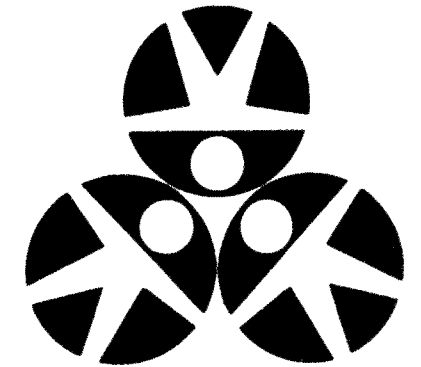


ACSPRI newsletter

Australian Consortium for Social and Political Research Incorporated
Number 26, September 1992 ISSN 0158-6882



incorporating

SSDA news

Social Science Data Archives, Research School of Social Sciences, Australian National University

ACSPRI newsletter

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This newsletter is produced at the Social Science Data Archives, Research School of Social Sciences, The Australian National University, GPO Box 4, Canberra ACT 2601. (Phone (06) 249 4400; Fax (06) 257 1893) Articles, letters, research notes, conference information and other contributions are encouraged. Write to the editors at the address listed above, or send using e-mail to ssda@coombs.anu.edu.au

Thanks to this issue's outside contributors - Wolfgang Grichting, Robert Lake, Brian Phillips, Mike Lee, John Clarke, Malgosia Zlobicki, Dagmar Parer and Henry Barnard. The newsletter was edited by Gina Roach.

ACSPRI Activities

ACSPRI Membership News

Membership of ACSPRI now stands at (a record high) thirty Australian universities and research institutions. Since the March issue of the Newsletter was distributed, Victoria University of Technology became ACSPRI's newest member and Griffith University rejoined the Consortium. Mr Vic Roth, Library, St Albans Campus, (tel: 03 366 4852) is acting as ACSPRI Representative for VUT, and Dr Dale Caird, Division of Health and Behavioural Sciences (tel: 07 875 5176) is the Consortium's Griffith Representative.

However, it's a case of 'two steps forward, one step back'. Avid Newsletter readers will be aware (cf Don DeBat's article in the March '92 issue, "Creating ACSPRI: The Narrative But Not the Novel", pp 7-11) that in 1974 the University of Melbourne, through its Department of Political Science, became Australia's second university to join ICPSR (the Department of Political Science in the Institute of Advanced Studies at the ANU had been the first in 1965), and was instrumental in organising Australia's new multi-university national membership of the ICPSR, better known as ACSPRI, in 1976.

As a foundation member of ACSPRI, the University of Melbourne has had continuous membership since that time. Regrettably, according to a Departmental spokesperson, the University is foregoing membership for 1992-3 due to a 'shortage of funds' in the Department of Political Science but has expressed interest in re-subscribing 'in the not-too-distant-future'.

Readers are reminded that regardless of whether the cost of a university's annual institutional subscription is paid by the university, 'centrally', or by one or more of its programs, departments, units, divisions, faculties, schools and/or campuses, the benefits of ACSPRI membership accrue to all students and staff of that university.

1993 ACSPRI Summer Program at the ANU

ACSPRI is pleased to announce that the 1993 Summer Program in Social Research Methods and Research Technology, to be co-hosted with the Research School of Social Sciences, the Faculty of Arts and the Faculty of Economics and Commerce, will take place at the Australian National University in Canberra between the 31st of January and 12th of February, 1993. Advance details about the Summer Program are available in the Brochure accompanying this Newsletter; complete Program details, including application forms, are provided in the Course Booklet, available from ACSPRI - SP93 at the address listed at the end of this article.

As in previous Summer Programs, standard, week-long courses will be offered in the areas of: survey and sample design; introductory statistics; regression analysis; factor analysis; data analysis in SPSS and SAS; structural equation models - LISREL; log-linear modelling; multilevel analysis; analysis of change; qualitative research; and program evaluation. For example, in the area of regression analysis, Introduction to Multiple Regression, Intermediate Regression and Advanced Regression courses will be taught; qualitative research is likely to have both an Introduction to Qualitative Research and more advanced, Analysis of Qualitative Data course.

Also being considered are a number of new or revised courses which are at various stages of planning, but which all require immediate and sufficient expressions of interest before proceeding. These include: multidimensional scaling; electoral behaviour research; quantitative methods of program evaluation; computer-assisted

telephone interviewing; quantitative analysis of crime and criminal justice; fuzzy set analysis for social science; quantitative historical analysis; and statistics for the health sciences. If you would like more information about, or think you would be interested in attending, one or more of these courses (or know someone who might) please contact ACSPRI-SP93 by phone or fax (on the numbers listed below), as soon as possible.

For further details, see the accompanying Brochure and write, phone or fax for the Course Booklet to: ACSPRI - SP93, Social Science Data Archives, Research School of Social Sciences, The Australian National University, GPO Box 4, Canberra ACT 2601. Phone (06) 249 4400; fax (06) 257 1893.

Third National Social Research Conference (NSRC3) University of Western Sydney, Hawkesbury

Nearly 150 individuals attended thirty-one regular, one plenary, and two special workshop sessions to hear the more than 100 papers delivered during the Third National Social Research Conference, co-hosted by ACSPRI and the University of Western Sydney, at the Hawkesbury campus between the afternoons of Monday 29 June and Thursday 2 July 1992.

Like its predecessors, NSRC3 explored developments in research methodology, and current empirical findings and their implications, from an array of quantitative and qualitative social research perspectives and across a range of social, economic and policy issue areas, including unemployment, poverty, health, education, immigration, industrial relations, ethnicity, crime and recreation.

Commonwealth and State government analyses and interpretation of policy related data were reported and discussed in a number of regular Conference sessions and in a special workshop (held in conjunction with the Australian Association of Research

in Education). Methodological advances in data collection (e.g. computer-assisted telephone interviewing and computerised audio-visual data collection); data classification and measurement (e.g. item response and fuzzy set theory); and data analysis (e.g. multilevel, maximum likelihood, and multinomial logit) were also reported, and two Conference sessions were devoted to how best to teach these and more basic research methods to tertiary, post-graduate and 'in-service' students. Also analysed and debated during the Conference were substantive, as well as methodological, issues specific to electoral behaviour and the Polls, program and policy evaluation, healthcare delivery, participatory (action) research, corporate and cross-national behaviour, workplace and legal reform, and community studies. Two informal sessions were devoted to the discussion of the policy research and evaluation process in government consulting and the 'future of qualitative research', respectively.

In addition, NSRC3 saw special demonstrations of new versions of computer software, such as: FUZZyStat (fuzzy set analysis) by Mike Smithson; NUDIST (qualitative data analysis) by Lyn Richards; and 'Titan' (item response theory) by Malcolm Rosier, as well as commercial displays of 'SPSS for Windows' by SPSS Inc. and 'ISYS' full text retrieval software by Odyssey Development. Once again, the Australian Bureau of Statistics, in a special workshop and in a regular session, explained current procedures for, and demonstrated computerised methods of, user access and assessment of 1991 population census data.

NSRC3's Monday afternoon plenary session addressed the theme of 'Integrating Social Research: Process and Substance', and in three presentations highlighted the diversity and sophistication of, as well as the methodological and substantive research concerns implicit in, contemporary Australian and overseas social research practice.

Leading off, Peter McDonald of the Australian Institute of Family Studies discussed the scope and methods of the AIFS's inter-disciplinary study of Australian Living Standards which, among other things, aims to 'provide information on spheres of life that have been identified as affecting living standards, especially health, employment, housing, economic resources, transport and education, training and information'. Focusing on twelve 'localities' (and samples in each of 500 randomly selected families), reflecting the 'varying socio-geographic settings in Australia', the three year study utilises both qualitative (in-depth) and quantitative (standardised, computer assisted telephone) interviewing techniques in gathering individual and contextual information about the living standards of Australian families.

Next, Lyn Richards of La Trobe University reminded listeners of the essential complementarity of qualitative and quantitative approaches to social science research and explored 'the evergreen issue of linking qualitative and quantitative data and the possibilities of model-building and support for analysis of nontextual data'.

Finally, Merrill Shanks of the University of California, Berkeley discussed the scope of developmental objectives and future directions in computer assisted surveys. Making special reference to recent advances in data description, management and analysis, he argued for the kind of cooperative development of these techniques pursued by the Association for Computer-assisted Surveys, headquartered at the Computer-assisted Survey Methods Program at Berkeley.

The mixture of social research topics and approaches presented at NSRC3 reflected the diverse geographical and institutional origins of participants, with two-thirds attracted to the Conference from the host state and the ACT, a quarter from Victoria and Queensland, and the rest from the other States and overseas. Academic affiliation was claimed by three-fifths of those in attendance, with almost half of these individuals representing the 'new' universities. Commonwealth or State

government departments were represented by the majority of other NSRC3 participants, and the private sector was represented by research firms such as AGB Australia, the REARK Group, and Frank Small and Associates, each of which contributed two or more participants.

It is noteworthy that many of these participants reported observing a substantial strengthening of inter-disciplinary ties among fellow participants during NSRC3. Inter-communication of mostly well grounded research related themes emerging from the Conference's information rich sessions was a feature of formal proceedings at Hawkesbury.

However, these and other themes were given wider scope for elaboration throughout NSRC3, and especially during drinks at the well-attended reception in the Clydesdale Room on Monday night, over the three courses of the Conference dinner in the Cosmic Cafe on Tuesday, on board the 'M.V. Deerubbin' cruise vessel's three hour Hawkesbury River luncheon excursion, and, later on Wednesday, in deliberations of the special 'social research association' meeting.

Most agreed, moreover, that Hawkesbury's Poolside Function Centre and Memorial Hall, as well as its Computer Centre, had provided congenial venues for Conference sessions, workshops, and software demonstrations, and that the collegiate accommodation provided in Alexander Bruce and Southee Halls, as well as the catering of the Hawkesbury Dining Complex and Union, had contributed much to the conviviality of the Conference, not to mention to the *verstehen* spirited away from it.

Special understanding and cooperation were called for, and received, during NSRC3's Wednesday afternoon meeting of participants to discuss the proposed formation of an Australian 'association of social researchers'. At that meeting, unanimous agreement was reached to form a steering committee that, immediately following NSRC3, would draft a proposed constitution modelled on that of the British 'Social Research Association', organise and

launch a foundation membership drive for the as yet unnamed association, and, if desired, make representations to the AGM of ACSPRI (in late October) as to any relationship the association might have vis à vis the Consortium.

The following members volunteered to serve on the steering committee: Pat Bazeley, UWS Macarthur; David Chant, University of Queensland; Rodney J. Clarke, University of Wollongong; Adrian Fethers, Office of Government Information and Advertising, Canberra; Carol Grbich, Flinders University; Wolfgang Grichting (Chair), University of Tasmania; Ann Harding, Centre of Social and Economic Modelling, Canberra; Gary Marks, ANU; Jim Millwood, the Reark Group, Melbourne; Harry Oxley, University of Canberra; Christine Ryan, University of South Australia; Michael Smithson, James Cook University; Ralph Straton, Murdoch University; Frank Vanclay, Charles Sturt University; and Marcus Wigan, Monash University.

The fruits of the committee's labour may be appraised by reading Professor Grichting's article (pp 7-8, this Newsletter) on the history and goals of the new Australian Association for Social Research and the accompanying AASR Constitution (with application form).

By way of thanking organisers and staff at ACSPRI and the University of Western Sydney for their support before and during the Hawkesbury Conference, congratulations are extended to all NSRC3 participants for their efforts in shouldering their share of the 'work-in-progress' during Conference proceedings. In particular, presenters of papers, who did most of the important work, are to be acknowledged for their contributions to NSRC3 by having their 'finished' papers, or (if these are not submitted) their 'abstracts', distributed by ACSPRI to the wider social research community in the 'Proceedings of the Third National Social Research Conference'.

