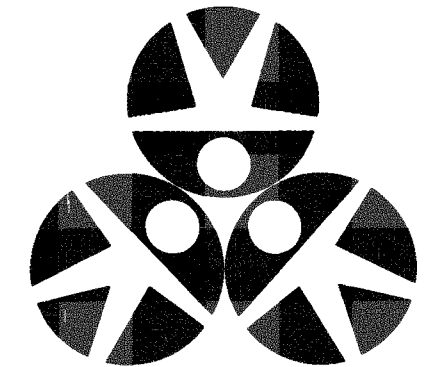


ACSPRI newsletter

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THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS AMENDMENT ACT (No.2) 1981

A Bill for an Act to amend the Census and Statistics Act 1905 was introduced in the House of Representatives by the Treasurer on 15 October 1981. Further readings of the Bill to both Houses have been given and the Bill was assented to in February this year. The amended Act should be proclaimed late in the current sitting (May) or early in the Budget sitting (August).

Part IV, Section 13 of the Act deals with conditions for the release of information furnished to the ABS:

" (1) Notwithstanding anything in this Act (other than this section), the Minister may, by instrument in writing, make determinations providing for and in relation to the disclosure, with the approval in writing of the Statistician, of information included in a specified class of information furnished in pursuance of this Act.

" (2) Without limiting the generality of sub-section (1), determinations may make provision -

(a) as to the persons to whom the information may be disclosed;

(b) as to the persons, being the persons from whom the information has been obtained, whose consent is

required for the disclosure of the information; and

(c) specifying terms and conditions subject to which the information may be disclosed, including, but without limiting the generality of the foregoing, terms and conditions as to the requiring of the person to whom the information is, or is to be, disclosed to give an undertaking, in writing, with respect to the disclosure of the information by that person, including an undertaking not to disclose any of the information to any person.

" (3) Information of a personal or domestic nature relating to a person shall not be disclosed in accordance with a determination in a manner that is likely to enable the identification of that person.

Section 12, part 3 of the amendment Bill states:

"For the purposes of the Principal Act as amended by this Act, the contents of any form filled up or any information furnished, at the request of the Statistician made before the commencement of this Act, for statistical purposes, shall be deemed to be information furnished in pursuance of that Act as so amended."

Subject to appropriate determinations by the Minister, it appears that the amended Act will allow the ABS to release individual record data from censuses and surveys both past and present provided that the form of release is not likely to enable identification of individual respondents. This condition could be easily satisfied in surveys based on household or individual responses, including samples of individual records from the Census of Population and Housing, though somewhat less easily with business surveys. It is to be hoped that the conditions imposed in the determinations and the attitude of the Statistician are such as to encourage use of these data by the research community. Release of the determinations is expected soon after

the Act is proclaimed and will be included in the next Newsletter if available.

* * *

NATIONAL SOCIAL SCIENCE SURVEY

A major social and political survey of the Australian population is to be conducted this year by researchers at the Australian National University and the University of Melbourne. The main aim of this study is to collect timely, high quality social and political data based on a large, representative national sample. The study will also investigate several specific questions concerning public satisfaction and dissatisfaction with government and the effects of family background, ethnicity, and gender on inequality and political attitudes and behaviour. These data, based on approximately 2,000 personal interviews with a representative national sample, will be made freely available to other researchers through the Social Science Data Archives at the Australian National University and the Inter-University Consortium for Social and Political Research at the University of Michigan. It is anticipated that this survey will become one of the major academic sources of information on social and political questions in Australia.

Support for this research has been provided jointly by the Australian Research Grants Committee and the Australian National University's Research School of Social Sciences. Present funding is for a single survey which will be in the field in late 1982 or early 1983. However, it is hoped to turn this into a continuing panel study with reinterviews of the same respondents (augmented by a sample of new entrants to keep the sample representative of the population) at three year intervals in the future. This would allow measurement of stability and change among individuals as well as estimates of general historical trends.

