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ABC News Angry Voter Poll, April 1992 (ICPSR 9942)

ABC News/WASHINGTON POST Polls: December 1992 (ICPSR 6026); June 1992 (ICPSR 9939); Los Angeles Beating Poll, April 1992 (ICPSR 9941); Race Relations Poll, May 1992 (ICPSR 9940)

American Housing Survey, 1990: MSA Core Questions File (ICPSR 6003)

Annual Survey of Governments, 1991: Employment Statistics (ICPSR 6004)

Automated Reporting System Pilot Project in Los Angeles, 1990 (ICPSR9969)

Collective Memory in Lithuania, 1989 (ICPSR 9960)

County Business Patterns, 1990 [United States]: U.S. Summary, State, and County Data (ICPSR 6030)

Current Population Survey, January 1992: Displaced Workers (ICPSR6033)

Drug Abuse As a Predictor of Rearrest or Failure to Appear in Court in New York City, 1984 (ICPSR 9979)

Euro-Barometers: 37.0: Awareness and Importance of Maastricht and the Future of the European Community, March-April 1992 (ICPSR 9847); 31A: European Elections, 1989: Post-Election Survey, June-July 1989 (ICPSR9360)

Evaluating Network Sampling in Victimization Surveys in Peoria, Illinois, 1986 (ICPSR 9968)

Evaluation of Adult Urine Testing/Drug Use Surveillance Project in Washington, DC, 1984-1986 (ICPSR 9947)

Expenditure and Employment Data for the Criminal Justice System [United States]: Extract File, 1990 (ICPSR 6006)

German Social Survey (ALLBUS) Cumulative File, 1980-1990 (ICPSR 9999)

Historical Analogies, Generational Effects, and Attitudes Toward War in the United States, October 1990-February 1991 (ICPSR 9959)

Impact of the Court Process on Sexually Abused Children in North Carolina, 1983-1986 (ICPSR 9985)

Intergenerational Study of Parents and Children, 1962-1985: [Detroit] (ICPSR 9902)

International Military Intervention, 1946-1988 (ICPSR 6035)

International Social Survey Program: Role of Government II, 1990 (ICPSR 6010)

Mental Disorder and Violent Crime: A 20-Year Cohort Study in New York State, 1968-1988 (ICPSR 9978)

Mentally Disordered Offenders in Pursuit of Celebrities and Politicians (ICPSR 6007)

Monitoring the Future: A Continuing Study of the

Lifestyles and Values of Youth, 1991 (ICPSR 9871)

Multiple Cause of Death: 1982 (ICPSR 9880); 1983 (ICPSR 9879)

National Youth Survey [United States]: Wave VI, 1983 (ICPSR 9948)

Revised Estimates of the Population of Counties by Age, Sex, and Race [United States]: 1980-1989 (ICPSR 6031)

Sources and Uses of Funds in State and Local Governments, 1790-1915: [United States] (ICPSR 9728)

Survey of Consumer Attitudes and Behavior, 1990: January (ICPSR 9647); February (ICPSR 9648); March (ICPSR 9649); April (ICPSR 9650); May (ICPSR 9651); June (ICPSR 9652); July (ICPSR 9653); August (ICPSR9654); September (ICPSR 9655); October (ICPSR 9656); November (ICPSR9657); December (ICPSR 9658)

Survey of Consumer Finances, 1989 (ICPSR 9687)

Survey of Federal Government Employees, November 1991-February 1992 [United States] (ICPSR 9983)

Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) 1988 Full Panel Research File (ICPSR 6028)

Uniform Crime Reporting Program Data [United States]: County-Level Detailed Arrest and Offense Data, 1990 (ICPSR 9785)

United States Federal Mandatory Minimum Statutes Study, 1989-1990 (ICPSR 6009)

Use and Effectiveness of Fines, Jail, and Probation in Municipal Courts in Los Angeles County, 1981-1984 (ICPSR 9742)

WABC-TV New York State Primary Poll, March 1992 (ICPSR 9943)

WABC-TV/NEWSDAY New York State Poll #2, June 1992 (ICPSR 9937)

WASHINGTON POST Weekend Leisure Poll, June 1992 (ICPSR 9938)

Change of address?

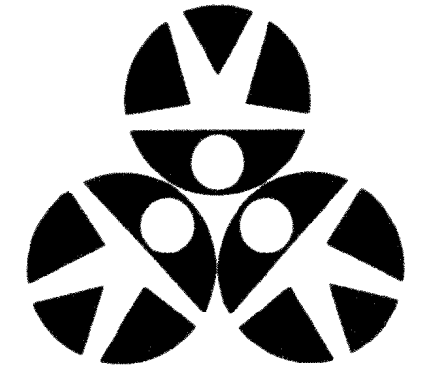
Don't forget to let us know.

*Drop us a line or
phone Cathy on 06 249 4400.*

ACSPRI newsletter

Australian Consortium for Social and Political Research Incorporated

Number 28, September 1993 ISSN 0158-6882



incorporating

SSDA news

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

ACSPRI newsletter

ACSPRI Activities	2
ACSPRI Membership News.....	2
Workshop on Scaling and Dimensional Analysis	2
ACSPRI's 10th Annual Summer Program	3
Mail Discussion Forums: Listservs of Interest.....	3
ANU's CATI Facility in 'moth balls'	4
ICPSR Summer School 1993	5
Teaching Package Review	6
Qualitative Research Methods Courses	8
First Australian Social Research Conference.....	9
Other Conferences.....	10

SSDA news

Results of the Review of the SSDA	13
Finding the Data You Want: On-line Access to the SSDA Catalogue.....	13
Your Experience of Secondary Analysis	17
News from the ABS	18
Recent Additions to SSDA Holdings	19
Special Productions	19
Additions to Series	21
Other Additions	22
ICPSR Additions to Holdings	23

This newsletter is produced at the Social Science Data Archives, Research School of Social Sciences, The Australian National University, Canberra ACT 0200. (Phone (06) 249 4400; Fax (06) 249 4722) 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@anu.edu.au

This issue of the newsletter was edited by
Stephanie Legg England.

New Fax Number and Email Address

ACSPRI and the SSDA
now have their own fax machine
and a new email address:

Fax 06 249 4722

Email ssda@anu.edu.au

ACSPRI Activities

ACSPRI Membership News

New Members

ACSPRI is pleased to welcome four new member institutions to the Consortium. As foreshadowed in the March Newsletter, the University of Newcastle has joined, with Dr Terry Leahy of the Department of Sociology, as its Representative. He may be contacted by telephone on 049 216 106.

The Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology has also joined, with Associate Professor Elery Hamilton-Smith, Department of Leisure and Tourism, Faculty of Social Sciences and Communications serving as RMIT's Representative. His telephone number is 03 353 9318 and his fax number is 03 353 9212.

Professor Michael Brittain, School of Communication and Information Studies, will serve as the ACSPRI Representative for new member, the University of South Australia. His telephone number is 08 302 2344.

The University of Central Queensland has become ACSPRI's newest member, with Jillian

Litster of the Faculty of Arts serving as its Representative. Her telephone number is 079 309 235 and her fax number is 079 361 361.

ACSPRI is also pleased to welcome Dr David Charnock of the School of Social Sciences, Curtin University of Technology, as the new Representative of that long standing ACSPRI member institution. His telephone number is 09 351 7648 and his fax number is 09 351 3166.

A complete list of ACSPRI's 30 university and 6 government member institutions, with their Representatives' addresses, telephone and fax numbers is available from ACSPRI by telephone on 06 249 4400 or by fax on 06 249 4722.

Workshop on Scaling and Dimensional Analysis

The Department of Mathematics at Swinburne University of Technology and ACSPRI co-hosted a three day workshop on Scaling and Dimensional Analysis at Swinburne on 16-18 June. The workshop was organised by Swinburne's Brian Phillips, an ACSPRI Summer Program instructor, and was taught by Bill Jacoby of the University of South Carolina, an instructor since 1984 at the ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods where he teaches a month-long course of the same title, and author of the (1990) Sage Quantitative Applications in the Social Sciences series monograph, *Data Theory and Dimensional Analysis*.

The workshop's objective was to provide an overview of unidimensional and multidimensional scaling procedures applicable to survey data. Topics covered during the three days included: the objectives of scaling analyses and the meaning of 'dimensionality'; creating Likert and Thurstone 'summated rating' scales, and estimating their reliability; estimation procedures for and advantages and disadvantages of 'unfolding' methods such as Coombs' Unfolding technique; 'cumulative' scaling methods such as Guttman and Mokken scaling; factor analysis; metric and nonmetric multidimensional scaling; replicated and weighted multidimensional scaling; and two types of correspondence analysis: one for bivariate crosstabulations, and Alternating Least Squares, Optimal Scaling (ALSOS).

According to Brian Phillips, 'the workshop was a great success, the only real fault being that we were too ambitious in trying to cover too much – a five day program with similar content but more practical work and discussion of examples would have satisfied most of the people who expressed comments'.