Thus far, the following papers have been received by ACSPRI:

Ackland, Robert (Bureau of Immigration Research) The Determinants of Immigrant Labour Market Status

Angus, Lawrence B. (Monash University) Access and Equity or Educational Markets: The Australian Reform Agenda

Barling, Norm and Clem Barnett (Ballarat University College) Unemployment in a Provincial City

Burgess, Rod (Housing Analysis Branch, DHHCS) Findings of Housing and Location Choice Survey

Collins, David & David Smith, Martin Butterfield (Frank Small & Associates and Population Census Branch, ABS) Evaluation Methods Used in the 1991 Population Census

Davidson, Penny (Charles Sturt University, Murray) Women on Holiday: Constraints and Barriers to Women's Leisure

Davis, Elisabeth (Welfare Section, ABS) 1992 Time Use Survey

Dee, Suzanne and Roger Jones (Social Science Data Archives, RISS ANU) Setting Up a CATI Facility

Fisher, Karen (Childcare at Work, Sydney) Cost-Benefit Analysis of Work-Based Child Care

Gallagher, Phil and Siobhain Ryan (Department of Social Security) Effective Marginal Tax Rates of Social Security Recipients

Gerber, Rod (QUT) Phenomenography as a Qualitative Research Approach Beyond the Individual

Grichting, Wolfgang (University of Tasmania, Launceston) Youth Unemployment, Jobsearch and Depression in Australia

Harding, Ann (Centre of Social and Economic Modelling, Canberra) Poverty in Australia in 1990

Kahal, H.S. (UWS, Hawkesbury) Implications of the Recession in Japan for Australian Exports

King, Chris (Latrobe University, Albury-Wodonga) Towards Self-Evaluation: The Experience of the Children of Prisoners Support Groups

Parker, Prue (University of Sydney) An Approach to Two-Level Factor Analysis

Parkinson, Geoff and Peter Boal (ALS Section, Dept. of Education, Employment and Training, Canberra) The Costs of Disadvantage

Post, Maarten (Queensland Police Service) Evaluation and the Safety Audits Project

Rowe, Ken (Ministry of Education and Training, Victoria) Identifying Type I Errors in Educational and Social Research: Comparisons of Results from Fitting OLS and Multilevel Regression Models to Hierarchically Structured Data

Smithson, Michael and Stephen Weaver (James Cook University) A Comparative Study of Methods of Enhancing Privacy in Survey Research: Vagueness Versus Randomized Response.

Wearing, Michael (University of New South Wales) 'Look Who's Talking': Qualitative Analysis of Professional Talk in Private and Public Mental Health Settings in the Sydney Region

Zaman, Monir (UWS, Macarthur) Transfer Pricing Practices by Multinationals - Some Evidence From Australia

Abstracts of all papers delivered at NSRC3 are available from ACSPRI, c/- Social Science Data Archives, Research School of Social Sciences, The ANU, GPO Box 4, Canberra, ACT, 2601.

Teaching Package for Empirical Research Methods

The Australian Consortium for Social and Political Research Inc. (ACSPRI) is pleased to announce the availability of a teaching package designed specifically for teaching empirical research methods to students of political and social science. The package (or module), called Electoral Behaviour: Theory, Methods and Data, (TMD) was written by David John Gow and Karen Stenner-Day of the Department of Government at the University of Queensland and sponsored by ACSPRI.

Modelled on the widely acclaimed Supplementary Empirical Teaching Units in Political Science (SET-UPS) series published by the American Political Science Association, the Electoral Behaviour TMD package consists of a monograph, questionnaire and codebook, and an associated Australian data set made available on floppy diskette by arrangement with the ANU's Social Science Data Archives. The monograph includes a discussion of the relevant substantive theory of electoral behaviour, and an

overview of the survey and computer-based, data-analysis methods used in contemporary electoral research.

The substantive issues discussed are highlighted with data from the 1990 Australian Election Study (AES), a nationwide sample survey of more than 2,000 electors conducted before the last federal election. After working through chapter exercises requiring access to and analysis of these data (using statistical software such as SPSS or SAS), students are motivated to investigate the set further, by developing and testing their own hypotheses and models of the relationship between Australians' voting behaviour, their political attitudes and their 'location' in society.

Electoral Behaviour TMD is highly suitable for use in undergraduate units in research methods, survey research, electoral behaviour or political sociology. Although there are many specialised texts that examine each of these areas, the module is designed to clearly demonstrate the links among theory, research methods and data analysis in a sub-field of sociology and political science that is likely to engage students.

Even where electoral behaviour is not of primary interest to students, the module should be an effective teaching aid in units emphasising social science research, especially when electoral behaviour issues can serve as a prototype for the analysis of substantive theoretical issues and associated methods.

For further details contact Vance Merrill, Social Science Data Archives, Research School of Social Sciences, The Australian National University, GPO Box 4, Canberra ACT 2601. Phone (06) 249 4400; fax (06) 257 1893.

1991 Census Household Sample File - Call for Expressions of Interest

In Newsletter No. 24, we reported on the proposal put to the ABS suggesting that all Australian academic institutions form a single consortium for the purpose of acquiring and distributing a household sample file from the 1991 Census. The consortium would contribute a substantial amount, \$20,000, towards the cost of producing the sample file, with copies being made available to academic institutions or individual researchers for as little as \$1000. The conditions of sale would limit use of the file to academic research and teaching only and would specifically exclude its use on contract work undertaken for government or private sector agencies.

The Council of ACSPRI endorsed the proposal at the 1991 AGM and agreed to provide the financial contribution required to produce the file. The ABS response to the proposal, from Glen Cocking, Assistant Statistician, Population Census and Surveys Branch is given below.

Dear Roger, Thank you for your letter of 25 June 1991. I apologise for not having previously formally replied, although as you know we have taken action to identify the full range of people interested in a 1991 census sample file and prepared to contribute to paying for it.

Your proposal is generally attractive, and I hope we are able to tie in enough other supporters to make the proposal financially viable overall.

The main problem that is apparent at the moment is that the people who have an interest in 1991 census sample file seem to split fairly clearly into two groups:

- those like yourself who can do without geographic information and

prefer full classifications of other census variables; and

- those who do require at least state geographical identification, and are prepared to reduce detail of other classifications in order to achieve this.

I would like to assure you that our lack of a formal response to this date reflects only that the Census Program is concentrating on validating the raw data and preparing standard products and services. We have not changed our intention to produce a sample file.

As indicated by Glen's response, the inclusion of geographic indicators in the file affects the classifications allowable on other variables, particularly those with detailed classifications such as age, occupation, industry, birthplace, language and qualifications. Confidentiality requirements are imposed on the basis of the population of the smallest geographic area identified, so that the inclusion of a full State/Territory code will impose limitations on all states based on the confidentiality requirements for the Northern Territory. Separate identification of Sydney and Melbourne a combination of other major urban centres, other urban and rural areas may be feasible without imposing constraints on other variables, but even that requires investigation.

This is clearly an important issue and one which must be resolved prior to the specification of the file we want produced. If you are a potential user of the household sample file, I would like to know your views on the following questions.

• **Should geographic information be included in the household sample file?**

• **If so, what minimum classification do you need and what would you be willing to trade-off as acceptable classifications for variables such as age, occupation, industry, birthplace, language and field of qualification?**

For information on the full classifications of these variables, refer to the 1991 Census Directory of Classifications (ABS Cat. No. 29040). Catalogue of 1986 Census Tables (ABS Cat No. 2175.0) indicates the range of recodes used for each variable.

Please respond, in writing as soon as possible to Roger Jones, Head, SSDA, or fax to 06 257 1893.

Australian Association for Social Research

Wolfgang L. Grichting, Chair
AASR Steering Committee
(University of Tasmania, Launceston)

Methodological and substantive research problems do not respect disciplinary boundaries. Regardless of whether one does research in mobility or meta-analysis, in social policy or welfare studies, the real issues are typically multidisciplinary. Consequently, the most promising solutions come from critical borrowing and constructive use of ideas, information and techniques from a variety of traditional disciplines. The desire to take this basic orientation seriously is the mainspring for the foundation of the Australian Association for Social Research.

Various efforts have been made during the last five years to set up such an association. Despite these efforts little happened until the Third National Research Conference in Sydney at the beginning of July. Specifically, on 1 July about 80 conference members met and moved to set up a national association for social research. Upon unanimous endorsement of such a motion it was decided that the gathering should be treated as the inaugural meeting of the Association to be founded. Some fourteen participants volunteered to work as a Steering Committee to produce a constitution. As I did not duck fast enough I was asked to chair the steering committee ... hence this progress report in the ACSPRI newsletter.

Originally it was intended to contact potential foundation members of the Association in a direct mail-out. However ACSPRI went one better: it generously offered this page to bring the fledgling organisation to the attention of all and sundry in the field. ACSPRI thus not only saves considerable funds to an organisation without assets but also recognises its offspring and bestows instant legitimacy on it. By the way, ACSPRI is very specific that it "is merely offering its good pages as a service to the social research community and not trying to stage manage the creation of an auxiliary individual membership association." On behalf of the Steering Committee I wish to thank ACSPRI for its generosity.

We have been busy since the inaugural meeting. On 2 July the Steering Committee agreed that a constitution and membership drive were the most important steps immediately ahead of us. It was agreed that the major purpose of the Association would be to facilitate contact among social researchers and to foster the various concerns of quality social research. It was decided that the British constitution would lend itself as a basic working document. During the next two weeks comments and recommendations arrived by fax and phone as well as by regular and electronic mail. All this effort resulted in a draft constitution which was shared with the Steering Committee. Further comments and suggestions were received and have been incorporated in the enclosed constitution. Thus the constitution has the approval of the Steering Committee. Still, it is not meant to be set in concrete. Rather specific provision has been made to modify the constitution according to standard procedures for such modifications (see article 9).

Several issues remain to be resolved. For one, we would wish to incorporate the Association as soon as a respectable number have joined. This will ensure that the subscription becomes tax-deductible. Next, the cost of the annual subscription as well as applicable categories will have to be settled. The initial fee of \$45 (\$20 for persons not in full-time employment) should be sufficient to get us going. Last but

not least, an Executive Committee will have to be elected to keep the momentum going and to organise the next national conference. A summer conference at the University of Tasmania has much to commend itself!

The aims of AASR speak for themselves. I myself see at least three important steps in attaining these goals. First, we need a membership directory which will permit us to identify mutual interests and contact each other as we deem helpful. The enclosed application form was designed with that in mind. Needless to say the provision of the elicited information is optional. Second, a newsletter should facilitate contact and communication. I propose that we call it "In Touch". May I suggest that you share with us any information relevant to your research activity which you would like to have from your colleagues. Just add a page to your application form. If all goes well, you shall receive a copy of the membership registry and the first issue of *In Touch* by the end of November. Third, AASR will have to assume responsibility for organising national conferences which until now ACSPRI was kind enough to look after. Whether, further down the track, a journal can be supported only time will tell. As desirable as such a move might be, in my view it would have to be a quality journal and command a significant readership

All these high-flying plans require extensive support which can only come from a wide membership. **YOU are invited to take out foundation membership in AASR by completing the enclosed application form and returning it to me by 10 October.** Please feel free to copy both the constitution and application form in an effort to bring AASR to the attention of your friends and colleagues. Your joining of AASR entitles you to a copy of the membership register, to the Newsletter and to active participation in AASR. As well, the initial membership will be good until the end of 1993 and will result in a special discount for the next annual AASR conference.

On behalf of the Steering Committee I invite you to become a foundation member of AASR.

PS Committee member Mile Smithson designed the attractive logo. Our thanks to him.

Remember ACCESS?

Roger Jones

In September 1989, I published a short article in the ACSPRI Newsletter suggesting that a national telephone survey facility be developed based on a consortium of academic institutions - for want of an acronym, I called it the Academic Consortium for Economic and Social Surveys or ACCESS. I made the proposal at that time for a number of reasons.

First, the Research School of Social Sciences was considering a proposal to fund the Australian Rights Project, a project which replicated surveys that had been conducted in Canada by telephone and which acted as the impetus for the establishment of a telephone interview facility at York University. Second, the Australian Academic and Research Network AARNET was being established, providing high speed links between university computer facilities which would make the transfer of files between institutions as simple and safe as using a local area network. The telephone costs would obviously be much lower if interviews were conducted as local calls rather than from a single location, in Canberra for example. Third, a review of the Research School of Social Sciences had recommended that the School should consider how to move most constructively towards developing a general survey facility for academic research. In this context, telephone interviewing seemed to be the best, if not the only, option.

