P 3AQ U.K

INFORMATION SOURCESBicentennial Project
Youth and Unemployment in Australia

The Statistical Society of Australia has announced in its Newsletter No.36 for August 1986, its major bicentennial project to contribute to the understanding of the practical and theoretical issues associated with analysis of data on youth unemployment in Australia. The main data source will be the Australian Longitudinal Survey, commissioned by the Bureau of Labour Market Research, and augmented by smaller locally based surveys on topics of particular interest raised by the ALS. It is hoped that findings will be presented at the 1988 SSA conference, and subsequently published. Ideas for projects, and requests for information should go to

William Dunsmuir
Siromath Pty Ltd.
1 Liardet Street
Port Melbourne VIC 3207

LANDSEARCH Directory

(Extracted from an article by P.Kelly, appearing in the ADDA Newsletter No.18, 1986)

A directory has just been compiled providing a useful reference to the large body of land related systems and databases. The Directory, called LANDSEARCH, contains details of 830 sources within the Commonwealth Government relating to land and land use. The production of this Directory has come about from a recognition of the need for up-to-date relevant and accurate source information to support decision making, as well as a mix of information reflecting complex inter-relations between various activities and outcomes.

The unifying theme of sources reported in LANDSEARCH is that the data contain some kind of identifier relating to location. This identifier could describe a street address, postcode, statistical district, land parcel number, electorate, grid square, line or point. The data may or may not be computerised. All these sources can be logically integrated by matching one piece of data to another by their common attribute of location.

The subject matter contained within LANDSEARCH entries is wide, ranging from natural resources, the environment, transport, communications, primary industry, manufacturing, to socio-economic issues. Maps can also be produced from land-related data, thus adding a powerful option for visually displaying results of studies.

LANDSEARCH was compiled by the Commonwealth Land Information Support Group, the Australian Survey Office, and the Department of Local Government and Administrative Services. It is hoped that with initiatives like LANDSEARCH, the work being done to develop comprehensive land information systems at State level and national co-operation will improve access to these important sources for both government and the public.

For more information on LANDSEARCH, contact

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Director,
Land Information Support Group,
P.O Box 2,
Belconnen ACT 2616

European Values Survey, 1981

The ESRC Data Archive at the University of Essex has announced the acquisition of data from the European Values Survey carried out in 1981 (ESRC Study No. 2062). This data set includes information on moral, religious, political and social values from France, Italy, Spain, West Germany, Denmark, Great Britain, Northern Ireland, the Netherlands, Ireland and Belgium, and the ESRC intends to produce a cross-national codebook for the data. Number of cases finally obtained for the European survey was 12463.

Related Values Study surveys have also been carried out in a further 16 countries - Argentina, Chile, Canada, Finland, Hungary, Iceland, Japan, Malta, Mexico, Norway, South Africa, South Korea, Sweden, the United States, parts of the Soviet Union, and Australia. The Social Science Data Archives holds the data set from the Australian Values Study survey, carried out in 1983 (SSDA Study No.375), for which details were published in ACSPRI Newsletter No.13 March 1986. Further information on both these data can be obtained from the SSDA.

(As this Newsletter goes to press, the SSDA has just received a copy of the data file and documentation for the European Values Survey. Intending users should contact the SSDA - individual written permission must be obtained through the SSDA, from the ESRC Data Archive before the data can be released).

CONFERENCES

Reprinted below are details of conferences being held in the next six months, both around Australia and overseas, which may be of interest to ACSPRI Newsletter readers.

(from the ACCIS Newsletters 3(6) and 4(1), 1986)

* 49th Annual Meeting of the American Society for Information Science, Chicago, September 28 - October 2 1986. Topics covered include information users and technology, and information in society. Contact

Technical Program Chairman,
GSLIS, 410 DKH,
1407 W Gregory Drive,
University of Illinois,
Urbana, IL 61801, USA

* First European Conference of Medical Libraries, Brussels, October 23-25 1986. Covers topics such as computerization and standardization, development of scientific databases, continuing education of information specialists, and the role of libraries and documentation centres in health services administration. Contact

Mark Walckiers,
ave. Hippocrate, 50,
B-1200, Brussels, Belgium

* 7th Annual International Conference on Information Systems, San Diego, California, December 15-17, 1986. Will cover aspects of theory and practice of information systems, and the teaching of information systems at university level. Contact

E.R McLean,
Conference Chairman,
Graduate School of Management,
University of California,
Los Angeles, CA 90024 USA

(from the ICPSR Bulletin, May 1986)

* American Society of Criminology convention to be held in Atlanta, Georgia, from October 29 to November 1, 1986.

