SSDA News Issue 32 September 1995

Survey of Consumer Attitudes and Behavior: January 1991 (ICPSR 9659); February 1991 (ICPSR 9660); March 1991 (ICPSR 9661); April 1991 (ICPSR 9662); May 1991 (ICPSR 9663); June 1991 (ICPSR 6415); July 1991 (ICPSR 6416); August 1991 (ICPSR 6417); September 1991 (ICPSR 6418); October 1991 (ICPSR 6419); November 1991 (ICPSR 6420); December 1991 (ICPSR 6421)

Survey of Federal Employees Health Benefits Plan (FEHBP) Members, 1994: [United States] (ICPSR 6458)

Surveys of Income and Program Participation (SIPP): 1990 Panel: Waves 1-5 Longitudinal Microdata File (ICPSR 6124); 1992 Panel (ICPSR 6429)

Surveys of Public Participation in the Arts [United States]: 1982 (ICPSR 6441); 1985 (ICPSR 6442); 1992 (ICPSR 6443)

Survey of School Psychology in Developed and

Developing Countries, 1987-1990 (ICPSR 9768)

Surveys of Undergraduate Students in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, University of Michigan, 1972-1991 (ICPSR 6275)

Uniform Crime Reports [United States]: Supplementary Homicide Reports, 1976-1992 (ICPSR 6387)

Union Army Rejected Recruits in the United States, 1861-1865 (ICPSR 9428)

WCBS-TV News/NEW YORK TIMES Polls: New Jersey Poll #2, October 1993 (ICPSR 6326); New York City Poll #3, October 1993 (ICPSR 6328)

World Health Organization Regional Office for Southeast Asia Collaborative Study on Social and Health Aspects of Aging in Burma, Indonesia, North Korea, Sri Lanka, and Thailand, 1990 (ICPSR 6242)

The Relational D for Researchers

SIR software gives you:

- Full relational database structure
- 4GL programming language
- Varied reporting methods
- Flexible tabulation formats
- Changeable data dictionary
- · Access to major statistical packages



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ACSPRI newsletter

Australian Consortium for Social and Political Research Incorporated Number 32, September 1995 ISSN 0158-6882



incorporating

SSDA news

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

ACSPRI newsletter

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This newsletter is produced at the Social Science Data Archives, Research School of Social Sciences, The Australian National University, Canberra ACT 0200. Phone 06 249 4400; Fax 06 249 4722. Articles, letters, research notes, conference information and other contributions are encouraged. Write to the editors at the address listed above, or send by e-mail to ssda@anu.edu.au

This issue of the Newsletter was edited by Joye McLaughlin and Sue Merz.

ACSPRI Activities

ACSPRI Membership News

Since the March issue of the Newsletter, ACSPRI has been pleased to welcome the Northern Territory University and Southern Cross University as the Consortium's 33rd and 34th academic members.

Professor Bill Tyler, Director of the Institute for Social Research, will be Northern Territory University's Representative on the Council of ACSPRI. His telephone number is 089 466 845 and his fax number is 089 466 977. Southern Cross's Representative will be Mr Lyndon Brooks of the Graduate Research College. He may be contacted by telephone on 066 203 173 and by fax on 066 223 180.

ACSPRI also welcomes the Australian Catholic University's announcement that Associate Professor Marie Joyce of the Faculty of Arts and Science will be the University's new ACSPRI Representative. Her telephone number is 03 9563 3701 and her fax number is 03 9563 3754.

Of Australia's publicly funded universities, only the University of Ballarat and the University of Southern Queensland have yet to become members of ACSPRI. A current, complete list of ACSPRI's 34 academic and 8 government members, and their Representatives, may be found on the back of the 1996 ACSPRI Summer Program Brochure (enclosed).

Change of Address?

Don't forget to let us know. Drop us a line on email (ssda@anu.edu.au) or phone us on 06 249 4400

1996 ACSPRI Summer Program

Australian National University 21 January — 2 February

ACSPRI's 12th Summer Program in Social Research Methods and Research Technology (SP96), co-hosted with the Research School of Social Sciences and the Faculties, will be held at the Australian National University from 21 January through 2 February 1996. Because Australia Day falls on Friday the 26th of January, week 1 courses will run from Sunday 21 January through Thursday 25 January. Following the three-day Australia Day break, week 2 courses will run Monday through Friday. as normal, from 29 January through 2 February.

As with SP95, holding the 1996 Program a week earlier than normal enables the ANU's Teaching and Learning Technology Support Unit (TLTSU) to continue to provide its usual excellent computing service during the Summer Program and to adequately prepare its facilities for the first teaching semester in 1996.

On Sunday 21 January, Program courses will be run to the normal daily schedule (9:00 am -5:30 pm), with the usual tea/coffee facilities provided. In addition, a special lunch will be catered for Program participants to precelebrate the 208th Australia Day and to help launch the 20th and 50th anniversary years of ACSPRI and the ANU, respectively.

The 1996 Summer Program again will offer standard courses in the areas of: survey research design; sampling; introductory statistics; regression analysis; factor analysis. measurement and scaling; data analysis in SPSS and SAS; log-linear modelling; dynamic and longitudinal analysis; program evaluation; and qualitative research. New courses are to be offered in the areas of multidimensional scaling: statistical graphics; latent trait analyses (IRT); policy analysis; and managing machinereadable social science information (see Special Workshop announcement that follows).

The Brochure accompanying this Newsletter provides advance details about the Program, including course subject areas, fees, recommended accommodation and airfares, but does not give specific course titles or descriptions. For more comprehensive information about the Program, including descriptions of all courses and application procedures, prospective participants must consult the 1996 ACSPRI Summer Program Course Booklet, available from:

ACSPRI -SP96.

ACSPRI

Social Science Data Archives, Research School of Social Sciences, Institute of Advanced Studies. The Australian National

University, Canberra ACT 0200, Tel: 06 249 4400. Fax: 06 249 4722.

email: ssda@anu.edu.au

Special Workshop for Librarians at the 1996 ACSPRI **Summer Program**

ACSPRI is pleased to announce that, in conjunction with its 1996 Summer Program, it will be convening a five day, Special Workshop intended primarily for university and government librarians involved in the provision of data services, including electronic information products.

Based on the internationally recognised Management of Machine-Readable Social Science Information workshop, held annually at the ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods at Ann Arbor Michigan (see the report on the 1995 workshop that immediately follows this announcement), the ACSPRI Special Workshop will be conducted by the same instructors: Diane Geraci, Data Services Librarian/Anthropology Bibliographer at the State University of New York at Binghamton; Charles Humphrey, Data Library Coordinator, University Library, University of Alberta; and Jim Jacobs, Data Services Librarian at the University of California, San Diego.

The Workshop is aimed at individuals who have some responsibility for providing (or facilitating) access to social science statistical data files to users of these resources. Its objectives are to introduce 'information management, data control, and data librarian procedures and techniques', taking into account Australian library circumstances and the availability of Australian data products including those available on the Internet.

In addition to covering basic statistical data management skills, the workshop will discuss reference services for machine-readable data, address issues relevant to the development of on-line data collections, and suggest ways of dealing with problems that librarians may encounter in providing data services at their institutions.

For full Workshop details, including application procedures, consult the 1996 ACSPRI Summer Program Course Booklet (available from ACSPRI-SP96, Social Science Data Archives, the Australian National University, Canberra ACT 0200. Tel: 06 249 4400; Fax: 06 249 4722; email: ssda@anu.edu.au)

A University Librarian in Dataland

by Marianna Malot Australian National University, Library

ACSPRI has invited me to comment on my participation in the one-week workshop, held in August, on Management of Machine Readable Social Science Information at the 1995 ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. My participation in the ICPSR workshop was sponsored by ACSPRI, through its membership of the ICPSR, and by the Library and the Social Science Data Archives (SSDA) of the Australian National University.

The workshop was presented by a trio of social science data librarians popularily known as the "three data amigos": Diane Geraci (State University of New York Binghamton), Chuck Humphrey (University of Alberta) and Jim Jacobs (University of California at San Diego). With one exception all participants in the workshop already were, or were about to become, data librarians/data archivists. I was the exception. My background is in academic librarianship in the area of collection management of official documentation with an emphasis on governmental intergovernmental statistics.

My interest in data 'management' is relatively recent, driven primarily by a change in the delivery of statistical information. About seven years ago, the ANU Library governmental statistics collection started the change from a mainly papercopy/microfiche-based format to machine-readable format (MRF). Vendors such as the Australian Bureau of Statistics were delivering large sets of statistics in MRF only. Clearly the additional access features inherent in MRF data were preferrable to papercopy or microfiche and, in practice, few students or researchers would accept papercopy if MRF was available, even in cases where the data was identical.

Until relatively recently, Library and SSDA interaction was infrequent, mainly in the form of automatic referrals, and the social data collection activities of each was reasonably clear-cut. The SSDA has always collected, acquired, processed, preserved and disseminated machine-readable social science data e.g. survey data, opinion poll data and unitrecord census data, on all media, especially magnetic tape (it has also conducted social and political surveys and provided sample design, research method, and statistical analysis guidance). The Library concentrated on products usable by librarians with a limited knowledge of statistics and research methods. namely tabulated social data accessed through proprietary user software on microcomputers.

