(ICPSR 8118)
- bargaining units summary statistics (ICPSR 8179)
- work stoppages (ICPSR 8119)

Annual survey of governments, 1981
- finance statistics (ICPSR 8133)
- employment statistics (ICPSR 8134)

American public opinion and U.S. foreign policy, 1982 (ICPSR 8130)
Health and nutrition examination survey II, 1978-1980
- hematology and biochemistry (ICPSR 8102)
- total nutrient intake, food frequency and other related dietary data (ICPSR 8103)
- anthropometric (ICPSR 8104)
- 24-hour recall, specific food item (ICPSR 8105)
- model gram and nutrient composition (ICPSR 8106)

National natality followback survey (U.S.), 1972 (ICPSR 8112)
Vital statistics: marriage detail (U.S.), 1979 (ICPSR 8113)
Quebec provincial election study, 1960 (ICPSR 9002)
Quebec provincial and federal election study, 1962: rise of a third party (ICPSR 9003)
Quebec provincial election study, 1973 (ICPSR 9004)
Annexation to the U.S.A., 1964: opinions of the urban public of Canada on Canadian - American relations (ICPSR 9005)
Neutral schools, 1964: teaching religion in schools (Quebec) (ICPSR 9006)
Separatism, July-August 1963 (Quebec) (ICPSR 9007)
Time use longitudinal study, 1975-1981 (ICPSR 9054)
Mortality detail file, 1979 (ICPSR 7632)
Annual housing survey, 1979 (United States): national file (ICPSR 8154)
Social and political attitudes of the American labour force, 1976 (ICPSR 8078)
Health and nutrition examination survey I, 1971-1975: medical history questionnaire, ages 1-11 (ICPSR 8138)
Women in development IV, 1983 (ICPSR 8155)
Census of population and housing, 1980 (United States): summary tape file 3D (ICPSR 8157)
Uniform crime reports, 1980 (ICPSR 9028)

OTHER OVERSEAS DATA SETS RECEIVED

SSRC Data Archive, University of Essex

Social Surveys (Gallup Poll) Ltd (UK), BBC general election day survey, May 1979 (SSRC Study No. 1365)

Miller, W. L., 1918-1979 electoral dynamics files (SSRC Study No. 1383)

The Roper Center, University of Connecticut

Yankelovich, Skelly and White, Inc., Yankelovich Collection; 1978-1979 family study for General Mills (Roper Study No. 8144)

Yankelovich, Skelly and White, Inc., Yankelovich Collection: Time poll, May 1981 (Roper Study No. 8607)

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NEWSLETTER

Contributions from readers are encouraged and reports on the use of data supplied through ACSPRI would be of particular interest. Contributions and enquiries about ACSPRI should be addressed to:

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

ACSPRI
newsletter
Australian Consortium for Social and Political Research Incorporated

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CONTENTS

ACSPRI SUMMER TRAINING PROGRAM

The first ACSPRI Summer Training Program in Quantitative Social Science Methods will take place between 2-15 February 1985 in the Menzies Building at Monash University, Melbourne. The program will consist of three sessions, the first session running throughout the two weeks aimed at providing an intensive introduction to the methods of quantitative political and social data analysis, while the second and third sessions will run consecutively for one week each, in parallel to the first session, and offer a choice of courses at the intermediate/advanced level. Participants in the second and third sessions may only take one course per session.

The program for the first session will consist of a single compulsory course,
- Social Science Data Analysis and Methods

and three complementary courses which, according to background knowledge and interests, are added options:
- Introduction to Computing with SPSS
- Mathematics for Beginners
- Classroom Introduction with Machine-Readable Data Files.

The instructional format will combine lectures with hands-on computer laboratory sessions and focus particularly on the procedures and statistical measures available in SPSS.

No prior knowledge of computing or statistical methods is assumed, though students with little background in this area will be required to attend the optional courses.

The session aims to provide academic staff with a grounding sufficient to support the teaching of an introductory course to students unfamiliar with quantitative data analysis techniques. Course notes and data files used to illustrate analyses will be provided to participants for use as a teaching package at their own institution. The session will also be of interest to the academic researcher, graduate student or research assistant wishing to gain (or reinforce) the background essential to the quantitative analysis of survey, census and other data sources.

The second and third sessions will offer a range of courses at the intermediate/advanced level. Each course will last for one week, and participants will only be allowed to take one course per session. The following courses are currently being considered, although it is expected that some may have to be cancelled for lack of demand while others may be added if required.

Multiple regression techniques
Linear structural relationships
Exploratory data analysis
Causal modelling with contingency tables
Scaling techniques
Content analysis
Utilisation of data resources from the 1981 Census
Survey design
Microcomputer applications in the social sciences
SPSSX, SIR and other data analysis packages.

Lecturers are still being sought for some of these courses and experienced staff willing to present one of these or another course are asked to contact a member of the organising committee:

Professor David Kemp, Politics, Monash;
Dr Terry Beed, Sample Survey Centre, Sydney;
or Dr Roger Jones, SSDA, ANU.

MICRO-COMPUTERS IN SOCIAL RESEARCH

Microcomputers have not yet made a large impact in social research. The reasons for this are well known: most social researchers have access to large mainframes which they think are needed to deal with the typically large data sets they wish to analyse. Moreover, they often cannot justify a microcomputer purchase when mainframes are available.