Major Australian conferences to round off 1986 include

* The Second Australian Family Research Conference, co-ordinated by the Australian Institute of Family Studies, to be held in November 1986, at the University of Melbourne. Conference

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papers will deal with analysis of issues such as youth in families, federal and state legislation and programs, demographic and social changes in Australian families and economic status and well-being.

Further information from

Conference Program Committee,
Institute of Family Studies,
766 Elizabeth Street,
Melbourne 3000

* The third National Conference of the Australian Population Association, to be held at Flinders University in Adelaide from 3rd to 5th December 1986. The theme of the conference is "Australia's Population and The Future", with the keynote address being delivered by Dr Peter Morrison, Director of the Rand Corporation's Population Research Centre in California. Other sessions will focus on population futures for Australia, ageing of the population, the family, demographic forecasting, and the Census.

Brochures and registration forms can be obtained from

The Secretary,
APA Third National Conference,
GPO Box 1133,
Adelaide SA 5001

* The fourth Australian Law and Society Conference will be held at Griffith University from 5-7 December 1986. Conference theme will be "Law and Political Justice".

Information from

Rob McQueen,
Convener, Law and Society
Conference,
SIA,
Griffith University
Nathan QLD 4111

Advance notice also of

* The Centenary Conference of the Royal Statistical Society, celebrating the granting of the Royal Charter in 1887.

The conference will be held at Trinity College Cambridge, from 8-10 April 1987, with the central theme "Statistics in Society". Write to

Secretary,
Royal Statistical Society,
25 Enford Street,
London W1H 2BH U.K

for further details. Intending authors should submit abstracts of papers to the above address by December 31 1986.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

From Canada, details of a recently published study, of interest to Australian researchers

* "Immigrants in Canada and Australia", published in three volumes, is based on census and survey data from the 1970's. It examines the situation of immigrants in Canada and Australia with particular reference to the experience of the second and subsequent generations of the native born in those countries. Special attention is paid to education, labour force participation, occupations, incomes, urbanization and residential distributions, sex, age and periods of immigration.

Volume one is entitled "Demographic Aspects and Education", volume two "Economic Adaptation" and the final volume "Urban and Ecological Aspects". The series is published by the Institute for Social Research, York University, Ontario, Canada.

Also from Canada,

* Plateck, R., Pierre-Pierre, F.K, and Stevens, P. "Development and Design of Survey Questionnaires" published by Statistics Canada, Ottawa, 1985.

News from the United States

* A new international journal entitled "Computers and Translation" is to be published by Paradigm Press. Topics to be covered include software in

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translating and language processing, research in linguistics, artificial intelligence, database construction, information science and terminology, and the social consequences of computerized translation for society in general and for the translating profession.

Further information from

Paradigm Press,
Box 1057,
Osprey, FL 33559-1057 USA

Paradigm Press also publishes "Computers and the Humanities" and "Computers and the Social Sciences".

* Smith, Robert B (ed) "A Handbook of Social Science Methods: Quantitative Methods: Focused Survey Research and Causal Modeling", Praeger, New York, 1985.

And from Australia,

* The Australian Database Development Association (ADDA) Newsletter for March/April 1986, gives information on the publication of the Second ADDA Directory, listing details of databases including size, sources, associated publications and staffing. Full lists of organisation addresses, contact names and phone numbers are included for both database producers and vendors. The Directory also lists details of thesauri used by Australian database producers. The introduction to the Directory provides an overview of the online information industry in Australia based on data from ADDA's survey of database producers. Information on ADDA:

ADDA,
P.O Box 53,
Hawthorn VIC 3122

And finally, from the United Kingdom,

* Information on a Compendium of Academic Survey Studies of Elections around the World, which appears in the journal "Electoral Studies" (4:2, 1985). This work deals with academic surveys (rather than those carried out for commercial or political purposes) which

are national in coverage, and were carried out after the early 1960's. Each entry carries details on year, principal investigators, geographical scope, design, size in terms of cases and variables, language, resulting books and articles, and archives involved in making studies available. Twenty two countries are represented, as well as a selection of large multi-national surveys. The compendium should be updated on a regular basis.