Now, the increase in availability of MRF data has blurred these demarcation lines. MRF data is turning up on the Internet and data previously accessible on magnetic tape only and requiring expert mediation is now available for tabulation through Web browsers. Admittedly, form-based retrieval of social data on the Web is not yet delivering the complexity of data demanded by social scientists but the increased sophistication of online data is impacting academic libraries. Australian university library interaction with the SSDA has now become, of necessity, more, active and more important.

If the Library user was to benefit from Internet data and from effective referrals to the SSDA, I would need to know more about the working of data libraries/archives than simply their existence and their holdings. Even my experience with data on CD-ROM and floppy disk was proving inadequate in the area of user assistance. A greater understanding of MRF data structure and content would be useful now and might prove essential with future data products.

statistics collection started the change from a mainly papercopy/microfiche-based format to machine-readable format (MRF). Vendors such as the Australian Bureau of Statistics were delivering large sets of statistics in MRF only.

The SSDA recommended this ICPSR workshop and I found it one of the most effective and stimulating I have ever attended. I came to the workshop with many interrelated questions and some trepidation:

Would I be able to follow an intensive course in an area which was relatively new to me? Would my experience with tabulated data on CD-ROMs and floppy disk be an adequate basis on which to build a greater understanding of data archives activities? What would I need to know about MRF data content and structure to effectively assist library users? In which way could the Library streamline referrals to the SSDA - Further training for librarians? Addition of SSDA holdings to the Library integrated online catalogue? The drafting and promotion of a revised and formalized agreement between Library and SSDA? A higher profile for the SSDA's published catalogues? Promotion and training in the use of the SSDA's Web homepage?

I arrived in Ann Arbor, Michigan as an outsider geographically and professionally - but soon found myself enthusiastically involved in a lively. informal course which was well-paced and carefully structured. My background was more than adequate for the pace set by the "three data amigos". The mornings were devoted to theoretical and descriptive analyses of MRF data collections, services, content and structure. The computer laboratory sessions in the afternoons reinforced one's understanding of social science methodology and data structure, searching, ordering, verification and subsetting. The orientation throughout was one of effective service to users. Emphasis was placed on the best service possible in the context of individual corporate missions and budgetary contraints. Especially useful to me were several discussions on data services in mainstream library environments - my environment.

By the end of the Workshop all my substantive questions had been answered, I had a greater understanding of MRF data and was armed with some concrete recommendations for a more effective interaction between the ANU Library and the SSDA.

In short, it was an outstanding workshop for general librarians working with social science data and is highly recommended.

ACSPRI's 1995 Winter Program

The 1995 Winter Program, ACSPRI's second, was held at the University of Adelaide's North Terrace campus during 3 -7 July. The Program was co-hosted by the Faculty of Arts and the Faculty of Economics and Commerce of the University of Adelaide, and by the Institute for Social Research of the University of South Australia. Conducted over one week, with fewer courses, and in a different location (outside of Canberra, Melbourne and Sydney) each year, the Winter Program is a smaller, slightly more collegial version of the annual ACSPRI Summer Program held at the Australian National University. The first Winter Program, of five courses and 49 participants. was held in July 1994 at the University of Western Australia.

Of the eight courses conducted at the 1995 Program, three were at the introductory (Block 1) level: Introduction to Statistics (with 6 participants), Data Analysis in SPSS (14 participants), and Qualitative Research Techniques (18). Two courses were at the intermediate (Block 2) level: Factor Analysis, Measurement and Scaling (6), and Fundamentals of Multiple Regression (8); and another three were advanced (Block 3) level courses: Structural Equation Models - LISREL (13), Applied Logistic Regression (11), and Advanced Topics in Statistics - Longitudinal Analysis (8 participants).

Overall, the 1995 Winter Program attracted 84 participants, roughly as many as at each of the 1985 -1988 Summer Programs and 70% more than at the 1994 Winter Program. Forty percent of the Program's participants came from South Australia, with Flinders University (13) and Winter Program co-hosts the University of Adelaide (11) and the University of South Australia (3) contributing the majority of local participants. In comparison to the 1994 Winter Program, there was proportionately less local representation than at Perth, where 80% of participants came from WA.

Of those individuals travelling interstate to the

Program, 60% came from the ACT (10) or New South Wales (21) - the University of Western Sydney alone had 13 staff/students at the Program. Participants from Victoria (8), Tasmania (5), Queensland (4), WA (2) and NT (1) made up the balance.

For the first time at an ACSPRI Summer/Winter Program, no pre-Program, 'Computer Orientation' session was required for participants, as virtually all course related computing took place in labs equipped with 486 PCs that ran the most recent Windows compatible versions of SAS, SPSS and other statistical software (ACSPRI is grateful to Richard Hunt of SAS Institute Australia for helping make available SAS for Windows v6.10 for use in the Program).

Interstate participants staying in the Residential Wing of the Royal Adelaide Hospital also found it convenient to be within five minutes walking distance of lecture rooms/computer labs provided by the Arts and the Economics and Commerce faculties in the Napier Building, and of the many fine, affordable restaurants along Rundle Street, a block from the North Terrace campus. Morning and afternoon tea/coffee were served in the University Staff Club, the location as well for the Program's Monday evening reception. The uneventful, but enjoyable, Program dinner, a buffet, was held on Wednesday evening at the Pullman Restaurant of the Adelaide Casino.

ACSPRI thanks its instructors for their excellent teaching, the University of Adelaide for providing exceptional logistical support for the Program, and Program participants for their part in helping make ACSPRI's second Winter Program at least as successful as its first.

Book Review

IN-DEPTH INTERVIEWING: principles, techniques, analysis. 2nd edition. Victor Minichiello. Rosalie Aroni, Eric Timewell, Loris Alexander. Longman: Australia. 1995. 320pp \$39.95 (paperback)

This is the second edition of the popular *In-Depth Interviewing: researching people*, published in 1990. The framework of the first

ACSPRI

edition remains intact with chapters on: theoretical background; literature review; interviewing types, pragmatics, processes and questions; analysis and writing up; life histories; clinical interviews and ethics. The targeted audience remains undergraduate and postgraduate social science students, researchers and clinical practitioners and the general style and presentation continues to be highly accessible.

This edition incorporates additional information on the theoretical background to qualitative research and sampling, computer applications in data analysis, ethical and political issues, and clinical research interviews. The section on the theoretical background to qualitative research has been expanded to explore the philosophical principles of understanding in the research process. Those highlighted include meaning, invention, reflexivity, reductionism and the position of the researcher.

The theoretical perspectives of Hermeneutics, Phenomenology, Structuration, Critical and Feminist theory are also briefly touched upon insofar as they illuminate the nature of social science and in particular, the relationship between the social, the structural and the individual.

Other additions include: a discussion on institutional ethics committees and the ethical issues involved in clinical interviews and interviews with people of other racial backgrounds; interactive reading techniques (data analysis); computer software featuring NUD.IST and including a detailed example of how NUD.IST was applied to a specific research program; and a substantially rewritten section on clinical, expert and counselling interviews in order to more clearly separate the skills and processes required, from those needed for research interviews.

In general, the text has been tightened up and the new sections written in a more sophisticated manner than in the earlier version, reflecting the more academic nature of current debates in qualitative research. Earlier and more apologetic orientations toward an emphasis on differentiating qualitative from quantitative research have now lessened, as qualitative takes a position in its own right as an established technique underpinned by theoretical approaches from a wide range of

disciplines, and the overall tone of this edition reflects this.

This book continues to be an invaluable resource in the burgeoning numbers of qualitative research texts currently available. Firstly it is Australian, drawing upon detailed Australian research examples, and secondly it takes the methodological technique of in-depth interviewing and uses this as a focal point to illuminate the whole process of qualitative research from literature review to writing up. going beyond a 'how to' or 'cook book' approach in order to explore relevant social, political, ethical and theoretical issues as they arise. I would unhesitatingly recommend this book to all persons interested in qualitative research.

Dr Carol Grbich Senior Lecturer Faculty of Health Sciences Flinders University South Australia

New List Servs

National Information Service (NIS) goes on-line

There are currently two components to NIS electronic communication with constituents:

1) Electronic mail For those who have access to electronic mail, the address is GPNIS@flinders.edu.au NIS can be contacted by this means at any time.

2) The NIS Discussion Group (GPNIS_INFO) You can subscribe to the NIS "electronic discussion group" if you have access to email. The electronic discussion group is designed to provide a forum for those involved in GPEP or other general practice research and evaluation activities. Subscriptions are encouraged from health consumers, GP researchers, current grantholders or anyone wishing to establish ongoing communication with the NIS and/or

To be part of the discussion group, you need first to send an email to:

listserv@flinders.edu.au

In the body of the message have the single line encouraged to join. All are welcome! subscribe GPNIS INFO first name last name (put your name here, eg: subscribe GPNIS_INFO Jill Citizen)

To share information with other GPNIS_INFO The message should contain a single line, with subscribers, address your email to a command of the form GPNIS INFO@frodo.cc.flinders.edu.au

If you have any problems with this, please contact: David Badger, National Information Service, Department of General Practice. Flinders University, Bedford Park SA 5042, ph: 08 204 5255, fax: 08 276 3305, email: david.badger@flinders.edu.au

Multilevel Analysis Discussion List

This list has been set up to provide a forum for discussion, and a means of disseminating information easily, for people using multilevel analysis and any associated software.