The use of micro-computers in social research includes their use as:

(a) remote terminals connected to mainframes and international databases;
(b) wordprocessors to automate, say, the production of questionnaires;
(c) teaching aides in social statistics classes and in simulation games;
(d) tools for data analysis.

This report will concentrate on the last of these applications.

There are now a variety of statistical packages for micros. The most popular packages are on Apple II's and include Tiny Troll, ELF, Visitrend, Daisy, EDA, and AIDA. All but the last one are used in the Department of Sociology at the University of Tasmania. A package called IMP is being written locally (in PASCAL). The packages are all fairly easy to use but vary considerably in the way they deal with data, the user, accuracy, graphics, and printers. Users of SPSS will probably find ELF the most familiar: it will do many of the SPSS type analyses (with fewer options but with greater ease) - even factor analysis! Of course processing time is slow but when left on with a printer, a batch of analyses can be done. A single data file can spill over onto several diskette. ELF will deal comfortably with a data set involving say 100 variables and 500 cases. Larger data sets require considerable reading time and, potentially, processing time. Like SPSS, ELF analyses data as they are read in. This means that the data need not reside all in memory at once. Tiny Troll and Visitrend are primarly time-series econometric packages. As they require all the data to be in memory, they limit the data to 6-10 variables by

100 cases. This can be expanded considerably by adding memory boards to increase the memory available for data. The advantage these packages have over ELF is speed: no disk reading is required once the data are loaded into memory. DAISY is a mixture of these packages: it is perhaps the most professional and includes missing cases routines, checks for accuracy (eg when multicollinearity occurs) and facilities for user written routines to be added. Its stepwise regression routine is particularly powerful, flexible and reliable. Unfortunately it is poor on contingency table analyses (ELF is the best of a bad lot in this area).

The major failing of all packages lies in their use of graphics. While there are a variety of graphics and plotting programs available for micros, they concentrate on business related graphs and charts. The capacity for results of a statistical procedure to drive analytical plots of data structure is lacking. To this end, IMP (Interactive Modelling Package) is currently under development to implement diverse exploratory data analysis procedures, some originating from the work of J.W. Tukey, others from a group of French statisticians who have developed techniques of graphically displaying data sets and multivariate structures among catagorical variables. All these features are becoming increasingly relevant as social statistics moves away from the dependence on significance testing to guide automated number crunching.

Although it is often stated that the above procedures are or could be implemented on mainframes with the added advantage of speed, there are two considerations that can be mentioned in favour of micros. First, when data sets are large and analysis is exploratory, it becomes both statistically and logistically worthwhile to break the data up into smaller groups and repeat the analyses for each group. This technique, known as the jacknife, gives the researcher a keen sense for the intrinsic variability in his sample. Moreover, with data size reduced, analysis can be fast. Second, micros can be connected to a variety of so called 'peripherals' which are always difficult to access from a mainframe. For instance the Department of Sociology uses digitisers to convert published graphs into data series, printers to dump graphs and results, phone couplers to get into mainframe networks, and plotters for final quality prints of data structure appropriately coloured and labelled. All of these can be run within the context of an afternoon's analysis for say an initial report on a small sample of data.

Within the next year, a variety of 16-bit machines will be emerging which will have faster processing and greater storage capacity. This will loosen some of the tighter constraints on micros in social research. Moreover the software is becoming increasingly integrated so that data management packages can pass data directly to say, analysis packages and the results sent to word-processor and printer driver modules. Unfortunately most of these packages are increasingly structured and driven by menu's, making them hard to modify for social research applications. For instance, it ought to be possible to have a multivariate causal structure not only displayed as a directed graph, but printed with the appropriate recursive equations and text stating the hypotheses implied by the model.

Despite these developments there are still no packages or machines which offer interactive data analysis using jacknife, plotting, and statistically resistent procedures. They will only come once researchers become more demanding of what they want to do with data and how computing facilities can help them achieve their research objectives.

Richard Volpato, Department of Sociology
University of Tasmania

ICPSR MICRONEWS

The latest information from the United States on microcomputers, their development and software, is contained

in the newsletter ICPSR MicroNews, produced by Gregory Marks of the Institute of Social Research at the University of Michigan.

The first issue, dated September 1983, contains items on changes in the cost of microcomputers, integrated systems software, hardware available, and a review article by Jerome Katz on statistical programs for Apple computers (specific packages assessed are: ABSTAT, AIDA, A-STAT, ELF, MICROSTAT and STATPRO). ICPSR MicroNews can be obtained by writing to:

The ICPSR MicroNews,
Room 4250 ISR,
426 Thompson St.,
Ann Arbor, MI 48109, U.S.A.

It is currently available without charge; eventually it will change to being on a subscription basis.

A viewing copy is also held at SSDA.

FORMATTING DATA FOR MICROCOMPUTER USE

As Jerome Katz in the September 1983 issue of the ICPSR MicroNews quite rightly notes, information about statistical packages for microcomputers is difficult to obtain. It is to this end that publications like ICPSR MicroNews are presenting for their readers, summaries and comparative evaluations of the various packages currently available. What is being neglected is the problem of getting data onto these microcomputer systems.