The response to that proposal was, to say the least, muted. Nevertheless, the Institute of Family Studies has now established a CATI facility and has conducted its first

major telephone survey. And the RSSS has established a CATI facility for use on the Australian Rights Project. This article presents some preliminary analyses of the response rates achieved in a national telephone survey and our experience in attempting refusal conversions.

2. The Australian Rights Project (ARP)

The ARP involves two major surveys:

- a national population survey of 1500 interviews which was conducted in October - December 1991.
- an 'elites' survey of Federal and State ALP, Liberal and National party politicians, and of members of the legal profession - solicitors, barristers, magistrates, public prosecutors and senior officials in Attorney Generals' departments, conducted from April - August 1992.

The focus of the surveys is to determine how sensitive Australians are towards rights, how well rights are protected under existing arrangements, and whether Australia should be implementing a national Bill of Rights as other countries have in recent times. Parallel studies have already been conducted in Canada and are being undertaken in Britain, allowing comparisons to be made between attitudes here and overseas, as well as between members of the general public, their elected representatives and the legal profession.

For the ARP population survey, Telecom agreed to select a stratified random sample from their White Pages (Condor) listings, excluding the known business numbers included in the white pages directory and the 'silent' numbers. This provided a very efficient sample, in that almost all of the numbers were usable and very little time was spent on wasted calls to businesses or non-working numbers. Telephone coverage of households, while not complete, is over 90 per cent and is not now considered to be a major problem, although there is undoubtedly some bias against low SES households. An analysis I did using ABS household data from the mid-seventies found that the biggest differences in telephone access occurred between renters

and home owners or buyers, with other SES variables having somewhat weaker effects.

The growing use of silent numbers is perhaps more of a concern, although little is known about the characteristics of people who choose this option. We were told by Telecom that the proportion of silent numbers varies from a low of 6.8% in Tasmania to 8.8% in QLD, 10.1% in WA, 11.4% in NSW, 12.4% in Victoria and 13.6% in SA, with higher than average rates in Metropolitan areas. Methods for overcoming the non-coverage of silent numbers, such as Random Digit Dialling (RDD) and Directory plus 1 dialling, could be implemented although they obviously increase the costs of the survey.

3. Response Rates

For the population survey we allocated 2393 numbers in total - in fact we allocated a few more than this but lost some cases in a system crash at a busy time due to the wrong recovery procedure being used - this is not a fault with the system, just with our experience of it. Over the four week period in which these numbers were contacted, a limit of 9 calls operated on each number and it's interesting to see how the response is affected by the number of calls made.

Cumulative Outcomes by Number of Calls (n=2393)

Call No	Interview	Refusal	Language	Incapable	Ineligible
1	340 (14)	252 (11)	39	47	53
2	684 (29)	402 (17)	52	56	70
3	915 (38)	473 (20)	53	58	75
4	1049 (44)	529 (22)	55	59	75
5	1134 (47)	562 (23)	56	63	79
6	1189 (50)	580 (24)	56	63	80
7	1237 (52)	594 (25)	56	63	80
8	1254 (52)	605 (25)	57	64	84
9	1259 (53)	608 (25)	57 (2)	64 (3)	86 (4)

If, for example, only one call had been made to each number, the response obtained would have been a very lowly 14 percent - 340 interviews. A two call limit doubles the response to 29 percent - 684 interviews and the third call brings the response to 38%. After that, the number of interviews obtained increases somewhat more slowly and the return, in terms of the number of interviews completed, falls. On the second

and third calls, one-fifth of the calls resulted in interviews, whereas by the time the eighth and ninth calls are being made, about one-in-ten result in interviews, 15% in callbacks, about 8% in refusals and the great majority, around 65%, in non-contacts.

This is of course a half-hour interview and not a quick two or three minute telephone poll. It is also an interview in which a designated respondent has to be interviewed, not just any person who picks up and answers the telephone. It is nevertheless interesting to note that for roughly 1000 of the numbers called, 42%, were not answered on the first call and that, even with the benefit of arranged callbacks, the proportion of not answered calls increased over subsequent calls. Some people clearly are hard to get. As yet we have not analysed the characteristics of the "easy" and "hard" respondents or the effectiveness of various call patterns.

4. Non-response Conversion

The last two weeks of the survey involved an intensive effort to convert the non-response cases. We began our review of non-response by focussing on two types of cases:

(i) to verify language and inaccessible codes

We rang the numbers coded as language difficulty to check whether the correct member of the household had been selected and whether their language problems were sufficient to preclude them, and chose evening or weekend contact to be sure of contacting any English speaking residents.

Cases coded as inaccessible we fitted in between the other review calls. This category included numbers which had been rung many times without any contact and those with answering machines. This approach meant that some non-contacts were definitely called too many times, still without success, although some were finally confirmed as holiday homes or unoccupied dwellings by people coming in to clean or estate agents.

Homes with answering machines were targeted for weekend calls and, where this did not work, a message was left on the machine explaining who we were, why we were calling, when we would try to call again and giving them our number to call should they wish to.

(ii) to call again cases that had obviously been *mismanaged*, if nothing else to apologize for the inconvenience. An interesting example was the man up a tree whose spouse had been asked to check with him whether he would like to be interviewed. I doubt if I would be particularly enthusiastic about arranging an appointment for a survey interview if I was up a tree pruning or whatever. (Needless to say when we did call next he was up on the roof, but he did come down this time!)

While initially we had intended only to call back some outstanding cases that could have been interviews, we were surprised by the response to some of the marginal calls and decided to call more cases that had initially refused. Of course, in the main the original refusal was confirmed. However, about one in every four changed their decision and without what I would call excessive persuasion. Some explained they had mistaken us for telemarketing, and other cases mentioned an incident that had occurred on the day we called that had affected them: for example, a woman had burnt herself, and someone had had their car stolen.

In many instances a second call validated the credentials of the survey, reached the respondent at a better time and interviewer/respondent interaction worked. We looked at the interviewers' notes more carefully and found cases where it seemed likely that the *wrong interviewer had called*. e.g. a man who refused to speak to a female, but on the second occasion was happy to speak to a male. We identified specific categories of non-response and set appropriate call times and then tried to match this information to interviewer availability. The numbers that had been called at meal times we called later in the

evening and the elderly we called in the morning.

Non-Response Conversion Attempts

Type	No tried	Interview	Refusal	Lang- uage	Incap- able	Inelig- ible
Refusal	486	110 (23)	351	5	11	9
Language	34	8 (24)	10	16		
Incapable	31	3 (10)	12		14	2
Ineligible	10	1 (10)	2	1		6
Non- contact	173	64 (37)	52		3	10
c/b HH	24	10 (42)	12			2
c/b R	85	47 (55)	30	1	3	4
Total	843	243 (29)	469	23	31	33

c/b HH - call back to household

c/b R - call back - respondent previously identified

44 of the 173 non-contacts tried were never contacted

Not surprisingly, those households where a callback had been arranged gave the highest response, similar to that obtained in the earlier stage. These were often cases where an appointment had been missed or the respondent had not given a specific time to call back, and the main requirement was to catch them at home again. The hard to get non-contacts were also reasonably co-operative once contacted - of the 129 eventually contacted, half agreed to the interview. Of the 608 refusals, 486 were attempted for conversion and 23% agreed to be interviewed. Those that that were not attempted were cases where the refusal had been given in the week or so before conversion began.

In the main, the strategy appeared to work, except for the elderly. Of the 160 cases we identified as aged refusals, only 24 agreed to an interview and 11 were found to be incapable of completing an interview. This type of result is supported in the literature however - the aged appear to be more reluctant to be interviewed regardless of the mode of interview.

Overall, this gave 1502 completions out of a total, excluding 109 cases finally allocated as ineligible, of 2282, or a response rate of 66 percent. If those considered incapable of doing the interview are also excluded and the non-contacts are accepted as non-residences or holiday homes, the number of eligible numbers tried is 2152 and the response rate is 70 percent.

Reports from Summer Schools and Conferences

Report on ICPSR Summer Program 1992, University of Michigan

Contributed through the wonders of e-mail by:

Brian Phillips, Swinburne University of Technology
Mike Lee, Edith Cowan University,
John Clarke, Queensland University of Technology

A group of three members of ACSPRI member institutions attended the annual Inter-University Consortium of Political and Social Research, ICPSR, Summer Program on Quantitative Methods which was held at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan in July and August. The program is intensive and is designed to cater for all levels of statistical sophistication from introductory mathematics and statistics to advanced topics in regression, multi-variate statistics, categorical data analysis and Structural Equation Modelling. The program also includes additional special interest topics.

The course is conducted in two sessions, each of four weeks, with many of the topics of the second term being follow-up sessions from the first session. There is, however, sufficient flexibility for those with the pre-requisite background to enrol in the second session without having participated in the first.

Staff are drawn from Universities across the United States and Canada. Most have taught regularly in the Summer Program and are familiar with the needs of these "students". In general the lecturers were of a high standard and their performance evaluated by the students at the end of each unit. Future invitations to teach on the program depend on these reports. Many of them are textbook authors, especially of the Sage series publications. Being at the 'cutting edge' of knowledge in the area,

many were able to refer to as yet unpublished material. A number of them work in the political science area and with the Presidential race in full swing were in their element. The day Ross Perot pulled out of the race was shattering to some, it seemed that a lot of proposed research evaporated!

The student group comprised academics and researchers especially in the Social and Political sciences, and many graduate students from across the United States, and outside, who have been advised by their supervisors to take special units in the program. Many of the graduate students were taking the courses for credit and had regular readings and assignments to complete out of class. Other class members were encouraged to do these as well. The reading lists and exercises were sometimes quite daunting and time consuming. Despite the computer courses offered, those without prior computer skills were disadvantaged as most units required the considerable use of the computer.

The program is most useful for people in the social sciences who need a more quantitative background but is also useful for people with a quantitative background who benefit from learning techniques and applications from the social/political areas.

Over recent years the number of international "students" attending the program has increased considerably. This year over 400 participants from about 40 countries took part in the program which consisted of 25 four week courses and 8 one week workshops. While these courses focussed on the analysis of social science data, a parallel course, run by the Survey Research Centre, concentrated on the collection of survey data and the methodology of Survey Research. It is not advisable to attend parts of both programs although it is possible to devise a program consisting of units from each. (Anyone doing this has to pay for both programs.) Classes were normally timetabled between 9 am and 5 pm, but some started earlier and/or finished later. The special interest lectures were run either at lunch times or

in the evenings. Further, a series of one week workshops similar to ACSPRI courses were offered. Although it is possible to include some of the one week courses, it creates a conflict of interests.

It is recommended that intending participants take one credit course plus one or two lecture programs only. During most classes either exercises and/or readings were set to be done by the next class. Lectures were all held in an airconditioned building about five minutes walk from the course centre, the Helen Newberry building, a residence for female students during the normal university year, where the course library, reading rooms, computer labs and staff offices were located. Most practical work involving using the computer was done outside class time in a lab containing about 20 computers which acted both as terminals to the mainframe and to a PC network. In most cases the non-credit classes - lectures - ran for one hour per day while the credit classes - workshops - ran for two hours.

All participants are allocated a mainframe computer account which includes access to email. Anyone attending the ICPSR program is strongly recommended to take the email addresses of friends and colleagues so that they can readily keep in touch. This is particularly important as virtually nothing about Australia appears in the media, not even the AFL or Rugby scores!

It is also recommended that participants stay close to the action. Two of us stayed at a private establishment called University Towers, right on the edge of campus at a reasonable price. Its proximity, security and relative cheapness (about \$550 US a month with cooking facilities etc.), made it quite an attractive proposition. Another more upmarket option is Towers Plaza which is near the centre of campus.

Despite what the ICPSR information may say it is virtually essential to organise accommodation well in advance. We would also advise against staying on the

Northern Campus due to its relative isolation.

A selection of comments from some of the lecturers:

Lawrence Mohr --- Program Evaluation

- "Most decision making is not rational, the results of most program evaluations are not used despite millions of dollars being spent on them. However they are important as input into decision making and particularly in the planning of studies."