Any messages relevant to multilevel analysis are welcome. Alternative names for this approach are multilevel modelling, hierarchical data modelling, and random coefficient modelling. Information sent to the list could be, for example, about seminars, courses, conferences, job vacancies, and new software. Discussion could be about methods of analysis, interpretation of results, and so on. Hints, comments, and problems with software can be sent to the list for discussion. The software might be one of the specialist multilevel analysis packages such as MLn. HLM, VARCL. GENMOD, or more general packages with some multilevel capabilities (e.g. SAS).

The list can have associated with it files which can be retrieved when required. These will include reports and other documents of longterm value, and also software programs (e.g. MLn macros), deposited by list members for the use of others.

Anyone with an interest in multilevel analysis can join. The list is UK-based, but list members can be from any country. Multilevel analysis is used in various disciplines, such as education research, epidemiology, geography, and sociology, and workers in any field are

To join the list, send a message to mailbase@mailbase.ac.uk

join multilevel <firstname(s) lastname>

The list owner is John Roberts, MIDAS Service, University of Manchester, UK. He can be contacted by emailing

multilevel-request@mailbase.ac.uk

General Social Survey Student Paper Competition

The National Opinion Research Center (NORC) at the University of Chicago announces the second annual General Social Survey (GSS) Student Paper Competition. To be eligible papers must: 1) be based on data from the 1972-1994 GSSs or from the GSS's crossnational component, the International Social Survey Program (any year or combination of years may be used), 2) represent original and unpublished work, and 3) be written by a student or students at an accredited college or university. Both undergraduates and graduate students may enter and college graduates are eligible for one year after receiving their degree.

The papers will be judged on the basis of their: a) contribution to expanding understanding of contemporary American society, b) development and testing of social science models and theories, c) statistical and methodological sophistication, and d) clarity of writing and organization. Papers should be less than 40 pages in length (including tables, references, appendices, etc.) and should be double spaced.

Papers will be judged by the principal investigators of the GSS (James A. Davis and Tom W. Smith) with assistance from a group of leading scholars. Separate prizes will be awarded to the best undergraduate and best graduate-level entries. The winners will receive a cash prize of \$250, a commemorative plaque, and the MicroCase Analysis System, including

data from the 1972-1994 GSSs (valued at \$1,395). The MicroCase software is donated by the MicroCase Corporation of Bellevue, Washington.

In addition, winning papers will be eligible for publication in the GSS Student Report Series. Honorable mentions may also be awarded by the judges. Two copies of each paper must be received by February 15, 1996. The winner will be announced in April, 1996. Send entries to: Tom W. Smith, General Social Survey National Opinion Research Center 1155 East 60th St. Chicago, Il 60637 For further information: Phone:312-753-7877, Fax:312-753-7886. Email: NNRTWS1@UCHIMVS1.UCHICAGO.EDU

Zentralarchiv Fuer Empirische Sozialforschung (ZA) announces: The International Social Survey Programme (ISSP) ISSP 1985-1992 - Data and **Documentation on CD-ROM**

The ISSP CD-ROM is now available from ZA. It contains the complete collection of data and documentation of the International Social Survey Programme (ISSP) between 1985 and 1992. In these years the ISSP conducted eight different Social Science Surveys in up to 17 countries.

1985 - Role of Government I (in 6 countries) -ZA No. 1490

1986 - Social Networks and Support Systems (in 7 countries) - ZA No. 1620

1987 - Social Inequality I (in 10 countries) - ZA No. 1680

1988 - Family and Changing Gender Roles I (in 8 countries) - ZA No. 1700

1989 - Work Orientations I (in 10 countries) -ZA No. 1840

1990 - Role of Government II (in 9 countries) -ZA No. 1950

1991 - Religion (in 16 countries) - ZA No. 2150 1992 - Social Inequality II (in 17 countries) - ZA No. 2310

Additionally the 1985 and 1990 surveys on

'Role of Government I and II' have been cumulated for those countries and those variables which had been included in both surveys: 1985/1990 - Role of Government I/II (in 5 countries) - ZA No. 2240.

Data, codebooks and additional information for these surveys are available on this media.

The individual ISSP country surveys have been processed at the Zentralarchiv to international comparative data-sets. These data-sets are supplied as:

- · SPSS portable files without missing values definitions
- · SPSS portable files including missing values definitons
- Raw-data-files (ASCII-format) coming together with the respective SPSS setups.

NSDstat

Along with the SPSS Format the ISSP datasets are also supplied as NSDstat system-files. NSDstat is a product of the Norwegian Social Science Data Archives, Bergen, Norway. It is a tool 'to enable the user to communicate with the data-sets' using 'methods and graphical displays which intuitively are comprehensive'. It allows for easily performed analyses of the data including full text documentation on variable-level. The CD-ROM contains NSDstat in a run-time version dedicated for the use of the 1985-1992 ISSP data.

Codebooks

Codebooks for all ISSP surveys are stored as ASCII files which can be printed immediately on a line-printer or which can be fed into any major word-processing software. The codebook-files and further information about ISSP are searchable on this media. The software used for this purpose is ISYS - Full Text Retrieval, a product of Odyssey Development Ltd. The CD-ROM contains ISYS in a run-time version dedicated for the use of the 1985-1992 ISSP documentation.

Questionnaires in all languages

Together with the retrieval software it is possible to browse the original questionnaires of all participating ISSP countries for all ISSP modules between 1985-1992. These questionnaires are stored in more than 2500 single-questions graphic files.

Further Information about ISSP

ACSPRI

Together with the ISSP codebooks further information about the ISSP is searchable in the retrieval-pool on the CD-ROM:

- ISSP bibliography 1994 (compiled by Tom W. Smith, NORC)
- Some general information about ISSP
- · List of addresses of ISSP member institutions
- · Description of the participating institutions.

Replications of ISSP Data

The media also contains data from different countries which conducted ISSP questionnaires (or at least parts of them). These data-sets have not yet been integrated to the international files for different reasons, but users interested in these data-sets have the opportunity to analyse them individually.

Technical information

The CD-ROM contains about 280 MB of data. Some 1.4 MB will be used on the hard-disk after the installation procedure. All other readaccess operations will be done immediately on the CD-ROM.

The special reduced price for the whole collection is DM 50.

Please contact:

Rolf Uher

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Bachemer Str. 40 50931 Koeln

Germany

e-mail: uher@ibm.za.uni-koeln.de

Conferences

Youth '95, Hobart, Tas 7-10 November 1995

Theme: International & cross-cultural issues: Challenges & Change

Young people in many regions of the world are currently experiencing the trauma of violence and dislocation in regional disputes and wars. At the same time, young people from the immigrant populations of countries such as Australia are on a cultural see-saw, and the

indigenous youth of these countries have the ongoing challenge of asserting their culture and their place in their home-lands. Woven through these issues is the increasing internationalisation of youth culture brought about through technology and media. Youth '95 will focus on these issues, identifying the contemporary and future challenges that are faced by young people and by those who work in the youth field.

Contact: The Symposium Secretariat, Mures Convention Management, Victoria Dock, Hobart, Tasmania 7000 Australia. Tel: 002 34 1424, Fax 002 34 4464

Qualitative Research: Connecting, Confronting and **Creating Beyond Boundaries** First Interdisciplinary Conference. Perth. WA 21-22 November 1995

"The purpose of the conference is to bring together the many academics and practitioners from the range of practice disciplines finding that qualitative researching has consequences and potentials in their 'coal face' work. The two day session offers participants the space to explore and reflect on the many dimensions attaching to the growing practice of qualitative research."

Keynote Speakers are:

- Sally Hutchinson (University of Florida): "Doing Qualitative Research: Fun in the Field".
- Colin Peile (University of Queensland): "Drawing Together Traditions for Practice"
- · Holly Skodal Wilson (University of California): "Discovering Researchable Problems: From Practice to Theory"

Conference Themes and Process:

The two day conference will offer participants the opportunity to present and debate issues related to qualitative research through interactional forms such as:

- formal papers
- experiential workshops
- symposia/discussions
- village fair/swap meet of ideas, practices and unanswered questions

· poster presentations

Contact:, Carol Piercey, School of Nursing, Curtin University, GPO Box U1987, Perth WA 6000, Tel: 09 351 2116,

Fax: 09 351 2959.

Email:PIERCEYC@nursing.curtin.edu.au

Annual GP Evaluation Conference, Sydney, NSW 24-25 November, 1995

The conference this year sees a move away from the "Work-in-Progress" format of previous years, in recognition that GPEP is maturing as a program and over 75 final reports have been received to date. The theme for this year's conference is **Dissemination** and there will be three sub-theme areas:

- collaborative research (with a focus on health consumers)
- · outcomes research
- · achieving behaviour change

There will be a combination of workshops, oral and poster presentations and plenary sessions. There will also be lively debate on general practice research and evaluation.

Invitees will include current and former GPEP grant-holders and GPEP post-graduate students. The conference will be open to any other interested individuals who wish to meet their own expenses.

Contact: Expert Conferences, Tel: 06 257 6970, Fax: 06 257 4038

Australian Association for Research in Education Conference, Hobart, Tas 26-30 November, 1995

The theme for this conference is Directions: Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow. The theme was devised to show the significance of the 25th Anniversary occasion for membership of AARE. This anniversary is an appropriate occasion to consider where AARE has come from, where it has got to, and where it is likely to lead.