The dominating problem in this area is the incompatibility of floppy disk storage. Many of the big names such as Apple, IBM, etc have totally different disk formats which necessitates special equipment and software to write them. Even for such as ICPSR:

"The software to access and download such data from a mainframe or a minicomputer is the responsibility of the user and their computer centre."

The trend towards using microcomputers for data analysis is an issue of very real importance to archives of machine-readable data. Whilst we provide a service for researchers wishing to obtain data on magnetic tape, producing data copies on floppy diskettes is another 'byte of the Apple' altogether.

At the moment ICPSR can write data for researchers on IBM-compatible diskettes only, and this is a unique process for each request and hence will be subject to a price quotation. At SSDA, we are able to write data in the DEC Rainbow (compatible) formats - with a similar restriction; the process is neither simple nor quick.

What needs to be established is a network, or group, of institutions that will specialise in writing diskettes in a particular format for all members of the group. This appears to be the simplest way to overcome a potentially large problem, and ensure the continued and further use of the machine-readable data held by archives. If any readers are interested in this proposal, please contact me at the SSDA.

Tim Dargavel, (062)493859

BIBLIOGRAPHY OF MICROCOMPUTER APPLICATIONS AND MAGAZINES

An annotated bibliography of magazines for the microcomputer user has been produced by Samuel Kirkpatrick and Carl Richard of Texas AM University, with details provided for the magazines Byte, Computer Decisions, Creative Computing, Dr. Dobb's Journal, Infoworld, Interface Age, PC-The Independent Guide to IMB Personal Computers, Personal Computing, Popular Computing, and Today's Office. Also available, by Samuel Kirkpatrick, is a selected bibliography of articles on microcomputer applications. For further information contact the SSDA on (062)49 4400.

MICROCOMPUTERS - SOFTWARE INFO

If information was said to have 'exploded' with the arrival of the computer, the revolution has proceeded a step further with the development of the microcomputer. The possibility for development and manipulation of computerised information has been brought into the domain of every citizen who has a few thousand dollars to spare - from the home video games user to the school student, the businessman, the researcher, and so on.

Following this development, one of the predominant concerns is the availability of suitable software. The present market is so fluid that it is often difficult to locate, and make, the right choice of software product.

In this context, the following items reference some recent articles and other information describing available statistical software for microcomputers.

MASS - Microprocessor or Applied Statistics System

MASS is a microcomputer program for elementary and advanced statistical analyses of large data sets. It is written in Pascal in order to facilitate overlaying procedures and to enhance its portability to various types of computers. MASS is currently available for microcomputers of the Z80/8080 and 8088/7/6 classes.

MASS is designed to be both user-friendly and fast. The user communicates with it through simple commands and menus, and it provides extensive optional prompting and "help" files. It also accepts shortened versions of commands and has default selections for the options needed most frequently. In addition, command strings can be stored in files and referenced for execution.

MASS will handle large data sets with ease. Current versions support files with up to twenty variables and up to 2000 cases - large enough for most survey and experimental problems. The statistical procedures which the current version provide are the following:

SUMMARY STATISTICS: histograms and frequency tables;
TWO-SAMPLE STATISTICS: eg. T-tests, correlations, and non-parametric methods;
REGRESSION: correlation matrices for a number of variables and multiple regression fits - this is made very flexible through facilities for defining orthogonal polynomials and dummy variables.
TABULATION: cross-tabulations of counts, totals, means, minima, maxima, and variances of arbitrary dimension;
ANALYSIS OF VARIANCE: one-, two-, and three-way analysis of variance on data which is either extracted from disk files or entered directly.

MASS is available for $450 per copy, which includes the program on floppy disk plus a 120p. user's manual. Enquiries should be directed to

MASS Coordinator
W.A. Regional Computing Centre
University of Western Australia
Nedlands, W.A. 6009

PANDA (Programs for ANalysing DAtabanks)

The following information has been taken from an item in the Software Bulletin, SSRC Data Archive Bulletin, September 1983.

Panda is a data analysis package designed for handling any sort of information which is regularly observed through time. Originally designed to handle economic and business information, it can easily accommodate any other type of time series information. Features are

. several versions
  - handles sophisticated statistical routines such as multiple regression and auto correlation analysis
  - constructs user-designed tables and performs simple financial calculations
  - produces high-quality printed graphics using a dot-matrix printer

. configured to handle up to 900 series, each of 150 observations

. instructions straightforward, using a menu system of option selection

. data are prepared by another program which includes the production of a reference index to the databank

. some databanks on the Scottish and UK economies have already been prepared

. Panda is written in FORTRAN IV and can be run on Cromemco or similar microcomputers

. databanks can be prepared or updated for clients, or the databank creation program can be supplied.

Details from David Bell, The Fraser of Allander Institute, Curran Building, 100 Cathedral Street, Glasgow G4 OLN, Scotland.

QUANTUM Converted to a Micro

The following information has been taken from the Software Bulletin, SSRC Data Archive Bulletin, September 1983, from an edited version of a talk by Mark Katz of Quantime Ltd.