BOOK REVIEWS

The following reviews of recent publications have been extracted from the ESRC Data Archive Bulletin (No.34, May 1986) for the information of anyone who may not have ready access to this journal. Offers from ACSPRI newsletter readers to review or discuss recent publications relating to survey research particularly with an Australian focus, would be greatly appreciated.

How Britain Votes, Anthony Heath, Roger Jowell, John Curtice (Pergamon Press, Oxford, 1985)

Heath et al's long-awaited analysis of the 1983 British Election Study is now out. For the first time it is an interdisciplinary affair, with a sociologist (Heath), political scientist (Curtice) and survey specialist (Jowell) working together. And of course, it is the first election study looking at the "new mould" of British politics: a three-, two and a half-, or a pair-of-two party system according to your preference.

Through its 12 chapters and two appendices Heath et al provide both a static and dynamic analysis of the election in order to come to more general conclusions about the state of contemporary British politics. Rejecting both the "expressive" (voting is a function of structural location) and "instrumental" (voting is a function of rational behaviour) models of electoral behaviour, the authors adopt an "interactionist" outlook which they say,

combines and extends the best of both perspectives. As the end result is a very open-ended theory - offering on principle no firm predictions - it will no doubt continue to provoke lively debate.

(The SSDA holds copies of the Codebook and Questionnaire and data file for the 1983 British Election Study [ESRC Study No. 2005].)

Company Archives Lesley Richmond and Bridget Stockford (Gower Press, Aldershot, 1986)

Between 1980 and 1984, the Business Archives Council, with support from the ESRC (Economic and Social Research Council at Essex University), undertook a survey of 1000 oldest surviving limited companies in England and Wales. The results of the survey are presented in this volume, almost 600 pages in length. The survey located and catalogued records of 674 companies and about 1000 associated concerns, and covered the broadest range of business activity - basic manufacturing enterprises, financial services, property companies, trading houses, retailing, the food and drink industries and companies specifically created for leisure and recreation. A wide range of businesses were surveyed, and records discovered for many types and sizes - from small scale rural concerns to major multi-nationals, from local trade and political associations to nationwide professional bodies.

Entries for each company or association cover their history and a summary of the records held in their archives. Most of the records mentioned in the book remain in the custody of the relevant company, but many have been saved from destruction and placed in archival collections elsewhere. If for no other reason than this, the work involved in this survey would have been worthwhile. The volume also, however, provides a reference source of potential research materials, many of which have been unavailable or unknown before.

CSO Guide to Official Statistics (HMSO, 1986) and Sources of Unofficial UK Statistics compiled by David Mort and Leona Siddall (Gower Publishing, Aldershot, 1986)

The two basic guides should, between them, cover most of the main statistical sources {in the United Kingdom}. The CSO Guide, now in its fifth edition, is intended to cover official and "significant" non-official sources, both regular and occasional, published during the last five years. It includes the broad content descriptions of all relevant publications, regular and ad hoc, containing a significant amount of statistical information, with an indication of the availability of non-published information where this is thought to be of particular interest. Contact addresses are given for most sources, as it is stressed that it is often worth while to contact the originating agency to ensure that the required statistics have not, indeed, been compiled. The Guide's usefulness is enhanced by an Alphabetical Keyword Index and an extensive Bibliography.

Sources of Unofficial UK Statistics is aimed primarily at business and industry and gives details of more than 1000 publications and services provided by trade associations, professional bodies, consultants, local authorities, employers' federations, trade unions, stockbrokers, private companies, academic institutions and others, together with statistics appearing in trade journals and periodicals. Each entry contains information on subject, content, source of statistics, address of publisher, frequency, cost, availability and contact for further information. A special subject index for entries should also prove useful. The book derives from work undertaken at Warwick Statistics Service between 1983 and 1985.