- "No amount of fancy statistical procedures can make up for poor design."

Bill Jacoby --- Scaling and Dimensional Analysis

- "All measurement is a theory about reality."

- "Ordinal measurements can often be converted into interval level scales using appropriate scaling techniques."

- "The current fad of debunking exploratory factor analysis in favour of confirmatory factor analysis is rubbish."

Courtney Brown --- Formal Models of Social Systems

- "Why should the the events which statisticians try to model follow a linear model?" "I know some statisticians whose entire brain is a linear model." "We do not live in a linear world."

Geoff Fong --- Regression Analysis

- "Stepwise regression should be avoided since it capitilises on chance at every step and you finish up with a very sample dependent outcome."

Ken Bollen --- Structural Equation Models

- "More attention should be paid to the raw data and the effects of unusual cases in Structural Equation Modelling than relying solely on the covariance matrix."

- "I beg to differ with Jacoby re EFA vs CFA."

Jim Dowdy --- Mathematics for Social Scientists

- "With regard to matrix addition, the world is fair. For matrix multiplication the world is not fair." (Translation: $A+B=B+A$ but $AB \neq BA$ usually)

"Pythagoras' theorem is a top ten theorem."

David Cross --- Categorical Data Analysis

- "It is a categorical world."
- "Gauss" is the number one program for categorical analysis."
- "That is an excellent question."

Ric Clubb --- Multivariate Analysis

- "Some editors are fixated on $p < .05$."
- "What's important are the predictions of theoretical model - statistics can't replace that."

In conclusion all attending the program found that they learned a lot, made many new friends and had a very rewarding and stimulating experience. The three of us recommend the program and are only too happy to discuss any aspects of the program or related issues with anyone proposing to attend in the future.

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ISR Annual Summer Institute University of Michigan, 1992

Malgosia Zlobicki

School of Social Sciences

Queensland University of Technology

Any social scientist who has not had the good fortune to be in Ann Arbor from 29 June to 21 August does not realise what there is to be missed. Those lucky ones who have had the privilege will easily be able to recollect the lovely central campus of the University of Michigan (UM), the outdoor cafes of Ann Arbor, and the famous Art Fair.

This year, I was one of four Australians to attend courses in research design and data analysis at UM. At this point, I need to explain that two summer programmes are

being offered simultaneously on the UM central campus. One of these is the Annual Summer Institute (in its 45th year) conducted by the Survey Research Center of the Institute of Social Research. The other is the ICPSR Summer Program. For 1992, the programmes attracted about 500 participants from many parts of the world, including Britain, Spain, Italy, Germany, Russia, China, Korea, Japan and from most places in the USA. Both programmes are regarded as "top class" in the field of social research.

I was the only Australian to attend the Annual Summer Institute, as my colleagues from Australia enrolled in the ICPSR Summer Program. The courses differ in that the Summer Institute focuses on design and analysis, whereas the ICPSR Program is concerned with data analysis only.

Those wishing to be admitted into the Annual Summer Institute may enrol in courses for credit, or as visiting scholars (for anyone holding a PhD). All courses are at "graduate level", offered in two four-week sessions. At this year's Summer Institute, there were 15 courses to choose from over the two month period. Anyone wishing to enrol for four weeks only, can do so as each of the two sessions is self-contained. For a visiting scholar the 1992 fees were US\$400 per session, or US\$600 for two sessions.

The above cost did not stop at the enrolment fee however. There is also accommodation, which costs on average US\$600 per month for a one bedroom apartment. In addition, for each course, at least one, sometimes more textbooks are required, and coursepacks need also to be purchased. The coursepacks contain photocopies of journal articles and book chapters, which are considered essential reading. The 1992 coursepacks were priced from about US\$20 to US\$30.

The courses are usually held from 8 am to 5 pm. A maximum of four courses can be taken each day, Monday to Friday, which means 8 hours of lectures. The size of the classes can range from about 50 participants for introductory/general courses, to about a dozen participants for the specialist courses.

For each of the four courses, one is expected to spend two hours reading every evening or doing computer work. I can say something from experience here, as I enrolled in four courses in each session. At the end of the day, the long hours of sitting made me very tired. The many hours of reading every evening added to my exhaustion. However, not everyone enrolls in as many courses. It is fine to attend one course per session. Anyone wishing to take a course for credit should not really be thinking of enrolling in more than one to two courses per session (i.e. per month).

One should come to the Summer Institute prepared. This means, if possible, taking along a laptop computer and good textbooks. The former will make life easier, as the mainframe (which is scheduled for an upgrade) is a "headache", and any good texts are expensive to buy, particularly if those needed are the same ones that have been left at home. I mailed a large box of books ahead of time, which was a real money saver. My laptop computer also served me well. However, the laser printer that I left behind would have been nice to have here - but that would have been too much to ask.

The Summer Institute begins with an orientation day, which is very helpful. Here one can meet the instructors, collect course outlines, and obtain other important information, such as where classes are held, how to use the library, and which local computer facilities to visit. Halfway through the first session, the Institute participants are invited to a welcoming reception, which is highly regarded for its good food and an opportunity to meet instructors in an informal way. Almost at the end of the first session, a tour of the Survey Research Center is offered. This is a true "eye opener". Here one can see a large scale research facility in operation. The telephone interviewing unit for example, has 75 fully equipped telephone stations. The field unit is able to handle 16,000 face-to-face interviews per survey.

The speed with which the instructors teach can be described in one word: "fast". Many

of the courses expect students to do daily written homework. The quality of instruction and course content varies from course to course, however. The instructors are usually scholars with international reputations. The courses which I have found particularly interesting and useful include: Survey Methods in Comparative Research (offered for the first time this year), Mail and Telephone Survey Techniques, Longitudinal Research, Evaluation Research and Event History Analysis.

Except for the weather, which was absolutely horrible this year, as it was cold and wet for many days, I would say that the experience was worthwhile. I was helped to remember the things I had forgotten, and to learn the things I never knew.

**1992 Conference on Computing for the
Social Sciences
Ann Arbor, Michigan
4 - 7 May 1992**

Robert Lake
Road Safety Division
Queensland Department of Transport

The dominant theme of the conference was well expressed in the opening plenary session - that is, that as social scientists we are on the threshold of a new world of computing. To date our use of computers has been as number-crunchers; lurking around the corner is the capacity to visualise our information and to model the spatial aspects as we currently do the numerical aspects.

The sessions I attended all had an emphasis on the visual display of information (there were other sessions but these were the aspects that interested me). It was interesting to note that in some areas we have come full circle, with a revival of graphical means of analysis. Also interesting was to see how advanced Geographical Information Systems are in the US. Courtesy of their Bureau of Census, the entire continental US is mapped with roads, creeks, rivers, lakes, census tracts, county and state boundaries shown. Combining this with census and other data

gives the social researcher a powerful tool indeed. The capacity to use GISs for modelling is an interesting and fairly new area - new because we've had to wait for technology to catch up.

The vision for computer networking (e.g. Internet, Bitnet) is breathtaking. There is now the capacity to transmit information across the net faster than the computers at either end can process it. However the development on the computing side is not far behind. In the foreseeable future your files will no longer necessarily reside on your mainframe or even on one mainframe; as a user it will not be relevant to you where the file is, just how to access it. In the same vein, the processing may be done by more than one computer. A user in Ann Arbor might deal with a data file spread over several computers, and the processing might be done in Pennsylvania, Illinois and Texas. Of course there are issues to do with security and who pays the bill.

Tutorials were offered during the conference, I attended two: resampling techniques, and geographical information systems. Both were interesting, and both suffered from computers crashing due to overload. The message is, don't have ten people do a bootstrapping estimation with 500 iterations each on the one mainframe! I could have got more value from the tutorial on GISs if the computer hadn't ground to a halt. We had the rather pathetic sight of the presenter saying "Well, if it had worked this is what you would have seen, so try and picture this result."!

Overall, the conference was worthwhile and enjoyable. The interface between computing and the social sciences is underdeveloped when compared to the physical sciences, and I am quite enthused about the potential. To use an example from my area - imagine an accident record containing a digitized video of the accident scene, and then consider the analytical possibilities of viewing that scene as a virtual reality.

Conferences

**Bureau of Immigration Research
Second National Immigration Outlook
Conference
11-13 November 1992**

The program for this significant conference has now been published, with a change in venue to the Wesley Centre, Pitt Street in the Sydney city centre.

The first day will cover: the views of the Federal Government and the Opposition; international population movements and their relevance to Australia; Australia's population policy and sustainable development; components of the immigration program; and immigration and the recession.

The second day will review such topics as: overstayers and illegal immigrants; budgets and immigration; emigration from Australia; gender issues in migration and settlement; community views on the immigration program and settlement; immigration and industry restructuring; access and equity issues; immigrants and the police; immigration and the environment; citizenship issues; and the economic impact of the composition of the immigrant intake.

The third day of the conference will feature: a launch of a comparative study of immigration in the United States and Australia; a discussion on the future of Australia's immigration program; and closing remarks by the Federal Minister, along with the New Zealand and Canadian Ministers for Employment and Immigration. In addition the conference will feature a plenary session on immigration and settlement hosted by Paul Murphy of the SBS Dateline program, as well as a review of the possible future of the immigration program by Mary Kostakidis of SBS. Registrations should be sent no later than October 28 to:

National Immigration Outlook Conference
Atkinson Conference Services
GPO Box 358F
Melbourne VIC 3001
Ph: 03 654 7533 FAX: 03 654 8540

**Satellite Meeting on Biostatistics
30 November - 2 December 1992**

The Department of Statistics and the Centre for Epidemiology and Biostatistics at the University of Newcastle is hosting a satellite meeting on Biostatistics prior to the XVIth International Biometric Conference being held in New Zealand from 7-11 December 1992. The conference is being held in association with the Australian NH & MRC Twin Registry and the Medical Sciences Section of the Statistics Society of Australia.

The conference will cover such areas as Genetic Epidemiology, Meta-Analysis, Issues in Sample Size Determination, Cross-Over Trials, Statistical Issues in New Drug Approval, Data Integrity and AIDS Research in Australia. Further information can be obtained from

Kate Boyle
Department of Statistics
University of Newcastle
University Drive
Callaghan NSW 2308
(ph: 049 215520 ; fax: 049 684742)

**Australian Labour Market
Research Program
Fourth Workshop
8-9 February 1993, Perth W.A.**

The first three annual workshops in this series have been held at the ANU; the fourth will be held from 8-9 February 1993, at the Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle. The workshop is being organised by the Western Australian Labour Market Research Centre, in association with the Departments of Economics at Curtin and Murdoch Universities, and the Departments of Economics and Industrial Relations at the University of Western Australia.

Papers are invited on any aspect of labour market research, in any relevant discipline.

and young researchers are particularly encouraged to attend. Some assistance towards travel and accommodation costs will be provided to paper givers. For more information, contact

ALMR Workshop Secretary
Western Australian Labour Market
Research Centre
Curtin University of Technology
P.O. Box U1987
Perth WA 6102
(Ph: 09 351 2871; Fax: 09 351 2872)

British Sociological Association Annual Conference 5-8 April 1993

The 1993 BSA Conference, to be held at the University of Essex, has the title "Research Imaginations. Practical, Personal, Philosophical and Political". Papers will encompass two broad themes: The Research Process (research techniques, policy related research, cross-cultural and comparative research amongst other areas); and Substantive Research Problems (including such areas as power, violence and control, culture and discourse, researching the post-modern). The organisers envisage that in addition to the traditional presentations there will be workshops, displays and demonstrations. For more information contact:

BSA Committee
Department of Sociology
University of Essex
Colchester Essex CO4 3SQ United Kingdom

IASSIST / IFDO 1993 Openness, Diversity and Standards: Sharing Data Resources

The International Association for Social Science Information Service and Technology (IASSIST) will be holding its 19th annual conference in conjunction with the International Federation of Data Organisations (IFDO) in Edinburgh, Scotland, from 11-14 May 1993.