The Committee has picked up on the three sub themes in various ways, for example:

1. Yesterday: is represented in part by the commissioning of a history of AARE over the

past 25 years;

- 2. *Today*: The papers, symposia, posters and some plenary addresses will focus on current issues:
- 3. *Tomorrow*: Keynote speakers will focus on some important aspects of the future.

Contact: Conference Design, PO Box 397, Sandy Bay TAS 7006, Tel: 002 24 3773,

Fax: 002 24 3774,

Email: conf.design@hba.trumpet.com.au

Domestic Violence and Children, Adelaide, SA 30 November - 1 December, 1995

The South Australian Branch of the Domestic Violence Action Group is hosting the first National Conference on Children and Domestic Violence. The Conference will address the issues of: therapies, interventions and programs; education, training and research; legal and legislation issues; and policy and future directions. The aim of the Conference is to bring together professionals who are working with children and who are interested in the impact of domestic violence; to provide opportunities to share new ideas, programs and resources; to increase the profile and awareness of the effects of domestic violence on children; and to develop national networks.

Contact: Organising Committee, Conference on Children and Domestic Violence, PO Box 326, Elizabeth SA 5112, Tel: 08 255 3622

The Australian Sociological Association Conference Tolerance, Diversity and Social Inequality Newcastle, NSW 4-8 December, 1995

The Australian Sociological Association's 1995 Conference will cover a diverse range of topics including: class and social inequality; religion and belief; sociology of the family; sociology of the environment; law, crime and social control; and media and cultural studies. The conference aims to bring together academics, public servants, community and welfare workers from all fields to exchange and discuss the latest research and debates in society.

Contact: John Germov, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, University of

Newcastle, Newcastle NSW 2308, Tel: 049 216 315, Fax: 049 216 209

ACSPRI

The Second AASR Conference Social Research and Social Justice, La Trobe University, Melbourne, Vic 8-10 December, 1995

The Australian Association for Social Research (AASR), the Department of Sociology and Anthropology and Qualitative Solutions and Research at La Trobe University are jointly hosting the Second Conference of the AASR. We are thus continuing the excellent tradition established by ACSPRI and the Inaugural Conference in Launceston during the last few years. The theme of the conference - Social Research and Social Justice - at first glance may appear unduly restrictive. It is - until one attempts to define social justice. If we can agree that social justice means treating equals equally and unequals according to their relevant inequalities the topics for the paper presentation are well nigh inexhaustible.

Dr Don Edgar has kindly agreed to be plenary speaker on 8 December to set the tone for the conference. Dr Edgar, the Foundation Director of the Australian Institute of Family Studies will reflect on his perception and understanding of **Social Research and Social Justice** as he experienced them over a decade and a half as the leader of one of the most successful public research enterprises in Australia.

Already a goodly number of papers on the social justice theme have been promised: they cover such apparently disparate areas as health and health care; gender and social structure; equity; equality and access; deviance and crime; individualism and community; multiculturalism and ethnicity, to mention but a few. As well, there will be multiple sessions on research methodology - from positivism to post structuralism. Various members have indicated that they intend to share their work on social indicators, feminist methodology, secondary analysis, research ethics and accountability as well as evaluation research strategies.

Contact: Wolfgang Grichting, AASR President, Australian Catholic University, PO Box 146, East Melbourne VIC 3002, Tel: 03 9563 3720, Fax: 03 9639 2576 The Eighth National
Health Promotion Conference Politics and the Practice of
Health Promotion
Sydney, NSW
4-7 February, 1996

Themes:

- · Balancing outcomes and equity
- · The role of evidence in decision making
- Financing health promotion
- Building coalitions for health
- Effective political advocacy

Issues raised by the key themes will be identified and debated in plenary sessions involving national and international speakers. Specific issues will be taken up in concurrent sessions comprising proffered papers and workshops.

A call for papers will be distributed in the near future

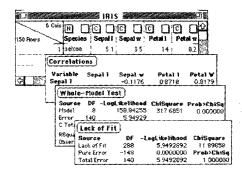
Contact: Jane Sheldon, Training and Development Officer, Health Promotion Unit, NSW Health, Tel: 02 391 9539.

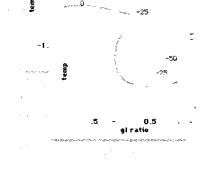
Fax: 02 391 9579

Congress on Women Adelaide, SA 22-26 April, 1996

An International Interdisciplinary Congress on Women has been held every three years since 1981. They aim to bring together scholars and practitioners from a wide range of disciplines and areas of expertise to share insights, experiences and research, and to explore issues of importance to women throughout the world. The major themes of this conference will be: global restructuring; women's studies; feminist politics; health and sexuality; community education; indigenous peoples; and cultural representations.

Contact: Festival City Conventions, PO Box 986, Kent Town SA 5071, Tel: 08 363 1307, Fax: 08 363 1604





ACSPRI Issue 32 September 1995



Join in the World Discovery of JMP Software!

What is JMP software?

• JMP is a powerful data exploratory tool which is all point 'n' click!

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SAS Education Services presents a new JMP course to coincide with the new 3.1 release for Windows and Power Macintosh.

What will you learn?

Course: Interactive Data Analysis Using JMP Software

This two day lecture/workshop will introduce you to the world of interactive data analysis with JMP software. The course covers such areas as distribution of values, relationships between pairs of columns, relationships between many variables, analysis of categorical data, clusters of observations, clusters of variables, calculator tips and statistical quality improvement.

After completing this course, you should be able to

inspect relationships using highlighted bar charts

highlight single or multiple observations ("brush") and label observations on a scatter plot

> inspect multivariate data using scatter plot matrices and 3D spinning plots

understand the effect of measurement levels on analyses

Audience:

Scientists, researchers, engineers, quality technicians and teachers or anyone who wants to analyse data using JMP software.

Cost:

\$845 (includes all course materials, lunch, morning and afternoon teas)

Dates:

** Ring for dates! **

For further information, please call Education Services on (02) 428 0428.



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SSDA News Issue 32 September 1995

SSDA News

In this issue of SSDA news we give an account of the recent activity centred around our Saulwick and Morgan Gallup Polls. We are now going on-line with these data (although we are currently still in experimental mode).

We give you insight into the SSDA's acquisition process, focusing particularly on the reciprocal roles of depositor and SSDA research assistant in staff-initiated requests for individual datasets. The article aims to give current and prospective depositors a better understanding of deposit procedures - what we do, how and why we do it, and the how the depositor can help to expedite the process.

We bring you up to date on the current status of the NSSS User's Guides - available now from the SSDA. We also mention several important data sets that are on their way to the SSDA, as well as an addition to the Overseas Arrivals and Departures data already held by the Archives.

This issue also includes an extract from the Quality Issues in Social Surveys Seminar held in London in June this year.

As well as all this, we have our regular reports of news from the ABS and ICPSR recent additions. We also preview new additions to the SSDA holdings.

Staff News

The SSDA has had relatively few staff changes in the last six months. We have said farewell to Sam Bricknell, who is off to study the Maroon or Red Leaf Monkey (*Presbytis rubicunda*) in Borneo. Our recent additions to staff are all on the programming side with two new undergraduate programmers joining us. We would like to welcome Matthew Pearson and Simone Rees who have both been working with us for two to three months.

SSDA Polls On Line

The SSDA has recently been experimenting with more efficient ways of providing information from opinion polls to users. A site has been set up on the World Wide Web which contains more detailed information on the opinion polls held by the SSDA. The site allows users to browse through the polls looking at the responses to questions on voting intention, party preference, political leadership and a wide range of special topics from attitudes to gun laws to pet ownership. Eventually, the aim is to have all the poll responses on line.

So far frequency distributions are available for the Saulwick Polls, 1986 - 1991 (125 polls) and the Australian Gallup Polls 1975 - 1987 (140 polls). The poll entries are being added in reverse chronological order as follows: Age Polls 1981 - 1972 (40 polls) and Australian Gallup Polls 1965 - 1943 (89 polls). The SSDA is investigating the possibility of putting the Morgan Gallup Polls Computer Tabulations, 1966 - 1990 on line in the near future.

The experimental polls site can be accessed through the SSDA World Wide Web Home Page (http://ssda.anu.edu.au). Once there, select The SSDA WAIS catalogue and then the SSDA (ANU) Opinion Poll Holdings (Experimental). Polls can be searched by year, month, keywords or polling organisation.

Each poll entry gives information on the polling organisation, survey method, background variables and weighting. The frequency distributions are then displayed for each of the questions asked in the survey along with the wording of the questions. This display allows users to get an instant overview of party preference, leadership, voting intention as well as opinions on a broad range of issues. The following example (on page 15) of an opinion poll entry shows the layout and content of the pages at this site:

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SSDA News Issue 32 September 1995

TITLE D732 Saulwick Poll, January 1991

POLLING ORGANISATION

Irving Saulwick and Associates

SURVEY METHOD

Telephone interview with a sample of 756 voters, from Melbourne and Sydney, at home when called on 22 January 1991. In households with more than one voter present, the voter whose birthday is closest to the day is selected for interview.

BACKGROUND VARIABLES

age / sex / location / voting intention

WEIGHTING

The responses are weighted to match the age, gender and location distribution of the sample to the population of Melbourne and Sydney.

THEMES - NAMES AND RESPONSES

1. I want to ask you a couple of questions about the Gulf War. Do you: Support or Oppose the use of military forces to remove the Iraqis from Kuwait?