QUANTUM is a package which deals with all aspects of survey data processing. This covers data editing, correcting, recoding as well as conventional cross-tabulation. It has facilities for table-manipulation, statistics, data-management and great emphasis has been placed on format control of the final reports. It operates in batch and interactive mode, and runs on PRIME, DEC/VAX, IBM and other computers.

QUANTUM has now been translated for micros, running under UNIX. Operational systems are using the PIXEL machine, and attempts are being made to convert QUANTUM to other UNIX-based micros.

Another major package from Quantime Ltd is QUANCEPT, used for direct data-entry and computer-assisted interviewing. This is also being converted for the micro under UNIX.

Neffendorf, Hugh. "Statistical packages for microcomputers: a listing." The American Statistician, February 1983, Vol.37, No.1.

This article presents a list of microcomputer packages for use with CP/M (Control Program for Microprocessors) - created by Digital Research, PET - manufactured by Commodore Business Machines, Apple, and TRS-80 - manufactured by Radio Shack. The list features twenty five packages with statistical facilities and four with survey processing and analysis.

Elliott, A.C. and W.A. Woodward. "A survey of statistical packages available on micro-computers". European Political Data Newsletter, No.48, September 1983.

The authors have conducted a mail survey of companies producing micro-computer statistical software packages. The article contains several summary tables:

1. contains product and company names, language used, computer availability and price.
2. contains a summary of the statistical procedures claimed to be available in the programs.
3. lists other known packages for which questionnaire information is not available.

The collection and review of information is to continue and the authors would like to hear from persons knowing of or using statistical programs available on micro-computers, or who are interested in assisting in a review effort. The contact address is

A.C. Elliott and W.A. Woodward
Department of Statistics
Southern Methodist University
Dallas. Texas 75275 USA.

Statistics on TRS-80

A comparison of 4 different statistical packages running on the TRS-80 Model III is done by Carl GRAFTON and Anne PERMALOFF and published in the Spring Issue of PS, published by the American

Political Science Association. A summary of the PS article is presented in the European Political Data Newsletter, No.48, September 1983.

The four packages selected were
. Advanced Statistical Package
. Dynacomp Programs
. Maxi Stat
. Number Cruncher

STAN - An Interactive Statistical Analysis System for Microcomputers

The following information has taken been from the European Political Data Newsletter, No.49, December 1983.

STAN is modular with related procedures grouped together to make an efficient system. Considerable effort was made to make STAN easy to use. Version 1.2 has four modules

. data management
. linear models
. graphics
. text formatting.

To use STAN effectively the following is required

. a CP/M operating system or the UCSD p-system
. a microcomputer system with a minimum of 56K RAM and 150K disk storage in addition to that used by the operating system
. a knowledge of regression and linear models.

More information is available from

Statistical Consultants, Inc
Park Plaza Office Building
462 East High Street
Lexington, Kentucky 40508 USA.

SPP - A Statistics Package for Personal Computers

SPP is a general-purpose package with the following features

. statistical analyses: descriptive statistics; cross-tabulations; correlations; linear, quadriatic and cubic regressions; multiple regression; one-way and two-way analysis of variance (unbalanced if desired); non-parametric statistics (Mann-Whitney, Sign test, Kruskall-Wallis, Spearman correlation, Kendall W, etc);
. data display: histograms, scatter plots, normal probability plots, box diagrams, tables;
. hypothesis tests: z, t, F, chi-squared, Shapiro-Francia test of Normality, all with p values;
. excellent data-editing, transformation, selection and manipulation facilities;
. up to 100 variables per case allowed, number of cases limited essentially by disk space;
. missing values supported throughout;
. full disk read and write, printer output;
. can be used with single or dual disk drives, with full availability of all disk space for data if required;
. menu driven;
. runs fast because it comes in compiled BASIC.
. available from COMMODORE, IBM PC, SIRIUS, APRICOT, TULIP, DEC RAINBOW.

For further information contact

Timberlake Clark Ltd
40B Royal Hill
Greenwich
London SE10 England.

AUSTRALIAN HEALTH SURVEY, 1977-78

As reported in Newsletter No. 8, the Australian Bureau of Statistics has now released a unit record tape of unidentified persons data at a cost of $60 (including the charge of $16 for magnetic tape).

Various forms of accompanying documentation are available, produced by the ABS and by SSDA.

ABS documents include the following
. an information paper titled Australian Health Survey, 1977-78: Sample File on Magnetic Tape (Cat. No. 4324.0), released on 7 February 1984.

- the publication Australian Health Survey, 1977-78: Outline of Concepts, Methodology and Procedures Used (Cat. No. 4323.0), released in January 1982 (Note: this publication no longer appears to be in stock in ABS outlets.)

- technical information necessary to process the file, distributed with the data.

The SSDA has created a fully-labelled SPSS set-up file, and compiled a user's guide to the data (reference SSDA Study No. 196). The latter contains a detailed methodological description (much of which has been extracted from the ABS publication 4323.0 listed above), a codebook with frequencies, and a copy of the questionnaire used in the survey.