Key Variables in Social Investigation edited by Robert G Burgess (Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1986)

This collection of articles seeks, in the words of Robert Burgess "...to

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bridge the gulf which divides the theoretical and empirical realms, particularly in sociology, by analysing key concepts and discussing how they can be studied empirically" (Intro. p.2)

In the Burgess volume, topics treated are, by Burgess himself ("Education") and by Catherine Marsh ("Social class and occupation"). New key variables are treated in articles by Janet Finch on "Age"; D.H.J Morgan on "Gender"; Martin Bulmer on "Race and ethnicity"; Sally McIntyre on "Health and illness"; Kate Purcell on "Work, employment and unemployment"; Stanley Parker on "Leisure"; David Jary on "Politics" and C.G Pickvance on "Voluntary associations". Bulmer and Burgess conclude the volume with a reflexive piece entitled "Do concepts, variables and indicators interrelate?" in which the epistemological questions implicitly in the volume (the nature of theory, concepts, the nexus between theory and research) are discussed directly.

Of course, one must not treat the Burgess collection as a monolith; the articles inevitably display a diversity of styles, emphases, and concerns with some discussing theoretical and conceptual questions in relative depth (Finch, Morgan, Macintyre and Pickvance in particular), while others are concerned more to describe and classify what has been done by way of operationally defining and measuring their particular "key variable".

The articles are, on the whole, descriptive in orientation which is one of the book's great strengths. (...) Key Variables in Social Investigation will be of use to anyone who needs an excellent source book for work done in the substantive areas covered and the problems experienced there.

AUSTRALIAN DATA AVAILABLE

Additions to SSDA holdings are listed below. Please note that some of these carry a special access condition, or "Access Category" which should be interpreted as follows:

A: the depositor wishes to be informed (by the Archives) of use being made of the data, in order to comment on that use and make contact with colleagues of similar interests.

B: the depositor wishes to be informed of each request to use the data in order to give or withhold permission.

E: there is an embargo period; no access at all is permitted until after the date specified.

S: there are special access conditions, peculiar to the data set in question.

U: as specified on the User Undertaking Form, the user is required to obtain the permission in writing of the original depositor of the data, or an authorised representative, before publishing any interpretation of such materials.

t.b.a: to be advised (currently unknown)

Australian Gallup Polls

Eleven Australian Gallup Polls, covering the period from February to December 1983, have recently been deposited with the SSDA. Their SSDA Study Numbers are 391 - 401 respectively.

Standard background variables across the polls include age, sex, marital status, education level, birthplace, household composition, occupation and gross income.

Topics of interest covered in 1983 include concern with perceived problems facing the Australian community, protection for the manufacturing industry, extension of parliamentary terms of office, sports administration and sponsorship from tobacco and liquor companies, gambling, trade and sporting contacts with South Africa, feelings about the nuclear arms race, continuation of the wage pause program and taxation of lump sum superannuation, drug control, organised crime and the Federal Crime Commission, approval of Medicare, uranium sales to France, the national Australian song, comparison and funding of private and public schools,

the assets test for pensions and the care of the elderly, Aboriginal sacred sites and the performance and approval rating of Mr Hawke, Mr Fraser, Mr Peacock and Mr Howard. Access Category: none

Sport, Recreation and Tourism Department
Activity Levels of Australians, January/February 1986 (SSDA Study No. 384)

This study is one of a group of surveys conducted at six month intervals for the purpose of establishing accurate data on the proportion of the population which is regularly and persistently active, to assist in planning appropriate recreation and fitness programs (see SSDA Studies No 350,352,353 and 370).