[2]

The survey is part of a growing international tradition of multi-purpose social surveys designed for public use. Examples of these are the well known political surveys from the University of Michigan, the General Social Surveys from the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago, the German National Social Survey, and the European Economic Commission's Eurobarometer surveys. The Australian survey will include many questions from these studies, so that clear cross-national comparisons will be possible.

Most of the questions in the survey will be 'core' items covering standard demographic and background information together with a wide range of social and political items of interest to a broad academic audience. These will include age, ethnicity, occupation, industry, education, income, religion, children, family background, political attitudes, and party preference. These core items will be repeated in future rounds of the survey and, in addition to their immediate value, will eventually provide measures of changes over time. In addition to these core items, there will be additional questions which are asked only once, mainly items of topical or narrowly specialized interest.

The final selection of items will be based in part on the preferences of potential users. While constraints of time necessarily limit the number of questions that can be included, researchers who would like to suggest items are invited to contact one of the principal investigators at the address given below. Since writing new items is a notoriously tricky business, items that have previously been used with success on national surveys in Australia or abroad are strongly preferred. Items that would be of interest to a broad range of researchers are preferred to those of interest only to a few. Some indication of past research on similar issues, and plans for future research using the item, would be very welcome. A lengthy draft of possible items will be assembled and sent for comments to potential users at universities and research institutions in Australia and elsewhere in the world. Potential users

who would like to comment on this draft are invited to contact the principal investigators. It would be appreciated if they would give some indication of their interests and the use they might make of the data.

The project is directed by Dr. Jonathan Kelley, Senior Research Fellow in the Department of Sociology at the Research School of Social Sciences in The Australian National University, Canberra, (Telephone (062)493035); by Dr. R.G. Cushing, Reader and Head of the Department of Sociology in the Faculty of Arts, The Australian National University, (Telephone (062)494082); and by Dr. Bruce Headey, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Political Science, the University of Melbourne, Parkville, Victoria 3052 (Telephone (03)3451844).

* * *

CSIRONET

CSIRONET is the scientific computing service run by the CSIRO Division of Computing Research. The service is provided through a network of mini-computers, "nodes", many of which are managed by groups of users. Scientists from all over Australia can use the powerful central host computers through any one of over 100 nodes in many parts of the country, as if the chosen host were next door. It is also possible to access networks and program libraries in other parts of the world via CSIRONET's gateway to OTC's MIDAS network.

The article below describes how one group, the Interdepartmental CSIRONET User Group, has used the CSIRONET system to pool its data and software, thus reducing duplication of effort and improving access to data. Should ACSPRI consider a similar arrangement for pooling data, particularly that which is distributed by the ABS and widely used? The purchase price of the data could then be shared between a number of users, although each user would have to pay CSIRONET computing charges for analyses.

[3]

INTERDEPARTMENTAL CSIRONET USER GROUP

The Interdepartmental CSIRONET User Group was formed in January 1980. The original impetus for the formation of the Group was the introduction of the ABS publication, "Time Series Data on Magnetic Tape and Microfiche", ABS Cat. no. 1311.0, which was released for the first time in late 1979. Bruce Coe (then in the Department of Productivity) became aware that a number of other government departments using CSIRONET were also acquiring ABS time series data. He contacted those departments, others that he thought would be interested in using the data, and the ABS Time Series Section, in order to call a meeting to discuss the establishment of a group whose principal aims would be to rationalise the use of data and software on CSIRONET to the benefit of the members of the group.

It was recognised at the subsequent meeting that there was indeed much duplication of effort taking place in setting up data bases, and also duplication of software to access those data and do things with it. This was particularly so with regard to the ABS Population Census data and to a lesser extent with the fledgling Time Series Data. It was agreed that data and software should be pooled. It was also recognised that such a group would be able to provide a means of coordinating details with the ABS and CSIRO's Division of Computing Research (DCR, the manager of CSIRONET) to the benefit of all.

