ACSPRI newsletter

Australian Consortium for Social and Political Research Incorporated
Number 42, September 2000 ISSN 0158-6882

incorporating

SSDA news

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

ACSPRI newsletter

SSDA news

This newsletter is available at: **http://ssda.anu.edu.au/acspri/newsletter/**

This newsletter is produced at the Social Science Data Archives, Research School of Social Sciences, The Australian National University, Canberra, ACT, 0200. Phone 02 6249 4400; Fax 02 6249 4722. Articles, letters, research notes, conference information and other contributions are encouraged. Write to the editors at the address listed above, or send by e-mail to ssda@anu.edu.au

This issue of the ACSPRI Newsletter/SSDA News was edited by Sophie Holloway.

ACSPRI WWW Pages
(http://ssda.anu.edu.au/ACSPRI)

The ACSPRI WWW pages provide more accessible, comprehensive, and timely information about ACSPRI services and activities. Web browsers may access the following ACSPRI pages at

(http://ssda.anu.edu.au/acspri):

- **Introduction**
- **Services**
- **Membership**
- **Members**
- **ACSPRI Programs in Social Research Methods**
- **Newsletter**
- **Updates**
- **Contact Information**

The online Newsletter is accessible at least a week before the printed version is posted. An **"amendment to address details"** form is included with the on-line Newsletter for those readers who wish not to receive the printed Newsletter, preferring instead to receive a reminder when the latest on-line version is available.

ACSPRI Membership News

Since the March issue of the Newsletter, ACSPRI has been pleased to welcome **James Cook University** back into the Consortium. The University has announced that **Stephen Crook**, Professor of Sociology in the School of Anthropology, Archaeology and Sociology, Faculty of Arts, Education and Social Sciences, is to be its new Representative. Stephen may be contacted by telephone on 07 4781 6250, or by email on stephen.crook@jcu.edu.au.

A current, complete list of ACSPRI's academic and government members, with contact details for their Representatives, may be found on the ACSPRI web pages :
(http://ssda.anu.edu.au/acspri/members.html).

From 1 July 2000, the Joining Fee for new (or rejoining) members of ACSPRI is $550 (GST inclusive), and the annual subscription is $1067 (GST inclusive).

2001 ACSPRI Summer Program (http://ssda.anu.edu.au/acspri/courses/summer)
The Australian National University
29 January – 9 February 2001

The 17th ACSPRI Summer Program in Social Research Methods and Research Technology (SP2001) will be co-hosted with the Research School of Social Sciences and the Faculties at the Australian National University from 29 January through 9 February 2001.

ACSPRI's 2001 Summer Program will offer the following courses/workshops (with new ones in bold):

Block 1 (introductory level)
3-Day Special Workshop: Improving Survey Quality
Introduction to Statistics
Data Analysis in SPSS
Data Analysis in SAS
Qualitative Techniques for Program Evaluation
Qualitative Research Techniques

Block 2 (intermediate level)
3-Day Special Workshop: Confidence Interval Estimation and Power Analysis
Fundamentals of Multiple Regression
Principal Components and Factor Analysis
Applied Regression Analysis
Social Network Analysis
Risk and Decision Making

Block 3 (advanced level)
Introduction to Structural Equation Modelling (using AMOS)
Introduction to Structural Equation Modelling (using LISREL)
Applied Structural Equation Modelling
Analysis of Categorical Data (Log-linear Models)
Multilevel Analysis with MLwiN and LISREL
Data Mining and Neural Network Analysis
Event History Analysis

Comprehensive information about the 17th Summer Program, including course descriptions, fees, and application procedures, is provided in the **2001 Summer Program Course Booklet**, available on the SSDA/ACSPRI webpages: **(http://ssda.anu.edu.au/acspri/courses/summer)**, or from:

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Data Mining and Neural Network Analysis

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Introductory
In recent years, interest in the techniques of *Data Mining* and *Neural Network Analysis* for analysing large and complex data sets has grown phenomenally. The use of these techniques in business, finance, management and marketing are becoming common. Similarly, as the analytic methodologies underlying these techniques have become more sophisticated, together with similar advances in the supporting software (see StatSoft, 1999), *Data Mining* and *Neural Network Analysis* techniques are being applied successfully in areas as diverse as engineering, geology, physics and medicine, and their utility for investigations in the social sciences is beginning to be realised.

The purpose of the present article is to briefly outline the key features of *Data Mining* and *Neural Network Analysis*. A five-day introductory course in the use of these techniques is being offered as part of the 17th ACSPRI Summer Program in Social Research Methods and Research Technology, at The Australian National University in January-February 2001. For specific details, refer to the ACSPRI Web site: http://ssda.anu.edu.au/acspri/courses/summer/

Data Mining
Data Mining is an analytic process designed to explore large amounts of data in search for consistent patterns and/or systematic relationships between variables, and then to validate the findings by applying the detected patterns to new subsets of data. The process consists of four basic stages: (1) data preparation, (2) exploration, (3) model building (or pattern definition), and (4) validation/verification. Ideally, if the nature of available data allows, it is typically repeated iteratively until a "robust" model is identified. However, in some situations (eg., business) the options to validate the model at the stage of analysis are typically limited and, thus, the initial results often have the status of heuristics that could influence decision processes.

The concept of *Data Mining* is becoming increasingly popular as an *information management* tool where it is expected to reveal knowledge structures that can guide decisions in conditions of limited certainty. Recently, there has been increased interest in developing new analytic techniques specifically designed to address the issues relevant to business *Data Mining* (e.g., *Classification Trees*, *Neural Networks*), but *Data Mining* is still based on the conceptual principles of traditional *Exploratory Data Analysis* and *modelling* and it shares with them both general approaches and specific techniques.

However, an important general difference in the focus and purpose between *Data Mining* and the traditional *Exploratory Data Analysis* is that *Data Mining* is more oriented towards applications than the basic nature of the underlying phenomena. In other words, *Data Mining* is relatively *less* concerned with identifying the specific relations between the involved variables. For example, uncovering the nature of the underlying functions or the specific types of interactive, multivariate dependencies between variables are not the main goal of *Data Mining*. Instead, the focus is on producing a solution that can generate useful predictions. Thus, *Data Mining* accepts among others a 'black box' approach to data exploration or knowledge discovery and uses not only the traditional *Exploratory Data Analysis* (*EDA*) techniques, but also such techniques as *Neural Networks*, which can generate valid predictions but are not capable of identifying the specific nature of the interrelations between the variables on which the predictions are based.

According to Pregibon (1996), *Data Mining* is often considered to be: "...a blend of statistics, AI [artificial intelligence], and data base research" (p. 8), which until recently was not commonly recognized as a field of interest for statisticians, and was even considered by some "a dirty word in Statistics" (Pregibon, 1996, p. 8). Due to its applied importance, however, the field emerges as a rapidly growing and major area where important theoretical and statistical advances are being made (see, for example, the annual *International Conferences on Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining*, co-hosted in 1997 by the *American Statistical Association*).

Representative selections of articles on *Data Mining* can be found in *Proceedings from the American Association of Artificial Intelligence Workshops on Knowledge Discovery in Databases* published by AAAI Press (e.g., Fayyad & Uthurusamy, 1994; Piatetsky-Shapiro, 1993).

Neural Networks and Neural Network Analysis
Neural networks are quantitative models linking inputs and outputs adaptively in a learning process – analogous to that used by the human brain (see Abdi, 1999; Bishop, 1995; Haykin, 1998; Looney, 1997; StatSoft, 1999). The networks consist of *elementary units*, labelled *neurons*, joined by a set

of rules and weights. The units code *characteristics* that appear in *layers*, the first being the *input layer*, and the last being the *output layer*. The data under analysis are processed iteratively through different layers, with learning taking place through alteration of the weights connecting the units. At the final iteration, the association between the input and output patterns is established.

Neural network analysis does not differ *essentially* from standard statistical analysis. For example, Abdi et al. (1999, p. 1) note:

...one can find neural network architectures akin to discriminant analysis, principal component analysis, logistic regression and other techniques. In fact, the same mathematical tools can be used to analyse standard statistical models and neural networks. Neural networks are used as *statistical tools* in a variety of fields, including psychology, statistics, engineering, econometrics, and even physics. They are used also as *models* of cognitive processes by neuro- and cognitive scientists.