It is noteworthy that of the workshop's 40 participants, 7 were affiliated with ACSPRI member institutions (other than Swinburne) and received 50% discounts on their workshop fees.

ACSPRI's 10th Annual Summer Program

The 1994 ACSPRI Summer Program in Social Research Methods and Research Technology will be co-hosted with the Research School of Social Sciences, the Faculty of Arts and the Faculty of Economics and Commerce at the Australian National University, and will be held from 30 January to 11 February. The Brochure accompanying this Newsletter provides advance details about the Program, including a modified fee structure for 1994, accommodation rates and airfare discounts. Comprehensive information about the Program, individual course descriptions and application forms are provided in the Course Booklet, which will soon be available from ACSPRI – SP94 at the address given below.

The Summer Program will again offer standard courses in the areas of: survey and sample design; introductory statistics; regression analysis; factor analysis, measurement and scaling; data analysis in SPSS and SAS; log-linear modelling; multilevel analysis; longitudinal analysis; program evaluation; and qualitative research.

Courses new to the Program will include: quantitative methods of program evaluation; secondary analysis of survey data; an overview of multivariate statistical methods; and introductory as well as advanced LISREL.

Proposed courses or workshops on demographic techniques for population research; electoral behaviour research; quantitative historical analysis; research methods and statistics for criminologists, and health scientists, respectively, still require further expressions of interest, which

should be sent by fax to the number below.

For further details, consult the accompanying Brochure and write, phone or fax for the Course Booklet to: ACSPRI-SP94, Social Science Data Archives, Research School of Social Sciences, The Australian National University, Canberra ACT 0200; tel: 06 249 4400; fax: 06 249 4722.

Mail Discussion Forums: Listservs of Interest

Many Newsletter readers already 'subscribe' to mail or 'list' discussion forums (or 'listservs' in BITNET parlance) on AARNet/Internet and are aware of the benefits. Among these are timely and often incisively informative messages pertaining to the subject at hand (at the occasional 'cost' of a welter of irrelevant mail). With this caveat, the following (North American) listservs are recommended to readers not already aware of them.

methods

Listserv methods provides a communication forum for social science research methods instructors, and has, since being set up in late January, covered a wide range of discussion topics including: teaching examples others are using for linking theory and methods; the emphasis to be given to statistical training and ethics in undergraduate methods courses; the advantages/disadvantages of using SPSS and other statistical software in such courses; spreadsheets and statistics; correlation vs causation and examples of spurious correlation; weighting; degrees of freedom; scale reliability; single-case research; and a request from Earl Babbie to list subscribers for their suggestions on improving the seventh edition of his *The Practice of Social Research*.

To subscribe to this list, send a command:

subscribe methods Jill Doe

in the body of an email message, replacing 'Jill Doe' with your own name, to

'listserv@unmvma.unm.edu'. Once subscribed, you will receive information about other listserv commands, including how to 'unsubscribe' from the list.

por

Public Opinion Research is a new discussion list that may appeal to researchers currently conducting survey research projects as well as teachers familiar with the public opinion literature. Recent poll results postings, research project announcements, methodological and substantive queries, professional news and job listings may be found on **por**. To subscribe, send email to 'listserv@gibbs.oit.unc.edu' with 'subscribe por your_name' in the body of the message.

Once subscribed, you may wish to send your own information/query to the discussion list; to do so, send to 'por@unc.edu'. With this and other unix listservs, if you don't know or can't remember a command, simply send the word 'help' in the body of your email message to 'listserv@gibbs.oit.unc.edu', and you will receive a summary of listserv commands. One of these which may be useful is the 'set por mail digest' command line (or more generally 'set <list> mail digest', where 'list' is the listserv name) which will request the listserv to provide you with a 'digest' (i.e. a single, clearly identified mail message) of new messages sent to the discussion list in the previous 24 hours, with a summary of subject headings appearing at the top.

h-pol

H-Net (History on line) has recently announced the debut of **h-pol**, an international forum for the discussion of political history worldwide. The purpose of this listserv is to allow political historians, historically oriented scholars in political science, political sociology and related disciplines to easily communicate current research and research interests; to discuss new articles, books, papers, approaches, methods and tools of analysis; to test new ideas and share comments and tips on teaching.

To subscribe, send email to 'listserv@uicvm.uic.edu' with 'subscribe h-pol

your_name, your_institution' in the body of the message. Messages for discussion should be sent to 'h-pol@uicvm.uic.edu'. Other listservs sponsored by H-Net include: **h-urban** (urban history); **h-women** (womens history); **h-rural** (rural and agricultural); **h-ethnic** (ethnicity and immigration); **h-labor** (labor history); **h-durkhn** (European social thought); and **h-teach** (teaching university history).

stat-l

Listserv **stat-l** is a well established discussion list that provides a wealth of information about statistics interpretation, use and instruction. To subscribe, send email to 'listserv@mcgill1.bitnet'. Once subscribed, messages should be sent to 'stat-l@mcgill1.bitnet'. Messages on **stat-l** are archived on WAIS at source 'stats-archive.src', and may be accessed through Gopher: (select) --> 'Other gopher and information servers' --> 'Wais based information' --> 'byletter' --> 'S' --> 'stat-l' --> then, type a keyword, e.g. 'LISREL'.

ANU's CATI Facility in 'moth balls'

As part of its February review of the SSDA, the RSSS Review Committee was asked to comment on 'possible future activities for the SSDA, including whether the CATI facility should be maintained'. In its Report, the Committee stated that it was

not convinced that the Research School of Social Sciences should retain the CATI facility as an on-going operation either in terms of the cost-effectiveness of conducting a national facility from Canberra, or in competition with the well-established commercial survey operations.

However, the Committee is not persuaded that the CATI facility ought to be redeployed at this point. Further conversations with ACSPRI and other relevant groups should be pursued as a priority.

The Review Committee went on to recommend *that the School effectively 'moth-ball' the CATI facility.*

Since the conclusion of the Australian Rights Project Surveys, no computer-assisted telephone interviewing has taken place in the facility, its telephone lines have been disconnected and its interviewing staff have dispersed, though its eight PCs and Novell network remain in place. **Before entering into discussions with the RSSS about ways and means of resuming CATI operations, ACSPRI needs to hear from researchers who think they might want to use computer-assisted telephone interviewing for research projects they are currently planning for 1994, and who are prepared to propose funding assistance for the facility's operations as part of their project.** Contact Vance Merrill by telephone on 06 249 2200 or by fax on 06 249 4722.

ICPSR Summer School 1993

Chris Crook
Sociology Program
Research School of Social Sciences
The Australian National University

Having begun PhD studies in sociology in February of 1993, I decided to attend the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) Summer Program in Quantitative Methods. This school is held every July and August at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

A wide variety of lectures and workshops are held over the two four-week sessions. These cater for a large range of skill levels. At one extreme, those with relatively little experience are able to attend courses focusing on introductory computing, mathematics and statistics. The other extreme caters for the more experienced social scientist, the program offering courses on topics such as LISREL, Logit and Log-linear analysis.

The program is very intensive. Participants are advised to take two lecture courses and one

workshop, both components involving a considerable amount of preparatory study each day. There are generally no formal assignments given in lectures, however it is advised that students do complete the suggested readings and that summary exercises and problems are attempted. Workshops are the most demanding component of the program. For these, participants are required to submit a series of assignments, the nature and difficulty of which varies with the particular course taken.

I attended only the first session of the summer program, enrolling in three lecture courses and one workshop. In the first session, all participants are advised to attend at least the first week of lectures in the Introduction to Computing class, so as to familiarise themselves with the University of Michigan computer network. This is essential in order to keep email contact with people at home. In addition to this course, I took Mathematics for Social Scientists (covering Matrix Algebra and Calculus); Nonlinear Systems 1; and Advanced Topics in Social Research. My workshop choice was Introduction to Regression Analysis.

I personally gained very much from attending this particular combination of lectures and workshops. While my days were extremely full, my attitude was that I may as well get as much as possible out of my time there, having travelled so far and for so long! Most of the instructors at the ICPSR are very good. Ultimately, this view comes down to your own personal characteristics and what exactly you 'like in a lecturer'.

In academic terms, I gained very much from the ICPSR summer program in a very short period of time. The experience was equally rewarding in other respects also. The fact that participants are drawn from a wide range of countries meant that I made a large number of contacts. The fact that it was summer, and that I was missing a large proportion of a Canberra winter, also meant that the experience was pleasing!

Ann Arbor itself is an enjoyable little city. During the normal academic year, it houses some 40,000 students. It is also a busy place in summer, offering plenty of pleasant distractions for the burnt-out scholar. Inexpensive restaurants, bars, a summer festival and what was claimed to be the

third largest art fair in the world, along with the wide range of people I met, all contributed to mine being a successful and enjoyable trip.