At subsequent meetings steps were taken to initiate the pooling of data and software. The principal contributors have been the Industries Assistance Commission (IAC) and the Bureau of Agricultural Economics (BAE); the Department of Housing and Construction (HC) has also contributed. The upshot is that an almost complete set of published 1976 Population Census data tapes together with other ABS magnetic tape publications, a substantial number of time series analysis packages and a table generator for use with population census data have been made available to all members of the Group. A small

program to access the Time Series Data developed by the IAC (and enhanced by the Department of Industry and Commerce (DIAC)) has also been made available to the Group.

Initially the Group met monthly, and as most of the initial goals were achieved the meetings became less frequent, but the Group is by no means becoming moribund. Currently, the Group is serving a useful function in coordinating with the DCR and the ABS the supply and installation of 1981 Population Census matrix tapes on CSIRONET. As a result there is every chance that as the matrix data become available they will be able to be accessed and used immediately. A stark contrast to the situation following the release of 1976 Population Census data when CSIRONET users (mostly government departments) independently acquired census data on magnetic tape and wasted much time and resources developing software to access, manipulate and tabulate them.

Another important development began last year when BAE leased TROLL (a powerful and comprehensive package for time series analysis - particularly econometric modelling) from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and installed it on a rented DCR computer. Subsequently another copy of TROLL was installed by DCR on its Two Pi machine. The IAC, the Parliamentary Library Statistics Research Group (SRG), the Bureau of Labour Market Research (BLMR) and the DIAC jointly undertook to make up any shortfall in the recovery of the cost of leasing TROLL by DCR. TROLL substantially eliminates the need for most, if not all, of the many other time series analysis programs used by the Group in the past on CSIRONET. In addition, its availability is stimulating usage of ABS time series data.

* * *

ACSPRI REPRESENTATIVES

ANU Roger Jones, Secretary-Treasurer of ACSPRI, was appointed Head of the Social Science Data Archives, Research School of Social Sciences,

[4]

ANU on 1 February. Bill Craig (programmer), Jane Mugford (research assistant) and Kay Hansen (secretary) were transferred to the Data Archives on the closure of the ANU Survey Research Centre.

Monash David Kemp has now returned to Monash and resumed his position as ACSPRI Rep. David Brereton has accepted a position at La Trobe University.

Gippsland Ian Hamilton is overseas in America for 1982 on leave, part of which will be spent at the ICPSR Summer Program. Ian Gibson, lecturer in Economics, will be filling in as ACSPRI Rep.

Griffith Roy Rickson has taken over from Gary McDonald as the Rep. for Griffith University.

La Trobe R.J. Powell, Research Advisor to the Schools of Social Sciences and Economics has been appointed ACSPRI Rep. following Dietrich Borhardt's retirement.

Wollongong Geoff Sherington has left to return to Sydney. As yet a replacement has not been appointed.

* * *

ABC AUDIENCE RESEARCH

The ABC, through its Audience Research Department, has recently become a member of ACSPRI. The ACSPRI Representative is Dennis List, who writes below on the work they are doing to make their data available to ACSPRI members. Details of the surveys will be made available as they are deposited.

"In recent years, ABC Audience Research has conducted many audience surveys - approximately 80 surveys since the beginning of 1975, not counting qualitative work (group discussions, and so forth). Even though reports have been produced for all these surveys, most of the data still have much potential for re-analysis.

Our paper-filing system was getting out of hand, and becoming too reliant on individual memories, so we decided to computerize it, using the ABC's DECSYSTEM20-60 mainframe computer. The new system consists of two separate archives:

- (a) An archive of cleaned raw data files, each with an SPSS program file. The most recent two to three years' worth of surveys are kept on disk. Earlier data are on tape. This is the same type of archive that ACSPRI has. We propose to make all these data (except for the most recent six months' or so) available to ACSPRI members.

Most of these surveys are of the personal interview type, were conducted in a single geographical area (a city or a rural area), and have a sample size of around 500 to 1000.

The questionnaires mostly ask about use of and attitudes towards radio and television programs, though some surveys cover the ABC's concert-promotion and merchandising activities. Note that we do not have data from the political polls sometimes covered by ABC television.