Neural networks have seen an explosion of interest over the last few years, and are being successfully applied across an extraordinary range of problem domains, in areas as diverse as finance, medicine, engineering, geology, physics and the social sciences. Indeed, anywhere that there are problems of prediction, classification or control, neural networks are being introduced. This sweeping success can be attributed to a few key factors:

Power. Neural networks are very sophisticated statistical modelling techniques, capable of modelling extremely complex functions. In particular, neural networks are *non-linear*. For many years linear modelling has been the commonly used technique in most modelling domains, since linear models had well-known optimisation strategies. Where the linear approximation was not valid (which was frequently the case) the models suffered accordingly. Neural networks also keep in check the *curse of dimensionality* problem which bedevils attempts to model non-linear functions with large numbers of variables.

Ease of use. Neural networks *learn by example*. The neural network user gathers representative data, and then invokes *training algorithms* to automatically learn the structure of the data. Although the user does need to have some heuristic knowledge of how to select and prepare data, how to select an appropriate neural network, and how to interpret the results, the level of user knowledge needed to successfully apply neural networks is much lower than would be the case using (for example) more traditional statistical methods.

Neural networks are also intuitively appealing, based as they are on a crude low-level model of biological neural systems. The important question is: how do you apply a neural network to solve a problem?

The type of problem amenable to solution by a neural network is defined by the way they *work*, and the way they are *trained*. Neural networks work by feeding in some input variables, and producing some output variables. They can therefore be used where you have some known information, and would like to infer some unknown information.

Another important requirement for the use of a neural network is that an investigator knows (or at least strongly suspects) that there is a relationship between the proposed known inputs and unknown outputs. This relationship may be noisy (one would certainly not expect that the factors given in a stock market prediction, for example, could give an exact prediction, as prices are clearly influenced by other factors not represented in the input set, and there may be an element of pure randomness) but it must exist.

In general, if you were to use a neural network you would typically not know the exact nature of the relationship between inputs and outputs. If the relationship was known, it could be modelled directly. Another key feature of neural networks is that they *learn* the input/output relationship through *training*. There are two types of training used in neural networks, with different types of network using different types of training. These are *supervised* and *unsupervised* training, of which *supervised* is the most common.

In *supervised learning*, the network user assembles a set of *training data*. The training data contains examples of inputs together with the corresponding outputs, and the network learns to infer the relationship between the two. Training data are usually taken from historical records.

The neural network is then *trained* using one of the *supervised learning* algorithms (of which the best known example is *back propagation*, devised by Rumelhart et al., 1986), which uses the data to adjust the network's weights and thresholds to minimize the error in its predictions on the training set. If the network is properly trained, it has then learned to model the (unknown) function which relates the input variables to the output variables, and can subsequently be used to make predictions where the output is *not* known.

Neural networks can then be used in virtually any situation where the objective is to determine an

unknown variable or attribute from known observations or registered measurements (i.e., various forms of regression, classification, and time series), where there is a sufficient amount of historical data, and where there actually exists a tractable underlying relationship or a set of relationships (networks are relatively noise tolerant). In addition, neural networks can be used for exploratory analysis by looking for data clustering (i.e., *Kohonen networks*).

The following list includes a selection of representative examples that by no means exhaust all areas where neural networks can and have been used successfully:

Language analysis (e.g., using unsupervised techniques to identify key phrases, words, etc. in native languages)

Optical Character Recognition, including Signature Recognition (e.g., a company has developed a device which identifies signatures, using not just appearance but also pen-velocity while signing, which makes it more difficult to perpetrate fraud)

Image Processing (e.g., a system was developed which scanned images of London subway stations, and could tell if the station was Full, Empty, Half-Full etc., and was invariant across light conditions and presence/absence of trains)

Financial Time Series Prediction (e.g., LBS Capital Management claims to have significantly improved trading performance using Multilayer Perceptrons to predict stock prices)

Speech synthesis from text (e.g., the famous early experiment was *Nettalk*, which learned to produce phonemes from written text)

Credit Worthiness (a classic problem - decide whether someone is a good credit risk, based on questionnaire information)

Bulk mail targeting (i.e., identify customers who are more likely to respond positively to a mail-out, based on database information)

Detection and evaluation of medical phenomena (e.g., detection of epileptic attacks, estimation of prostate tumor size)

Condition monitoring of machinery (e.g., detecting when something has gone wrong with a machine based on vibration or acoustic signatures, so that preventative maintenance can be scheduled)

Chaotic Time Series Prediction (a number of researchers have demonstrated good prediction capability on chaotic time series data)

Process control (e.g., monitoring industrial process machinery and continuously adjusting control parameters)

Engine management systems (estimating fuel consumption from sensor measurements and adjusting - a form of process control)

Stock market prediction (You know last week's stock prices and today's FTSE index; you want to know tomorrow's stock prices)

Credit assignment (You want to know whether an applicant for a loan is a good or bad credit risk. You know their income, previous credit history, etc. because you ask them these things)

Control (You want to know whether a robot should turn left, turn right or move forwards in order to reach a target; you know the scene which the robot's camera is currently observing).

Suffice to say, *Data Mining* and *Neural Network Analysis* are powerful data-analytic tools that are growing in popularity in terms of their investigative utility for many fields of inquiry. An understanding of this utility is vital for any investigator wishing to keep abreast of current and emerging techniques and applications that assist in analyzing complex data sets.

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ACSPRI's 7th Winter Program at the University of Queensland

ACSPRI held its 2000 Winter Program in Social Research Methods and Research Technology at the University of Queensland during the week of 3 – 7 July. The Program, the third to be held at UQ, was again co-hosted by that University's Faculty of Business, Economics and Law (BEL), which in conjunction with the Department of Geographical Sciences and Planning and the Department of Psychology, provided computing facilities and technical support for the Program. As at the last Program held at UQ in 1998, BEL's Centre for Public Administration provided exceptional administrative support.

The 2000 Program featured a new Applied Structural Equation Modelling course, introduced to meet the increasing demand for more advanced, applied instruction in SEM techniques, as well as seven other courses previously offered at ACSPRI Summer and Winter Programs. With 136 participants in eight courses (average enrolment was 17), the UQ Program was ACSPRI's largest Winter Program to date.

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Factor Analysis and Regression	19
Fundamentals of Multiple Regression	20
Introduction to SEM using LISREL	17
Introduction to Statistics	16
Multilevel SEM with MLwiN and LISREL	8
Qualitative Research Techniques	23

Seventy-five percent of all Program participants came from Queensland, an increase of 44% from the 1998 Winter Program at UQ. Of these Queensland participants, over 80% were from the University of Queensland (32), Queensland University of Technology (21), Griffith University (14), and the University of Southern Queensland (14). Nearly 80% of the 69 full-time, post-graduate students (FTPGs) in attendance, representing 50% of all Program participants (doubling the highest previous proportion at an ACSPRI Winter Program), came from these four Queensland universities (twenty of twenty-one QUT participants at the Program were FTPGs). All states and territories, however, were represented by at least one participant, with NSW (17) and Victoria (7) sending the most from interstate.

On campus accommodation for the Program was provided by Women's College and Emmanuel College. The University Union catered morning and afternoon tea/coffee, and the Monday evening reception was held at the University Staff and Graduate Club. The unofficial Program dinner was held on Wednesday evening at the Sirocco Mediterranean Restaurant, at Southbank, on the Brisbane River.

ACSPRI is again grateful to its instructors for their fine teaching, the University of Queensland for its strong administrative, technical and catering support, and participants for their enthusiastic involvement in the 2000 Winter Program.

ACSPRI Special Workshops at Beechworth

The new Beechworth campus of La Trobe University has been the venue for two recent ACSPRI 3-Day Special Workshops co-hosted by La Trobe University. Structural Equation Modelling (using AMOS), conducted by Philip Holmes-Smith on the weekend of 5-7 May, and Qualitative Research Approaches and Techniques, conducted by Carol Grbich on the weekend of 9-11 September, provided nearly equivalent content scope as their counterpart, 5-day courses taught at ACSPRI Summer and Winter Programs.

The Structural Equation Modelling (using AMOS) workshop in May attracted a total of thirteen participants, the majority of whom were from Victorian universities. La Trobe campuses contributed seven, Monash University two, and Deakin and VUT one each, while the two non-Victorian participants came from Charles Sturt University and the University of Western Australia, respectively.

The September, Qualitative Research Approaches and Techniques workshop had 15 participants: five from Charles Sturt, four from La Trobe and one each from the ANU, University of Canberra, James Cook University, University of Queensland, UTS, and the Commonwealth Department of Family and Community Services.

Both instructors and participants concurred that the three-day, weekend 'retreat' format of the workshops in Beechworth afforded an intense, concentrated and collegial learning experience. They also agreed that the 'resort-style facility' at Beechworth provides a 'first class venue' for ACSPRI 3-Day Special Workshops.