I arrived in Ann Arbor only one day prior to the beginning of the course. For accommodation reasons, I would however advise participants to arrive a few days early. I had pre-booked a month's accommodation at a hall of residence, which was both very expensive and poorly located. This was the only real negative feature or wrong choice I made. I was however able to sublet a house with other, non-ICPSR students within one day, for a considerably more reasonable rate and in a much more convenient location. I would therefore urge any prospective participants to arrive a few days early in order to find a reasonable place to live.

The resources open to participants are generally excellent. The course centre, the Helen Newberry building, is well equipped with several networked computers, air conditioning, and a small library. All texts used in courses are available for loan in this library. Being in an American college town, however, provides an excellent opportunity to purchase books at comparatively little cost.

Participants may attend the summer school as either credit or non-credit (audit) students. Those auditing the program have less expensive course fees, and the experience generally involves slightly less pressure. The course is nevertheless intensive and participants are generally pretty burnt-out toward the end of their time there. Generally, however, the time there is valuable.

Teaching Package Review

During the past few months, ACSPRI has begun distributing a teaching package by David John Gow and Karen Stenner entitled *Electoral Behaviour: Introduction to Theories, Methods and Data* (described in the *ACSPRI Newsletter* No. 26, September 1992). The package consists of a monograph priced at \$8.00, and a diskette containing 1990 Australian Election Study data

and SPSSx set-up files priced at \$5.00. Here, Gary Marks provides a review of the package.

Gary N. Marks
Sociology Program
Research School of Social Sciences
The Australian National University

The purpose of undergraduate social science courses is to provide students with a solid grounding in the discipline whether it be Economics, Psychology, Political Science, or Sociology. To a large extent all disciplines rest on the knowledge base resulting from prior research. Therefore, in order for students to obtain some mastery over the discipline they should be able to understand and evaluate research findings. This is why methods are so important since the literature cannot be properly evaluated if the research methods employed are not understood. In addition, one key role of University departments is to equip students with the necessary skills so they can undertake their own research topics at either Honours or post-graduate levels.

However, teaching research methods in the social sciences is not straight forward. Elements of research design, statistics and computing are all involved in methods courses. Students should be familiar with the relationships between theory, hypotheses, concepts and measures and the issues surrounding each. They need to know statistics so that they can draw conclusions about the validity of their research hypotheses. These days they need to develop skills in computing so that they can actually undertake analyses. Furthermore, research design, statistics and computing are all tools with which researchers address substantive research questions. This multi-faceted nature of research in the political and social sciences poses many dilemmas for those involved in teaching. In what order should these aspects be presented to students? What statistics should be covered? Should sampling be taught as part of a research design or statistics course? Should computing be taught in isolation? In how much depth should each of these aspects be studied?

In view of these problems, David Gow and Karen Stenner have produced a teaching package entitled "Electoral Behaviour: Introduction to Theories, Methods and Data" which teaches students some

of the basics of data analysis by addressing substantive research issues relating to electoral behaviour in Australia. The package includes a monograph incorporating a codebook, and raw data. (The costs are \$8 for the monograph and \$5 for the data). The teaching package can be used as a component of a semester course on political behaviour and/or data analysis. It is particularly useful to Political Science departments which wish to equip their students with some of the skills necessary to analyse survey data for their own research projects. The authors admit that in integrating methods with substantive issues they can easily be criticised for neglecting particular methodological or substantive issues. I believe, however, they have achieved a desirable middle road. I would have found it particularly useful when I was teaching courses on data analysis.

Chapter 1 provides an overview of the various approaches to electoral behaviour. Included are journalistic accounts, analysis of aggregate data, social location models (which include the social class approach) and finally the Michigan model. Happily, particular emphasis is given to the Michigan model which they argue encompasses social location approaches. They have not included the "rational choice" approach introduced by Anthony Downs. Students may be attracted to the elegance of this approach, that parties seek to maximise votes and voters seek to maximise benefits. Similarly, the authors could have mentioned the economic voting and retrospective voting literature. Understandably, space precluded discussion of these other related approaches. A section on the various debates within the field may have been useful, such as the usefulness of partisanship as an explanatory concept, its possible endogeneity, the declining influence of social class, and the rise of post-materialist ideologies. The monograph does provide the basics of the theoretical approaches to electoral behaviour and instructors may choose to include additional material.

In Chapter 2 the authors discuss survey research. The survey instrument, sampling, coding, selection bias and measurement error are topics covered in this chapter. These issues are discussed in the context of the 1990 Australian election study (AES) survey. The authors have provided a concise and easily understood summary of the

process of survey research. I thought David De Vaus' book "Surveys in Social Research" should have been included in the list of further reading. There appears to be one error in this chapter. In the exercise section, question 8 relates confidence limits to differences in population size although the formula for the standard error on page 29 does not include the sampling fraction.

Chapter 3 introduces univariate analysis discussing frequencies, measures of central tendency and dispersion. The discussion of nominal, ordinal, and interval variables provides the basis for discussing the appropriate statistical techniques in this and later chapters. Chapter 4 discusses hypothesis testing, statistical significance, missing values, and measures of association including the lambda, gamma, and pearson's r coefficients. Elaboration strategies are discussed which introduce multivariate techniques. However, multiple regression is not described. Perhaps an example of spuriousness relating to electoral behaviour would have been useful at this point. Chapter 5 presents students with a variety of exercises using the 1990 AES data. Chapter 6 puts the data in the context of the 1990 election.

One obvious criticism of the monograph is that it is tied too closely to the 1990 election. Three years have passed and the 1993 election is obviously more topical. Of course much of the material is relevant to any election or electoral context, but the life-span of a teaching package focusing solely on the 1990 election must be limited. It may be useful to include variables from other earlier election studies so that students can compare different elections and test hypotheses on changes over time. For example, hypotheses could be tested on changes in political interest, the relationship between social class and partisanship, the political orientation of southern European immigrants, and the distribution of partisanship in the Australian electorate. With the recent release of the 1993 election study data, I am certain the authors plan to update the package.

The teaching package provides a sound basis for students to think about research questions and test their research hypotheses. They will also be familiar with the basic approaches and questions surrounding electoral behaviour. On completion of a course which includes the package students will

be well prepared to learn more advanced methods such as multiple regression. One criticism is that the package does not go far enough, students will still have difficulty in understanding much of the recent research on electoral behaviour. However, this criticism reflects the fact that until recently, Australian political science students were taught little in the way of survey research and quantitative methods. *Electoral Behaviour: Introduction to Theories, Methods and Data* is a commendable attempt to rectify this situation.

Qualitative Research Methods Courses

Macquarie University, through its Numeracy Centre and School of Education, has been conducting a variety of short (2-3 day) courses in research methods ('inspired by those run by ACSPRI') as part of its 'Research Methods Series 1993'. Series organisers report that the courses held thus far have had good responses.

Researchers seeking qualitative research training will be pleased to learn that the next (and final) two courses to be offered in the Series for 1993 are: an **Introduction to Qualitative Research**, and **Non-numerical Unstructured Data Indexing, Searching and Theorising (NUDIST): A Qualitative Analysis Program**.

An **Introduction to Qualitative Research** will be held on **Wednesday 24 - Friday 26 November 1993** from 9:30am - 4:30pm each day at a cost of \$345 (or \$180 for full-time students and Macquarie University students and staff). Lunch will be provided.

Taught by Lyn Coulon of the Faculty of Health Science at the Australian Catholic University, North Sydney, the course (for which no prerequisites are required) seeks to:

introduce clarity in the theoretical and methodological differences between qualitative and quantitative methods. There has been a recent surge in the recognition of qualitative methods as a way of better

understanding human behaviour. Hence, much of the focus will be on how to do effective qualitative research. This includes collection of data, organisation of data, data analysis, data reduction, data display and reporting techniques. This course will be conducted in the form of lectures, small group discussion, exploration through questioning, teacher and student demonstrations, fieldwork and audiotapes for data collection and analysis.

NUDIST: A Qualitative Analysis Program will be taught by Lyn Richards of the Department of Sociology at La Trobe University on **Saturday 11 and Sunday 12 December 1993** from 10am - 5pm each day at a cost of \$395 (or \$180 for full-time students and Macquarie University students and staff). Lunch will be provided.

Involvement in qualitative research methods or (the above) Introduction to Qualitative Analysis Course are recommended prerequisites for this course, which will examine methods for:

handling unstructured data using the computer package NUDIST. Topics include index construction, data reduction through textual analysis, data processing, methods and associated dangers of data retrieval, interpretation of output using displays and summaries, theory construction and testing, presentation, and reporting of qualitative data.

The course will consist of lectures, small group discussion and hands-on experience with the the NUDIST software.

Expected course outcomes include: (1) familiarity with qualitative data handling techniques and goals, and the debates around these, research design issues and methods of data preparation and processing; (2) knowledge of the NUDIST method of analysis in all of the following aspects: the approaches supported by the software, planning simple or complex projects in NUDIST, ways of saving time; (3) hands-on experience with all aspects of the document, index them, search text and index by text search, keep memos on emerging theory; ability to explore data and build

theory, ask questions and test hypotheses using the different features of the software.