- (b) An archive of overall results - a summary of the answers to every question in all the surveys of archive (a). This information is contained in one large disk file. The format of each entry is similar to that of the "Polls" section in Public Opinion Quarterly.

An entry consists of a question, possible answers, percentage giving each answer, sample size, a survey label, position of questionnaire, and a code denoting the subject matter of the question.

Here's an example of an entry:

[5]

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227-123 *PT MERREDIN 1981

CONDESCRIPTIVE (as shown in the Merredin example above).

COMMENTS ABOUT TV

	%	Count
NO CHOICE OR VARIETY	41.6	138
LACK OF SPORT	4.2	14
BAD RECEPTION	7.8	26
MANY REPEATS	18.7	62
NOT ENOUGH MOVIES	3.0	10
GENERALLY BAD	9.6	32
GENERALLY GOOD	3.9	13
BRING BACK CH.6	0.3	1
TOO MUCH SPORT	0.6	2
COMBINATIONS, OTHER	10.2	34
TOTAL	100.0%	=332 PEOPLE

In the first line, 227-123 means survey 227, the variable beginning on card 1, column 23. *PT means question type PT (i.e. questions on television in general, not related to time, station, or program). "Merredin 1981" shows that this item came from our 1981 survey conducted in Merredin. (What? You've never heard of Merredin? It does exist!)

The above entry began as part of an SPSS FREQUENCIES print file, which was then reformatted by a program we've written - hence the rather scrappy labelling.

Any SPSS users reading this may be interested in a suite of computer programs we have which make SPSS easier to use. As we have gradually re-processed our old data, we've written the following programs:

- Sequence checking: when there is meant to be more than one record per case, this program detects any case with an incorrect number of records.
- Checking for stray non-numeric punches (which cause SPSS to abort).
- Correcting specific variables in specific cases.
- Reformatting output from FREQUENCIES, MULT RESPONSE, and abbreviating CROSSTABS and

All the above programs run interactively, from terminals; they are written in Fortran-20 (DEC Fortran, with some additions and extensions from ANSI Fortran). Anybody who is interested in using these programs is welcome to get in touch with us. We have a more detailed description of them; ACSPRI in Canberra also has a copy of this.

Conversely, if anybody has other programs which work in conjunction with SPSS, we'd be interested to hear about them."

Dennis List
ABC Audience Research
7.1.82

* * *

DEVELOPMENT OF AN ACSPRI DATA INDEX

One of the foundation objectives of ACSPRI is to collect and disseminate information relating to quantitative social science data holdings that exist in computer-readable form and are located in Australian tertiary institutions, as well as in non-profit research agencies and other bodies conducting social science research. The creation of an index to such sources is not only essential to the Archives as a means of deciding what data sets to acquire in order to satisfy consumer demand, but also to the social science community in general as an aid in planning new research, developing contacts with like-minded colleagues and in reducing the likelihood of duplication of effort.

Looking to the experiences of overseas archives suggests a procedure by which this objective could be achieved quickly and fairly comprehensively. Both the Data Clearing House for the Social Sciences in Canada and the SSRC Data Archive in Britain have established a network of correspondents covering tertiary social science departments to provide information on data collection activities and to receive information of

the activities of other departments and of materials available through the Archive. The basis of such a network in Australia is already established by the membership of ACSPRI and this could be expanded and developed by encouraging more user involvement within member institutions and increasing the coverage of ACSPRI membership.

I therefore propose to contact heads of social science departments in ACSPRI member institutions, providing details of ACSPRI services and asking that a Departmental Contact be appointed. Lists of these contacts will be compiled and distributed to ACSPRI Representatives, the principal member contact point. Departmental Contacts will be asked to provide information on current and completed surveys undertaken within the department. As studies are completed, documentation, publications, and reports will be sought from which a fuller description of the survey can be compiled by the Social Science Data Archives. These will be used to produce a survey index which will be made available as quickly as possible to Departmental Contacts and ACSPRI Representatives. Where researchers are willing to make their data available for secondary analysis, the SSSA will offer to act as the depository and dissemination agent.