Topics covered include recent illesses; days of reduced activity due to illness or injury; chronic conditions; accidents; index of general well-being (12 questions from General Health Questionnaire); consultations with doctors, dentists or other health professionals; use of medicines; episodes in hospitals; and child vaccination. Background variables for households include number of persons and children, structure and gross income of income unit, and number of dependent children. Background variables for persons include age, sex, country of birth, geographic area of residence, marital status, level of education for self and mother, fluency of English, gross income, type of health insurance, employment details (including whether employed, occupation and usual weekly hours), and year of arrival in Australia.

Persons wishing to use the data should apply to the ABS* using the order form attached to the information paper 4324.0. It should also be noted that the data will only be released on receipt of a Form of Undertaking signed by someone authorised to sign legal documents on behalf of the organisation wishing to use the data. For this reason, users should coordinate their access to the data through a central body in their institution, such as the computer services section, to provide general access to all users.

Persons wishing to use SSDA documentation relating to this data set - the user's guide and the SPSS set-up file - should contact the SSDA on (062)49 4400.

* This excludes persons at the ANU, who should contact SSDA directly.

SURVEY OF NON-INSTITUTIONALISED AGED IN SYDNEY, 1981

This survey of 1,050 persons aged 60 or over was conducted by The Ageing and the Family Project, Research School of Social Sciences, at the Australian National University. The survey provides a comprehensive data source, covering living and housing arrangements, financial and health status, use of formal services, and relationships with family and friends.

The selection of survey respondents aimed to obtain a representative sample of older people living in private households in the Sydney urban area, at the same time achieving adequate coverage of the less numerous population age 75 years and over. Persons in non-private dwellings were omitted from the survey because most of those in institutions are severely handicapped, and live in circumstances which pose special problems in sampling and interviewing.

The core of the questionnaire aimed to identify the personal network of individuals who were important to respondents in terms of exchanges of instrumental assistance, emotional closeness, social interaction, and family structure: characteristics of these other persons were also recorded. Other questions covered basic demographic and personal characteristics; various objective and subjective measures of functional health and illness; responsibility for household tasks; use of health and social services; knowledge of services; attitudes toward dependency and family relationships; use of time, housing and living arrangements, transport; retirement and

income; life satisfaction; political views; and care of respondent's parents. Questions were designed to measure recent changes and earlier life experiences as well as current circumstances.

The main results appear in the publication Health, Welfare and Family in Later Life (Kendig, Gibson, Rowland and Hemer), available from the New South Wales Council on the Ageing, 34 Argyle Place, Millers Point, NSW 2000, cost $5.

The data set is available for secondary analysis from the Social Science Data Archives, reference SSDA Study No.. 210. Prospective users should note that this data set carries an access condition which requires that permission to use the data be granted by the depositor.

ICPSR SUMMER PROGRAM 1984

In June-August each year, the ICPSR conducts a Summer Program in Quantitative Methods of Social Research. The Program offers a comprehensive, integrated program of studies in research design, statistics, data analysis and social methodology. Emphasis is placed on studying methods of quantitative analysis within the broader context of substantive social science research, and virtually all instruction is coordinated with, and reinforced by, active participatory data analytic experiences.

The Summer Training Program schedule is partitioned into two four-week sessions (June 25-July 20 and July 23-August 17) with instruction organised in lecture, seminar, and workshop formats. In addition, the curriculum includes special workshops that provide participants with an opportunity to examine the impact of various methodologies on specific substantive issues. Finally, are those workshops that address the practical objectives of providing technical support for computing specialists and data librarians.

A limited amount of financial assistance is available to participants from ACSPRI member institutions. Applications from non-member institutions are also welcome. For further details contact Roger Jones as soon as possible at the Social Science Data Archives on (062)49 4400. Nominations for prospective participants need to be mailed to the ICPSR by April 27. So, PLEASE HURRY!

Those who are contemplating attendance at the Program will be particularly interested to read the following reports of two participants in the 1983 Program.

ICPSR SUMMER PROGRAM 1983

Report by Roger Douglas, La Trobe University

Among the services provided by the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research is a Summer Program in Quantitative Methods of Social Research. The program is designed to serve a variety of clienteles, including graduate students, academics and civil servants. It offers courses ranging from introductory courses designed for those with no previous statistical experience, through to "advanced courses", some of which involve introductions to the latest developments in the field.

The program consists of a series of lectures and workshops. The lectures are not offered for credit and involve no assessment. There is, however, recommended reading and homework. Both can be dispensed with, but only at the cost of comprehension - and work devoted to understanding the lectures pays off in the seminars. The lectures varied in content, ranging from those directly oriented towards the content of the workshops, through lectures which discussed issues raised in the workshops, to some which supplemented the workshops. As one whose matrix algebra and calculus had become rusty, I particularly valued Jim Dowdy's Mathematics for Social Scientists. As a lecturer I could only envy the ease and clarity with which difficult ideas were effortlessly communicated to an audience many of whom have had no prior grasp of the two fields covered.

The workshops can be taken for credit (provided you pay huge sums of money to the University of Michigan). For those who attend as auditors and visiting scholars there is no such spur to achievement - only internal pressures (and limited peer pressures: one wouldn't want to be seen by one's friends as a mere B standard student!). Taking workshops seriously can involve a considerable amount of hard work. Exercises are set frequently (and were corrected and returned with impressive promptness). Intermediate level courses are not particularly difficult (given three half units in statistics at graduate school level). Advanced courses are rather more demanding, but tend to overlap somewhat with intermediate level courses.