For full descriptions of these Macquarie 'Research Methods Series 1993' courses and their instructors, and to obtain enrolment application forms, contact: Continuing Education Program, Macquarie University, NSW 2109 (tel. 02 805 7470; fax. 02 805 7480).

First Australian Social Research Conference 25-27 January 1994

Wolfgang Grichting
University of Tasmania, Launceston

The Australian Association for Social Research (AASR) and the University of Tasmania at Launceston (UTL) are jointly hosting the First Australian Social Research Conference between Tuesday 25 and Thursday 27 January 1994. The conference will be held at the new Sir Raymond Ferrell Centre (UTL) which has been designed especially for conferences, seminars, workshops and training programs. The conference date has been set to permit delegates to the conference to enjoy some time before or after the conference in the beauty and peace of Tasmania which has been claimed to be the best kept secret in the world! UTL is able to offer accommodation before and after the conference on a first-come-first-served basis.

The theme of the conference is *Social Research and the Quality of Life*. This choice reflects the AASR constitution as it is to "encourage the development of social research methods and their use for both pure and applied social research issues." The planning and preparation for the conference are progressing as expected: even before the deadline abstracts for papers and early-bird registrations are arriving in encouraging numbers and make sure that the conference will be a worthy successor to the previous national social research conferences in Brisbane and Sydney.

A goodly number of social researchers have indicated that they would like to present their work at the conference but were not quite ready to submit an abstract by the original deadline (30 September). We are therefore extending the deadline to 15 November 1993. This generous extension will permit the preparation of abstracts which more faithfully reflect the actual paper. In addition, again at the request of interested parties, we will consider various formats of delivery, such as poster presentation, round-table discussion in addition to the more traditional scholarly reading of papers. Intending presenters are invited to indicate their preference but the final decision will rest with the conference organising committee.

To make the conference a yet more exciting venture I am able to indicate that the following individuals and groups have expressed an interest in demonstrating their products at the conference:

Prof James Arbuckle, USA author of AMOS
- a user friendly version of LISREL
Dr Sharlene Hesse-Biber, USA,
HyperRESEARCH Company
- an alternative to NUDIST
Dr Mike Smithson, James Cook University
- Fuzzy sets III
SPSS Australasia, Sydney
- SPSSPC Version 6.0 for Windows Release
Noel Adams, Melbourne
- Microtab CATI with TNMS and RDD
Bureau of Immigration and Population Research,
Melbourne
Adam Czapracki, ABS, Hobart
- CDATE91 with Supermap and MapInfo
ASTAM Books
- The Australian outlet of SAGE

As it is still early days there is every reason to believe that various other individuals and groups will be anxious to announce their presence at the conference.

If you intend to present a paper please forward your abstract to **Dr Michael Smithson, Behavioural Sciences, James Cook University Q4814 (fax: 077-795 435; tel: 077 814 150; email: bhmjs@marlin.jcu.edu.au)** or **Prof Anne Harding, NATSEM PO Box 563, University of Canberra, Canberra City ACT 2601 (fax: 06 275 4875; tel: 06 275 4900).**

Further ideas and suggestions about the conference should be directed to **Wolfgang L. Grichting**, AASR President, University of Tasmania, PO Box 1214 Launceston TAS 7250 (fax: 003 243 007; tel: 003 243 535; email: W.Grichting@socialwk.utas.edu.au)

Other Conferences

Behavioural Medicine Conference 29 September - 1 October 1993

The tenth national Behavioural Medicine Conference is being held at the University of Sydney. The conference, organised by the Department of Behavioural Sciences in the Faculty of Health Sciences, is covering research and developments in such areas as health promotion, depression and stress, health and the environment, clinical therapies, aged care, exercise and fitness, cross cultural studies, diet and dieting, HIV and AIDS, optimum bias, life crises and phobic disorders. It includes three workshops: stress, depression and health in two cultural groups: Aboriginal women and non-aboriginal women; women and sport; and working with women who have been emotionally abused by their partners. Contact for further information: **Keith Carter** or **Carolyn Lawson**, Department of Behavioural Sciences, Faculty of Health Sciences, The University of Sydney, PO Box 170, Lidcombe, NSW 2141 (tel: 02 646 6333 or 02 646 6228; fax: 02 646 6540).

Young Statisticians' Professional Development Workshop 29 September - 1 October 1993

Last year's very successful Young Statisticians' Professional Development Workshop has led to another being organised this year. The Workshop, which is taking place at the Brassey Hotel in Canberra, provides an opportunity for young (interpreted loosely) statisticians to meet and talk about their work in a non-threatening environment.

The Workshop is sponsored by the Science and Technology Awareness Program, administered by the Department of Industry, Technology and Commerce; the ACT and NSW Branches of the Statistical Society of Australia; and the Centre for Mathematics and its Applications at the Australian National University. For further information, contact **Ann Cowling** on 06 272 2191 or email annc@abare.gov.au; or **Ian McDermid** on 06 249 4791 or email mcdistat@fac.anu.edu.au.

Australian Archives Records Management Conference 8-10 November 1994

Australian Archives will be hosting this conference at the Hyatt Hotel in Canberra for records managers, archivists, librarians and information technology professionals. The focus will be the effective management of archival value electronic records. The problems created by electronic records in terms of their management, storage and subsequent access will be examined in the light of developments around the world, Australian initiatives and the role required of technology in providing solutions. Speakers will be invited from the USA, Canada and the UK, and delegates will be sought from Australia and overseas. Contact for further information: **Ron Terry**, Conference Co-ordinator, Australian Archives, PO Box 34, Dickson ACT 2601 (tel: 06 209 3696; fax: 06 209 3931).

Australian Institute of Criminology Conferences

The conference program of the Australian Institute of Criminology includes a *Crime in the Workplace* conference, scheduled for late November 1993, and the 8th International Symposium on Victimology, to be held in Adelaide on 21-26 August 1994. The Institute is a co-sponsor of the International Symposium, which will be held by the World Society of Victimology in association with the Australasian Society of Victimology.

The Conference Unit of the Institute is always keen to hear from people interested in participating in, or speaking at, Institute Conferences. For further

information, contact: **Conference Unit, Australian Institute of Criminology, GPO Box 2944, Canberra ACT 2601** (tel: 06 274 0223; fax: 06 274 0225).

Taxpayer Compliance Research Conference 2-3 December 1993

The Australian Taxation Office will be holding this conference in Canberra as part of its compliance research program. The theme is *Taxpayer Compliance Research in Australia - The State of Play*. The conference will draw participants from universities, the Australian Taxation Office and other government agencies. Further information may be obtained from **Helen Watson** (tel: 06 275 2545) or **Andrew Wirth** (tel: 06 275 1430).

ISA Research Committee on Stratification and Mobility (ISA RC28) Meeting 5 - 7 January 1994

This conference will be held at the Australian National University in Canberra, with the theme of *social stratification and mobility*. Intending participants should send their paper proposals directly to the session organisers listed below by 31 October 1993. Papers which do not suit one of the thematic sessions can be sent to **Krzysztof Zagorski** for the open session.

Session	Organiser
Sources of educational attainment	Don Anderson
Capitalist careers	Mariah Evans
Subjective fairness of pay	Mariah Evans
Class closure	Frank Jones
Occupational mobility	Frank Jones
Authority and control over resources at work	Jonathan Kelley
Inequality	Jonathan Kelley

All above are at: **Sociology Program, RSSS, The Australian National University, Canberra 0200**

Session	Organiser
Immigration, ethnicity and discrimination in jobs and earnings	Riaz Hassan Sociology Discipline Flinders University Bedford Park SA 5042
Political sociology	Bruce Headey Political Science The University of Melbourne Parkville Vic 3052
Measuring class: retrospect and prospect	John Western Dept of Sociology University of QLD St Lucia Qld 4072
Stratification in post-communist societies and Open Session	Krzysztof Zagorski Institute of Applied Economic & Social Research Uni of Melbourne Parkville Vic 3052

Economic and Sociology Conference 10 - 11 January 1994

Krzysztof Zagorski and his colleagues from the Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research, The University of Melbourne, are organising a conference on *the institutional context of inequality and value systems*, to follow the ISA RC28 meeting. The conference is open to participants in ISA RC28 meeting and any other interested scholars. The general problem to be discussed is how economic segmentation and different economic as well as political institutions, especially during their transformations and reforms, influence various aspects of inequality and related attitudes.

Contact for further information: **Krzysztof Zagorski**, Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research, The University of Melbourne, Parkville, Vic 3052 (fax: 03 344 5630; email: khz@mururoa.ecom.unimelb.edu.au).

The SAS[®] System for Interactive Data Analysis

SAS Institute has recently introduced a new range of procedures to support an ever widening range of Data Analysis requests from our users. Additionally, many new user-friendly interfaces are provided to assist new users in quickly getting started with The SAS System.