The majority of departments to be contacted have already provided some information on their survey activity to the former ANU Survey Research Centre when compiling the Inventory of Australian Surveys. Copies of this Inventory are now available on microfiche and will be distributed to Departmental Contacts and ACSPRI Representatives in the near future.

Readers willing to act as Departmental Contacts are asked to write or phone me. Any comments or enquiries on this proposal would be particularly welcome.

Roger Jones
Sec-Treasurer, ACSPRI,
Social Science Data Archives,
Research School of Social Sciences,

Australian National University
P.O. Box 4,
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Telephone (062)494400.

* * *

INFORMATION SOURCES ON AUSTRALIAN DATA COLLECTIONS

The Statistics Co-ordinating Group of the State Co-ordination Council of Victoria has compiled and published the 'Register of Agencies Data Collections, April 1981'. This is the revised version of the draft edition reported in the last Newsletter. The publication is available from the Book Shop of the Victorian Community Services Centre, 1st Floor, 356 Collins Street, Melbourne at a cost of \$6.00.

The ABS Catalogue of Publications 1981 and 1982 was released in December 1981. A new feature in this catalogue is an alphabetical index of current publications available on microfiche. The catalogue is available free of charge from ABS offices.

* * *

REFERENCE SOURCES

The second volume of the annual series Index to International Public Opinion covering 1979-80 is now available at £50 from Clio Press, Oxford, England. The Index presents public opinion data from surveys conducted in 46 countries by 82 polling organisations. Contributors from Australia are McNair Anderson Associates Pty. Ltd. and The Roy Morgan Research Centre Pty. Ltd. This volume contains over 4000 entries arranged initially by topic, then by country in which the surveys were conducted by date of interviewing. The publishers advise that most of the studies cited are available from data archives in the various countries.

ISR researchers have recently compiled a pair of reference books to the vast archive of ISR survey data. The first

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volume titled American National Election Studies Data Sourcebook 1952-1978 catalogues the responses to all the questions asked in the 14 U.S. national election studies completed to date. The second volume titled American Social Attitudes Data Sourcebook 1947-1978 covers almost 200 surveys of social attitudes conducted by ISR. The researchers involved in this cataloguing project hope that these two sourcebooks will provide the impetus for time-series research by showing people what data sources are available and by pointing out intriguing patterns that are beginning to emerge.

A revision of the national election sourcebook to include the 1980 presidential election should now be available. Updates are also planned for the social attitudes volume. Each volume costs US\$25 and is available from Harvard University Press, 79 Garden Street, Cambridge, MA02138, U.S.A.

* * *

CONFERENCES

The Australian Population Association will hold its first National Conference from 31 October to 2 November in Canberra at the ANU. For further information contact Dr Lado Ruzicka, Demography Dept., RSSS, ANU, P.O. Box 4, Canberra ACT 2600 and mark the envelope "APA Conference".

The NSW Branch of the Statistical Society of Australia is sponsoring a symposium on Statistical Computing on 20-21 May at the University of Sydney. Registration is \$30.00 for members of the SSA and \$50.00 for non-members. Further details are available from Dr Richard Fisher, Special Unit, Prince of Wales Hospital, Randwick, NSW 2031. Phone: (02)3992163.

The sixth Australian Statistical Conference will be held in Melbourne from 23-27 August. The main themes will be Resource Development and Medical Research. Enquiries should be directed to Ian Gordon, Conference Secretary, Dept. of Statistics, University of

Melbourne, Parkville, Victoria 3052. Phone: (03)3416605.

The fifteenth Essex Summer School in Social Science Data Analysis and Collection will be held at the University of Essex (England) in three continuous but independent sessions from 9 July-20 August. Interested persons should write to The Organising Secretary, 15th Essex Summer School, Dept. of Government, University of Essex, Colchester CO4 3SQ, England.