Category label	Code	Count	Percent
SUPPORT	1	579	76.5
OPPOSE	2	138	18.2
DONT KNOW/NO ANSWER	3	40	5.3
To	otal responses	756	100.0

If oppose, skip to question 3. If support or don't know, ask: 2. Do you: Support or Oppose the use of Australian warships in this military action?

Category label	Code	Count	Percent
	0	141	18.7
SUPPORT	1	508	67.3
OPPOSE	2	85	11.3
DONT KNOW/NO ANSWER	3	21	2.8

Total resp	onses	756	100.0

3. The Prime Minister has said that few wars in history have been debated so intensely before war broke out. Others claim that there has not been sufficient debate. Do you feel that the decision to involve Australia in the war: Has or Has not been sufficiently debated?

Category label	Code	Count	Percent
HAS	1	363	48.0
HAS NOT	2	351	46.4
DONT KNOW/NO ANSWER	3	43	5.6
Total resp	onses	756	100.0

4. If a federal election for the House of Representatives were held tomorrow, for which political party would you probably vote: Labor, Liberal, National, Democrat, or some other party?

Category label	Code	Count	Percent
LABOR	1	253	33.5
LIBERAL	2	261	34.6
NATIONAL.	3	6	7
DEMOCRAT	4	67	8.9
SOME OTHER PARTY	5	61	8.0
DONT KNOW / NO ANSWER	6	108	14.3
		error to the	***
Total respo	nses	756	100.0

Contact **Mike Crozier** at the SSDA (tel: 06 249 3859; fax: 06 249 4722; email: Mike.Crozier@anu.edu.au) if you have any queries about accessing any of the SSDA information servers. If you would like to get access to poll data held by the SSDA please contact **Sue Merz** (tel: 06 249 3809; fax: 06 249 4722; email: ssda@anu.edu.au).

On Depositing Data at the SSDA

The SSDA encourages social researchers, as well as research organisations and funding bodies, to arrange for all suitable data collected under their auspices to be deposited at the SSDA. Archiving ensures that data and documentation are useable long after the initial research is concluded. Depositors have a say in how their data is to be used after being lodged (an embargo may be imposed, data usage restricted to particular types of users, or a stipulation made that the data cannot be released to any user without the written permission of the depositor). There is no charge for depositing data, and the SSDA bears the cost of data and documentation distribution to future users.

The SSDA acquires social science machinereadable data files (i.e. numeric computer files) in four ways: (1) by approach from 'principal investigators' (Pls), or associates, to have their data archived and distributed for secondary analysis; (2) by SSDA purchase of data thought to be of interest to the research community from the government (e.g. unit record files from the ABS) or private sectors (e.g. opinion polls from Saulwick & Associates); (3) by arrangement with research funding bodies (e.g. the ARC) which stipulate that their grant recipients lodge funded data at the SSDA, or with government departments (e.g. DEET) which routinely lodge series of data (e.g. DEET's Australian Longitudinal Survey and Australian Youth Survey panels); and (4) by SSDA staff pursuit of data from PIs who have publicised the existence of their research and data through professional publications and the media but who may not have considered archiving their data at the SSDA.

Of these four types of acquisition, the last is not only the most common, but the most resource intensive in terms of SSDA staff time and effort, as it may involve engaging a reluctant PI in the process. It thus may be useful to discuss what is involved in our finding and acquiring social science data — what we do, how and why we do it, and how the depositor can help make the process run smoothly.

Locating data

The process begins when SSDA staff comb through newspapers, newsletters and electronic media looking for reports (e.g. those based on a press release) of social science research involving machine-readable data. These reports usually provide initial indication of the suitability of the data for archiving at the SSDA. We look for:

- Relevance of the topic area to the Social Science Data Archives. A surprising range of topics are highly suitable, including political, health, social and economic data.
- Estimated interest in the topic(s) among secondary data analysts. Here our knowledge of our user base and the topicality of the data is highly relevant.
- · Suitable research design and sample size. Usually survey designs are preferred over experimental. It is important, of course, that data are available in machine-readable form. We also tend to look for sample sizes of at least 200, but exceptions are frequently made when the data is of particular relevance or interest.
- Recency of the data (old studies tend to be harder to track down and less popular for secondary analysis).

'Chasing up'

Once we have located archivable data, we contact the PI(s) by phone call, letter, or email to explain the functions of the SSDA and the benefits of archiving. Whatever the initial response is to this first contact, we naturally prefer that the PI get back to us quickly to let us know whether she/he is at all likely to be interested in lodging the data at the SSDA. Some researchers fail to respond because they have some reservations about letting go of their data, or because they need more time for analysis. If there are reservations, we address the concerns involved. If more time is required. a mutually acceptable timetable for depositing the data is negotiated. Obviously, it is much better for potential depositor and SSDA staff to know where they stand during the deposit 'negotiation'. For their part, depositors should realise it is in the SSDA's interest to make the process as easy as possible for them.

What materials to deposit

SSDA News

If the SSDA receives the requested data, documentation, and completed forms from the depositor after the initial request, no further chasing up is required. Ideally, we should have everything we need to process the study fully without further assistance. These materials would include:

- 1. Completed set of SSDA deposit forms.
- 2. Clean machine-readable data file and clean SPSS or SAS set-up file.
- 3. Documentation describing the study design and methodology, and details of coding used.
- 4. Clean questionnaire or other forms used to collect the data.
- 5. Copy of any papers describing the study and its results

Unfortunately, the SSDA rarely receives all of these materials the first time round, and we are generally required to contact the depositor again for further information or materials. At a minimum, we require a machine-readable data file, information which describes the variables contained in the data file, including an indication of where each variable is located in the file and information about how the variables have been coded.

We realise, of course, that it is not always possible for a depositor to provide all the materials in the condition we would prefer, but there are some standard deficiencies which could be more easily rectified if depositors had a better understanding of what we need and why. Of the materials indicated above, the first four items are the most important for the SSDA in providing its users with comprehensive and accurate study documentation.

SSDA Deposit Forms

Most of the standard forms the SSDA requires depositors to complete are self-explanatory, but omissions or errors on these are the most common problems we encounter with new deposits.

• The Licence Form, which determines how the data and associated materials may be used after they have been deposited, needs to be completed carefully. It is depositors'

their wishes regarding user access to their data. The SSDA cannot make any data set available without having these details (in part, because we know how important this issue is to many depositors), and until they are provided we will continue to seek them.

- A completed Study Description Form provides the SSDA with essential study information that will enable future users to understand the data. From the details supplied on this form, we write a standard SSDA Study Description, included with the User's Guide for the study, and an entry for the study in our Catalogue of data holdings. More often than not, the information elicited on the form has already been recorded in research reports prepared by the PI and can be most efficiently summarised by the depositor on the Form. This information includes the purpose/rationale of the study. the sampling procedure employed, the method of data collection, weighting criteria and procedures, and actions to increase response rates. Unless the required information is included on the form (or is not available in other materials provided), we will have difficulty finding it and will no doubt have to ask for it again.
- The Schedule of Materials Deposited asks for a list of all the materials the depositor is sending to the SSDA. Of use to the depositor and the SSDA, it serves both as a useful guide to what materials should be sent and as an inventory of what has been deposited.
- The Data Deposit Form is used by SSDA programming staff to read and check the computer-readable files, in addition to the data file, that the depositor sends on magnetic tape or floppy diskette. The formatting information requested should be easily provided, but if any assistance in completing the form is required, the depositor is asked to contact SSDA staff.

SPSS/SAS files and coding information

The SSDA prefers to receive both a SPSS (or SAS) 'set-up' file and a computer-readable or printed codebook with any raw data deposited. If we do not, we will need to create both in order obligation, and opportunity, to make clear to provide accurate, well-documented data to

other users, and this will obviously prolong the Introduction by Dennis Roberts processing period. Set-up files are necessary when processing the data to check that OPCS frequencies correspond with variable level documentation. The coding information obviously helps us make sense of the data, and is vital if there is no 'data dictionary' file, e.g. a SPSS 'export' file that specifies variable and value labels.

Questionnaire

For obvious reasons, the SSDA needs to provide users with any questionnaire(s) employed to collect study data. The intended meaning (and accurate coding) of study variables are to be found not only in the wording but the sequence of original questionnaire items. SSDA staff processing the data after it is lodged will need to consult the questionnaire to ensure of privacy, having no interest in the subject of that original variables are coded correctly and that 'derived' variables can be documented part. Secondly, there are those non-responders authoritatively. Users of the data will need to have access to the original questionnaire to assess its design as well as the meaning and may be that there was no one actually there to validity of variables indicated. Thus, depositors who omit to supply the questionnaire will need to be recontacted until they do.

the most important element in the decision to deposit data at the SSDA is the willingness to share valuable data with other users. Once the decision to archive is made, depositors can expect the full cooperation and energetic assistance of the SSDA in helping them preserve their data for future dissemination.

More on 'Quality Issues in Social Surveys'

(From notes on the June '95 QUISS Seminar held in London, by Cathryn Hudson, Survey Methodology Bulletin, July 1995, No. 37. This was the second in a new series of half-day seminars organised by Social Survey Division. Office of Population Censuses and Surveys. UK. A report on the first QUISS Seminar appeared in the ACSPRI Newsletter, Issue 31. March 1995)

Deputy Director and Director of Statistics.

Dennis Roberts gave a brief introduction to the area of survey non-response and why it is seen as such an important issue.