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Ph (02) 428 0428
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SSDA News

ACSPRI and the SSDA now have their own fax machine and a new email address:

Fax 06 249 4722

Email ssda@anu.edu.au

SSDA News begins this time with an introduction to the new SSDA on-line catalogue. You will find all the details you need here to be able to log into the catalogue and search for information about datasets of interest to you.

We repeat in this issue our invitation for researchers to send us descriptions of research they have conducted with pre-existing data files. We urge all those who have been involved in such ("secondary") analysis to respond to this call.

Our usual news items follow: news from the Australian Bureau of Statistics, abstracts of datasets recently acquired by the SSDA, and titles of datasets recently acquired by ICPSR. The SSDA's recent acquisitions include the *Australian Election Study, 1993*, *Rights in Australia, 1991-92: national household sample*, and the *National Campaign Against Drug Abuse social issues survey, 1993*. See the special announcements for these datasets in this issue.

Results of the Review of the SSDA

A review of the SSDA was conducted by the Research School of Social Sciences in February this year. The Review Committee was asked to comment on: (1) the current role and performance of the SSDA as a data library both within the Research School of Social Sciences and within the Australian system; (2) current administrative arrangements in the SSDA; and (3) possible future activities for the SSDA, including whether the CATI facility should be maintained. Since the last edition of *SSDA News*, the recommendations of the review were submitted to Faculty and approved. Anyone who is interested in the submission made by the SSDA to the Review Committee or the report by the Committee can obtain copies from the SSDA.

Finding the data you want

On-line access to the SSDA Catalogue

If you have access to AARNet (and this is probably true if you can send email) you can now browse through the SSDA Catalogue on your own computer screen. Whenever you want information about the SSDA's holdings or services you will be able to find it at your fingertips, instead of relying on the small number of printed SSDA catalogues scattered around the country or personal assistance by the small number of SSDA staff. You will be able to read about the archives and their different collections of data, and search for subject terms, researchers' names, dates, catalogue numbers, titles, countries - indeed any word or number.

The catalogue has been established using WAIS (Wide Area Information System) on a Unix system at the Australian National University. WAIS enables the user to conduct free text searches through groups of text files. The catalogue has therefore been set up so that the user can search through descriptions of every survey data file, opinion poll and Census data file held at the SSDA. With the version of WAIS currently used at the ANU, there are still some limitations to the search techniques that can be used. You can specify more than one word, and this will result in a search for descriptions which contain *either* the first word *or* the second word, but *not both*, and you can not search for *parts* of words or names.

Getting started with the on-line catalogue

There are several ways to get into the SSDA WAIS catalogue, shown at the top of the next page. If you have difficulty following these instructions, your local computer support staff should be able to help. After you have selected **SSDA - Social Science Data Archives (ANU)**, there are eight pathways to choose from as shown in Figure 1. The first five paths form the body of the catalogue, while the bottom three paths lead to related useful information.

The first two pathways of the catalogue lead to text files about the SSDA and about how to use the on-line catalogue respectively, and then there

How to get into the SSDA catalogue

Using Telnet:

- **Telnet info.anu.edu.au** or **telnet 150.203.84.20** (i.e. either type this command on your mainframe, or use the telnet application on your Mac or PC if you have it). This takes you to ELISA, the Electronic Library Information Service at ANU.
- At the login prompt, type **info**.
- Select **Local ANU databases**.
- Select **COOMBSQUEST Soc.Sci & Humanities Inf.facility at ANU**.
- Select **SSDA - Social Science Data Archives (ANU)**.

Using Gopher:

- **Gopher cheops.anu.edu.au** or **gopher 150.203.76.24** (i.e. either type this command on your mainframe, or use the gopher application on your Mac or PC if you have it).
- Select **SSDA - Social Science Data Archives (ANU)**.

are three paths to information about the three different types of data held by the SSDA: Australian Studies, Opinion Polls, and Census data. These are described in more detail below.

The sixth path gives you access to on-line catalogues available for other data archives around the world (currently: Steinmetz Archives in the Netherlands, ESRC Data Archive in the UK, National Archives and Records Administration in the US, and ICPSR). This area is still being expanded and developed. Before too long we hope to provide access to catalogues of all archives who are members of the International Federation of Data Organisations. The seventh path, ACSPRI, is also still under development. When fully implemented, it will lead to notices about ACSPRI activities such as Summer Program courses. The eighth path takes you to the Electronic Library Information Service of the Australian National University.

Australian Studies holdings

The Australian Studies are a wide variety of surveys and other non-poll, non-census datasets. The Australian Studies collection does in fact include some foreign-sample data, but is referred to as "Australian" because it is mostly Australian in content and has been deposited directly at the Australian archives, in contrast to the data that the SSDA obtains from archives in other countries. Most of our users request data from the Australia Studies holdings.

Figure 1 shows that the on-line catalogue provides for this collection: (1) a list of **titles**, (2) an index to datasets by **subject terms**, and (3) **study descriptions**. The titles and subject terms index are useful text files if you wish to get ideas or get an overview of the holdings, but if you wish to search for studies with a particular title or topic, it is much easier to go directly to

study descriptions and use the automatic search.

The **study descriptions** include the title, catalogue number, principal investigators, data collector (where appropriate), abstract, subject terms, universe sampled, sampling procedure, method of data collection, dimensions of data set, and references to relevant publications/reports for each dataset. If there are any access restrictions on a dataset, these will be indicated in the study description. When you have chosen the **study descriptions** option, you can search for any word or number (e.g. year) that might appear in any of the components of the study description. Your search will yield a list of relevant study titles, and you can then select from any of the titles listed to see its study description.

An example of a search among the Australian Studies holdings is given in Figure 2. In STEP 1, the user selects **SSDA (ANU) Australian Studies holdings** from the main menu of the on-line catalogue, which takes them to a second menu giving a choice between titles, the subject term index, and study descriptions. In STEP 2, the user selects **SSDA (ANU) study descriptions** so that they will be able to do an automatic search. They are prompted for a word to search for in STEP 3, and type **alcohol**. This search will find all studies which have the word *alcohol* anywhere in their study description. Incidentally, the search also looks for the word *alcohol* in the list of titles and in the subject term index. The items which have been found are then listed for the user in order of the number of times that the word appeared. The resultant list is shown in STEP 4, where our user decides to look at the study description for **D765 National Campaign Against Drug Abuse Social** By selecting this title, the user is given the study description for the dataset. The top of the study description is shown in STEP 5.