The program also included a series of lectures in the University of Michigan's computer system and on the various packaged programs available on the Michigan computer. There was a helpful series of lectures on micro computers (and in particular on what to look for when buying one). For those not sated by the above, there were periodic one-off cumulative lectures on a variety of topics. (Professor Hoyer's were particularly provocative and subversive of much contemporary quantitative social science: they were well worth attending).

The program is now well established. It is generally very well run: books are available at the program headquarters. The computer is fast (and is fed daily so that accounts do not run out). The program headquarters (a hall of residence, taken over for the summer) provides a place where participants can meet and get to know (and therefore get to learn from) each other. I enjoyed my eight weeks there (partly funded by ACSPRI); however while enjoying my stay in Ann Arbor (its almost incessant heat and humidity not-withstanding), I found myself wondering whether and for how much longer Australians really need to attend such programs; may there not now be the demand and talent needed for such a program in Australia?

Anyone who wishes to enquire in detail about course contents, life in Ann Arbor etc., is welcome to contact Mr Douglas, C/- Department of Legal Studies, La Trobe University, Bundoora 3083.

Report by Bruce Fisher, Monash University

The benefits of my participation in the ICPSR Summer Program were somewhat mixed and not as great as I had originally envisaged. The latter was primarily due to my illness which culminated in my hospitalisation. (Perhaps I should mention that although I joined the Michigan University Health Service scheme it did not cover medical or hospital services rendered in the Michigan University Hospital, and the charges averaged more than $US875 per day of hospitalisation!)

There is considerable scope for improving some of the facilities available to participants in future summer programs. This is particularly the case in respect of the computer terminal facilities and the "library" resources available at Helen Newberry House. However the resources of the 29 University libraries are, for the most part, superb. I made considerable use of the small specialised Gerontology Library.

I am not in a position to comment on the range of Summer Program offerings. Some overseas students found parts of the program to be too parochial. This was not my case for I found such parts generally to be complementary to work I had carried out in Australia.

It was my good fortune to be a member of the course conducted by Professor Richard Campbell of Duke University on Empirical Research Issues in Aging. Campbell was very much at ease with social science methodology, the application of the general linear model, and longitudinal design and analysis problems. What is more, all members of his small group found him to be most helpful.

The experience of myself and others I spoke to on the subject of general

program management suggests that this is an area where there is considerable room for improvement.

17TH ESSEX SUMMER SCHOOL

The 17th Essex Summer School in Social Science Data Analysis and Collection will be held at the University of Essex in three continuous but independent sessions from 6 July to 17 August 1984. Special emphasis will be on introductory courses for participants who lack any training in statistics or computing. Full supporting interactive computing facilities, including the use of micro-computers, will be available.

Participants would need to consult their own institutions or other sources for financial support. Interested persons should write to:

The Organising Secretary
17th Essex Summer School
Department of Government
University of Essex
Colchester CO4 3SQ England.

1984 IASSIST CONFERENCE

The 1984 Conference of IASSIST (International Association for Social Science Information Services and Technology) will be held in Ottawa, Canada, from 14-18 May. Planned topics will be of interest to social scientists, data archivists, librarians, research administrators, computer specialists, and government records administrators. In addition, the organisers advise, the conference has been well timed to provide participants with the opportunity to enjoy the annual Festival of Spring.

Session topics are

1. Privacy/confidentiality: techniques techniques for anonymization; legislative aspects; moral and ethical implications;

2. The advance of technologies: keepers and users dealing with micros and minis; dealing with complex data structures; on-line bibliographic systems for machine-readable data;

3. Roles and responsibilities: data archives and the establishment of the information elite; changing roles and responsibilities of data archives/libraries; problems in acquiring machine-readable data.

For further information contact

Harold Naugler (Programme Chairperson)
Machine Readable Archives Division
Public Archives of Canada
395 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1A ON3, Canada.

CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN STUDIES

The new Centre for European Studies at the University of Sydney will bring together scholars and those outside the University who are interested in aspects of European affairs, past, present and future.

The Centre plans to publish a bi-monthly newsletter containing announcements of forthcoming conferences and seminars on European studies throughout Australia, as well as articles on European affairs. Plans for activities in 1984 and 1985 include a series of seminars on European affairs, two conferences, a new course to be offered as part of the Master of Laws, and a major international conference on Australia and Europe. The inaugural seminar is to be held on 5 May 1984. For further information write to:

The Secretary
Centre for European Studies
University of Sydney. NSW 2006.

ABS TIME SERIES ON AUSINET

ACI Computer Services have mounted the ABS Time Series on AUSINET, with search facilities using STAIRS software. Known as ABSTATS, the database includes approximately 2,500 numeric time series, in most cases spanning ten to twenty years, with regular updates, in the following major groups

- Agricultural Production
- Building
- New Fixed Capital Expenditures by Private Enterprises
- Demography (Migration, Population)
- Manpower
- Other Finance (Taxation Revenue)
- Housing Finance to Individuals
- Stocks Owned by Private Enterprises
- Manufacturing and Mining (Mineral Exploration)
- National Accounts
- Prices
- Transport (Vehicle Registrations, Traffic Accidents)
- Retail Sales
- Overseas Transactions (International Liquidity)
- Other Internal Trade (Tractors, Wine and Brandy)
- Wages and Salaries

Your institution may already have access to the AUSINET network. If not, inquiries should be made to ACI. Offices are in:

Melbourne	Ph. 5448433
Sydney	Ph. 6627011
Canberra	Ph. 470988
Adelaide	Ph. 2681933
Brisbane	Ph. 3695877
Perth	Ph. 3212859

ABSTATS is also available on ACI's FORESIGHT service, in this case with a data manipulation facility. Designed primarily for business managers, the system offers an impressive range of spreadsheet functions.