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VICTORIAN DATA INFORMATION SYSTEM (VDIS)

VDIS is a data base designed for use in large scale co-ordinated planning. Information is stored at LGA level and includes 2500 variables covering census data, AMIS data, building approvals, community welfare statistics, prison data, youth and training centres data, social welfare data and mental health statistics. Additional files include SEC electricity consumption data (which is incomplete) and a community resources file listing local government area facilities such as local action groups and local trusts, housing for the disadvantaged, passive leisure facilities, community services, and community health facilities. Information for the data base was provided by the ABS and a number of State Authorities.

Access to the data base is available interactively by acoustic coupler from the University of Melbourne. Output options are: data ready for use with SPSS or other analysis packages, data suitable for computer mapping, and a standard printout which lists health, welfare, census and other data by LGA, region and state, creates indices from any combination of the variables, and rank orders the LGAs on the index. Publications, slides, and microfiche are available at a modest charge to users included on a mailing list.

VDIS was developed by Professor Alexander Wearing and Anona Armstrong, Programme in Public Policy Studies,

University of Melbourne, with the support of a grant from the Department of Community Welfare Services. For further details of the system and access costs, contact Anona Armstrong.

* * *

NEW DATA SETS ISSUED BY THE ABS

The Australian Bureau of Statistics has recently released two new data sets on magnetic tape and microfiche.

The Standardised Local Government Finance Statistics (SLGFS) contain comparable finance statistics for all local government authorities (except County Councils in NSW) in the six States and the Northern Territory. The first release in January 1982 is for the year 1979-80 (1979 calendar year for NSW). The SLGFS service provides, on an annual basis,

- * 15 separate statements containing potentially over 1000 data cells for each local government authority (LGA) relating to -
 - . property valuations and details of revenue from rates
 - . revenue and outlay classified by economic type and purpose categories
 - . long term debt and investments
 - . some non-financial data (eg. population and area) intended to facilitate the derivation of per capita and per unit area statistics.

The NIF-10 Model Data consists of some 400 time series forming the data base for the NIF-10 model of the Australian economy. The document "The NIF-10 Model of the Australian Economy" published by the Department of the Treasury and available through AGPS offices provides a comprehensive description of the model and details of the model variables. Some of the time series are published elsewhere by the ABS while others are specifically constructed for the model,

such as measures of the cost of capital, unit labour costs, the stock of assets, and tax rates.

Data will be released each quarter following the release of the publication "Quarterly Estimates of National Income and Expenditure" (ABS Catalogue No. 5206.0), and will be the latest available data at that time. For most series the data span between 10 and 20 years. The complete span of all of the time series will be reproduced each quarter, updated and revised as necessary.

For further information and order forms contact the SLGFS Contact Officer, Public Finance Section (062 526719) or the User Contact Officer, Time Series Section (062 526636) at the ABS, P.O. Box 10, Belconnen, ACT. 2616.

Note that the ABS also release the following data files on magnetic tape and microfiche. Further details are available.

Time Series Data - about 1700 series, mostly Australian but some at State level, across most of the subject fields for which ABS publishes statistics. Updated each quarter and contain seasonally adjusted statistics where available.

Australian Municipal Information Service (AMIS) - latest available annual summary statistics for LGA's including local government finance, population, vital, building, manufacturing industry, retail industry, and agriculture.

Agricultural Information Dissemination Service (AIDS) - detailed small area statistics from the annual Agricultural Census. Tapes for 1977-79 released, 1980 will be released in about May.

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AUSTRALIAN DATA SETS AVAILABLE

Broom, L. et al., Department of Sociology, Research School of Social Sciences, Australian National University.

Social Mobility In Australia Project 1973 (SSDA Study No. 8)

A national sample was drawn in accordance with the general principles of the Current Population Survey by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. Personal interviews were conducted with men and women aged 30-69 living in private dwellings, in the approximate ratio of two-thirds men to one-third women.

The three major objectives of the survey were (1) to replicate the 1965 baseline study of Australian stratification and mobility (Social Stratification in Australia 1965 (SSDA Study No. 7)); (2) to broaden understanding of social mobility and social stratification in Australia beyond the fairly restricted findings of the 1965 baseline, not only by including more details on family background, education and class images, but also by including women as respondents in their own right; and (3) to maximise the possibilities for comparison with both the first and second generations of national surveys in other countries.