Figure 1. Pathways through the SSDA on-line catalogue

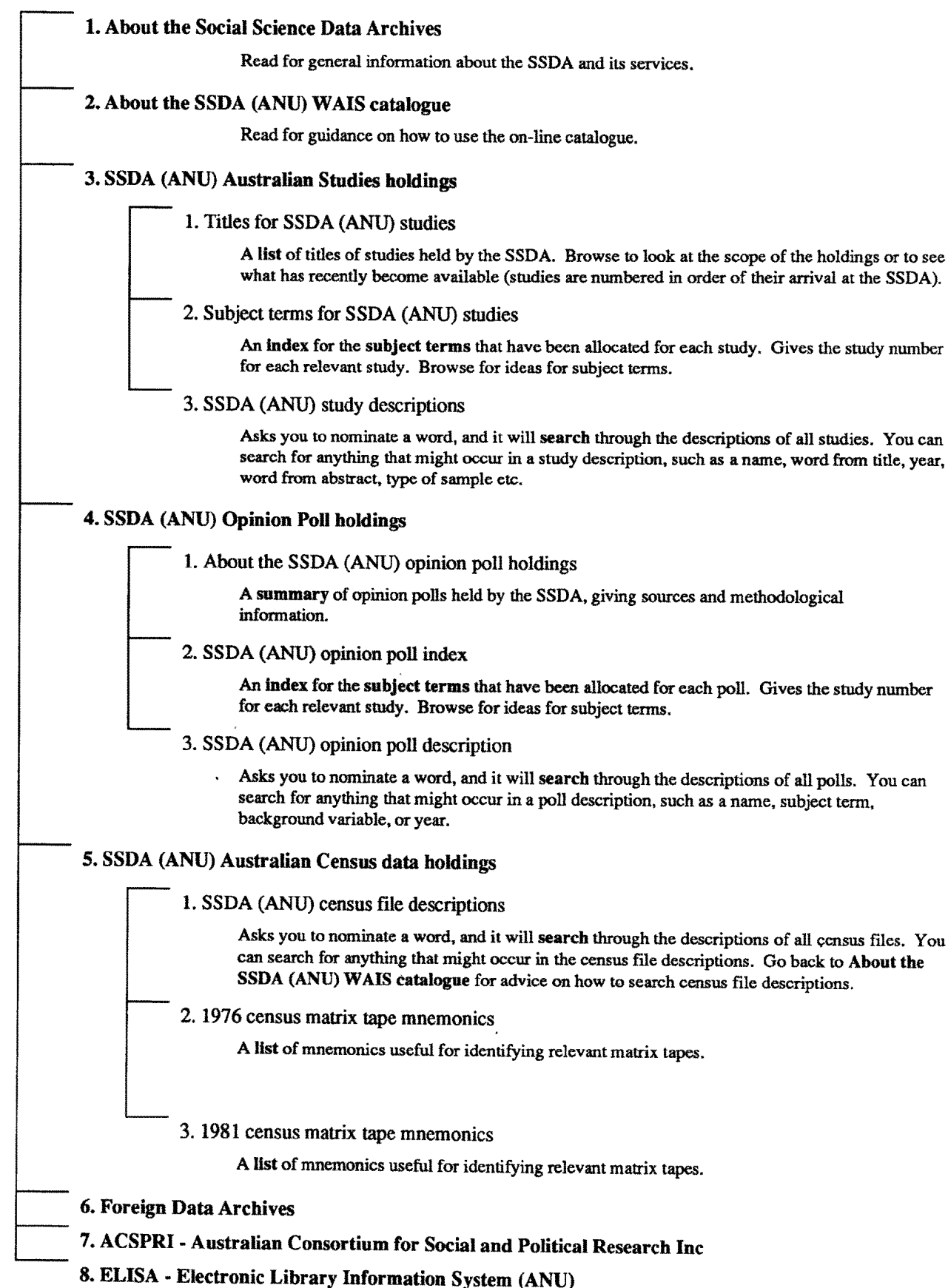


Figure 2. Searching through the SSDA's Australian studies for a topic**STEP 1**

SSDA - Social Science Data Archives (ANU)

- ```

1. About the Social Science Data Archives (ANU).
2. About the SSDA (ANU) WAIS catalogue.
--> 3. SSDA (ANU) Australian Studies holdings/
4. SSDA (ANU) Opinion Poll holdings (ANU)/
5. SSDA (ANU) Australian Census data holdings/
6. Foreign Data Archives/
7. ACSPRI - Australian Consortium for Social & Political Res/
8. ELISA - Electronic Library Information System (ANU)/

```

*The main menu of the catalogue. The user has moved the cursor to select Aust studies.*

**STEP 2**

SSDA (ANU) Australian Studies holdings

- ```

1. Titles for SSDA (ANU) studies.
2. Subject terms for SSDA (ANU) studies.
--> 3. SSDA (ANU) study descriptions <?>

```

On pressing ENTER, the menu for the Australian Studies section appears. The user then moves to select study descriptions, so that a search can be conducted.

STEP 3

```

lqqqqqqqqqqqqSSDA (ANU) study descriptionsqqqqqqqqqqqqk
x
x Words to search for alcohol x
x [Cancel ^G] [Accept - Enter] x
x
mqqqqqqqqqqqqqqqqqqqqqqqqqqqqqqqqqqqqqqqqqqqqqqqqqqq

```

The user is asked to nominate a word for searching, and types "alcohol".

STEP 4

SSDA (ANU) study descriptions: alcohol

- ```

1. D305 Drug use by New South Wales school students.
2. D645 Attitudes to alcohol consumption, labelling.
3. D615 Drinking settings, drinking patterns, and.
4. D541 Alcohol and other drug consumption among.
5. D367 Alcohol consumption survey, South Australia.
6. D626 Alcohol and medication use among older people.
7. TITLES for SSDA (ANU) studies - SSDAANUSTUDYTITLES.
8. D151 Alcohol, drug, and forensic client record data.
9. D45 Alcoholism and its prevention in Townsville.
10. D124 Alcohol consumption and blood pressure in.
11. D444 Drug use among primary school students, New.
12. D563 Drug use among secondary school students, New.
13. D125 Breath alcohol levels of the general driving.
14. D129 Pregnant pause campaign - evaluation of an.
15. D328 Drinking drivers and random breath testing.
16. D329 Drinking drivers and random breath testing.
--> 17. D765 National Campaign Against Drug Abuse Social.
18. D767 Alcohol, tobacco and other drug use among.

```

*The search generates a list of 17 relevant datasets and also finds the word alcohol in the text file containing just study titles (listed at 7). The user has moved the cursor to select Study No. D765.*

**STEP 5**

```

TITLE D765 National Campaign Against Drug Abuse Social
Issues Survey, 1993

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR(s) Department of Health, Housing and
Community Services.

DATA COLLECTOR AGB McNair Pty Ltd

ABSTRACT This study is the fourth in a series of national
household surveys to examine current attitudes towards ...

```

*This takes the user to the study description for SSDA No. 765. Just the top is shown here. Descriptions are usually 1-2 pages long, and include methodology.*

**Opinion Poll holdings**

The SSDA's collection of opinion polls now ranges from 1946 to 1991. The sources and methodology of the polls held by the SSDA are summarised in the on-line catalogue in the file called **About the SSDA (ANU) opinion poll holdings** (see Figure 1). In addition, you can either browse through the **opinion poll index**, which is a subject term index for the polls, or go directly to the **opinion poll descriptions**. The opinion poll descriptions differ somewhat from those of the Australian Studies holdings. Each question in each poll has been allocated a subject term, and the description of each poll consists of the poll title (including the date of the poll), a list of the allocated subject terms, and a list of the background variables collected. The subject terms are different from those used to index the Australian studies, so a browse through the **opinion poll index** is a good idea.

Having chosen **opinion poll descriptions**, you can search for any word (or year) of interest. The process is the same as that described above for the Australian studies. A search will produce a list of relevant polls and you can select any poll from this list to look at its full description.

**Australian Census data holdings**

There are several different types of Australian Census files held by the SSDA: small area summary files, detailed cross-classified tables or MATRIX tapes, unit record sample files, and master, descriptor or link files. When you first arrive at the SSDA on-line catalogue, the file **About the SSDA (ANU) WAIS catalogue** gives some advice about how to locate the census file(s) in which you are interested. When you then go to **SSDA (ANU) Australian Census data holdings**, you can go to **SSDA (ANU) Census file descriptions** to search for files.

The other two files in the census part of the catalogue give mnemonics used by the ABS to denote variables. These may be useful in locating desired matrix tapes. There is a small problem at the moment in searching with mnemonics, as the mnemonics form only part of the total variable names, and the search procedure does not yet allow you to search for parts of words. We are in the process of rectifying this, either by making the mnemonics full words in the description or upgrading the WAIS software.

**Behind the screens**

The on-line catalogue is still in its early days and will no doubt undergo changes as limitations and possibilities are discovered. The catalogue will

be regularly updated with new additions to holdings, and a "News" file will be added to announce new datasets and other SSDA and ACSPRI activities. The Newsletter will continue to provide abstracts for recent additions to SSDA holdings.

If you would like more information about a dataset than the on-line catalogue can provide, don't hesitate to contact the SSDA. You will also need to contact the SSDA if you wish to obtain any data files. It helps if you can give the SSDA both the title and study number for the dataset(s) in which you are interested when making an inquiry or order. Researchers interested in ordering data or obtaining more information from foreign archives should also make their inquiries or orders through the SSDA.

**Your experience of secondary analysis**

The SSDA and ACSPRI are responsible for promoting the use of pre-collected data for social science research. As part of that continuing effort, the SSDA would like to publicise examples of research or evaluation studies that have been based on the analysis of pre-existing datasets.

The SSDA wishes to hear from social scientists in any area of Australian social science research, including accounts by students of Sociology, Political Science, Geography, Psychology and History who have conducted analyses of existing datasets as part of their honours or postgraduate research. The analyses may have been conducted with existing data for reasons of cost, in exploratory research (before fielding a new survey), or for trend, cohort, time-series, and/or comparative studies.

Data files used might, but need not, have been acquired from the SSDA (or its affiliate organisations such as the ICPSR or ESRC), and could include data originally collected by government agencies in Australia or overseas, such as aggregate or unit record data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

If you have been involved in these type of analyses, please send us a short summary of your research (e.g. two A4 pages). You could send an excerpt from a thesis or book, or an off-print from an original article. Ideally, the summary would include the purpose of the secondary analysis, a description of the data and the analysis, and an evaluation of the advantages (and disadvantages, if any) of secondary analysis for the study conducted.

## News from the ABS

### Latest News on the 1991 Census Household Sample File

According to Paul Williams of the ABS's Population Census Processing & User Services Section, many useful, outside comments on proposed content of and classifications for the one percent, Census of Population and Housing Sample file, have now been considered by the Section. A revised proposal for the file is to be submitted to the ABS's Microdata Review Committee in about two weeks, and the final file design will be determined in light of that Committee's recommendations. A March 1994 release of the file is now anticipated.

Although final negotiations on pricing arrangements for academic sector purchase of the sample file have yet to be made, Paul suggests they will conform to the 'consortium' arrangement proposal previously endorsed by the ACSPRI Council in 1991 and 1992 (and discussed in issues No. 24 & 26 of this Newsletter). Under this arrangement, which will involve an ACSPRI contribution of \$20,000 towards the production costs of the sample file, a copy could be obtained from the SSDA by any academic institution, or its individual researchers, for approximately \$2000. The conditions of distribution '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 SSDA regularly receives a number of newsletters and bulletins from 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.