ACSPRI thanks Ian Burke, Program Director at the Beechworth campus, and his staff for their excellent support during the workshops, Brian Graetz, La Trobe's ACSPRI Representative, for helping to facilitate them, and Philip Holmes-Smith and Carol Grbich for providing exceptional instruction.

Postgraduate Research Training

The University of Canberra is running a range of short research training intensives to complement the summer ACSPRI courses in Canberra. These are targeted at research postgraduates in the social sciences and humanities, and will be scheduled during late January and early February 2001. Some 20 two-day modules will be offered on topics such as writing and editing skills for theses, storytelling and narrative analysis, use of libraries in thesis research, using electronic documents, and questionnaire design. Special discounts for ACSPRI participants. For more information check this site: http://pmp.canberra.edu.au or contact Dr David Tait at dbt@management.canberra.edu.au.

Release 8 of the British Household Panel Study 97/98

Data from Release Eight of the BHPS is now available from the [UK] Data Archive. This latest release includes the Eighth Wave of BHPS data collected in the Autumn and Winter of 1997/8. It incorporates the core data collected at each wave so far, and the responses from the continuing Youth Survey introduced at Wave Four.

The British Household Panel Survey (BHPS) is being carried out by the Institute for Social and Economic Research (incorporating the ESRC Research Centre on Micro-social Change) at the University of Essex. The main objective of the survey is to further our understanding of social and economic change at the individual and household level in Britain, to identify, model and forecast such changes, their causes and consequences in relation to a range of socio-economic variables. The BHPS is designed as a research resource for a wide range of social science disciplines and to support interdisciplinary research in many areas.

RELEASE EIGHT OF THE BHPS URL: http://www.iser.essex.ac.uk/bhps/bhpsug/announce.php [18 Aug 00].

ACSPRI Newsletter is online!
Send us your email address and we'll notify you when the latest edition is available.
For those of you with access to the internet this is the best way to receive the newsletter it will offer you more up-to-date information and its environmentally friendly!

National Survey of Midlife Development in the United States (MIDUS), 1995-96 (ICPSR 2760)

ABSTRACT
The National Survey of Midlife Development in the United States (MIDUS) is a collaborative, interdisciplinary investigation of patterns, predictors, and consequences of midlife development in the areas of physical health, psychological well-being, and social responsibility. Respondents were drawn from a nationally representative random-digit-dial sample of noninstitutionalized, English-speaking adults, aged 25-74, selected from working telephone banks in the coterminous United States. Those queried participated in an initial telephone interview and responded to a mail questionnaire.

Part 1, Main Data, contains responses from the main survey of 4,242 respondents. Respondents were asked to provide extensive information on their physical and mental health throughout their adult lives, and to assess the ways in which their lifestyles, including relationships and work-related demands, contributed to the conditions experienced. Those queried were asked to describe their histories of physical ailments, including heart-related conditions and cancer, as well as the treatment and/or lifestyle changes they went through as a result. A series of questions addressed alcohol, tobacco, and illegal drug use, and focused on history of use, regularity of use, attempts to quit, and how the use of those substances affected respondents' physical and mental well-being. Additional questions addressed respondents' sense of control over their health, their awareness of changes in their medical conditions, commitment to regular exercise and a healthy diet, experience with menopause, the decision-making process used to deal with health concerns, experiences with nontraditional remedies or therapies, and history of attending support groups. Respondents were asked to compare their overall well-being with that of their peers and to describe social, physical, and emotional characteristics typical of adults in their 20s, 40s, and 60s. Information on the work histories of respondents and their significant others was also elicited, with items covering the nature of their occupations, work-related physical and emotional demands, and how their personal health had correlated to their jobs. An additional series of questions focusing on

childhood queried respondents regarding the presence/absence of their parents, religion, rules/ punishments, love/affection, physical/verbal abuse, and the quality of their relationships with their parents and siblings. Respondents were also asked to consider their personal feelings of accomplishment, desire to learn, their sense of control over their lives, their interests, and their hopes for the future.

Part 2, Siblings Data, contains data from a survey of 951 respondents, each of whom was a sibling of a respondent in Part 1, the Main file. These siblings participated in the same assessments as the respondents.

Part 3, Twins Data, presents data from a separate national survey unrelated to the main MIDUS survey. From this separate national survey, a total of 1,996 twins agreed to participate. The Twins respondents were given the same assessments as the Main and Siblings samples. Additionally, the Twins sample was asked a series of questions about their birth, shared physical characteristics, childhood and adult relationships with their twin, whether they were dressed alike as children, and whether others experienced difficulty identifying them correctly.

Part 4, Main: Weights, for Respondents Completing Both the Telephone Survey and Mail Questionnaire, contains respondent weights for those who completed both the initial telephone survey and the mail questionnaire.

Part 5, Main: Weights for Respondents Completing at Least the Telephone Survey, contains respondent weights for those who completed at least the telephone survey.

Information in Part 6, Siblings: ID Match, enables the user to link a respondent in the Siblings file with his/her sibling in the Main file by ID number. Background information on respondents includes age, sex, education, religion, marital status, employment status, age of children, household income, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, height, weight, insurance coverage, spouse's employment status and occupation, parents' occupation history and age of death, and respondents' childhood experiences.

These data and relating documentation are now freely available for download from the ICPSR archive. Go to http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/ for more information.

The Panel Study of Income Dynamics

The Panel Study of Income Dynamics (PSID), begun in 1968, is a longitudinal study of a representative sample of U.S. individuals (men, women, and children) and the family units in which they reside. It emphasizes the dynamic aspects of economic and demographic behavior, but its content is broad, including sociological and psychological measures. As a consequence of low attrition rates and the success in following young adults as they form their own families and recontact efforts (of those declining an interview in prior years), the sample size has grown from 4,800 families in 1968 to 6,434 in 1999. As of 1997, the PSID had collected information about more than 60,000 individuals spanning as much as 30 years of their lives.

The data are collected annually, and the data files contain the full span of information collected over the course of the study. PSID data can be used for cross-sectional, longitudinal, and intergenerational analysis and for studying both individuals and families.

Panel Study of Income Dynamics. URL: http:// www.isr.umich.edu/src/psid. [1 September 2000].

Release 3 of 1968-1997 Early-Release Individual File and Release 3 of the 1993 Final Release Family File are now freely available for download from PSID at: http://www.isr.umich.edu/src/psid/.

CHANGE OF PHONE NUMBERS

In late **December**, the ANU is changing its phone numbers. While the prefix changes from 6249 to 6125, the extensions will remain the same.

The new contact number for ACSPRI will be

02 6125 4400

Centre for Tax System Integrity

The Centre for Tax System Integrity (CTSI) is a specialized research unit set up as a partnership between the Australian National University and the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) to extend our understanding of how and why cooperation and contestation within the tax system occurs. The CTSI comprises senior academic staff from the Research School of Social Sciences, several research and postdoctoral fellows, postgraduate students, project officers, research assistants, and ATO secondments. Dr Valerie Braithwaite is the Director of CTSI and is responsible for coordinating research activities.

The CTSI is part of the Regulatory Institutions Network (RegNet) which aims to build research excellence in regulation, broadly conceived to include regulatory structures in both public and private arenas. By examining the regulatory domain of taxation, the Centre aims to improve the integrity of the tax system, improve the ATO's compliance management strategies and processes, and contribute internationally to scholarship in the field of tax administration and regulation more generally.

The work of the CTSI examines the needs, values, attitudes and behaviours of all key players in the tax system from tax officers themselves, through tax payers and tax agents, to those who are beneficiaries of the tax system. The Centre's research activities encompass three foundational projects: (1) building a cooperative tax paying culture, focusing on issues such as social capital, civic engagement and democracy, perceptions of the legitimacy and fairness of the tax office, and motivation to comply or avoid tax; (2) the application and effectiveness of regulatory pyramids and their effectiveness in integrating strategies of persuasion and deterrence; and (3) risk leveraging research for improving tax compliance through building a base for evidence-based tax administration.

Further details of the research underway in the Centre can be found at the CTSI website at http:// ctsi.anu.edu.au. The Centre welcomes graduate students and visitors under its visitor programs. A Conference with the theme "Building a cooperative taxpaying culture" is to be held at the Australian National University on the 4-5th December. All enquiries should be directed to Tina Murphy on (02) 6249 4438.

Conferences

Australian Institute of Criminology Conferences - 2000

The Australian Institute of Criminology is a unique national organisation, the work of which aims to explore, describe and explain issues of public policy significance. The AIC conducts in-house research and also brings together researchers and practitioners to work co-operatively in building onto our knowledge base.