The main reason for concern about nonresponse is the effect it can have on the representativeness of the survey results. Data users must be confident that the results are sufficiently reliable estimates of the characteristics of the target population to use for monitoring and making policy decisions.

There are three main reasons for non-response. The first is unwillingness to be interviewed, for example because of concerns about invasion the survey, or simply not having the time to take that the interviewers could not contact throughout the field period. In some cases it contact as it is often difficult to determine which properties are vacant and which are occupied. The third category is those unable to take part due to language barriers or disabilities. For all To conclude, it should go without saying that three categories it is likely that non-respondents will have different characteristics from those that do respond.

> Increasing the response rate by a few per cent may have significant effects on key variables, especially when measuring change over time. However, although high response rates do cut down the level of uncertainty about the representativeness of the data, they do not necessarily guarantee unbiased results. The Census, for example, has a response rate of 98%. The 2% that do not respond fall mainly into two categories. The first is absent households, who are not required to complete the census form but are encouraged to do so: the second is those who fail to fill in the form. It is unlikely that these two groups are representative of the population as a whole. Indeed, OPCS carried out extensive investigations after the Census and produced various adjustment factors to take account of these non-responders, the highest of which applied to young male adults in the inner city areas.

Many other countries have similar response rates to Britain, and most are experiencing downward pressure on rates. However, it is possible to achieve very high response rates. For example, a longitudinal study carried out by the US Bureau of the Census does so, using procedures such as paying respondents nominal amounts, not accepting that nonresponse in one year is for every year, and using the same interviewers for each wave. It could be argued, however, that although using the same interviewer can create a bond, it can also make it difficult to obtain responses to sensitive questions, thereby having a negative impact.

More and more money is being spent on social surveys, but maintaining high response rates is becoming increasingly difficult. Survey practitioners therefore need to show clients that they are taking the issue of non-response very seriously.

Non-response in panel surveys by Anthony Heath

Nuffield College, Oxford

SSDA News

Anthony Heath started by giving a brief summary of the main purposes of panel surveys: to test and retest reliability; to measure change over time; and to make causal inferences. To illustrate the particular issues of non-response in panel surveys he used examples from the British Election Panel Study.

One of the main problems with panel surveys is the increased likelihood of bias due to respondent drop-out. Rates of drop-out are affected by various factors, including the time period between waves, and the nature of both the sample and the survey. The type of bias will depend, to some extent, on these factors. However, the following reasons for drop-out can be identified which are not dependant on those factors:

- 1. Respondents who move between waves are often difficult to trace.
- 2. The elderly and infirm drop-out as a result of ill-health or death.
- 3. Respondents who lack interest in the subject will be hard to encourage to continue with the survey.
- 4. Some survey tasks may be too demanding on the cognitive skills of some

respondents.

5. Respondents may drop-out due to concerns for privacy or public duty.

As a lot is already known about the characteristics of those who drop out, from the information collected at the previous wave, it is much easier to establish what factors may have led to their decision to drop out. From this it is clear that panel survivors gradually become less and less representative of the original sample as a whole. As a result of this information about those who drop out it is easier to determine the extent and type of bias caused by the drop-

There are a number of ways of dealing with attrition and the resulting bias. One way, which is recommended by statisticians, is to simultaneously model the drop-out process and the substantive process of interest. However. standard software for this is not currently available. An alternative is to weight the respondents who are still in the survey.

Weighting assumes that those who drop out within a certain weighting group are exactly the same as those who are still in the survey. This may not always be the case. Statisticians have drawn our attention to 'informative' or 'nonignorable' drop-out. By this they mean that people who drop out may have crucial differences to those in their weighting class who survive. It is therefore important to think about the social processes which may be contributing to non-response.

It is important for data users to be shown the extent of drop-out, have an analysis of the predictors of drop-out, an account of the bias caused by drop-out, to know how weighting was carried out and which weighting classes were used, and to know how far it has adjusted for the bias caused by drop-out. However, as weighting makes very strong assumptions it would be preferable to reduce drop-out rather than to compensate for it.

Minimising non-response before it happens: What can be done? by Pamela Campanelli Survey Methods Centre, SCPR

Pamela Campanelli discussed various ways in which the incidence of non-response can be reduced from the outset for interview and postal surveys. Some of the strategies are aimed at the respondent and some at the interviewer.

Sending an advance letter can have a positive effect on response in that it can illustrate the legitimacy of the survey, possibly reduce the fear of victimisation, explain the value of the survey, assure confidentiality, and even increase the interviewer's self-confidence. However, it can also have a negative effect as it gives respondents time to plan their refusal.

Incentives, such as money, gifts, lottery chances, and newsletters, are often used by market research companies to help increase response rates. In government research incentives are generally used only for surveys which, for example, involve diary-keeping. However, there is some evidence that for some respondents at higher income levels incentives can also have a negative effect on response. Incentives can be very costly and should be piloted first to judge their effectiveness.

A number of principles derived from the psychology of compliance suggests ways in which response rates can be increased. People tend to favour requests from those who have previously given something to them, that is, reciprocation. On the whole people behave consistently, in that if they have participated in a survey before, they will participate again. People like to behave in similar ways to those around them, that is, conform to the behavioural norms of their social group. It is more likely that people will respond to a request from an attractive requestor, and also one that represents an authority with legitimate power. Finally, stressing the scarcity of selection to respondents can lead them to see themselves as more valuable, for example, telling the respondent that they have been selected out of thousands.

Some strategies to improve response relate directly to the interviewer. The sex of the interviewer can make a difference; for example, elderly females are more likely to feel comfortable with a female than a male interviewer. The way an interviewer dresses can also be important. It is possible for interviewer expectations to affect response, for example, if they expect problems asking income questions then they are more likely to find them. It is generally thought that more experienced

interviewers achieve higher response rates. Also those who are most motivated and have good persuasion skills are more likely to achieve high response rates. A good interviewer should also be able to tailor the door-step introduction and have the foresight to know when they should retreat and re-approach.

Other strategies, though related to the interviewer, are actually controlled by the office: number of interviewers, workload size, pace of workload, basic training, project-specific training, supervision, increasing morale, payment systems, decisions to reissue and call strategies. The latter is also the responsibility of interviewers as they have to make informed judgements about the best times to call.

Many of the strategies for personal interview surveys apply to increasing response on postal surveys. In addition, the language used in the questions and instructions should be clear and simple and the questionnaire not too long. Attention should be paid to spatial layout as research has shown that people have preferred positions in eye movement. Return of the questionnaire should be pre-paid. It is also important to follow up non-responders by postcard reminders, re-mailing the questionnaire, or telephone follow-up where possible.

Finally, Pam Campanelli noted that Groves¹ makes the point that high response is not everything; increasing response rates can result in poorer quality data. Twisting the arm of a reluctant respondent may mean that the data he or she provides is not of good quality. Strategies should be aimed at actually reducing bias, not necessarily increasing response. We should look at other measures of quality rather than just response rates, for example, the number of missing answers, whether a wage slip was shown or interviewer turnover.

References

1. Groves, R.M. (1989). Survey Errors and Survey Costs. John Wiley.

If You Are Treading The Path Of Statistical Data Analysis, Work With The People Who Lead The Way!

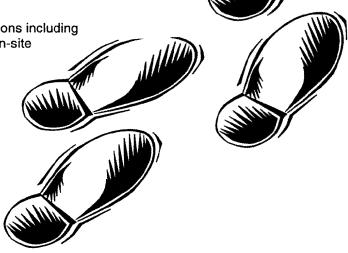
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SSDA News



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Presenting Data with SPSS Reports
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Special User's Guides for **NSSS Studies:**

- National Social Science Survey 1986-1987: Role of Government
- National Social Science Survey 1987-88: Inequality

The SSDA is pleased to announce the availability of two new Special User's Guides, with new editions of data, for the National Social Science Survey 1986-1987: Role of Government (SSDA No. D620) and National Social Science Survey 1987-88: Inequality (SSDA No. D627) studies (Principal Investigators: Jonathan Kelley, Clive Bean, and M.D.R. Evans, Research School of Social Sciences. The Australian National University).

The SSDA publishes Special User's Guides, containing the most comprehensive study and variable level documentation that can be provided, for those data sets which are seen to have exceptional value for Australian research and teaching. The User's Guides for the National Social Science Survey (NSSS) represent the sixth and seventh in the Special series which include: the Australian Election Study, 1993 (SSDA No. 763); Rights in Australia, 1991-1992: National Household Sample (SSDA No. 618); National Campaign Against Drug Abuse, Social Issues Survey. 1993 (SSDA No. 765); Australian Candidate Study, 1993 (SSDA No. 764); and, in conjunction with the Australian Bureau of Statistics, the 1991 Census Household Sample File User's Guide.

Below is the Research Topic (Abstract) found in the Study Description for each of the new Special User's Guides:

National Social Science Survey 1986-1987: **Role of Government** User's Guide for the Machine-Readable Data File **Second Edition** SSDA Study No. D620 July 1995 (320 pp)

This study is the second in the National Social

Science Survey (NSSS) series and repeats many of the questions asked in the first survey conducted in 1984 (SSDA Study No. 423, NSSS First Round 1984). The survey also includes questions asked as part of the International Social Survey Programme. Comparative data from all countries in the Programme are processed and distributed by the Zentralarchiv fur Empirische Sozialforschung (ZA) at the University of Cologne (ZA Study 1490, Role of Government 1985).