**1994-95 National Health Survey.** The ABS received about 80 responses to its call for submissions on the content of the next National Health Survey, and is now conducting discussions to decide on the composition of the survey. The core topics will be based largely on those in the 1989-90 National Health Survey, but there is strong support for several additional topics to become core topics in future surveys, such as housing, disability, and an indicator of overall health status. People who wish to be kept informed about the development of the survey can ask to be placed on the mailing list

for a special newsletter called NHSSHEET by phoning Brian Richings at the ABS on 06 252 5786.

**Diet/Nutrition Survey.** A lack of national diet and nutrition data has been identified as a major deficiency in health statistics in Australia. To rectify this situation, a proposal to conduct a diet/nutrition survey in association with the 1994-95 National Health Survey is being discussed by the ABS, The Department of Health, Housing Local Government and Community Services, the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, and other interested parties. The contact person at the ABS for further information is Mike Langan, telephone 06 252 7318.

**ABS Population Survey Monitor.** This is a new household survey that the ABS will be introducing in the near future. The Population Survey Monitor (PSM) is an omnibus style survey which will enable users to collect data about the topic of their choice by paying for topics to be included in the PSM. It has been designed to be a rapid and economical way for government agencies, public authorities and non-profit organisations to obtain information about the characteristics and attitudes of the general population or of particular groups of people.

**Current and Forthcoming Household Surveys.** A summary of the ABS Household Survey program is given below. The data from such surveys generally become available 6-12 months after data collection has been completed.

| Collection dates  | Survey                                                                                                     |
|-------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Calendar yr 1992  | National Time Use Survey                                                                                   |
| Feb/Apr 1992      | Survey of Families in Australia                                                                            |
| Sep/Dec 1992      | Agricultural Finance Survey                                                                                |
| Feb/Mar 1993      | The Survey of Health Conditions, Care Needs and Carers (formerly the Disability, Ageing and Carers Survey) |
| Apr/May 1993      | The Survey of Training and Education                                                                       |
| Apr 1993          | National Crime and Safety Survey                                                                           |
| Jun 1993          | National Childcare Survey                                                                                  |
| Sep/Dec 1993      | Agricultural Finance Survey                                                                                |
| Jul 1993/Jun 1994 | Household Expenditure Survey                                                                               |
| Early 1994        | Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey                                                               |

**ANZSIC: New industry classification scheme.** The ABS and the New Zealand Department of Statistics released the first edition of the *Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification* on 31 May. ANZSIC will now be the standard classification for industry statistics in Australia and New Zealand, replacing the Australian Standard Industrial Classification (ASIC) and the New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (NZSIC). A free information paper, *Introducing the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification*, is available from the ABS bookshop (Cat. no. 1298.0). The ANZSIC Classification is available from the ABS for \$75 (Cat. no. 1292.0).

## 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 by phone, fax, electronic mail or letter. Intending users will need to specify their particular magnetic tape or floppy disk requirements, and indicate to whom the invoice for any charges should be addressed. Information about charges for data can be supplied on request.

## Special Productions

In the last issue of SSDA News we announced that for most datasets, the SSDA will be minimising the amount of time spent improving

upon documentation that has been deposited with the data. Additional resources will be reserved for datasets which are seen to have exceptional value for research and teaching. Three exceptional datasets are now available from the SSDA. For each of these datasets the SSDA has produced a comprehensive, user-friendly User's Guide including a codebook which provides the format details, question wording, and frequencies for each variable.

### Australian Election Study, 1993

Roger Jones, Australian National University  
Ian McAllister, University of New South Wales  
David Denmark, University of Western Australia  
David Gow, University of Queensland  
(SSDA No. 763)

The 1993 Australian Election Study is a survey of attitudes and opinions of over 3000 Australian adults on important political and social issues at the time of the 1993 Federal election. The study is the third in a series of surveys which have been timed to coincide with Australian Federal elections, beginning with the 1987 election. The series aims to provide a long-term perspective on stability and change in the political attitudes and behaviour of the Australian electorate, and investigates the changing social bases of Australian politics as the economy and society modernise and change character. In addition to these long-term goals the surveys examine the particular political issues prevalent in the election and their role in the election result.

As with previous surveys in the series, the 1993 survey covered the respondent's interest in the election campaign and politics, their past and present political affiliation, evaluation of parties and candidates, alignment with parties on various election issues, evaluation of the economic situation and economic policies, attitudes to a range of environmental issues, and attitudes to contemporary social policy issues including equal opportunity, censorship, migration, assistance for aborigines, abortion, criminal law, expenditure on social services, the monarchy and the Australian flag. The 1993 survey also introduced a variety of new questions including a section on foreign affairs and defence, and attitudes to Federal and State government. Background variables covered include level of education, occupation, trade union membership, sex, year and place of birth, parents' birthplaces, parents' political preferences, father's occupation, length of residence in state or territory, religion, marital status, number of children, income, and where applicable, the occupation, trade union membership and political preference of the respondent's spouse.

The survey was conducted with a random sample of persons listed on the Australian electoral roll at the close of rolls before the election, stratified by State/Territory. Questionnaires were mailed out to 4950 persons on 12 March 1993, and 3023 were returned by the closing date on 30 May 1993. The responses of these 3023 individuals to each question are contained in the data file that is now available from the SSDA.

The data file and User's Guide are being distributed at a bargain price compared with the SSDA's usual charging formula. The data file is available on an IBM or Mac disk for \$110 (processing fee and disk charge included), while the User's Guide is available for \$15. An SPSS set-up file is included on the disk.

A similar survey was conducted simultaneously on a sample of election candidates. Data and a User's Guide for this study, the *Australian Candidate Study, 1993* (SSDA No. 764), will be available from the SSDA in the near future.

#### **Rights in Australia, 1991-1992: national household sample**

Brian Galligan & Roger Jones, The Australian National University

Joseph Fletcher, University of Toronto

Ian McAllister, University of New South Wales  
(SSDA No. 618)

This dataset is part of the data collected by the Australian Rights Project at the Research School of Social Sciences, the Australian National University. The Australian Rights Project was designed to measure Australians' attitudes towards a broad range of civil liberties issues. It aimed to establish the level and solidity of Australians' support for civil liberties and civil rights, and to explore how Australians make up their minds in specific civil liberties controversies, especially where there are competing sides to a situation. It also aimed to identify principal characteristics which might affect the support or rejection of certain civil liberties. Another central objective of the project was to make comparative assessment of support for rights among Australian states and with comparable countries, most particularly Canada and also the United States and the United Kingdom.

The Australian Rights Project measured attitudes among two populations, Australian households and "decision-makers" (elites in politics and the legal profession), to determine whether significant differences exist between these two groups. The data for the household sample (SSDA No. 618) will be ready for distribution by the SSDA in the very near future, with the User's

Guide for the data about to be printed. The data and User's Guide for the decision-makers sample will be available from the SSDA at a later date (SSDA No. 619).

The first component of the general household sample survey consisted of a thirty minute telephone interview with a representative sample of 1522 Australians. Data were collected by computer-assisted telephone interviewing from a centralized facility within the Research School of Social Sciences. The second component was a mail survey of the telephone interview respondents.

The telephone interview began with questions designed to establish a general measure of the respondent's attitudes to equality of rights and tolerance of actions against the government. This was 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 dealt with: legal rights - right to trial, right to trial by jury, contact with the police; sexual discrimination; racial prejudice towards Asians and Aboriginals; and the issue of a Bill of Rights for Australia. The mail survey consisted of additional questions covering the same range of issues.

In the telephone interview, background information was collected on political orientation, vote at last election, interest in politics and compulsory voting. Demographic information collected about 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.

#### **Access Category A**

#### **National Campaign Against Drug Abuse social issues survey, 1993**

Department of Health, Housing and Community Services  
(SSDA No. 765)

This study by the Drugs of Dependence Branch is the fourth in a series of national household surveys to examine current attitudes towards drugs and drug problems, usage of drugs, and to assess changes in these attitudes and usage over the period 1985-1993. The three earlier studies were Social Issues in Australia, 1985 (SSDA No. 405), the National Campaign Against

Drug Abuse Social Issues Survey, 1988 (SSDA No. 498), and the National Campaign Against Drug Abuse Social Issues Survey, 1991 (SSDA No. 610).