Crime Mapping: Adding Value to Crime Prevention and Control, Adelaide

20 - 21 September 2000

This conference aims to discuss current and potential uses of computerised mapping and associated GIS technologies in adding value to public policy and practice in the fields of crime prevention and crime control. It will be organised around 3 major topics:

- Mapping for crime prevention,
- Mapping for crime control (policing, police operations and police investigations), and
- Mapping for regional comparisons of crime.

This will be an important forum of interest to policy makers, local governments, police officers and crime prevention practitioners, GIS professionals and social scientists.

Women in Corrections: Staff and Clients, Adelaide

31 October - 1 November 2000

The aims of this conference will be to discuss, examine and compare the roles and needs of women in the corrections environment. The conference will focus on two specific groups: Women as staff; and Women as clients.

The role of the female correctional officer is demanding and challenging. Likewise, women working in other professional capacities within

correctional institutions require certain human and technical skills to work efficiently and effectively with their inmate population. These roles and challenges will vary considerably depending on the gender composition within their correctional environment as well as on many other factors. On the other hand, male correctional and professional staff working with female inmates are confronted with another range of diverse challenges and responsibilities.

Women as clients, or female prisoners, are increasingly contributing to a larger proportion of the total prison population. Unfortunately a significant amount of the research over the years has focussed on the larger male prisoner population. Only in more recent years has there been a noticeable focus on addressing the unique needs of female prisoners.

Reducing Car Theft: How Low Can We Go? Adelaide

30 November - 1 December 2000

This conference aims to explore strategic approaches to preventing car theft in Australia. Specifically, the conference will encourage participants to look beyond past and current theft reduction strategies to examine innovative solutions to achieve significant reductions in Australia's unacceptably high rate of vehicle theft.

The conference will bring together those in the insurance industry and the motor trades, as well as government representatives, criminal justice agencies, and academics.

Topics to be covered at the conference will include:

- The nature and extent of car theft in Australia and overseas
- Opportunistic and professional car theft
- Rebirthing and the illegal spare parts trade
- Public perceptions and the cost of car theft
- Young people and stealing cars
- Prevention and technology
- Insurance industry practices
- The role of the motor industry
- Criminal justice - legislation and sanctions
- What can be done at the local level
- Identifying new strategies to deliver significant reductions in vehicle theft rates within 3-5 years .

Speakers at the conference will include leading industry and government officials as well as academic researchers.

Stalking Conference, Sydney

7 - 8 December 2000

This conference aims to investigate the relatively "new" crime of stalking. Although stalking-type behaviours have been documented for a long time, legislation specifically designed to protect individuals from stalking was only introduced in Australia in the early to mid 1990s.

Given the relatively recent nature of the "crime", empirical studies of the stalking phenomenon are relatively few. In order to address this lacuna, this conference aims to cover the current empirical, social and legal attempts to deal with a crime that incorporates such diverse realms as psychiatric disorders, gender relations and cyber technology.

The conference will include the following major topics:

- Categories in Explaining Stalking
- Social Expressions of Stalking
- Legislative and Criminal Justice Responses To Stalking
- Relationship Between Stalking and Domestic Violence
- Future Protection/Prevention

Contact: Conference Co-ordinators, PO Box 139, CALWELL ACT 2905.
Tel: (02) 6292 9000. Fax: (02) 6292 9002.
Email: conference@netinfo.com.au.
URL: http://www.aic.gov.au/conferences/index.html

Australian Psychological Society Annual Conference, Canberra

3 – 7 October 2000

This year's Australian Psychological Society Annual Conference, held in association with the International Society of Sport Psychology, offers an exciting, high quality five-day program designed to appeal to both a professional and scientific audience. Scheduled back-to-back with the Sydney 2000 Olympics, the conference program

highlights sport and exercise psychology as well as covering a diverse range of subjects including mental processes and cognition and memory and beliefs.

Contact: The Conference Coordinator, Australian Psychological Society Ltd, PO Box 126, CARLTON SOUTH VIC 3053. Tel: (03) 8662 3300. Fax: (03) 9663 6177. Email: confer@psychsociety.com.au. URL: http://www.psychsociety.com.au/news/conferences/canberra/canb_frame.htm.

ACER Research Conference 2000, Improving numeracy learning: What does the research tell us? Brisbane

16 - 17 October 2000

Each year the ACER annual national Research Conference provides Australian educators with a unique opportunity to review the current state of knowledge in a key area of educational policy or practice. This year the focus of the conference is on improving numeracy learning in schools.

Numeracy learning is the subject of strong professional interest among policy makers and practitioners at all levels of education.

The 2000 ACER Research Conference brings together leading numeracy researchers who will identify major research findings which, in the current context, indicate critical directions, priorities and issues to be addressed in improving students' numeracy learning. The program will include focus group sessions in which participants will be able to consider these research findings in relation to their own work in various educational settings.

Outstanding international and national numeracy researchers will review findings in critical areas of research, including:

- Numeracy learning in the early and middle years of schooling
- International numeracy assessment programs
- Mental computation skills and number sense
- Improving numeracy learning for Indigenous students
- Ways of describing growth in numeracy.

Contact: Ms Jennie Armato-Martin, c/- ACER, Private Bag 55, Camberwell Vic 3124. Tel: (03) 9277 5555. Fax: (03) 9277 5500. Mobile: 0407 333 926. Email: armato@acer.edu.au. URL: http://www.acer.edu.au/acer/workshops/index.html.

APDU 2000 Conference, "25 Years of Commitment To Public Data". Arlington, VA

22 - 25 October 2000

This year's conference focuses on 25 years of exploring the many facets of public data. We at APDU are proud to continue identifying public data needs; maintaining communication between data users and data producers; and voicing the concerns of public data users.

We will take a look at a diverse set of public data issues, including Census 2000 data products; adding value to public data; the pros and cons of sampling; and E-commerce and the electronic economy. We will also unveil our new web site and take a look an historic look at APDU through the eyes of its past presidents.

The conference will open with a welcoming reception on Sunday followed by three days of sessions, luncheon speakers and panels. On Monday evening, there will be a membership mixer in the hotel. On Thursday there will be a full day workshop.

Contact: Jocelyn Tipton, Booth Library, Eastern Illinois University, 600 Lincoln Ave, Charleston, IL 61920. Tel: 217-581-7542. Fax 217-581-6911. Email: cfjtt@eiu.edu. URL: http://www.apdu.org

Conference on Cross-National Comparative Research Using Panel Surveys, Michigan

26 - 27 October 2000

The Board of Overseers of the Panel Study of Income Dynamics (PSID), the Technical Review Committee of the National Longitudinal Surveys (NLS), and the Health and Retirement Study (HRS) are jointly sponsoring a conference on comparative research using international panel surveys with funding from the National Science Foundation, the Bureau of Labor Statistics, and the National Institute on Aging.

The main purpose of the conference is to advance basic research on the value and use of panel surveys for international comparative research. While panel surveys such as the PSID and NLS have been ongoing for more than thirty years, there have been an increasing number of important panels fielded during the last decade in the United States, among them HRS. Moreover, many European countries and countries in Asia and South America have launched panel surveys during this time, some with the explicit intention of facilitating international comparisons.

The conference is intended as a vehicle to encourage researchers in the social sciences to use panel surveys to address critical scientific and policy issues that would be better informed by international comparisons and the variation in policy environments across countries.

Contact: Donna Nordquist, Panel Study of Income Dynamics, Institute for Social Research, PO Box 1248, Ann Abour, MI 48106-1248. Fax: 734 647 4575. Email: intlconf@isr.umich.edu. URL: http://www.isr.umich.edu/src/psid/ConferenceAndWorkshop.html

Effective Teaching and Learning at University, University of Queensland, Brisbane

9 - 10 November 2000

This conference is the third in a series of conferences on Effective Teaching and Learning at University. The first two were on Effective Assessment at University (1998) and Effective Courses / Effective Teaching at University (1999).

Information about each of these conferences, as well as programs, conference papers and abstracts may be found on their websites.This series of conferences was developed from TEDI's previous series of annual In House Conferences on Teaching and Learning, which commenced in 1994.

The Effective Teaching and Learning at University conferences provide an opportunity for university teachers to exchange ideas about their practice and reflections on teaching and learning at university. People attending and contributing to the 1998 and 1999 conferences were mainly from universities in the Brisbane area, with a number coming from elsewhere in Queensland and further afield in Eastern Australia.