Issue 32

The data file contains a wide range of attitudinal questions. Sections cover religion and moral issues, attitudes to government policies, including feeling thermometer ratings of political leaders, groups and institutions, opinions on taxes and benefits, voting, trade unions, attitudes to work, supervision, decision making at work, satisfaction with job, attitudes to working women, general questions on life satisfaction, and courtship and marriage.

The international component focuses on issues relating to the role of government. These issues include government actions, privacy, responsibility of government to reduce income inequality, job opportunities for different groups in society, discipline for children and the role of the state, income tax and inflation, responsiveness of governments to public opinion and the power of the individual, and areas of government spending.

Background variables include the respondent's occupation, education, and qualifications, income and standard of living, membership of trade unions, birthplace, and ancestry. Questions on birthplace, education and political orientation and occupation were also asked about the respondent's spouse or partner, and information was recorded on the birthplace, occupation and education of parents, grandparents and children.

National Social Science Survey 1987-1988: Inequality User's Guide for the Machine-Readable Data File Second Edition SSDA Study No. D627 July 1995 (367 pp)

This study is the third in the National Social Science Survey (NSSS) series and repeats many of the questions asked in the first survey conducted in 1984 (SSDA Study No. 423, NSSS First Round 1984) and the second survey conducted in 1986-1987 (SSDA Study No. 620, NSSS 1986-87: Role of Government). The survey also includes questions

asked as part of the International Social Survey The 1994 survey consists of the Urban Programme. Comparative data from all countries in the Programme are processed and distributed by the Zentralarchiv fur Empirische Sozialforschung (ZA) at the University of Cologne (ZA Study 1680, Social Inequality 1987).

The data file contains a wide range of attitudinal questions. Sections cover religion and moral issues, attitudes to government policies, including feeling thermometer ratings of political leaders, groups and institutions, opinions on taxes and benefits, voting, trade unions, attitudes to work, supervision, decision making at work, satisfaction with job, general questions on life satisfaction, social mobility and social inequality.

The international component focuses on issues relating to social inequality. These issues include inequality of income and opportunity, the extent of inequality, the explanations for inequality, and the responsibility of the government to reduce inequality.

Background variables include respondent's occupation, education, and qualifications, income and standard of living, membership of trade unions, birthplace, and ancestry. Questions on birthplace, education, political orientation and occupation were also asked about the respondent's spouse or partner, and information was recorded on the birthplace, occupation and education of parents, grandparents, children and children's spouses.

Needless to mention, both current and prospective users of the NSSS studies (SSDA No. D620 and SSDA No. D627) are strongly advised to consult these new Special User's Guides, available at cost (\$20) from the SSDA.

National Drug Strategy: Household Surveys

AGB McNair reports that the 1994 and 1995 NDS (previously known as the National Campaign Against Drug Abuse Social Issues Survey, NCADA) will be available for distribution in the near future. Although there has been a change of name for this survey, the types of questions asked remain the same. Readers will be aware that the SSDA holds the 1985 Social Issues Survey, as well as the 1988, 1991 and 1993 NCADA, and a special User's Guide for the 1993 survey has been produced.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander supplement. The supplement was undertaken in response to the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody, and due to the lack of previous research into the urban Aboriginal population's drug taking habits. The supplement is also the first in a series of NDS surveys that will focus on the rural Aboriginal population. This survey is expected to arrive at the SSDA within the next month.

The 1995 NDS, which has the same scope as the NCADA 1993 Survey, should also be available soon after the Urban Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander supplement.

The March Newsletter will describe details of both surveys in much greater detail.

Workplace Bargaining Survey. 1992 and Enterprise Bargaining **Survey, 1993**

The Department of Industrial Relations is currently preparing two surveys for deposit with the SSDA. "The aims of the surveys were to obtain an overview of patterns of bargaining, the different levels at which bargaining took place, the parties involved, and the different bargaining arrangements, processes, and outcomes which have developed in Australian industry since the establishment of the Australian Industrial Relations Commission's (AIRC) Enterprise Bargaining Principle (EBP) in October 1991" (Short, M. et al, Reform and Bargaining at the Workplace and Enterprise: Evidence from Two Surveys; Industrial Relations Research Series Number 12; Work Place Bargaining Research Project).

The 1992 Workplace Bargaining Survey should be arriving within 2-3 weeks, and will be fast tracked for special processing. The 1993 **Enterprise Bargaining Survey will follow shortly** thereafter and receive similar treatment. The Workplace Bargaining Survey, (a survey of 700 workplace managers) was conducted in December 1992. The Enterprise Bargaining Survey was conducted in July 1993, and questioned 715 higher level managers in private and some public sector organisations.

Overseas Arrivals and **Departures Data (OAD)**

The SSDA has recently received a new addition to the Overseas Arrivals and Departures data set (SSDA Study No. 404). With this addition, we are pleased to announce that we now have complete unit record data for the OAD series from 1980 to 1994. This latest deposit consists of data from March 1992 to December 1994.

Information collected in these data includes category and mode of travel, reason for journey, duration of stay, country of birth, citizenship, and dis/embarkation, as well as age, marital status, sex and occupation.

Currently, these data are only for distribution to staff and students at the ANU.

News From the ABS

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

Featuring Australia's Women

The need for a national focus for statistics specifically relating to women was identified in a Federal Government review in 1993. As a result, the Australian Bureau of Statistics and the Office of the Status of Women are now working together on a range of issues. The first result of the alliance was the establishment of the Women's Statistical Unit, whose role will be to focus on gender analysis of statistics. extending the amount of statistical material about women and identifying gaps in existing information.

The first publications to be produced by the unit are Women's Health, a new social report on the health and well-being of Australian women, and the Australian Women's Year Book, 1994, which brings together a comprehensive range of issues including: living arrangements, health, education, employment and income, crime and justice, leisure and

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The National Indigenous Population Survey

The National Indigenous Population Survey. the major recent production by the Bureau's National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey section, is the first comprehensive national information source on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. It covers a wide range of topics, from up to date figures in areas where Aboriginal people are known to be at a disadvantage, to information that has never been collected before, such as links to land and culture. People were also asked about their attitudes regarding their children's schooling, their health services, their housing and the police.

Major publications available include the following:

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey: Detailed Findings contains a crosssection of the Survey results, and a reduced range of information for each state, the Northern Territory and the 35 ATSIC (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission) regions and Torres Strait Area. It also includes technical notes on sample design and variability, an explanation of the population estimates and benchmarks used in the Survey, the Survey populations and data items.

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey: Getting Results - an Australian Summary is a short graphical and descriptive presentation of the most significant national statistics from the Survey. It also contains a guide to obtaining further information from this new national survey of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Copies of this publication are available to Aboriginal organisations and those involved with Indigenous issues free of charge.

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey: Regional Overviews present a descriptive presentation of the most significant statistics for each ATSIC region and Torres Strait area. The overviews are presented in a colourful poster-style and include a map of the Region plus a graphical representation of the main findings. It also includes a guide to obtaining further information about the Survey. Overviews are available for each of the 35 different ATSIC regions plus one for the Torres Strait area.

SSDA News

A Regional data pack (for each ATSIC and Torres Strait region) will also be released later this year. Each survey pack will contain a range of statistics from the 1994 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey plus comparable data from the 1991 Census of Population and Housing and 1992 ATSIC Housing and Community Infrastructure Needs Survey (HINS). It will be presented using graphs, charts, tables and maps with commentary in dot point on major statistics. The introductory chapter will describe the region, its size, major towns and localities and the demographics of the Indigenous population of the region. The six chapters will be on: family and culture, education and training, employment and income, housing, law and justice, and health.

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 SSDA User Undertaking Form prior to access.

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

Additions to Series

The SSDA's holdings include data from a number of important long-term survey programs, among which is the Australian Longitudinal Survey, incorporating the Australian Youth Survey. Data from this survey series are routinely deposited at the SSDA and the Archive recently received the latest in the series. The Australian Youth Survey, 1994: Wave 6 is now available from the SSDA. Previous deposits in this series are described in earlier issues of the newsletter.

AUSTRALIAN YOUTH SURVEY, 1994: WAVE 6

Boal, Peter, Department of Employment, Education and Training (SSDA No. 811)

This is the sixth wave of a survey program based on a cohort of young people aged 16 to 24 in 1994, and known as the Australian Youth Survey (AYS). The first, second, third, fourth and fifth waves of the AYS constitute SSDA study numbers 561, 609, 642, 780 and 793 respectively. The AYS is part of a program of

longitudinal studies known as the Australian Longitudinal Survey (ALS), which is a continuing collection of data from a separate sample of persons who were aged 16-25 in 1985.

This 1994 wave of the AYS consisted of 8350 interviews with people aged 16 to 24, split into two files: a new cohort of 1116 16 year olds; and a group of 7234 respondents aged 17 years and over, who were previously interviewed in an earlier wave of the series. A multi-stage household based sample designed to represent all Australians in the age cohort, except those residing in sparsely settled areas, was employed.

The survey aims mainly at providing data on the dynamics of the youth labour market, and in particular to address questions which are not readily covered with available sources of cross sectional data. Labour market variables include job history, job search behaviour, job training and transition from school/study to work. Background variables and topics related to the main labour market theme include education, occupation, health and attitudes to women working.