CATALOGUES OF OVERSEAS DATA

As part of its research and information service, SSDA holds the catalogues of holdings of most major overseas data archives. These can be perused at SSDA or searched by Archive staff on behalf of the inquirer, and required data sets subsequently ordered.

The latest update to the SSDA library is the new catalogue of the Steinmetz Archives, containing descriptions of 1,184 Dutch social science and public opinion data sets.

DPLS DATA RELEASE

The Data and Program Library Service of the University of Wisconsin-Madison has now released Occupational Changes in a Generation, 1973. This survey was conducted by the U.S. Bureau of the Census on behalf of David L. Featherman and Robert M. Hauser, to explore the effects that peoples' backgrounds, schooling, military service, and early work experiences have on their careers. For further information contact SSDA on (062) 49 4400.

AUSTRALIAN DATA SETS AVAILABLE

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

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

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

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

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

APOP Gallup Polls

Agreement has been reached with the Melbourne Herald Weekly Times Ltd for the regular deposit of their APOP (Australian Public Opinion Polls) Gallup polls with SSDA. These polls are conducted by McNair Anderson Associates Pty Ltd ten times yearly, with a national sample of approximately 2,000. Surveys have been deposited for the period 1975 onwards, and data files will be embargoed for two years from the date of fieldwork.

Topics vary from poll to poll. Those surveyed in 1979, for example, included problems facing Australia, children's television, Vietnam, approval of political leaders, gambling, inflation, industrial disputes, random breath tests, conservation, sex-typing of occupations, abortion, relationships with other countries, air travel, elections, nuclear energy, capital punishment, income tax, euthanasia, wage indexation, pollution, refugees to Australia, taxation, Federal Budget, fluoridation, arming of police, uranium, advertising, Australian aid, and medical insurance.

Standard variables include occupation of respondent and head of household, marital status, level of education, whether enrolled to vote, income, age group, sex, type of home, home ownership and telephone ownership. In addition, a question on vote intention is included in most surveys.

The data files have recently arrived at the SSDA and will need conversion from multi-punched to single-punched format. Enquiries about content and release dates should be sent to the SSDA.

Age Polls

As noted in Newsletter No.7, the SSDA has received a large number of 'Age' polls. These include most polls for 1972 to 1974, and from April 1976 to November 1981.

A series of six polls, dated July to December 1972, was the first set to be processed for distribution (SSDA Study Nos 1-6). Currently in process are 21 polls dated April 1976 to November 1981. The data files are being converted from a multi-punched to a single-punched format, and these will be distributed to users with a detailed user's guide (includes a methodological history of the data; a codebook and a questionnaire) and a fully-labelled SPSS set-up file. Half of these polls are now ready for distribution; the remainder are planned for completion over the next two months.

Cutress, Terence W., et al., Adult oral health in New Zealand, 1976 (SSDA Study No.192)

Two surveys were conducted as part of this study, a general population household survey and a survey of dental practitioners selected from those used by sample households.

Variables included in the general population survey were beliefs about the onset of dental problems, the social stigma attached to various oral conditions and attitudes to use of dental services; beliefs about dentures, dentists, subsidisation of treatment costs, fluoridation and diet; aspects of personal care, diet and perception of present oral condition; history of contact with the dental system, perceived barriers to use of services, and influence of lay or non-professional advisers; details of use of dental services; and advice offered by dentist on oral hygiene and topics of discussion when visiting the dentist. Background variables were respondent's age, sex, marital status, age and sex of all household members, respondent's ethnic group, skin colour, educational level, occupation, employment status and income. Information was also collected on household composition, household income, spouse's occupation, and occupation of spouse's father and of respondent's father. Census counts were added to the data file for each of the secondary sampling units, on age, race, income, university attendance, marrieds, NZ-born, single family dwellings, urban/rural production workers, classification, and number of dentists.

The dental practitioner survey collected information on a self-assessment of type of practitioner; extent of special interests; time spent in practice; involvement in continuing education; contact with colleagues; general advice offered by the dentist on the dentist-patient relationship; time spent on different

treatment tasks; and attitudes towards the cost of dentistry, prevalence of gingivitis, retention of teeth, auxiliaries, and the undergraduate curriculum. Background characteristics of dentists included age, sex, time in practice and in current practice, and income. Characteristics of practices included type of practice, professional personnel in practice, patient numbers and source.

There are 2 data files, with 3,231 cases in the general population file and 134 cases in the dental practitioner file.
Access Category A.

Australian Bureau of Statistics, Australian health survey, 1977-78 (SSDA Study No. 196)

For further information, see page 7.