The questionnaire asked respondents about their degree of concern about various social issues and drugs. Opinions were sought on suggested ways of preventing excessive use of alcohol, the banning of smoking in public places, the availability of drug information and services, the impact of the Drug Offensive campaign, the distribution of the expenditure for reducing drug abuse, and penalties for the sale and supply of drugs. A sealed section of the questionnaire allowed respondents to indicate their usage of each drug without the interviewer being aware of their answers. The drugs covered were: alcohol, amphetamines, barbiturates, cocaine/crack, ecstasy/designer drugs, hallucinogens, heroin, inhalants (e.g. glue, petrol), marijuana/hash, pain killers/analgesics, steroids, tobacco/cigarettes and tranquillisers. Respondents were also asked if they had been victims of physical and/or verbal abuse, and property damage and/or theft by someone affected by alcohol or had themselves committed these offences when under the influence.

Background variables included geographical location, sex, age group, birthplace, employment status and occupation of self and spouse, education status, and the number and ages of other people in the household.

#### **Access Category B**

### **Additions to Series**

The SSDA's holdings include data from two important long-term survey programs: the National Social Science Survey and the Australian Longitudinal Survey/Australian Youth Survey. Both of these survey programs began in 1984 and are still continuing. Data from each program are routinely deposited at the SSDA and new data files were recently received (see below).

Although the SSDA is willing and able to distribute the most recently deposited data files, intending users should note that the SSDA's documentation for these files is currently not as user-friendly as we would wish for these important datasets. The SSDA intends to improve the documentation available for both these survey programs as resources allow.

#### **National Social Science Survey**

Jonathan Kelley, Clive Bean, Mariah Evans  
The Australian National University  
(SSDA Nos 646 and 647)

The SSDA has recently received data from the 1989-90 (fourth) wave of the National Social Science Survey. Two datasets are available: **Family and changing sex roles** (SSDA No. 646) and **Lifestyles** (SSDA No. 647). The Family survey was the main component of the NSSF program in 1989-90, surveying 4513 individuals. It formed the Australian component of the International Social Survey Programme study, *Family and Changing Sex Roles* (ZA 1700). The data file held by the SSDA is a subset of the variables collected by the NSSF Family questionnaire. The **Lifestyles** survey was conducted in conjunction with main Family survey, and includes a largely similar set of variables, from a sample of 1652 individuals. The Lifestyles data file currently held by the SSDA contains a subset of the variables collected by the Lifestyles questionnaire.

Both datasets include job values, political participation (e.g. party affiliation, voting), attitudes to specific political leaders, political knowledge, political ideology (e.g. attitudes to public spending, privatisation, republicanism), views about taxes and benefits, attitudes and values concerning trade unions, religion, morals and social issues (e.g. belief in god, image of god, attitudes to abortion and premarital sex), personality, life satisfaction, views about family (e.g. desirability of having a working mother, approval of marriage, attitudes to children), and attitudes toward income inequality. In addition, the Lifestyles dataset includes variables for attitudes to foreign policy, recreation, evaluation of neighbourhood and views about crime and punishment.

Background variables included in both datasets are sex, date of birth, place of birth of respondent and parents, place of residence at age 14, features of home at age 14, (e.g. had phone, fridge), composition of household, sex and birth dates of children, type of housing, number of cars owned by family, geographic location, education of respondent and parents, respondent's occupation, details of work situation (e.g. hours worked, number of people supervised, business activities), father's occupation and nature of his work, income of respondent and spouse, marital history, spouse's characteristics (occupation, age, education, work), grandparents' characteristics (place of residence, employment status, age, number of children), ethnic identity and ancestry, and verbal skills.

### Australian Longitudinal Survey and Australian Youth Survey

Geoff Parkinson, Department of Employment, Education and Training (SSDA Nos 642 and 649)

The Australian Longitudinal Survey (ALS) and Australian Youth Survey (AYS) aim to provide data on the dynamics of the youth labour market, and in particular to address questions which are not readily covered with available sources of cross-sectional data. The survey program began in 1984 with a survey of 2403 people registered at the CES, aged 15 to 24 years. This cohort was re-surveyed every year for four years. A second stream, the "area sample" began in 1985 with a sample of 8998 of people from the general community, aged 15 to 24 years. The area sample has been followed every year since. A third longitudinal survey, the Australian Youth Survey, began in 1989 with a population sample of 5350 people aged 16-19 years.

The ALS and AYS cover labour market variables including job history, job search behaviour, job training and transition from school/study to work. Background variables and topics related to the main labour market theme include education, occupation and health. Basic demographic variables include age, sex, size of household, country of birth, racial origin, parental education and occupation, spouse's education, religion, income, and whether resident in an urban or rural area.

The SSDA now has data from the 1991 ALS and AYS. The 1991 ALS (SSDA No. 649) was completed by 2623 individuals. The 1991 AYS (SSDA No. 642) comprises a re-survey of 5801 youth who were first interviewed in 1989 or 1990, plus a new cohort of 1146 sixteen year-olds.

### Other Additions

Australian Bureau of Statistics. **Income and Housing Costs and Amenities, Australia, 1990** (SSDA No. 648)

The 1990 Survey of Income and Housing Costs and Amenities follows on from the Income and Distribution Survey, Australia, 1986 (SSDA Study No. 483) and the Income and Housing Survey 1981-1982 (SSDA Study No. 346). It collects information on various sources of income, details of housing occupancy and costs, labour force information, taxation and superannuation.

The data file contains two different record types - one for income units and one for persons. Questions from the income unit record include

housing loan / rental repayments, rates payments, and the sale price of the dwelling; information on income unit composition; figures at an income unit level from sources such as government pensions and benefits, businesses and trusts, other payments such as workers' compensation, personal investments, superannuation and wages and salary. Individual person records contain similar information on housing; education level and qualifications; individual income from the same sources as listed at the income unit level; labour force status in main and secondary jobs, weeks and hours worked, number of weeks unemployed and occupation; and amount of taxation payable.

Background variables include age, country of birth, marital status, relationship to family, household and income unit head, sex and year of arrival in Australia. Person records can be linked to their appropriate income unit record by the use of an identifier variable, and can be grouped into family and household units in the same way.

Jack Vowles, University of Waikato; Peter Aimer, University of Auckland. **New Zealand Election Survey, 1990** (SSDA No. 650)

This post-election survey focused on voting trends and decision-making in the 1990 New Zealand general election. Voters were questioned on: the importance to them of various issues such as inflation, unemployment, economic growth, defence, health, social welfare, law and order, education; which party was most likely, as a government, to address these issues; opinions on existing policies, leaders of major parties and speed and direction of government actions; trends in respondent's financial status; party identification of respondent and parents; voting in the 1984 and 1987 elections; reasons for and timing of voting decisions.

Background variables include sex, age, country of birth, place of residence, racial, religious and class identity, personal income, marital status, level of education, employment status and supervisory responsibilities of respondent and partner, number of dependent children and household income.

#### Access Category A

Anna Nichols, University of Queensland. **Rural Health Research Register, 1991-1992**. (SSDA No. 651)

The Rural Health Research Register has been designed to record projects initiated in the field of rural health throughout Australia. A major

objective of the register is to support education, training and research programmes in rural health by providing information on the range of research currently completed, assisting in the identification of areas of future interest and providing a means of liaison for research personnel. The development of a substantial and integrated information base in rural health research will assist not only current and intending researchers with a rural health interest, but also those personnel who plan and execute health policy and those concerned with the planning and delivery of training and further education programmes. This service will extend to health care providers and ultimately to the rural community.

Variables include project subject; the source, amount and duration of project funding; the principal researcher(s) and the co-investigators.

Background variables include the profession and position of the researcher, and the institute he or she is associated with.

#### Access Category A

Department of Health, Housing and Community Services. **Cancer of the Cervix: Evaluation of Screening Campaign, 1993**. (SSDA No. 652)

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Respondents were asked whether they had heard of Pap Smear tests; if they had observed any advertising and/or other information on Pap Smears; what they thought the tests were used to detect; the plausibility of reasons for not having Pap Smears; their own reason for not having a Pap Smear; how often they had had Pap Smears in the past and how often they propose to have them in the future; the age and reason when Pap Smears are no longer needed; and whether they

had had an abnormal Pap Smear result.

Background variables include age, whether the respondent is of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent; whether English is the main language spoken in the household; marital status; highest level of education; occupation; annual income; and occupation and annual income of the main income earner.

#### Access Category B

Department of Health and Community Services. **Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drug Use Among Victorian Secondary School Students, 1992** (SSDA No. 767)

In 1985 the Health Department of Victoria conducted a study of drug use patterns and attitudes amongst secondary school students. The objectives of the study were to identify the current alcohol and drug use patterns of Victorian secondary school students, and to look at the relationship between substance use and a number of social and personal indicators. The results of this study were used to assist in determining the appropriate delivery of existing intervention programs and for the development and targeting of future programs. The study was repeated in 1989 and 1992 to identify changes over time, if any, in patterns of usage and attitudes, thus helping to evaluate the effectiveness of established drug programs.

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Background variables included sex, age, place of birth, the year level at school the respondent was currently in, whether the respondent was an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, and if more than one language was spoken at home.

### ICPSR Additions to Holdings

The following titles have been extracted from the ICPSR Bulletin dated May 1993. Datasets are not currently held by the SSDA, but may be