Respondents were questioned about their participation in physical activity during the two weeks preceding the interview. For a range of sporting and other activities respondents were asked the frequency, the amount of time involved each time, and the level of energy expended on each event. Questions were also asked about activities within organised clubs, advertised or sponsored events, and participation alone or socially. Reasons for inactivity were also obtained. Background variables include age, sex, marital status, education, occupation, income, state, electorate, birthplace, work status, number of children, religion, type of dwelling and size of town. Access Category: A

Commonwealth Department of Health,
Social Issues in Australia, 1985, (SSDA Study No. 405)

The main purpose of the survey was to obtain benchmark data on attitudes to drugs which would assist those involved in the National Campaign Against Drug Abuse to prepare and monitor a media campaign. Consequently, the survey focused particularly on the use of and attitudes of people to a list of legal and illegal drugs.

Topics covered by the survey include: problems affecting the individual, their peers, and the Australian community;

drugs thought to be a "drug problem"; the seriousness of drug problems affecting the general community and the individual; penalties for marijuana use and possession; perceived levels of drug use; personal experience of and attitude to drug use; perceived knowledge about drugs; need for more information about drugs; attitudes to Government response to drugs; attitudes to drugs and drug use; alcohol and drug consumption. Background variables include: media use; household type; occupation and occupation status; education and education status; age; sex; marital status; country of birth; geographic location; who was present during the interview and the interviewer's assessment of the openness of the response to the questions. Access Category: none

Committee on Nursing Personnel Survey,
Commonwealth Department of Health,
Nursing Personnel Survey, Australia, 1978 (SSDA Study No.402)

This study was conceived to determine workforce characteristics, distribution, utilisation and level of supply of nursing personnel in Australia and to estimate future requirements. Separate data sets were collected from health institutions, professional nurses, mothercraft nurses and nursing aides, and nursing students.

Variables collected from health institutions include: number and classification of persons on payroll; hours worked; number of vacancies; ability to fill vacancies and methods used to do so. Variables contained in the three nursing personnel data sets include: residential area; educational qualifications; current employment information either within or outside the nursing profession, or, in the case of student nurses, possible place of employment upon course completion; employment status over the last five years; reasons for leaving/returning to nursing; reason for choosing a particular training school; expectations of returning to nursing if not currently working in the field. Access Category: none

Ortiz, Michael et al., Role of the Community Pharmacist in Patient Counselling, 1982 (SSDA Study No. 386).

One of the important functions traditionally carried out by pharmacists has been patient counselling. That is, pharmacists provide information about medications, foster treatment compliance and act as the first point of contact in the health care system. The study sought information about the counselling (advice giving) practices and attitudes of community pharmacists.

Variables in the data set include the frequency of the public coming to the pharmacy as the first point of contact, the kind of problems for which people sought advice, who gave this advice, the proportion referred to a medical practitioner, problems not referred but treated by a pharmacist, evaluation of pharmacists' training, perceived responsibility, number of patients counselled per day, percentage related to NHS prescriptions, average time spent counselling, type of patient counselled and patient medication records. Background variables and pharmacist in charge details include sex, age, years in full-time employment, hours worked, qualifications, employment status, membership of professional associations, professional journals received and pharmacy details: use of computers, pharmacy location, trading hours and staff levels. Also covered are attitudinal responses to the role and behaviour of community pharmacists and job aspects which provide personal satisfaction. Access Category: A

Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, Overseas Arrivals and Departures, Australia (SSDA Study Numbers 403 and 404).

Each person who arrives in or departs from Australia, whether as a short or long term traveller, or on a permanent basis, completes a questionnaire in the form of an Incoming or Outgoing Passenger card. The information collected in this way has been used up until now primarily in the provision of basic statistics on such arrivals and departures (see regular A.B.S

publications on overseas arrivals and departures, cat nos. 3401.0, 3402.0 and 3404.0). The SSDA has recently acquired this data in machine-readable form.

SSDA Study No. 403 (Overseas Arrivals and Departures, Australia 1975-1981: Six Monthly Detailed Tables) collected together characteristics including sex/marital status, category of travel, country of birth, citizenship and stay, length of stay and occupation. The data is arranged in half calendar years.

Study No. 404 (Overseas Arrivals and Departures, Australia 1980-: Unit Record Data) is produced on a quarterly calendar year basis. The SSDA will receive regular updates to this series - current holdings are to the fourth quarter of 1985. Additional characteristics included in this series are age of respondent, reason for journey, state of stay and clearance, mode of travel and country of embarkation/disembarkation. Access Category: none

Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, Permanent and Long Term Departures from Australia, 1986 (SSDA Study No. 406).