Contact: Teaching and Educational Development Institute, The University of Queensland Brisbane, Queensland 4072. Tel: (07) 3365 2788. Email: tedi@mailbox.uq.edu.au

"Digital Strategies - 2000" National Archives at College Park, Maryland

16 - 17 November 2000

NARA is an independent U.S. Federal agency that helps preserve American history by overseeing the management of all Federal records. This conference is divided into six sessions

Session 1 : The Emerging National Information Infrastructure

This session will describe forces that are promoting change, major directions in research in computer and information science and engineering, and the technologies that appear to be key to the emerging national information infrastructure. The session will seek a balance between giving a broad overview of key technologies and showing their potential in creation, management, and use of records.

Session 2 : Building on the Information Infrastructure: NARA Initiatives

This session will describe NARA initiatives to tap into the enabling technologies of the next generation NII to improve management, preservation and access to electronic records.

Session 3 : Education

Educators, students, systems designers, and information professionals are working together and using digital tools to create the educational forum of tomorrow. Collaboration is the underlying force in most of today's electronic education initiatives, where emphasis is placed on sharing knowledge, enhancing curricula, and expanding technological methodologies.

Session 4 : Digital Government: Issues, Strategies, Prospects

Governments have developed effective strategies for the management of electronic records and other digital information, often as part of broader information policy development initiatives. This session will discuss the impact of the move toward "e-government," development and administration of electronic records programs, web-supported

applications and services, and other impacts of the rising reliance on digital information.

Session 5 : Digital Data

"Born digital" data was the first type of digital source material; today it is a major category of primary source material, even as the universe of digital materials expands exponentially. The projected importance of XML as an enabling technology in the NII offers immense prospects for tapping the robust, large scale and flexible capabilities of data-based technologies for managing and accessing data stored in a variety of formats. New technologies also create opportunities for records creators, archives, and libraries to collaborate in offering services for digital data.

Session 6 : Building on the Information Infrastructure II

This session will describe other initiatives to tap into enabling technologies of the next generation NII such as digital libraries, e-commerce, and records management.

Contact: National Archives and Records Administration, NW - room 3400, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, MD 20740-6001. Email:digital.strat@arch2.nara.gov. URL: http://www.nara.gov/digital.html

Australian Population Association 10th Biennial National Conference, Melbourne

29 November - 1 December 2000

The Australian Population Association was formed in 1980 and currently has some 300 individual members and a corporate membership of more than 80. The main aims of the Association are: to encourage the exchange of information between individuals and organisations in population and related fields, to provide a forum for the discussion of population issues, and to promote population research and education particularly in Australia and the Asia-Pacific region.

The themes of this conference are: Global cities: nodes in the international information network or choked megalopolises?, Immigration: symbolic analysts on the move or victims of push factors in a new era of instability?, and Population futures: green growth or high-rise dystopia?

Contact: Katharine Betts, Program Convenor, APA Conference, School of Social and Behavioural Science, Swinburne University of Technology, PO Box 218, Hawthorn VIC 3122. E-mail: Katharine Betts - kbetts@swin.edu.au. URL: http://www.gisca.adelaide.edu.au/apa/.

AARE Sydney 2000 Conference, Education Research: Towards an Optimistic Future, Sydney

4 - 7 December 2000

The 31st AARE annual conference, will focus on the challenges and opportunities for educational research. It will foster educational awareness, collaborative research links and inspire new research directions at a national and international level. This year the program will include a strong creative dimension.

The theme can be addressed in many ways including examination of issues related to: Civics/ citizenship/identity; Higher education; Public/private education; Languages and new literacies; Schools; an optimistic future; Motivation; Gender; Early childhood;Re-visioning learning; Creative arts;Cooperative research and partnerships; Leadership; Sustaining change; Virtual schools/ education; Multiculturalism; Power; Research with schools; Continuing education for the profession; Information technology and Teacher education

Contact: AARE Sydney 2000 Conference Secretariat, Faculty of Education, The University of Sydney 2006. Tel: 02 9351 6311. Fax: 02 9351 6249. URL: http://www.edfac.usyd.edu.au/projects/aare2000.

The Australian Sociological Association Conference, TASA 2000, Adelaide

6 - 8 December 2000

The themes of this conference cover: Governance of populations; Culture and Social Theory; Politics, Social; Race and Ethnicity; Social Ecology; Family and life Cycle; Gender and Sexuality; Health Sociology; Embodying the Everyday; Space and Place; Work and Stratification and Professional Forum

Contact: Hartley Management Group, PO Box 20, Kent Town SA 5071. Tel: (08) 8363 4399. Fax: (08) 8363 4577. Email: sociology@hartleymgt.com.au. URL: http://www.ssn.flinders.edu.au/soci/Tasa/.

Information Online 2001 Tenth Exhibition & Conference, Sydney

16 - 18 January 2001

Australasia's leading online information conference and exhibition, INFORMATION ONLINE 2001 will be held at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour, Australia, from the 16 to the 18 January, 2001.

The Conference is sponsored by the Information Science Section of the Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA). The 1999 conference drew an audience of over 1250 delegates and 67 exhibitors representing leading Australian and international suppliers of online and CD-ROM information systems and services.

INFORMATION ONLINE 2001, provides a dynamic forum for networking with experts, colleagues and vendors in a dynamic information environment – a virtual world, redesigning the way we live, think and use information.

Contact: Tour Hosts Pty Limited, Level 4, 66 King Street, Sydney NSW 2000. Tel: 61 2 9262 2277. Fax: 61 2 9262 2323. Email: online2001@tourhosts.com.au. URL: http://www.csu.edu.au/special/online2001/index.html

International Union for the Scientific Study of Population XXIVth General Population Conference of the IUSSP, Salvador, Brazil

20 - 24 August 2001

At the kind invitation of the National Commission on Population and Development (NCPD) and the Brazilian Association for Population Studies (ABEP), and with the full support of the Government of Brazil and the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), the IUSSP XXIVth General Population Conference of the IUSSP will take place at the Bahia Convention Centre, Salvador, Bahia, Brazil.

The Conference will be held from Monday 20th August to Friday 24th August 2001 with the preceding Sunday reserved for a special meeting on Brazilian Demography. Registration will start on Saturday 18th August 2001.

The Scientific Programme comprises one plenary session, 67 regular sessions on broad themes and various special sessions. The last slot of each day will be exclusively devoted to a debate session on a particularly controversial topic which should generate intensive discussion. In addition, poster sessions and other types of meetings will be scheduled.

The Conference is open to all interested individuals. It is not necessary to be a member of the IUSSP to submit a paper for presentation at the Conference or to participate in other ways in the meeting. Prospective participants who are not yet IUSSP members are strongly encouraged to apply for membership. (The registration fee is significantly higher for non-members with the difference being more than the annual membership dues.)

Contact: Pierre Alderson, Conference Co-ordinator, International Union for the Scientific Study of Population, 34, rue des Augustins, 4000 Liège – Belgium. Tel: +(32) 4 222 40 80. Fax: +(32) 4 222 38 47. Email: Alderson@iussp.org. URL: http://www.iussp.org/Brazil2001/.

Change of Address?

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email: ssda@anu.edu.au

or phone us on 02 6249 4400

SSDA News

Staff News

Since the March Newsletter, Cristian Torres has left the SSDA to concentrate on his studies. Fiona Hill has joined the SSDA team as an Undergraduate Research Assistant.

SSDA Web Pages

(http://ssda.anu.edu.au)

The SSDA Web pages are a main point of user contact with SSDA services and staff. These pages are updated regularly.

- **About the SSDA** - describes our function to preserve machine readable data and facilitate secondary analysis of data.
- **Accessing our Data** - includes online data order form.
- **Data Holdings** - complete, searchable catalogue of all SSDA Australian Studies, Polls, and Census holdings.
- **Depositing Data** - provides information for data deposit procedures with the SSDA.
- **Online User's Guides** - a growing library of all SSDA Special User's Guides.
- **Downloading Data** - our primary means of data distribution.
- **Online Analysis** - OASSIS allows basic statistical analysis of our most popular data sets.
- **SSDA Staff** - telephone numbers and email addresses for all SSDA/ACSPRI staff members.
- **SSDA/ACSPRI Updates** - provides updates of new releases and other information that may interest our visitors.

General enquiries can be directed to Email: ssda@anu.edu.au or telephone 02 6249 4400.

CHANGE OF PHONE NUMBERS

In late **December**, the ANU is changing its phone numbers. While the prefix changes from 6249 to 6125, the extensions remain the same.

The new contact number for the SSDA will be

02 6125 4400

LONGITUDINAL DATA IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

This article was contributed by Karen Wilson, Longitudinal Data Section, Strategic Policy and Analysis Branch, FaCS.

Investing in the long-term development of evidence based social policies that will serve the ever changing needs of the Australian public is key priority for the Department of Family and Community Services (FaCS). The department's responsibilities include:

- Income security policy
- Family support services, including the children's services program
- Family relationship services
- Support for homeless people
- Disability services programs
- Housing policy
- The child support program and
- Rehabilitation services.