The conference theme addresses the concern of IASSIST and IFDO members for managing and sharing computer-readable data during a time of rapid change. This

theme highlights the value of openness toward sharing data, the richness of diversity among data sources, and the standards by which data might be exchanged, across both disciplinary and national boundaries.

The conference committee invites proposals for papers and other presentations in the following or cognate areas: issues of open access to data; data access in diverse computing environments; challenge of standards in accessing data; diversity among major data collections; impact of open systems on hardware and software for data centres; development and management of data library collections; major new data sources; and advances in analysis and display techniques.

There will also be a series of pre-conference workshops to be held on 11 May in the areas of managing a data library, supporting economic and census data, and working in new and changing computer environments. In addition a number of social events, and a post-conference retreat to the Scottish Highlands have been arranged.

Abstracts for papers or presentations should be sent to

Peter Burnhill (Programme Chair)
Data Library, University of Edinburgh
Main Library Building
George Square
Edinburgh EH8 9LJ
Scotland UK
Fax: +44 (0) 31 662-4809
E-mail: iassist93@edinburgh.ac.uk

Other conference information can be obtained from Alison Bayley (Local Arrangements Co-ordinator) at the same address.

As an additional link into this conference program, the ESRC Data Archive at the University of Essex are planning a pre-conference meeting from 7-9 May, to celebrate their 25th anniversary. This will include a workshop on comparative research, and coach transport to the Edinburgh conference will be arranged.

SSDA News

Age Polls Return to the SSDA

The SSDA has just entered into an agreement with Irving Saulwick and Associates - formerly producers of the Age Poll series and now producing the Saulwick Poll for the Age and the Sydney Morning Herald - for the archiving of poll data for 1987 to 1991. In the future, we will also be negotiating to continue the series into 1992-1993. This series will allow the SSDA to update its holdings of opinion poll data (currently ending in September 1987) to provide a valuable source of continuing social and political opinion data for academic researchers.

In all, the SSDA will be receiving more than 100 data sets as part of this first deposit. These consist of monthly national polls conducted with a national sample of around 1000, plus special polls, some national (such as the pilots' strike issue in 1989) and some state based only (for example, the Sydney airport issue again in 1989). A series of special election polls (both state and federal) will also be included. The recently instituted Saulwick Poll Reprint series (No. 1 for 1989, No. 2 for 1990-1991) gives an indication of the wide range of topic areas covered in the series and provides a taste of the sorts of analysis which could be undertaken. We hope to be able to provide more detail on individual polls in the next issue of the newsletter.

Our agreement with Irving Saulwick and Associates covers the distribution of data for secondary analysis to academic researchers only; all other researchers will need to contact the polling organisation directly for access to data.

In this substantial issue of SSDA News our feature article provides an outline of efforts by Australian Archives over the last year to produce guidelines for the appropriate treatment of electronic records created by government departments and other government bodies. Roger Jones has been involved in the project, and would be interested to receive comments from readers on the guidelines outlined below.

Stephanie Legg-England reports on her recent visit to the Norwegian Social Science Data Services. We also cover further developments in providing electronic access to information on SSDA holdings, and begin what we hope will be a regular feature, correspondence from New Zealand. In addition, we look at new information resources available from the Commonwealth Department of Health, Housing and Community Services and our ABS News section provides brief notes on census and other survey developments. Users of AYS data may also be interested in the call for applications for research grants from DEET.

Finally, we deal with updates to SSDA holdings (including the important release of Age Poll data above) as well as new data available from ICPSR.

The Australian Archives Electronic Records Project

Dagmar Parer, Director, Electronic Records Project, Australian Archives

The Australian Archives set as one of its priorities in 1991 the development of policy concerning the management of electronic records, both in the PC and standalone mainframe environment.

It set up a working party to investigate the problems associated with electronic records, monitor how other archival organisations were dealing with the problem and develop a strategy best suited for the Australian Archives that after investigation and testing could be adopted as policy.

The working party, in addressing the problems associated with the management of archival value electronic records, realised that they were looking for a strategy that would meet the following objectives:

1. That records/data elements of permanent value held

- within an automated system, are identified in clear and unambiguous ways.
2. That the internal management of an automated system accommodates the identification and tracking of permanent value records/data elements in electronic format.
 3. That provision of long term access be provided to permanent value records/data elements in electronic format.

The working party then tested these objectives against two alternate strategies for the management of electronic records, namely they examined the advantages and disadvantages of taking electronic records into the custody of the Archives as against the advantages and disadvantages of leaving electronic records of archival value with the creating agency.

Out of these investigations the working party developed a set of preferred strategies and then translated them into six draft Guidelines which represent a suite of general policy statements collectively giving rise to the Australian Archives Draft Electronic Records Management Policy.

The Guidelines are:

Guideline 1: Appraisal

(a) The function of the entire application must be assessed to gauge the likelihood of its holding information that may be of permanent value. If there are no elements of the system that justify permanent retention, Guideline 2 will apply to the records in the system.

(b) If the system does or is likely to hold information that may be of permanent value, that information needs to be identified at greater level of detail under Guideline 3.

Guideline 2: Disposal

If there are no electronic records of permanent value on the system, and there is no likelihood of such records being put on the system, that system need not be controlled by the following Guideline 3 to 6. The Australian Archives will issue a disposal authority allowing agencies to manage the deletion or alteration of data. However, the system should be reviewed on a regular basis to confirm the assessment of the value of the data, and that assessment must be repeated *de novo* each time the system programming is substantially altered, revised or upgraded.

Guideline 3: Data Control

If there are electronic records of permanent value on the system, or there is a likelihood of such records being put

on the system, then the Australian Archives will issue a disposal authority confirming that fact. In these cases, the system must be maintained in such a manner that audit trails are kept of any updates, additions or modifications of those elements deemed to be permanent value. Permanent deletions of such elements is not allowed. Audit trails must reflect both the immutability of the original records, and its manipulability in relevant databases.

Guideline 4: Access - Passive

Until the acceptance and implementation of these guidelines, the Australian Archives will only accept responsibility for providing passive access to any electronic records in its custody. This will involve holding the data storage medium as an object, with no responsibility for the contents, although optimum storage conditions will be provided where possible.

The Storage and Preservation Section of the Archives will determine what formats will be acceptable for storage of electronic records and the storage management regimes which will be provided for such records in each case.

Guideline 5: Access - Active

Unless the Government funds such access, the Australian Archives will generally not provide active access to electronic records (i.e. electronic access to the systems programs and data as opposed to access to the medium). The archives will provide active access, with the same provisos, to information of permanent value when a Commonwealth agency has ceased to function and its functions have not been transferred to another Commonwealth agency. Examples may be records of Royal Commissions, or certain scientific or technical records.

Guideline 6 In most cases access to electronic records of permanent value will be via networked access. The Australian Archives would be the agency keeping a record of the particular information and its intellectual control components, and would provide facilities to allow appropriate access to information that agencies must maintain on their current system.

Guideline 3 aims to make agencies responsible for the continuing retention and on-going management of their holdings of permanent value electronic records. It is envisaged that agencies will transfer or migrate permanent value electronic records to new software and hardware platforms as part of any system upgrade or re-design. Guideline 6 then envisages that a network be set up to allow public and official users to have access to appropriate

permanent value information maintained on the agencies' systems, with intellectual control being provided by the Archives.

Consequently, the Archives will need to keep a record of the permanent value information held on different agencies' systems, and will also need to have the technology required to provide networked access to users.

Each Guideline represented a draft policy position the strategy behind which had to be investigated and tested in detail for its practicality and appropriateness prior to conversion into operational procedures and practices.

Archives adopted Guidelines 1 and 2 as policy and the Record Evaluation and Disposal Program within Archives converted the policy contained within Guidelines 1 and 2 into operational procedures for implementation.

Guideline 4 policy is presently being developed further and will not be fully implemented until the Storage and Preservation Program in Australian Archives has finalised refining the procedures required to convert the general policy contained in Guideline 4 into operational practices.

The Australian Archives is not in a position to fully adopt Guidelines 3, 5 and 6 until further investigative work into these Guidelines is done, policy positions are finalised and procedures and practices written.

Therefore the working party tasked itself to examine in detail whether Guideline 3, Data Control, and the network access model contained in Guideline 6, were technically feasible to implement and hence able to be included in the suite of policy statements comprising the Australian Archives draft policy on the management of Commonwealth electronic records.

When examining the technical feasibility of implementing Guidelines 3 and 6 it became apparent that each Guideline had within it several components each of which had to be evaluated individually for their technical feasibility.

The identified components were:

Guideline 3

i Identification of databases holding permanent or continuing value electronic records.

ii Requirement for Data Management Principles, to ensure that the identified permanent value electronic records are managed in a manner that ensures their long

term archival integrity.

iii **Metadata.** A requirement for an index/register/database to monitor the dynamics of the identified permanent value electronic records, that is monitor business transactions involving or creating electronic records of permanent value. The Metadata system would also need to include the data dictionary component.

iv **Database duplication.** A requirement for the duplication of the identified permanent value electronic records so that they are removed from the 'live' database yet are managed and maintained.

Guideline 6

v The communication links required to set up Commonwealth-wide access network.

vi A requirement for a common access language to allow users to access and search electronic records of permanent value irrespective of which agency database they are held on and managed by.

Each identified component of Guideline 3 and 6 was investigated and the findings showed that the principles contained within those guidelines were technically feasible. Data management principles and metadata principles could be written and incorporated into Departmental computing business rules to ensure that electronic records of archival value were adequately managed. It was found that Commonwealth agencies have in place data management procedures that they adhere to in varying degrees but these data management procedures do not incorporate how electronic records of permanent value should be managed.

The investigation concluded that Archives should develop Guideline 3 further, in liaison with agencies, to develop a set of Data Management Principles that will allow agencies to manage permanent value electronic records in a manner that is cost effective to them and ensures archival integrity of those identified records in the future.

It also considered that Archives, in liaison with selected agencies, would need to test these Data Management Principles prior to their adoption as policy and dissemination to clients.

The findings also showed that the Australian Archives needs to determine how it defines an electronic record. Is an electronic record defined in time by a business

transaction having occurred and hence Archives' focus is on managing transactions or do archival institutions require that agencies retain views of files and file structure to ensure that future users can perform ad hoc transactions on electronic records of permanent value? In other words will Archives base its Data Management Principles on a transaction audit basis, a view of a data base over time basis or both?

It was also found that agencies when applying the data management principles would also need to build a metadata system or index that catalogues the data held, who holds it, in what form, and monitor transactions, together with the data descriptions or metadata and operating environments. In addition such a metadata system would need to be maintained by client agencies, be linked to Archives control systems, be reviewed by the Archives and be available to the users of the Archives.

The Australian Archives therefore is now directing its efforts into undertaking, with invited agencies, investigations into the existing data management principles and metadata principles presently being used by agencies and preparing with them the functional requirements needed to formulate archival data management and metadata principles that can be applied Commonwealth-wide. In the process of developing the archival data management and metadata principles the working party will also need to address the issues of what constitutes an electronic record of archival importance.

The findings examining the network model contained within Guideline 6 showed that the telecommunications aspects of the networked access model are technically feasible and will become even less of an issue as GOSIP and OSI become widely implemented in the Federal Government. A gateway product provides the likely technical solution for a communication network in the short to medium term as it is unlikely that general availability of GOSIP compliant products for database access and metadata support will be available before the latter half of this decade.

It was also realised though that the networked access model ideally required a front end access language that would allow a user to search and manipulate any of the electronic records of permanent value on agency archival databases connected to the network. At present, agencies use a number of Data Manipulation Languages (DML's), some of them being Structured Query Language (SQL) based. However they do not at present meet the full requirement of the proposed Common Access Language. A number of vendors are developing products that help

overcome the lack of a common access language and it appears that more products of this nature will appear on the market.

It was noted that the networked access is only one component of the overall Electronic Records Management Policy and that any decision not to implement networked access for reasons of cost or technical complexity does not negate the validity of the solutions proposed for the other components or the overall validity of the Electronic Records Management Policy.

In the light of these findings it is felt that Australian Archives retain the networked access component of the overall Electronic Records Management Policy as a vision to aspire to. However it should not proceed with further work on Guideline 6 until the archival data management principles and metadata principles have been developed and implemented.