Occupational history details are available for respondent, respondent's father, and respondent's children 21 years and over, dates and duration of all study undertaken, and occupational data for several career points, a special section for women on employment intentions and preferences, and images of society and class ideology. Data also on birthplace, marital status, residence, ownership of house, characteristics of parental household and respondent's household, income, political party preference, religion, consumption of durables, trade union membership, war service, internal / external control, job satisfaction, and retirement.

There are 4939 cases, with 14 card images per case containing 605

variables. The codebook is available both as a machine readable file and on microfiche.

* * *

Aitkin, D.A., Department of Political Science, Research School of Social Sciences, Australian National University.

Macquarie University Australian Political Attitudes Survey 1979 (SSDA Study No. 9)

The third national survey of Australian political behaviour and attitudes. This study repeats many of the items of the two previous surveys (Wave 1: ICPSR 7282, Wave 2: ICPSR 7393) and uses basically the same sample design.

Variables include: the following of political news in the mass media, likes and dislikes about political parties and party leaders, opinions about political issues, attitudes to Australia's federal system of government, interest in politics, political party identification, voting history, electoral expectations, political participation, ideological location of parties, knowledge / perception of members of parliament, perception of government and politics, perception of personal and political efficacy, and trade union experience and attitudes. Background variables are age, sex, marital status, household characteristics, home ownership, residence, respondent's and spouse's education, respondent's and spouse's / parents' religion, social class, respondent's and spouse's / father's occupational data, work experience, and household income data.

There are 2016 cases, with 8 card images per case containing 280 variables. The codebook is available in hard copy (362pp) at \$18.00 or on microfiche at \$2.00.

* * *

Kendig, H. Urban Research Unit, Research School of Social Sciences, Australian National University

[10]

Movers in Adelaide 1977 (SSDA Study No. 10)

Personal interviews were conducted with a stratified sample of 697 household heads who had moved to locations within the Adelaide Statistical Division between 1 January 1976 and about March 1977. Approximately 100 interviews were obtained in each of seven types of dwelling: privately rented flats, privately rented houses, publicly rented houses, owner-occupied new houses, owner-occupied established houses, owner-occupied home units, and owner-occupied publicly sold houses. Sampling frames used were the Valuer-General's property file and South Australian Housing Trust records. Within each of the seven strata, households were chosen at random.

One of the main purposes of the study was to test the common assumption, on which much policy is based, that nearly everybody follows the same housing progression or 'career'. A related purpose was to find out how households were responding to changes to the housing market during the 1970s. Topics were: characteristics of the respondent's current dwelling, previous dwelling, and some information about the dwelling before that, sources of finance for purchases, the household's family, economic and employment circumstances and any recent or expected changes in these factors, reasons for moving, housing preferences, and related topics. Background variables: (for respondent) birthplace, age left school, years of tertiary education completed; (for respondent and wife) whether a driver's licence held, employment status, occupation, travel to work, gross income, vehicles owned, capital assets, and loans.

There are 697 cases, with 6 card images per case containing 293 variables.

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Tertiary Education Commission

TAFE Teachers Survey, 1977 (SSDA Study No. 11)

A questionnaire was distributed to all full-time teachers in Technical and Further Education throughout Australia. An overall response rate of 59 per cent was obtained.

The aim of the survey was to obtain information on the qualifications and experience of full-time TAFE teachers in order to assist the TAFE Commission (as it then was) in making an appraisal of teacher training needs, the nature and extent of resources required, and to provide State TAFE authorities with information for use in formulating programmes of initial and continuing teacher education.

Variables include years of teaching experience, type of qualifications obtained and when, reasons for not studying now, whether any studies were discontinued and why, course attendance and reasons for not attending, position, salary, distribution of duty hours, and stream and field of teaching.

There are 5626 cases, with 3 card images per case containing 136 variables. An SPSS set-up file is supplied with the data.

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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,
Research School of Social Sciences,
Australian National University,
PO Box 4,
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Telephone (062) 494400

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[11]