FaCS spends over $50 billion each year on more than 121 individual payments and on services or programs that affect more than 30 per cent of the Australian population.

FaCS' efforts focus on three key social policy outcomes – stronger families, stronger communities, and economic and social participation. The department's research and evaluation program supports all aspects of policy development aimed at achieving these outcomes. The emphasis in contemporary social policy is on how to ensure or facilitate beneficial changes in attitudes or behaviours. Understanding the processes that cause or are related to such changes is therefore a critical requirement for well-informed, evidence-based social policy advice and design. Understanding such processes requires research and analysis in which people are followed longitudinally.

A longitudinal data set contains information about each individual or household at more than one point in time. Compared to cross sectional data,

longitudinal data sets enable much richer policy analysis and research to be conducted, especially about change (such as in income, employment and family relationships) over time. Such data enables the effects of different types of policy interventions to be evaluated over time, and helps inform policy initiatives that focus on prevention and early intervention.

An example of the advantages of longitudinal data

Recent reporting of a study showed that the distribution of earnings for Australian women had become significantly more unequal, with women in the bottom ten per cent of the distribution earning less than they had several years before. Some reports implied that the women at the bottom of the distribution recently were the same women who were at the bottom of the distribution several years before, and their earnings had actually fallen over the period. Other data would suggest that the widening of the distribution reflects increasing participation of women in the labour market, along with the earnings of those who would not have participated in the past being lower than the earnings of those who would have participated in the past. A much richer understanding could have been achieved if longitudinal data was available to test and elaborate on these competing views.

The Commonwealth Government has recently invested in two important longitudinal studies in Australia – the Household, Income and Labour Dynamics of Australia (HILDA) Survey, and the Longitudinal Study of Australian Children (LSAC). Both of these studies are being managed through FaCS, although the data sets are of considerable interest across many Government portfolios and across many levels of government.

The Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) Survey is a major longitudinal survey of Australian households to be conducted over a four year period. The primary objective of the HILDA survey is to support research around three inter-related objectives:

1. Income dynamics
2. Labour market dynamics
3. Family dynamics.

It is anticipated that data from HILDA will enable researchers and policy makers to:

- Explore the interdependencies and interrelationships between the various choices made by individuals and households
- Explore the constraints/events faced by individuals and households
- Investigate the impact of various life events and
- Examine the contextual determinants of change.

HILDA is to be managed by a consortium headed by the Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research, University of Melbourne, whose partners are the Australian Council of Educational Research and Australian Institute of Family Studies. The Principal Investigator for HILDA is Professor Mark Wooden of the Melbourne Institute.

The survey will be conducted in two stages. In Stage One, the Principal Investigator will, over a period of 12 months, develop and refine the survey approach in terms of content and design (including pilot testing). This will be an iterative and consultative process undertaken with FaCS and the broader government and research community.

Stage Two of the survey will involve three waves of data collection and preparation of the data for analysis. Wave 1 of the data collection is expected to commence in July 2001, Wave 2 in July 2002 and Wave 3 in July 2003. Data will be collected from an expected 8,000 households across Australia.

For more information on HILDA, contact Professor Mark Wooden on (03) 8344 8882 or Karen Wilson on (02) 6244 7545 (*karen.wilson@facs.gov.au*).

The Longitudinal Study of Australian Children is to be a comprehensive, national longitudinal study of children and their families to inform Government policy on early childhood. The study is part of the Government's Stronger Families and Communities Strategy (SFCS) that aims to establish new partnerships to strengthen families and communities, and develop and deliver solutions at a local level.

The study's focus is to be on collection of data to assist in developing effective early intervention and prevention strategies in areas of health, parenting, family relationships, early childhood education, child care and family support.

A total of $20.2 million has been allocated to the study over 9 years, and this investment indicates the importance the Commonwealth Government places on the early years of childhood.

The first twelve months of the study will be a developmental phase. This involves:

1. The collection and refinement of pertinent research questions through literature searches and an extensive consultation process ;
2. The planning and conduct of extensive consultations with Commonwealth and State governments, academics, subject matter and technical experts, international longitudinal panel study investigators, research institutions, early intervention and other peak bodies and;
3. The preparation of a Request for Proposal, to be released in December 2000.

Advice and input to the study will be sought from a LSAC Reference Group. This Group will operate as e-mail discussion group and form the basis for establishing workshops to discuss specific aspects of the study. People interested in joining the reference group should send an email with their contact details, affiliation and general interest in the study to lsac@facs.gov.au. For more information, contact Jean Gifford on (02) 6244 6057 or *jean.gifford@facs.gov.au*.

Both the HILDA and LSAC data set will be available to researchers, although the policy surrounding the release of the data has not yet been decided.

FaCS' commitment to longitudinal data is also evident by its investment in two other data collections – the General Customer Survey and the FaCS Longitudinal Administrative Data Set.

The General Customer Survey collects a range of data from social security and family support recipients to facilitate policy analysis and development. In particular, it will enable FaCS to examine important pathways for its customers, such as school to work, unemployment to work, work to retirement, and the social participation of aged people. The telephone survey was developed in 1999, and data collection began in April this year. Data is collected on family and household, education, children and child care, employment, retirement, disability and caring, income and resources. It is a voluntary survey with both cross-sectional and longitudinal aspects. All respondents are included in the panel for two-follow-up interviews at twelve-month intervals. The survey follows respondents as they move off or between payments, or between addresses over the two-year life of the panel. Data for unemployed people is collected in four quarterly waves each year.

Eventually, FaCS hopes to make the General Customer Survey data set available to researchers, subject to approval of a research proposal and access to the data set through a FaCS State Office. For more information, contact Peter Robinson (02) 6244 6936 or *peter.robinson@facs.gov.au*.

The FaCS Longitudinal Administrative Data Set (LDS) contains a record of the interaction of every person on income support and family payments in the social security system. The LDS is a research tool that enables FaCS to determine the effects of changes to FaCS programs and to understand the dynamic behaviour of social security customers. Currently the data set includes four years of data (collected each fortnight) from July 1995 to June 1999. The data set is available in two forms – a complete record and a one per cent sample. Analysis is being undertaken within FaCS and through research commissioned by FaCS. Researchers who are interested in accessing the LDS can submit a research proposal for consideration by FaCS. However, the LDS can only be accessed through a FaCS State Office.

Eventually, it is hoped that the LDS and the General Customer Survey data sets can be linked to enable analysis of the casual links of pathways for our customers. For more information, contact Stephen Horn on (02) 6244 1485 or *stephen.horn@facs.gov.au*.

A new section – the Longitudinal Data Section – has been established in the Strategic Policy and Analysis Branch of FaCS to develop and manage HILDA, LSAC, the General Customer Survey and the LDS. The contact is Karen Wilson on (02) 6244 7545 or karen.wilson@facs.gov.au.

Change of Address?

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Drop us a line on

email: ssda@anu.edu.au

or phone us on 02 6249 4400

ABS Confidentialised Unit Record Files – August 2000

The ABS now provides a comprehensive list of CURFs from the period 1975 to present, including some that have yet to be released. Staff at all Universities party to the ABS/AVCC agreement are able to apply for access to each of these files. For more information, visit the ABS website at http://www.abs.gov.au/.

Title	Reference Period
Aspects of Literacy	1996
Australian Housing Survey	1994
Australians' Employment and Unemployment Patterns	1994-97
Business Longitudinal Survey, Australia	1994-95 1995-96 1996-97 1997-98
Census 81 - Sample Files	1981
Census 86 - Household Sample Files State/Territory File or Section of State File	1986
Census 91 - Census of Population and Housing: Household Sample File	August 1991
Census 96 - Census of Population and Housing : Household Sample File	August 96
Child Care Survey	June 1993
Child Care Survey	March 1996
Domiciliary Services, Victoria	1986
Disability, Ageing and Carers	1993
Disability, Ageing and Carers	1998
Education and Training Experience, Australia	1997
Families in Australia	1992
Forms of Employment	1998
Household Expenditure Survey, Australia	1975-76
Household Expenditure Survey, Australia	1984
Household Expenditure Survey, Australia	1988-89
Household Expenditure Survey, Australia	1993-94
How Workers Get Their Training	1989
Income and Housing Costs and Amenities Survey, Australia	1989-90