In conclusion the project concept, the draft Electronic Records Management Guidelines and the concept of the networked access model has now been discussed with a number of agencies, professional organisations and other archival institutions as well as computing companies. There is positive support for the project and the principles contained within the guidelines. All bodies agree that the networked access model should be explored and that further work needs to be done on individual components of the overall model.

The Norwegian Example

Stephanie Legg-England

In early August, courtesy of an ANU Overseas Study Award, I spent a very educational and inspiring two days at the Norwegian Social Science Data Services (NSD), located at Bergen on Norway's fjord-ridden west coast. The aim was to learn how NSD operates and about the services it offers. I came away with a head full of information and ideas, not to mention memories of an excellent reindeer fillet, and a stomach full of Atle Alvheim's delicious home-made bread rolls.

The first lesson I learnt was to abandon the practice of thinking of survey data in terms of discrete data files corresponding to separate questionnaires. As far as possible, NSD incorporates survey data into large databases of question items and their associated frequency distributions, pooled from different years and (in the case of ISSP data and the Eurobarometers) different

countries. Part of the rationale behind this approach is that the comparisons that can be made using data collated in a database are often of much greater interest than the snapshots provided by individual surveys. The database approach also means that surveys can be searched more efficiently for particular topics.

To build its databases, NSD uses *Advanced Revelation 2.1* which, in Atle's opinion, is the most powerful software of its kind. It allows relational databases with almost unlimited text fields, and free text searching. This means it is a simple and quick process to search, for example, all opinion polls for questions dealing with disarmament between 1960 and 1970, and print out the frequency distributions for those items.

My second major lesson was that NSD is much more than a store-house for old data. It performs a variety of other important functions for Norwegian social scientists. NSD examines all applications which go to the Norwegian Research Council by social scientists seeking permission to conduct surveys, and gives recommendations to the Council about which applications should be approved. NSD has also produced a variety of written materials for teaching statistics, packaged with the PC statistical software package *NSDstat*, which NSD wrote and developed. (For anyone interested in learning more about this inexpensive, 'user-friendly', yet powerful, software, the Social Science Data Archives has a copy.) The organisation also provides information about ongoing research, and conducts a number of specialised projects.

NSD has been evaluated in Norway as a "great success", and is frequently used by national media as a source of topical social statistics. With a population of less than a third of Australia's population, they have an organisation nearly five times the size of our Social Science Data Archives, offering a correspondingly greater range of services. NSD has made itself indispensable to the Norwegian Research Council since NSD offered to examine applications to the Council from researchers wishing to conduct surveys, and NSD has also proved to the Central Statistics Bureau that it can usefully handle all requests for Central Statistics Bureau data.

No doubt there are several factors required to explain how such a small country can have such a service for its social scientists.

NSD's growth may be partly attributed to the existence of the Data Law. This is the law which dictates that researchers must have the approval of the Norwegian Research Council before collecting survey data. The law also prevents researchers from keeping their raw survey

data. It must be handed over to NSD or destroyed. Moreover, NSD has access to all data collected by the Central Statistics Bureau (Norway's equivalent to the Australian Bureau of Statistics), and acquisition of Bureau data from NSD is a simple and rapid procedure. Traditionally, the Bureau had dealt directly with social scientists' requests for data and technical inquiries, but was mistrustful of their usage of Bureau data. Once it was recognised that NSD staff possessed the requisite technical expertise and research skills to ensure responsible use of its data, the Bureau was persuaded that NSD could take the burden of these inquiries, and supervise the use of Bureau data by social scientists.

NSD is now regarded by the Bureau as a useful facility for making its data available to the research community, with an atmosphere of cooperation rather than competition characterising the relationship. The Bureau charges NSD only for the cost of transferring data; in return, the NSD gives due credit to the Bureau, and refuses to take value-added profits from the distribution of Bureau data (private companies wishing to purchase data are referred to the Bureau).

Atle feels that NSD's strength must also be attributed to its participation in social science teaching. NSDstat is currently used in 350 out of 600 high schools in Norway, and will be available in seven languages, including English, by the end of 1992. NSDstat continues to undergo improvements, discussed at the First NSDstat International Workshop, held in Bergen in May this year. NSD also plays an active role in providing raw data for use in schools. For example, at the time of a Norwegian election, NSD conducted an "election" survey in schools throughout Norway, collated the data, and then distributed to the schools within 10 days so that the students could analyse the data while it was still topical.

NSD staff are quick to attribute NSD's success to the qualities of its founder, Stein Rokkan, who is reputed to have been a charismatic and influential figure. Perhaps another factor contributing to the growth of the organisation is Bergen's inclement weather. The rain (which is almost incessant, according to my experiences) could be a great inducement to sit indoors in front of a computer and think about the needs of the social science community.

Social Researchers: Analysis of Australian Youth Survey Data

Are you a social researcher interested in young people and their education, training and employment pathways? Are you experienced in the analysis of complex data sets? Are you able to produce policy relevant analysis and reporting? Are you interested in researching issues pertinent to young people on a "fee for service" basis?

If so, the Department of Employment, Education and Training would like to hear from you.

DEET conducts a large scale longitudinal survey known as the Australian Youth Survey (AYS). It began in 1989 and has been conducted each year since. Data are collected by face-to-face interviews using a 40 page questionnaire. Topics covered include:

- demographic and family background
- education and training
- labour market activity
- health, housing and income

Such data are not available from any other source in Australia.

DEET has begun an AYS Working Paper Series which will report on issues such as:

- socio-economic status and changes in school participation
- subject choice in school
- early school leavers - who are they and how do they fare?
- young people with disabilities
- transition from school to work
- unemployment and employment issues

If you feel you have the skills and experience to contribute to this work and you would like more information, please call Geoff Parkinson on (06) 2768743. Written expressions of interest should be addressed to

Geoff Parkinson
ALS Section
Department of Employment, Education and Training
PO Box 9880
Canberra ACT 2601

SSDA Data Holdings - Extension of Electronic Access

Following on from the article in our last Newsletter dealing with access to files of SSDA information available via anonymous FTP, the SSDA is now considering other means to facilitate the efficient transfer of information on SSDA holdings.

Consideration is being given to making text files from the latest SSDA Catalogue available as a database on OZLINE, the National Library of Australia's database network. Preliminary discussions have already been held with the Library on the format required for the files. Some work will be required by SSDA staff to develop this format and to determine how sections relating to particular types of data holdings will be arranged, so a timetable for development of this project will be determined in the near future. We hope to be able to provide more information in the next newsletter.

We are also pleased to announce that we have taken the opportunity to extend electronic access to SSDA information further to encompass access via WAIS through the ANU.

For those not familiar with WAIS, it began as a joint project between Thinking Machines Corporation, Apple Computer, Dow Jones and Co. and KPMG Peat Marwick, initially to provide easy access to a number of local and remote databases. WAIS software creates a user interface which allows browsing, selection and retrieval of remote information (usually from full-text databases) by non-technical users. The WAIS interface software is loaded onto your machine, and the servers to which you then gain access index and retrieve documents already precoded at remote sites. Users are able to frame their queries in unrestricted natural language and searches can be endlessly redefined. There are also a number of directories available through WAIS which can point the user to servers which may contain the information they are looking for. WAIS software is currently available free of charge (through FTP from a variety of internet servers). Interfaces for Macintosh, XWindows and UNIX machines are currently available. Contact your local computing site for information on whether WAIS software is available locally.

Section I of the Catalogue, containing full catalogue entries for sample surveys is the main document available via WAIS from the SSDA. Limited information is also available on other holdings (opinion polls, census files and data received from overseas data organisations). Files were encoded for use with WAIS by programming staff at the Coombs Computing Unit, mainly Dr Matthew Ciolek.

If you make use of SSDA information via WAIS, please let us know (by e-mail if you like) as we are interested in being kept informed of the way in which the system is being used, and whether we should be expanding the range of information currently available.

For those interested in finding out more about WAIS and how it connects with other services available over the Internet, the SSDA has a copy of an e-mail report prepared by Hilde Colenbrander from the University of British Columbia on the recent American Society for Information Science (ASIS) Mid-Year Meeting held in Albuquerque, New Mexico in May this year. This report (5 pages) is available in hard copy or as an electronic file. Information about many of the projects mentioned in the report (WAIS included) can also be found in "Electronic networking: research, applications and policy" volume 2, no. 1, Spring 1992.

Tasman Correspondent - News from NZSRDA

In the September 1990 issue of the ACSPRI Newsletter we reported on the establishment of a working group at Massey University to consider the formation of a New Zealand Data Archive. The recently formed New Zealand Social Research Data Archive (NZSRDA) is the result of this endeavour; its Director, Dr Henry Barnard, from the Faculty of Social Sciences at Massey is its foundation Director. Henry Barnard has agreed to act as our NZSRDA correspondent, and has provided the following notes on the staffing and current data holdings of the Archive. The SSDA is also cooperating with the Archive by making available deposit copies of data from New Zealand surveys currently in its holdings.

"Mrs. Sandhya Chatterjee took up the position of Assistant Data Archivist in the NZSRDA on the 13 July 1992. Mrs. Chatterjee has a B.Sc (Econ) Honours degree from the University of London and a M.Phil in Agricultural Economics from Massey University. She has had extensive experience working with econometric data and the use of computers in the manipulation and analysis of data sets. Ms. Chatterjee is already deeply involved in cleaning and documenting the first of the data sets that the NZSRDA has already acquired.

The NZSRDA has acquired the following data sets:

- 1) Living Conditions of the Elderly 1990. A national survey commissioned by Age Concern and National Mutual on the living conditions of the elderly in New Zealand.
- 2) Social issues survey 1991. A national survey commissioned by the Prime Minister's office which focuses on what social issues are important to New

Zealanders and also on their knowledge of the current state of the economy.

3) ISSP 1991 New Zealanders' Attitudes to Religion. The New Zealand module of the International Social Survey Programme for 1991

4) Manawatu Labour Force Survey 1984. The data set from the first labour force survey to be conducted in New Zealand. The study focused on (a) trialling a general labour force and (b) had additional questions relating specifically to gender issues in relation to labour.

5) Wealth and Poverty in New Zealand 1984. A survey commissioned by TVNZ on the distribution of wealth in New Zealand.

6) New Zealand Public Safety Survey 1990. A national study commissioned by the NZ Police on New Zealanders' views of crime and public safety.

We will be getting a number of others - some especially interesting ones on education and social mobility as well as the Values Study surveys but I thought I'd list the ones we actually have."

The NZSRDA can be contacted directly at the address listed below, or through the SSDA:

Dr Henry Barnard
Director, NZSRDA
Faculty of Social Sciences
Massey University
Palmerston North New Zealand
E-mail: nzsrd@massey.ac.nz

HealthWiz

The National Social Health Database, or HealthWiz, is an integrated database package of social health data which has been produced by the Commonwealth Department of Health, Housing and Community Services, under the National Better Health Program.

Available for use on IBM compatible machines preferably with a colour monitor, HealthWiz provides the ability to tabulate data, often at the community level, from a number of data sources. The current release contains population data from the 1986 Census (such as age, sex, birthplace, occupation, marital status, income, family structure and language spoken at home), mortality data for example by age, sex, birthplace, occupation, marital status and cause of death), and medical service and hospital use data. Other data sources will be added to the package in future releases.

More information on the availability of HealthWiz can be obtained from National Social Health Database Project, Department of Health, Housing and Community Services,

GPO Box 9848, Canberra ACT 2601 (ph: 06 289 1555; fax: 06 289 8420).

In addition to HealthWiz, the Department has also announced the release of two complementary products - A Social Health Atlas of Australia, and HEAPS for micromputer.

The Atlas presents a profile of the socio-economic status and health service use of Australians through a series of coloured maps in two volumes. Volume One includes data mapped by local government areas for the capital cities and major urban centres, and many towns and rural areas across Australia. Volume Two covers data from two major population surveys conducted by the ABS, the 1989-90 National Health Survey and the survey of Disabled and Aged Persons. The two volume set can be purchased from ABS capital city bookshops.