The intention of this survey, carried out in January and February 1986, was to focus on the characteristics of those people leaving Australia for a long time, or permanently, and to determine what Australia would lose in human resources by their departure.

Topics covered in the study included reasons for leaving Australia and attitudes to aspects of life in Australia, expectations of life overseas, employment status and ownership of businesses, monetary resources being taken out of Australia, and if the respondent had previously been a migrant to Australia, a rating of the success of their stay in Australia. Background variables include sex, marital status, age, country of birth and citizenship, occupation, usual state of residence while in Australia and length of time spent there. Access Category: none

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Grichting, Wolfgang L., Gambling: Behaviour and Attitudes, 1984 (SSDA Study No. 389).

This study is part of an ongoing series of studies on the quality of life in Townsville, Queensland (see SSDA Study numbers 45, 46, 47 and 105, reported in ACSPRI Newsletter No. 6, September 1982). It attempts to explore attitudes towards gambling in general, with the particular intention of collecting baseline data before the opening of the Breakwater Casino, in order to examine the likely effect of the casino in years to come.

Emphasis is placed on topics such as the perceived consequences of the casino on the economy and general quality of life in Townsville, general behavioural orientations towards gambling personally, and risk taking (measured by a scale of nine items), personal experience of gambling situations, confidence in Australian institutions, alcohol consumption and distribution of gambling taxes. Variables on personal background include respondent's level of education, and that of spouse and parents, occupation and employment status, income, country of birth of respondent and parents, home ownership, marital status, age and sex. Access Category: none

Sport, Recreation and Tourism Department Recreation Participation Survey, 1985-86 (SSDA Study No. 388).

The national Recreation Participation Survey examines the nature and frequency of participation in recreation/leisure activities and facility usage among Australians 14 years and over; and how these patterns vary among different socio-economic groups. The survey also identifies the major constraints on both participation and facility utilisation. The data was collected in four seasonal quarters from April 1985.

Topics covered included frequency and amount of time spent on various leisure time and social activities, both at the respondent's home and away from home, activities most enjoyed, reasons for not doing or participating in particular activities and use of public and

commercial leisure facilities. Background variables include age, sex, income level, education, marital status, ethnicity, occupation and geographical location. Access Category: A

ICPSR ADDITIONS TO HOLDINGS

The following titles have been extracted from the ICPSR Bulletins dated March and May 1986. For further information, contact the SSDA.

American National Election Studies Data Sourcebook, 1952-1978 (ICPSR 8475)
 American National Election Study: 1985 Pilot Study (ICPSR 8476)
 Annual Housing Survey, 1983 {United States}: National File (ICPSR 8456)
 Census of Population and Housing, 1980 {United States}: Congressional District Equivalency File (99th Congress) (ICPSR 8404)
 Census of Population and Housing, 1980 {United States}: Summary Tape File 1H (ICPSR 8401)
 Census of Population and Housing, 1980 {United States}: Summary Tape File 3H (ICPSR 8402)
 Census of Population and Housing, 1980 {United States}: Summary Tape File 4C SMSA Extract (ICPSR 8426)
 County Business Patterns, 1977 {United States}: U.S Summary, State and County Data (ICPSR 8464)
 County Business Patterns, 1978 {United States}: U.S Summary, State and County Data (ICPSR 8441)
 County Business Patterns, 1979 {United States}: U.S Summary, State and County Data (ICPSR 8442)
 County Business Patterns, 1983 {United States}: U.S Summary, State and County Data (ICPSR 8433)
 Current Population Survey, January 1984 (ICPSR 8462)
 Current Population Survey: Voter Supplement File, 1984 (ICPSR 8457)
 Federal Court Cases, 1970-1984: Integrated Data Base (ICPSR 8429)
 German Election Study, 1983 (ICPSR 8352)
 German Election Panel Study, 1983 (ICPSR 8452)
 German Social Survey (ALLBUS) Cumulative File, 1980, 1982, 1984 (ICPSR 8453)
 Health Interview Survey, 1982 (ICPSR

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