Title	Reference Period
Income and Housing Survey, Australia	1981-82
Income and Housing Costs Survey, Australia	1994-95
Income and Housing Costs Survey, Australia	1995-96
Income and Housing Costs Survey, Australia	1996-97
Income and Housing Costs Survey, Australia	1997-98
Income Distribution Survey, Australia, Sample File	1986
Labour Mobility	1984
Labour Mobility	1991
Labour Mobility	1994
Mental Health and Wellbeing of Adults, Australia, Enhanced	1997
Mental Health and Wellbeing of Adults, Western Australia	1997
National Health Survey (formerly Australian Health Survey)	1977-78
National Health Survey (formerly Australian Health Survey)	1983
National Health Survey (formerly Australian Health Survey)	1989-90
National Health Survey (formerly Australian Health Survey)	1995
National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey	1994
National Nutrition Survey	1995
Rental Investors' Survey	July 93
Rental Investors' Survey	June 1997
Survey of Training & Education	1993
Survey on Rental Tenants	April 94
Time Use Survey, Australia	1992
Time Use Survey, Australia	1997
Womens Safety Survey	1996

Professions in Australia, 1965-1998

The Professions in Australia Study (SSDA Study No. 1027) is a longitudinal study conducted by Don Anderson and Toni Makkai from the Australian National University, John Western from the University of Queensland and Trevor Williams from the Australian Council for Educational Research. The study followed students of law, medicine, engineering and teaching for 33 years of their tertiary education and professional life. Due to the value of this data for research, the SSDA intends to create Special User's Guides and have the data available for free analysis through OASISS (Online Analysis System In Social Sciences).

ABSTRACT:
The Professions in Australia study aimed to follow the attitude and value changes of students over the course of their studies, from the beginning of their first year of studies in engineering, law, medicine and teaching in universities through to the end of their studies. In 1978, the survey was re-opened to follow the professional, educational and attitudinal development of the students in their professional work over three successive years. In 1998 the respondents who were originally studying law, medicine and engineering were recontacted to gain further information about their experiences of professional work and how the profession had changed over their career.

Variables include attitudes to their university education and profession, reasons for and influences on their choice of professions, attributes they perceive as being important to success within their profession, problems they perceive in their work situation; assessments of perceived social status rankings of different professions including their own, government regulation of professions and social and political participation and attitudes.

Background variables include education, employment, occupation and specialisation, industry, marital status, education and employment of family members, voting intention, religious denomination, income, and hours worked per week.

For more information about Professions in Australia, 1965-1998, please contact the SSDA on (02) 6249 4400 or email ssda@anu.edu.au.

Recent Additions to SSDA Holdings

Additions to the SSDA holdings are listed below. Please note that some of these carry an Access Category which should be read 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 permission in writing of the original depositor of the data, or an authorised representative, before publishing any interpretation of such materials

tba: to be advised (Access Category not determined).

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

Data can be ordered via the SSDA's WWW pages at http://ssda.anu.edu.au/ssda/data_order_form.html. Charges for data can be supplied on request.

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Ralph Lattimore and Robert Phillips, Productivity Commission, **Gambling Inquiry Survey, 1999**. (SSDA Study No. 1021).

The National Gambling Survey, 1999 was conducted as part of the Productivity Commission's inquiry into Australia's gambling industries, with the objectives of determining an estimate of problem gambler prevalence and an adequate set of data on problem gamblers. The survey was initiated upon endorsement by a roundtable discussion at the Productivity Commission in order to assemble a contemporary national unit record database. The survey comprised two phases, Phase 1 a brief questionnaire (or screener) and Phase 2 a more detailed questionnaire.

Common variables for the three categories of respondents include perceptions about aspects of gambling; knowldege of anyone with gambling problems; frequency of play; expenditure on gambling; losses experienced.

Variables specific to non-regular gamblers (in addition to common) include further details about gambling participation and frequency; how much time is devoted to each gambling activity; how much money is spent on gambling activities; how the money spent on gambling would have otherwise been used.

Variables specific to regular gamblers (in addition to common and non-regular) include the problem gambling screen; self designated assessment of the problem; other effects of gambling on the gambler and significant others; and help seeking behaviour for problem gamblers.

Background variables include age; gender; household size; own and parents country of birth; main language spoken in the home; marital status; household composition; employment status; main source of household income; personal and household income; educational attainment.

Access Category: A

Ralph Lattimore and Robert Phillips, Productivity Commission, **Problem Gambling Client Survey, 1999**. (SSDA Study No. 1022).

The Problem Gambling Client Survey, 1999 was conducted as part of the Productivity Commission's inquiry into Australia's gambling industries. Respondents were clients of problem gambling counselling agencies. The purpose of the study was to examine the nature of the problems facing people who seek help for their gambling, including measures of the personal and other costs, social impacts of gamblers and what might be done about it.

Variables include frequency and per session expenditure; time spent; overall financial losses of problem gamblers; gambling indebtedness; social context in which gambling takes place; self perception by gambler of gambling mode; duration and development of gambling problems; reasons for seeking help; modes of becoming more aware of services to help gamblers; general help seeking behaviour; perceptions or impacts upon relationships; and government policies for preventative and harm minimisation strategies.

Background variables include age; year of birth; sex; postcode; state; own and parents country of birth; Aboriginal and Torres Straight Islander origin; educational level achieved; language spoken; work status; source of income; marital status; household size; household type; and number of children under age 15.

Access Category: A

Toni Makkai, The Australian National University and Ian McAllister, University of New South Wales. **Immigrant Labour Markets, 1988.** (SSDA Study No. 1024).

This study incorporates statistics pertaining to industrial location and employers of respondents surveyed in the Issues in Multicultural Australia, 1988 survey (SSDA No 534-540, Office of Multicultural Affairs, 1988). Data from the Issues in Multicultural Australia, 1988 survey are included in this dataset.

Industry variables include industry code; gross wage and salaries; severance payments; payroll tax; contributions to super; workers compensation; major labour costs; new fixed cap expenditures; location counts; management units; enterprise concentration ratios; establishment concentration ratios; wages concentration ratios; turnover concentration ratios; value added concentration ratios and turnover concentration ratios.

Enterprise variables include number of enterprises and employees; turnover; expenses; rent, leasing and hiring revenue; insurance and compensation premiums; interest and royalties paid; and fixed capital expenditure.

Company and annual report data variables include annual sales; number of employees; imports and exports; type of company; operating revenue and profits and total assets.

Employment variables include number of union members employed and number of full-time and part-time employees.

Variables from the Issues in Multicultural Australia, 1988 include country of birth and parents' country of birth, father's occupation and educational level; language - English language ability, languages spoken, use of own language, ethnicity - identification with ethnic groups, government aid to such groups, religious observance; education - school leaving age, qualifications obtained, recognition of overseas qualifications, transition to employment; current job - job status, occupation, industry, trade union membership, gross income, problems looking for work; spouse - country of birth,

education and qualifications, occupation and industry, income and income sources; immigration - attitudes to immigration policy, opportunities for immigrants, social distance from various ethnic groups, and attitudes to authority; family and social networks - numbers of children, siblings in Australia, numbers of close friends in Australia, neighbours; citizenship - citizenship status, participation in political matters an interest in politics; trust in government; and multiculturalism - views on what multiculturalism means, and its importance to Australian society.

NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, **New South Wales Recorded Crime Data 1996-97** (SSDA Study No. 1025).

The New South Wales Recorded Crime Data is a compiled record of crime data obtained from NSW police records. The data covers the annual periods 1996 and 1997 and incorporates information on crime incident, person of interest (i.e. person suspected or accused of perpetrating the crime) and victim of the crime.

Incident variables include type of crime incident, premises on which the incident occurred, type of drug associated with the incident, geographical location of incident, when the incident first occurred, when the incident was reported and if the incident was domestic violence related.

Person of interest variables include person's criminal status, postcode, date of birth, sex and whether they are Aboriginal or a Torres Strait Islander.

Victim variables include type of involvement in the crime, presence of injury, date of birth, country of origin, sex and whether they are Aboriginal or a Torres Strait Islander.

Access Category: B

NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, **New South Wales Criminal Courts Annual Data Collection, 1997-1998** (SSDA Study No. 1026).

The NSW Criminal Courts Data Collection is an annually compiled record of court data for both Local, and Higher (district and supreme) courts in the state of NSW. The 1997 and 1998 studies follow the New South Wales Criminal Courts Annual Data Collection, 1990-1996. There is a change in the structure of the recorded court data for the Local court from previous years.

Local court data is now penalty based, one record represents a penalty for an offence, finalised in the year of collection. Variables in this set include offence classification, both at a specific level of coding and at various levels of broader grouping, drug related variables, the plea of the defendant for each offence, and the fine and/or penalty durations for each of the defendant's offences. Background variables include sex, date of birth, courthouse in which the case appeared and dates of hearings and offences.