HEAPS, the Health Education and Promotion System, is a national database which provides information on health promotion materials and activities throughout Australia. The database lists various resources including audiotapes, booklets, films, pamphlets, posters, workbooks and manuals and under each listing gives such information as the producer and contact address, target groups, a brief abstract, language of the material, and subject categories for searching. HEAPS has previously been available through OZLINE at the National Library of Australia; this microcomputer version has been produced as an alternative for those users who may not be able to make use of the OZLINE version.

HEAPS runs on IBM compatibles with 640k memory, hard disk drive with a minimum of 10Mb free space. An initial subscription includes the main database, a manual and a year's regular updates. For more information contact HEAPS National Coordinators, Datascape Information Pty Ltd, GPO Box 1870, Canberra ACT 2601 (ph: 06 286 3529; fax: 06 286 6570).

News from the ABS

The SSDA regularly receives a number of newsletters and bulletins from State ABS offices, which provide useful background information and discussion on ABS survey activities, new user services and methodological issues such as variable coding. Snippets from these publications are reproduced in SSDA News for the information of our readers; further information on any of these news items should be obtained directly from ABS offices.

Census 1991 Preliminary Counts. The ABS has now released preliminary counts from the 1991 Census for all states and territories, and on a national basis. The rapid appearance of preliminary count figures has been made

possible through the use of Optical Mark Recognition (OMR) technology which enables speedy processing of questions which were able to be marked on the census form. Other "data packages" and customised matrices (some available at CD level) from these preliminary counts will be produced - contact your local ABS office for more information. It's expected that final population counts will be released over the next twelve months, with Tasmania being the first in September 1992.

Other Census 1991 Products. The 1991 Census Collection District (CD) Comparability List is now available on both microfiche and floppy disk. Two versions are available on microfiche - 1991 Census CD order, and 1986 Census CD order (\$10 per set) The floppy disk version is available only in 1991 CD order for \$100.

A number of companion documents to the new Australian Standard Geographic Classification have been produced. The 1991 Census Geographic Areas (ABS Cat No. 2905.0) and the 1991 Census Urban Centres / Localities Code List (ABS Cat. No. 2909.0) are for use in defining standard geographic areas for which 1991 Census data may be required.

Census Forms on Microfiche. Forms from the last eighty years of Australian censuses (twelve in all from the first national census in 1911 to 1991) have been produced on microfiche, together with supporting documents and instruction sheets for each census. A table showing the evolution of census content over time has also been included. For more information on this product, contact Dave Smith from the ABS Canberra office on (06) 252 5942.

Crime Victims Survey. The ABS intends to conduct a National Crime Victims Survey in 1993, following on from the last such survey in 1983. Criminal offences such as break and enter, attempted break and enter, motor vehicle theft, assault, sexual assault and robbery will be covered.

Recent Additions to SSDA Holdings

Additions to SSDA holdings are listed below. Please note that some of these carry an 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 is permitted until after the date specified

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

U: as specified in 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 (Access Category not determined)

For datasets listed as having no special Access Category, users must still sign a standard SSDA User Undertaking Form prior to access.

Data can be ordered in writing from the SSDA, and intending users should specify particular magnetic tape or floppy disk requirements at this time. Charges for data can be supplied on request. Users can also request information or order data using E-mail.

Department of Health, Housing and Community Services.
Household Chemicals Study, 1991 (SSDA No. 614)

This study arose from a concern expressed by the National Health and Medical Research Council about the need to reduce the rate of accidental death resulting from poisoning in the home. The survey was designed to assess: (1) the extent of community understanding of the hazards associated with the use of various domestic chemicals; (2) awareness of, attitudes to and behaviour relating to warning statements and first aid and safety directions on the labels of domestic chemical products; (3) the impact of packaging of these products; and (4) the range of formulated chemical products used in the home.

Survey items covered beliefs about harmfulness of products, attentiveness to instructions and warnings, awareness of the seriousness of various accidents with household chemicals, experience with and responses to accidental poisoning, and the effectiveness of different types of package information. Background variables covered were age, sex, educational level, occupation, marital status, income, stage of life, household composition, country of birth, and difficulties with English or reading in general. An additional audit, administered to part of the total sample, recorded the presence and storage details of a large range of household chemicals including drugs/medication, cleaning substances, laundry products, handyman products, pesticides, garden products and veterinary products.

Access Category: A

Ernie Lang, Tim Stockwell, Philip Rydon, and Christine Gamble. National Centre for Research into the Prevention of Drug Abuse. **Drinking Settings, and Drinking Patterns, and Alcohol Related Harm, Perth 1990** (SSDA No. 615)

This survey focused on people's patterns and places of drinking, and their knowledge and attitudes towards strategies aimed at minimising harm within the licensed drinking environment. The study had four main aims: first, to examine how types of drinking setting are related to different patterns of alcohol use and alcohol related problems; second, to discover the level of knowledge of laws relating to the sale and consumption of alcohol; third, to determine people's attitudes to the concept of server responsibility and server liability; and, fourth, to establish the level of community support for prevention initiatives targeted toward licensed drinking settings.

The survey consisted of four parts. The first part was administered by an interviewer and asked for details of recent drinking sessions, including the venue for each session, type of alcohol consumed, quantity of alcohol, length of session, reason for drinking, satisfaction with session, mode of transport, other people present, availability of other activities and entertainment, who paid for the drinks, and usage of drugs during the session. The second part of the survey was a self-completion questionnaire assessing knowledge of alcohol-related harm and drinking offences, and views about responsibility for drinking and ways of reducing alcohol-related harm. The third part of the survey was a questionnaire completed only by respondents who drink alcohol. This questionnaire covered personal experiences of negative effects of drinking. Those who reported some negative effects were administered the fourth part of the survey, which asked for details of the relevant drinking sessions. Background variables covered by the survey were age, sex, marital status, level of education, employment status, occupation, income, and birthplace.

Access Category A

Department of Health and National Heart Foundation
National Dietary Survey of Adults, Australia, 1983 (SSDA No. 616)

The National Dietary Survey of Adults was conducted in 1983 as a component of the Risk Factor Prevalence Study conducted by the National Heart Foundation in that year (see SSDA Study No. 414). The specific aims of the survey were: to collect dietary intake data to determine the food consumption and nutrient intake of a national sample of Australian adults; to compare the intake of nutrients and

specific foods in various sub-groups in this population; and to determine the relationship between diet patterns of the sub-groups and their body mass index, blood lipid levels, hypertension and other health factors.

For the dietary section of the survey project, basic measurements of each respondent's upper arm circumference, height, weight and blood pressure were taken. A range of demographic information was also collected, which included: sex, age, region, and country of birth, length of residence in Australia, highest level of education, employment status, occupation status and occupation, whether currently pregnant, use of vitamin supplements and salt intake, and usual way of eating. Respondents were then asked to complete a 24 hour dietary recall schedule with the assistance of an interviewer, using standardised techniques such as food models, calibrated containers and geometric models as aids to assess food intake.

Access Category: t.b.a

Department of Health and Australian Council for Health, Physical Education and Recreation Incorporated. **National Dietary Survey of Schoolchildren, Australia, 1985** (SSDA No. 617)

The National Dietary Survey of Schoolchildren was conducted in conjunction with the Health and Fitness Survey of the Australian Council for Health, Physical Education and Recreation Incorporated (ACHPER). Its main aims were: to determine food consumption and nutrient intake of Australian schoolchildren aged 10 to 15 years in both rural and urban areas; to collect national data on children's diets to develop nutrition policy and associated nutrition education and other programs for this population group; to collect biochemical data on the iron status of boys and girls aged 9, 12 and 15 years in the population group; and to correlate iron status of boys and girls aged 12 and 15 years with dietary intakes of iron in population subgroups.

Basic measurements of upper arm circumference, height, weight and blood pressure were taken from each respondent. Background information collected included: sex, age, state of residence, country of birth, parents' country of birth, length of residence in Australia, language spoken at home, how frequently the respondent consumed alcohol and whether the respondent ate before going to school. A 24 hour dietary and beverage intake schedule was also completed with the assistance of a trained interviewer.

Access Category: t.b.a

Brian Galligan and Roger Jones, Australian National University; Joseph Fletcher, University of Toronto (Canada); Ian McAllister, University of New South Wales. **Rights in Australia, 1991-1992: National Household Sample** (SSDA No.618)

The principal objectives of the Rights in Australia project were: to establish the level of support for civil liberties and civil rights among Australians; to determine the firmness or solidity of Australians' attitudes to civil liberties; to explore how Australians make up their mind in specific civil liberties controversies, especially where there are competing sides to a situation; and to identify principal characteristics which might affect the support or rejection of certain civil liberties. This data release represents the first stage in the project: the surveying of a representative sample of the Australian population. The second stage comprises interviews with a 'decision makers' sample - individuals from three groups, the legislature, the judiciary and the executive (public servants, public prosecutors and police officers). The data from this second stage will also be deposited with the SSDA (as SSDA No. 619) and will be available for secondary analysis.

The household sample questionnaire starts with questions used to establish a general measure of the respondent's attitudes to equality of rights and tolerance of actions against the government. This is followed by a section dealing with more specific rights issues - freedom of speech, racial discrimination, and freedom of choice, including censorship, euthanasia, abortion and homosexuality. Further sections deal with: legal rights - right to trial, right to trial by jury, contact with the police; sexual discrimination; racial prejudice towards Asians and Aborigines; and the issue of a Bill of Rights for Australia. Background information was also collected on political orientation, vote at last election, interest in politics and compulsory voting. Demographic information on the respondent included: age, sex, country of birth and year of arrival in Australia, citizenship status, age starting and leaving school, type of school attended, highest qualification, religion and frequency of church attendance, marital status, numbers of children and numbers in the household, occupation and labour force status, trade union membership and household income.

Jonathan Kelley, Clive Bean and Mariah Evans, Australian National University. **National Social Science Survey 1986-1987: Role of Government** (SSDA No. 620)

This release of National Social Science Survey (NSSS) data follows on from the first wave of data collected in 1984 (see SSDA Study No. 423). Additional NSSS releases include the National Social Science Survey Integrated Data File 1984 to 1988 (SSDA No. 594) and the National Social Science Survey Panel 1987 (SSDA No. 548) in which all respondents from the original survey in 1984 who could be located were reinterviewed on a range of topics.

This release includes data from questions asked as part of the International Social Survey Programme (a comparative file containing data from all countries in the Programme is also available from the SSDA), as well as from questions not previously released. There are two files currently lodged with the SSDA - a public release and a file of variables still embargoed by the principal investigators.

As in other NSSS releases, the data file contains a wide range of attitudinal questions. Sections cover religion and moral issues; attitudes to government policies, including feeling thermometer questions; opinions on taxes and benefits; voting; trade unions; attitudes to work, supervision, and decision making at work; satisfaction with job; attitudes to working women; general questions on life satisfaction; and courtship and marriage. Background sections asked the respondent about occupation, education, and qualifications; about income and standard of living; membership of trade unions; birthplace; and ancestry. Questions on birthplace, education, political orientation and occupation were also asked of the respondent's spouse or partner, and information was also recorded on the birthplace, occupation and education of parents, grandparents and children. The international component focuses on issues relating to inequality in society including: personal responses to government actions; privacy; responsibility of government to reduce income inequality; job opportunities for different groups in society; discipline for children and the role of the state; income tax and inflation; responsiveness of governments to public opinion, and the power of the individual; and areas of government spending.

Australian Bureau of Statistics. **National Health Survey, 1989-1990** (SSDA No. 621)

This is the latest in a series of national health surveys conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. The data file is organised on an individual respondent basis, with a number of identifying variables which allow the identification and analysis on a household, family and income unit basis.

Sections of the survey covered: self-assessed health and

happiness; recent illness; long term conditions; hospital inpatient episodes; visits to casualty / outpatients units; consultations with doctors; dental consultations; consultations with other health professionals; use of medications (including vitamins and mineral supplements); days away from work or school; and other days of reduced activity. A section on health risk factors covered smoking, alcohol consumption, exercise, dietary changes, height and weight, injury accidents and immunisation. Women's health issues canvassed included breast examination, pap smears, oral and other contraceptives and whether children were ever breastfed. Background variables covered sex, age, marital status, country of birth, year of arrival in Australia, relationship to head of household, age left school, highest qualification, employment status and number of jobs, occupation and industry, usual hours worked, language other than English spoken at home, main source of income and annual income.