Throsby, David, Individual Artists Inquiry, Artist survey, 1983 (SSDA Study No. 198)

The terms of reference of the Inquiry included collecting data on the number of artists by art form and employment characteristics; career patterns; financial position; relationships with employers, companies and arts organisations; and attitudes of artists to the arts and to their role in the arts industry. Artists were classified as writers; craftspeople, visual artists; cinematographers; directors; designers and art directors; actors, mime musicians and singers; composers; community artists; and Aboriginal artists.

Topics include type of artistic work engaged in, type of work most preferred, development of career from childhood, mother's and father's occupation, training undertaken, arts and non-arts work during previous year, five years ago and present time, difficulties in developing quality or range of work, whether health suffered, impact of technological change on artistic practice, importance of travel, opinion of Australia Council, grants during last five years, types of financial assistance, regularity of income, taxation problems, insurance cover, superannuation, borrowing money, employment, contract and promotion arrangements, competition in the occupation, whether women suffer professional disadvantage, and main artistic achievements over last five years. Background information includes country of birth, age group, sex, level of education, living arrangement, ownership of home, children and whether under/over 10, membership of professional organisations or unions, and detailed income and expenditure.

The data file contains 976 cases, with 18 records per case.

Access Category B (until 30 June 1984)
Access Category A (after 1 July 1984)

Kendig, Hal et al., Non-institutionalised aged in Sydney, 1981 (SSDA Study No. 210)

For further information, see p8.

Clarke, Simon and Nicola Weston, Westmead Centre, Health and health problems among Sydney adolescents, 1981 (SSDA Study No. 121)

This survey was designed to assess the perceived health needs of adolescents in the Western Metropolitan region of Sydney. Information was obtained from a sample of high school students concerning their health, developmental problems and use of health care facilities. Details of alcohol use, smoking and the use of other medications were also collected. Background variables included age, sex, ethnic background, parent's occupations, position in the family and life events.

The data file contains 1,641 cases, with 126 variables per case.

Maynard, Margaret, Image of the Australian Aboriginal in illustrated newspapers, 1853-1897 (SSDA Study No. 115)

The purpose of this study was to list and describe all images, including

cartoons, of the Aboriginal between the given dates in a sample of newspapers from Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne and Adelaide. Related textual information was also included.

The resulting computer-readable text file contains a standardised entry for each image. Descriptive fields include the title and date of the newspaper, title of the image and page on which it is located, name of artist/engraver/photographer, size of image, description of scene (activity/background/dress/accessories), title and author of related text, location and name of tribe, type of image (advertisement, cartoon etc.), city of origin of newspaper, and related information.

1,116 images are described.
Access Category A

IMF STATISTICS

The International Monetary Fund distributes tapes containing International Financial Statistics and Direction of Trade data. If purchased on a subscription basis, the cost for each set of 12 monthly tapes plus documentation is U.S.$400 per year for educational institutions, U.S.$1,000 per year for single users, and U.S.$5,000 per year for time sharing companies.

These statistics are also available from ICPSR, and thus are accessible to ACSPRI members through this source. The two data files, ICPSR 7628 (Direction of Trade) and ICPSR 7629 (IFS) fit onto one tape at 6250 b.p.i., with a cost to ACSPRI members of $60 plus the cost of the tape, for each month's statistics. It doesn't take sophisticated mathematics for readers to realise that the cost of a full year's worth of tapes would be relatively expensive through ICPSR/ACSPRI. However, for those interested in a subset each year (say, for June and December only) it could be a relatively attractive proposition.

Enquiries are welcomed and should be directed to Roger Jones at SSDA, on (062)49 4400.

ICPSR ADDITIONS TO HOLDINGS

The following titles have been extracted from the ICPSR Bulletin dated October 1983. For further information contact the SSDA.

Euro-barometer 16: noise and other soc-problems, October 1981 (ICPSR 9022)
Euro-barometer 17: energy and the future, April, 1982 (ICPSR 9023)
Euro-barometer 18: ecological issues, October 1982 (ICPSR 9057)
Consumer expenditure survey, 1960-1961 (ICPSR 9035)
Survey of consumer expenditures, 1972-1973 ICPSR 9034)
Consumer Price Index, 1913-1983 (ICPSR 8166)
CBS News/New York Times election day surveys, 1982 (ICPSR 8168)
American national election study, 1984: 1983 pilot study (ICPSR 8178)
Interaction between neighbourhood change and criminal activity, 1979 (ICPSR 9056)
ABC News/Washington Post poll of public opinion on
- health, September 1982 (ICPSR 9048)
- current social and political issues, October 1982 (ICPSR 9049)
- the Middle East, August 1982 (ICPSR 9046)
- current social and political issues, September 1982 (ICPSR 9047)

Inmate victimization in state prisons in the United States, 1979 (ICPSR 8087)
County level political, economic and social statistics for New York State: 1962-1978 (ICPSR 8150)
Current population survey
- May 1980 (ICPSR 8137)
- May 1981 (ICPSR 8153)
- June 1981 (ICPSR 8143)
- June 1982 (ICPSR 8144)

General election data for the United States, 1968-1982 (ICPSR 0013)
Census of governments, 1977
- employment summary statistics (ICPSR 8117)
- finance summary statistics