Higher court data is penalty based and represents cases which were finalised in the NSW District and Supreme Courts in the year of the collection. In this set one record is allocated to each penalty, and so more than one record may exist for a single person. The variables here included offence, outcome, penalty variables including type and duration of penalty, drug related variables, plea, and bail status of the accused. Background variables include: sex, date and country of birth, Local Court from which the case was committed, date of committal to Higher Court, education, employment status and occupation type, marital status, outcome and sentencing dates.

Access Category: B

Colin Hughes, The University of Queensland. **Australian Parliamentary Candidates, 1890-1999** (SSDA Study No. 1028).

The Australian Parliamentary Candidates study was undertaken primarily to compile information on political candidates who have run for election in Australia between 1890 and 1999. Candidates represented in the study include those who have run in both State and Federal elections and by-elections.

Variables include candidates name; address; party label at each election; success at each election; State/Territory in which they stood and whether the election was an election proper or a by-election.

Background variables include occupation and sex.

Steinberg, M. et al, University of Queensland **Use of Patient Education Materials in General Practice: Suitability and use for older patients, 2000** (SSDA Study No. 1029).

The aims of this study were twofold. Firstly, to determine the extent and pattern of Patient Education Materials (PEMs) by General Practioners (GPs) with their older patients, and secondly older

people's perceptions of and saftisfaction with the PEMs provided by GPs. In achieving the aims the study sampled two populations, GPs and older patients.

Variables for the GPs data include practice details; use of PEMs; type of PEMs used; when and where the information is provided; rate of provision of PEMs; and usefulness of PEMs for patients over 65 years. Variables for the older patient data include use of different types of PEM; difficulty in using different types of PEMs; how and in what form PEM is collected; and how and in what form they would prefer PEM.

Background variables for the GPs data include age; gender; qualifications; and work status. Background variables for the older patient data include age; first language spoken; education level completed; employment status; occupation; gross household income and current living arrangement.

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

ICPSR Additions

The following titles have been extracted from the ICPSR Summer Bulletin, 2000. Data sets are not currently held by the SSDA, but may be ordered from ICPSR on request. Contact the SSDA for more details.

To access additional information about data collections listed below, please consult the ICPSR Website at http://www.icpsr.umich.edu.

Experimental Evaluation Of Drug Testing And Treatment Interventions For Probationers In Maricopa County, Arizona, 1992-1994 (ICPSR 2025)

Higher Education General Information Survey (Hegis), 1971-1972: Earned Degrees (ICPSR 2139)

Higher Education General Information Survey (Hegis), 1974-1975: Earned Degrees (ICPSR 2142)

Three-Wave Political Socialization Panel Survey Children In The San Francisco East Bay Area, 1968-1969 (ICPSR 2341)

Psychological Classification Of Adult Male Inmates In Federal Prison In Indiana, 1986-1988 (ICPSR 2370)

Benefits And Limitations Of Civil Protection Orders For Victims Of Domestic Violence In Wilmington, Delaware, Denver, Colorado, And The District Of Columbia, 1994-1995 (ICPSR 2557)

National Survey Of Weapon-Related Experiences, Behaviors, And Concerns Of High School Youth In The United States, 1996 (ICPSR 2580)

Evaluation Of A Local Jail Training Program In Sacramento County, California, 1994-1995 (ICPSR 2582)

National Corrections Reporting Program, 1997: [United States] (ICPSR 2613)

Springfield [Massachusetts] Study Of Populations With Disabilities, 1993-1997 (ICPSR 2623)

Convenience Store Crime In Georgia, Massachusetts, Maryland, Michigan, And South Carolina, 1991-1995 (ICPSR 2699)

Assessment Of A Single-Purpose Substance Abuse Facility For Committed Juvenile Offenders In Virginia, 1995-1997 (ICPSR 2730)

Incapacitation Effects Of Incarcerating Drug Offenders: Longitudinal Arrest Histories Of Adults Arrested In Washington, Dc, 1985-1986 (ICPSR 2741)

Monitoring The Future: A Continuing Study Of American Youth (12th-Grade Survey), 1998 (ICPSR 2751)

National Household Education Survey, 1991: Revised Version (ICPSR 2762)

Effectiveness Of Alternative Victim Assistance Service Delivery Models In The San Diego Region, 1993-1994 (ICPSR 2789)

World Values Surveys And European Values Surveys, 1981-1984, 1990-1993, And 1995-1997 (ICPSR 2790)

Prevalence Of Five Gang Structures In 201 Cities In United States, 1992 And 1995 (ICPSR 2792)

Evaluation Of Community Policing Initiatives In Jefferson County, West Virginia, 1996-1997 (ICPSR 2800)

Elementary And Secondary School Civil Rights Compliance Report, Fall 1994 (ICPSR 2814)

Eurobarometer 50.0: European Parliament And Radioactive Waste, October-November 1998 (ICPSR 2830)

Eurobarometer 50.1: Information Society Services, Food Quality, The Family, And Aid To Development, November-December 1998 (ICPSR 2831)

National Pregnancy And Health Survey: Drug Among Women Delivering Live Births, 1992 (ICPSR 2835)

German Election Study, 1994 (Politbarometer East) (ICPSR 2842)

German Election Study, 1994 (Politbarometer West) (ICPSR 2843)

Hispanic Established Populations For The Epidemiologic Studies Of The Elderly, 1993-1994: [Arizona, California, Colorado, New Mexico, And Texas] (ICPSR 2851)

National Nursing Home Survey, 1997 (ICPSR 2855)

Clients Of Street Prostitutes In Portland, Oregon, San Francisco And Santa Clara, California, And Las Nevada, 1996-1999 (ICPSR 2859)

German Election Study, 1994: Post-Election Study (ICPSR 2860)

German Election Study, 1994: Pre-Election Study (Policy And Party Preference) (ICPSR 2861)

German Election Study, 1994: Pre-Election Study (Trend Investigations) (ICPSR 2862)

Tax And Census Records, New York City, 1789-1790 And 1810 (ICPSR 2863)

CBS News Monthly Poll, October 1999 (ICPSR 2866)

CBS News/New York Times Teen Poll, October 1999 (ICPSR 2867)

CBS News/New York Times New York State Poll, October 1999 (ICPSR 2868)

CBS News "The Early Show" Poll, October 1999 (ICPSR 2869)

CBS News/New York Times Monthly Poll, November 1999 (ICPSR 2870)

CBS News Class Of 2000 Poll, November 1999 (ICPSR 2871)

CBS News "Cbs.Marketwatch.Com" Millennium Poll, December 1999 (ICPSR 2874)

Law Enforcement Agency Identifiers Crosswalk [United States], 1996 (ICPSR 2876)

Aging Of Veterans Of The Union Army: Certificates, 1860-1940 (ICPSR 2877)

Detroit Area Study, 1992: Social Change In Detroit (ICPSR 2880)

Eurobarometer 52.0: European Parliament Elections, The Single European Currency, And Financial Services, October-November 1999 (ICPSR 2892)

Eurobarometer 52.1: Modern Biotechnology, Quality Of Life, And Consumers' Access To Justice, November-December 1999 (ICPSR 2893)

Current Population Survey, February 1999: Contingent Work Supplement (ICPSR 2898)

Experiences And Needs Of Formerly Intimate Stalking Victims In Southeastern Pennsylvania, 1991-1995 (ICPSR 2899)

National Mortality Followback Survey, 1993 (ICPSR 2900)

Abc News Poll, November 1999 (ICPSR 2901)

Uniform Crime Reporting Program Data [United States Offenses Known And Clearances By Arrest, 1998 (ICPSR 2904)

Uniform Crime Reporting Program Data [United States]: Supplementary Homicide Reports, 1998 (ICPSR 2906)

Uniform Crime Reporting Program Data [United States Police Employee (Leoka) Data, 1998 (ICPSR 2907)

Uniform Crime Reporting Program Data [United States]: County-Level Detailed Arrest And Offense Data, 1998 (ICPSR 2910)

National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey, 1998 (ICPSR 2915)

National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey, 1998 (ICPSR 2916)

Survey Of Program Dynamics (Spd), 1998: Public Use File (ICPSR 2917)

CBS News Year 2000 Poll, January 2000 (ICPSR 2918)

CBS News Monthly Poll #1, February 2000 (ICPSR 2924)

Census Tract Data, 1940: Elizabeth Mullen Bogue File (ICPSR 2930)

Immigrants Admitted To The United States, 1997 (ICPSR 2955)

White-Collar Criminal Careers, 1976-1978: Federal Judicial Districts (ICPSR 6540)

Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (Ipeds): Earned Degrees, 1991-1992 (ICPSR 6957)