Access Category: S. Available to ANU staff and students only. Also available direct from the ABS.

Richard Hays and Leonie Sanderson. University of Sydney. **General Practice Evaluation: Content of Consultations, 1991.** (SSDA No. 622)

This data was collected as part of the development of an instrument for mapping the content of general practice consultations. Consultation mapping is a method of systematic observation, borrowed from the behavioural sciences. A consultation map may be described as a two-dimensional representation of activity occurring during a consultation, over a length of time.

In order to create a consultation map, large segments of conversation, short sentences, single words or periods of dialogue are categorised according to the type of communication taking place. This study employs ten different categories of communication: (1) current problems, nature and history; (2) Patient ideas; (3) Patient concerns; (4) Patient expectations; (5) Ongoing problems; (6) Health promotion/illness prevention; (7) Explanation to patient; (8) Involving patient in management; (9) Action taken; (10) Social/neutral. The data consist of minute-by-minute information about which of the ten categories of communication occurred, in each of thirty consultations.

Access Category B

David Kelly, Mater Public Hospitals. Marion Hubbard, Australian College of Health Service Executives (Queensland). John Menzies, Sunshine Coast Regional Health Authority. Anne-Maree Stranger, Queensland Health Department. **Professional Development of**

Senior Rural Health Staff, Queensland, 1991. (SSDA No. 624)

The aim of this survey was to identify specific management education needs of senior staff in Queensland Regional Health Authorities and private hospitals. The results would be used to assist in developing a co-ordinated strategic response to meet the identified needs.

The survey asked for staff members' opinions about problems in trying to obtain professional management development, assistance needed to address these problems, perceived importance of different areas of development, preferred channels for receiving continuing professional education, willingness to spend time on such education, and interest in a mutual support program. Background variables included the respondent's age, geographical location, position in his/her occupation, highest level of education completed, membership of professional colleges or associations, and current efforts to obtain further qualifications.

Access Category A

Resource Assessment Commission. Kakadu Conservation Zone Contingent Valuation Survey, Australia, 1990 (SSDA No. 631)

The objective of this study was to provide information on environmental values, and in particular to estimate the dollar value Australians would place on the Conservation Zone and Kakadu National Park if mining were not permitted in the Zone compared with their valuations if mining were permitted, with possible environmental damage. The survey was split into two samples: a sample of Northern Territory residents; and a sample of residents of all other states.

These individual valuations were determined using contingent valuation, a method of placing dollar values on aspects of the natural environment. The contingent valuation method constructs a hypothetical market for the amenity in question. In this survey, respondents were asked how much they would be willing to pay to prevent possible environmental damage from mining in the Conservation Zone. Because the extent of environmental damage from proposed mining is in dispute, the survey group was split in two. A different description of environmental impact was presented to each group: the first stated that there would be very little damage and that damage would be limited (the minor impact scenario); and

the second described the risks of damage as significant and the impact substantial (the major impact scenario). In addition, respondents were asked to respond to values already defined, that is, instead of respondents being asked what they would be willing to pay, they were asked if they would be willing to pay a specified amount.

In addition to specific contingent valuation questions, the survey also asked respondents a series of attitude questions ranging from the importance of recreational activities within national parks, the relationship between jobs and natural resources, the importance of Aboriginal cultural concerns, and the financial benefits to Australia. Respondents were also asked whether they thought governments paid attention to individual views on natural resources; the importance of forests and Australia's timber resources; and four behavioural questions - whether they recycled household materials, the purchase of environmentally sound products, the watching of environmental programs on TV and membership of a conservation organisation. Background information covered age, sex, education level, income, job status, industry, occupation and country of birth.

Access Category: S. These data are available only to staff and students of the ANU through the SSDA. Other interested researchers should contact the Resource Assessment Commission direct for access to the data.

ICPSR Additions to Holdings

The following titles have been extracted from the ICPSR Bulletins dated February and May 1992. Datasets are not currently held by the SSDA, but may be ordered from ICPSR on request. Contact the SSDA for more details.

Annual Survey of Governments, 1989: Finance Statistics (ICPSR 9692)

Census of Population and Housing [United States], Extract Data: 1970 (ICPSR 9694); 1980 (ICPSR 9693)

Consolidated Federal Funds Report (CFFR), Fiscal Year 1990 (ICPSR 9718)

Consumer Expenditure Surveys, 1989: Diary Survey (ICPSR 9714); Interview Survey (ICPSR 9712)

County Business Patterns, 1988 [United States]: U.S. Summary, State, and County Data (ICPSR 9711)

Criminal Careers and Crime Control in Massachusetts [The Glueck Study]: A Matched-Sample Longitudinal Research Design, Phase 1, 1939-1963 (ICPSR 9735)

Current Population Surveys: Annual Demographic File, 1991 (ICPSR 9739); January 1991: Job Training (ICPSR 9716); June 1990: Fertility, Birth Expectations, Marital History (ICPSR 9717); September 1989: Veterans and Cardiovascular Disease Risk Factor Supplements (ICPSR 9719); Voter Supplement File, 1990 (ICPSR 9715)

Current Population Surveys, October (School Enrollment): 1975 (ICPSR

9539); 1973 (ICPSR 9541); 1969 (ICPSR 9547)

Drug Testing of Juvenile Detainees to Identify High-Risk Youth in Florida, 1986-1987 (ICPSR 9686)

Euro-Barometer 32: The Single European Market, Drugs, Alcohol, and Cancer, November 1989 (ICPSR 9519)

Fraud Victimization Survey, 1990: [United States] (ICPSR 9733)

Impact of Legislation to Prohibit "Happy Hours" in Indiana, 1983-1986 (ICPSR 9732)

Impact of Sentencing Reforms and Speedy Trial Laws in the United States, 1969-1989 (ICPSR 9736)

Juvenile Court Statistics, 1986: Reported Cases in Calendar Year Data Base (ICPSR 9691)

Mandatory Drug Offender Processing Data: 1986 (ICPSR 9420); 1987 (ICPSR 9565)

Minimum Legal Drinking Age and Crime in the United States, 1980-1987 (ICPSR 9685)

National Health Interview Survey Supplements: 1976, Diabetes (ICPSR 9705); 1976, Family Medical Expenses (ICPSR 9704); 1976, Health Habits (ICPSR 9709); 1976, Health Insurance (ICPSR 9706); 1989, AIDS Knowledge and Attitudes (ICPSR 9708); 1989, Dental Health (ICPSR 9702); 1989, Digestive Disorders (ICPSR 9700); 1989, Health Insurance (ICPSR 9703); 1989, Immunization (ICPSR 9707); 1989, Orofacial Pain (ICPSR 9701)

National Incidence Studies of Missing, Abducted, Runaway, and Thrownaway Children (NISMA), 1988 (ICPSR 9682)

National Medical Expenditure Survey, 1987: Household Survey, Population Characteristics and Person-Level Utilization, Rounds 1-4 [Public Use Tape 13] (ICPSR 9695); Survey of American Indians and Alaska Natives, Round 1 Person-Level File [Public Use Tape 11] (ICPSR 9689)

National Prosecutors Survey, 1990 (ICPSR 9579)

Patterns of Drug Use and Their Relation to Improving Prediction of Patterns of Delinquency and Crime in Racine, Wisconsin, 1961-1988 (ICPSR 9684)

Pretrial Home Detention With Electronic Monitoring: An Evaluation in Marion County, Indiana, 1988-1989 (ICPSR 9734)

Reducing Prison Violence by More Effective Inmate Management: An Experiment Field Test of the Prisoner Management Classification (PMC) System in Washington State, 1987-1988 (ICPSR 9665)

Socioeconomic and Demographic Characteristics of Synthetic Drug Users in San Diego and Washington, DC, 1990 (ICPSR 9737)

Surveys of Consumer Attitudes and Behavior, 1989: January (ICPSR 9635); February (ICPSR 9636); March (ICPSR 9637); April (ICPSR 9638); May (ICPSR 9639); June (ICPSR 9640); July (ICPSR 9641); August (ICPSR 9642); September (ICPSR 9643); October (ICPSR 9644); November (ICPSR 9645); December (ICPSR 9646)

ABC News Poll, July 1991 (ICPSR 9758); ABC News Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) Coup Poll, August 1991 (ICPSR 9757)

ABC News/Washington Post Clarence Thomas Hearing Poll, September 1991 (ICPSR 9767); Clarence Thomas Vote Delay Polls, October 1991 (ICPSR 9766)

ABC News/Washington Post Poll #1, October 1991 (ICPSR 9755); #2, October 1991 (ICPSR 9754)

Access to Justice in Ontario, 1985-1988 (ICPSR 9729)

Adaptation Process of Cuban and Mexican Immigrants in the United States, 1972-1979 (ICPSR 9672)

Carolee Students Height Measurements, 1771-1793 (ICPSR 9720)

CBS News Federal Budget Deficit Poll, October 1990 (ICPSR 9614)

CBS News Iraq Poll, September 1990 (ICPSR 9613)

CBS News State of the Union Poll, September 1990 (ICPSR 9620)

CBS News/New York Times Monthly Poll #1, October 1990 (ICPSR 9615); #2, October 1990 (ICPSR 9616); November 1990 (ICPSR 9617); December 1990 (ICPSR 9618); March 1991 (ICPSR 9621); April 1991 (ICPSR 9622)

CBS News/New York Times Persian Gulf War Polls, January-February 1991 (ICPSR 9619)

CBS News/New York Times/Tokyo Broadcasting System Collaborative National Surveys of the United States and Japan, 1990 (ICPSR 9501)

Census of Population and Housing, 1990 [United States]: Summary Tape File 3A, Record Sequence Example File (ICPSR 9592)

County Business Patterns, 1989 [United States]: U.S. Summary, State, and County Data (ICPSR 9740)

Cultural Democratization in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR): Moscow Oblast Survey, 1990 (ICPSR 9726)

Descriptors and Measurements of the Height of Runaway Slaves and Indentured Servants in the United States, 1700-1850 (ICPSR 9721)

European Communities Studies, 1970-1989: Cumulative File (ICPSR 9361)

Faculty at Work, 1988-1989: [United States] (ICPSR 9713)

Geographic Reference File -- Names, 1990 (Census Version): [United States] (ICPSR 9731)

Law and Finance in Illinois, 1868-1874 (ICPSR 9680)

Marital Instability Over the Life Course [United States]: A Three-Wave Panel Study, 1980-1988 (ICPSR 9747)

National Health Interview Survey, 1975: Accident Supplement, (ICPSR 9760); Family Medical Expenses Supplement (ICPSR 9761); Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) Sample Person Supplement (ICPSR 9763); Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) Supplement (ICPSR 9744); Physical Fitness Supplement (ICPSR 9762)

National Health Interview Survey, 1985: Health Promotion and Disease Prevention (HPDP) Child Safety/Infant Feeding Supplement (ICPSR 9765); Health Promotion and Disease Prevention (HPDP) Smoking History During Pregnancy Supplement (ICPSR 9764)

National Maternal and Infant Health Survey, 1988 (ICPSR 9730)

National Medical Expenditure Survey, 1987: Household Survey, Prescribed Medicine Data [Public Use Tape 14.1] (ICPSR 9746)

National Nursing Home Survey, 1973-1974 (ICPSR 9725)

Politico-Religious Organization and Economic Change in Zinacantan, Mexico, 1952-1987 (ICPSR 9727)

Recidivism of Felons on Probation, 1986-1989: [United States] (ICPSR 9574)

Survey of Households in Five Judicial Districts of the United States: A Civil Litigation Project, 1977-1979 (ICPSR 9743)

Survey of Tort Litigants in Three State Courts, 1989-1990: [United States] (ICPSR 9699)

Testing Theories of Criminality and Victimization in Seattle, 1960-1990 (ICPSR 9741)

Washington Post Soviet Attitude Poll, August 1991 (ICPSR 9756)