Basic demographic variables include age, sex, size of household, country of birth, racial origin, parental education and occupation, religion, income, and whether resident in an urban or rural area.

These data are similar to those collected in the ALS, but concentrate on a younger group to provide current data on issues such as school retention and school to work transition.

Access Category: S

- 1. no restriction on groups to which data is to be supplied
- 2. DEET to be notified of all data supply
- 3. DEET to receive a copy of each piece of research based on ALS data
- 4. all groups receiving data to be charged the same price

Other Additions

lan Castles, Australian Bureau of Statistics. Time Use Survey, Australia, 1992 (SSDA Study No. 803)

The 1992 Time Use Survey examines how people allocate time to different kinds of activities. The survey design enables information on how people allocate time to various activities to be analysed in relation to the demographic, socio-economic and other personal characteristics collected in the survey, and to some extent with other time use items.

As Time Use surveys collect information about all the activities people engage in during a specified period, the range of information they provide is very broad. The major aims of the 1992 Time Use Survey are:

- to measure the daily activity patterns of people in Australia to establish a basic Australian time use profile; profiles of subgroups based on age or other characteristics can be compared with the national benchmark;
- to measure the productive activities of households; the ABS will be exploring ways of valuing time spent on unpaid work with a view to constructing satellite national accounts for the household economy; these measurements of time and value allow acknowledgment in official statistics of work hitherto given little recognition;
- to study the division of labour between males and females; in terms of paid work and unpaid household work.

The survey also provides information on parenting, leisure activities, fitness and health activities, travel, and community participation, including voluntary work.

The variables collected include character of the day (whether normal or not), time, activities (primary, secondary and tertiary; duration; and distribution through time), location, mode of transport, and social context.

Background variables include age, sex, marital status, birthplace, education, employment, and income.

Access Category: S

Institutions purchasing the data can supply them to individuals within that institution, provided the person signing the licence agreement can sign on behalf of the institution.

Ryan, Michael G., Hellier, Frances, N.S.W Department of Community Services. Medications Prescribed for Residents of Premises for People with Disabilities Licensed by the New South Wales Department of Community Services, 1994 (SSDA Study No. 804)

The aim of this study was to obtain baseline information about the health of individuals living in licensed Aged Persons Hostels and private for profit boarding houses. The health of the individuals was measured by the types of medications prescribed. Particular attention was given to the use of Psychotropic medications including Antipsychotics, Lithium, Antidepressants, Anxiolytics and Anticonvulsants.

The questionnaire was designed to obtain data on the age, gender, type of disability including diagnosis of Epilepsy and the number, type, dosage and frequency of medications prescribed to the individuals of the facility.

Bock, Timothy, Reark Research Pty Ltd. Public Perceptions of the Health and Social Consequences of Cannabis Use, 1994 (SSDA Study No. 805)

This aim of this study was to determine the Australian public's perceptions of the health and social effects of cannabis use. It also attempted to determine people's attitudes towards government policies in relation to cannabis, particularly in order to form a basis for the development of comprehensive, targeted, education initiatives about its use.

Some of the main variables include: frequency of use of cannabis; method of consumption; reasons for use; perceived health effects of use relative to other drugs; perceived social effects of use, such as whether or not it affects mental health, behaviour, motivation, relationships with others, driving skills etc. Variables covering

respondents views on government policies relating to cannabis include what laws there should be controlling or regulating personal use, and whether or not government should provide education about the health effects of use. Also included are variables covering respondents views on other possible uses of the plant, such as papermaking and hemp fibre.

Background variables include sex, age group, occupation, level of education and country of birth.

Access Category: B

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New South Wales Department of Health. Drug Use Among Primary School Students, New South Wales, 1993 (SSDA Study No. 806)

This study is the fourth in a series of triennial studies of upper primary school pupils, and was previously conducted in 1983, 1986 and 1989. The main objectives of these serial surveys are to: i) assess the prevalence of drug use amongst upper primary students in NSW, ii) assess the prevalence of determinants of drug use in this population, iii) monitor trends in alcohol and other drug use in this population, iv) provide data relevant to the development of social policy, educational and public health initiatives in drug and alcohol prevention.

Questions were asked about tobacco, alcohol and analgesic use as well as the beliefs and perceptions which surround this use. Areas covered include, prevalence of tobacco, alcohol and analgesic use; intentions towards future smoking; peer and social influences; sources of cigarettes, alcohol and analgesics; cigarette brand preference.

Background variables include age, gender, country of birth, geographical region, type of school and family structure.

Access Category: A

McAllister, Ian, University of New South Wales, Community Attitudes Towards Smoking in Public Places, 1991 (SSDA Study No. 807)

The purpose of this study was to investigate attitudes towards smoking in public places as well as to identify factors which may influence those attitudes. The main aim was to see whether government bans on smoking were supported by public opinion. A secondary aim was to look at who actually guits smoking.

The main variables basically fall into the categories of smoking in public places, passive smoking, smoking in eating places, seating preference, and proportion of non-smoking seating.

Background variables include sex, age, education, employment, patterns of tobacco use and patterns of tobacco use in family. friends and co-workers.

Access Category: A and S

The National Heart Foundation request that a copy of any published work be sent to them after using these data.

McClure, Roderick, J., National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health, Australian National University. Injuries in General Practice in the Australian Capital Territory, 1992 (SSDA Study No. 808)

This study was designed to provide the first data on the epidemiology of injury presenting to general practice. These data are to complement other data on the incidence of injuries in hospitals, where research into injury prevalence has been traditionally focused. A primary aim of the research was to describe the incidence and distribution of all injuries presenting for medical attention, in a defined Australian population. Another aim of this study was to clarify the role played by General Practitioners in the management of acute injury in the community.

The main variables include the nature of injury, body-part injured, whether admitted to hospital and whether the presentation was the first visit to a doctor for that injury.

Background variables include age and sex of injured persons.

Access Category: A

Strazdins, Lyndall, Australian National University. Division of Labour and Psychological Distress in Families with Young Children, 1991 (SSDA Study No. 809)

This study was undertaken as part requirement for the degree of Master of Clinical Psychology at the Australian National University. Data were collected for individuals and couples living in Canberra with children under five about their paid work load, housework load, child rearing. financial responsibility and emotional work. Questions were also asked about physical and emotional stress on the individual and the relationship.

Background variables include age, sex, education level, occupation, hours per week performing paid work, number of children in the family, age of children in the family, years married to or living with current partner, religion and church attendance.

Access Category: A and S

No copies of the reports can be distributed until the papers are published.

Kelley, Jonathan, Evans, M.D.R., Bean, Clive, Australian National University. International Social Survey Programme, Social Inequality II, Australia, 1992 (SSDA Study No. 810)

The International Social Science Programme (ISSP) is a voluntary grouping of study teams in eleven nations, each of which undertakes to run a short, annual self-completion survey containing an agreed set of questions asked of a probability-based, nation wide sample of adults. The topics change from year to year by agreement, with a view to replication every five years or so.

This study is largely a replication of the 1987 ISSP Social Inequality survey, held by the SSDA (ZA No. 1682), although it contains some new variables. The data consists of Australian respondents' answers to international questions asked as a component of the National Social Science Survey (NSSS).

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Variables include perceived prerequisites for success; social mobility; importance of hierarchical pay structure; estimates of actual and ideal salaries for various work positions; appropriateness of tax levels: conflicts between social groups; deciding factors in pay rates; actual and ideal social structure, and respondents' position in the structure.

Background variables include age, sex, marital status, education, employment status of respondent and spouse, hours worked weekly, occupation, income, trade union membership, subjective social class, size and type of community.

lan Castles, Australian Statistician, ABS. Families in Australia, 1992 (SSDA Study No. 815)

The 1992 Survey of Families in Australia (Family Survey) examines the characteristics of families and the nature of family support. It was undertaken as part of the Australian Bureau of Statistics' Special Supplementary Survey program. While a family survey was conducted in 1982, it addressed a substantially different range of concerns. The present survey has been conducted in response to particular interests in data relating to the family's needs, its responsibilities and ability to cope in the face of changing and often limited resources.

Topics covered include family/household structure, comprised of intra-household relationships, extra-household relationships and basic demographics; family history, including marital history, fertility, and mobility variables; family needs and responsibilities, composed of employment support, payment of education expenses, income support, transport, accommodation, personal care/home help and childcare information; and socioeconomic and general characteristics, made up of migrant status, employment, income. education, housing, health and location variables.

Access Category: S

Institutions purchasing the data can supply them to individuals within that institution, provided the person signing the licence agreement can sign on behalf of the institution.

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Ferguson, David, Edye, Beryl, Long, Ann, Frommer, Michael, Worksafe Australia. Blood Pressure Study, 1987 (SSDA Study No. 816)

The Blood Pressure Study was designed to examine the relationship between work factors and cardiovascular risk indicators, to observe the progression of coronary heart disease risk indicators in different occupational groups and in relation to change over time, and to conduct a trial of risk factor modification by counselling at the workplace. The study subjects were volunteers from Commonwealth Government organisations recruited between 1977 and 1980 and followed up for five years.

The study was initiated following concerns of Sydney workers in the former Postmaster-General's Department that aspects of their work might contribute to the risk of coronary heart disease.

Background variables fall under six main topics. These are family, housing, ethnic background. education, religion and location of residence.

Access Category: A

Kelley, Jonathan, Evans, M.D.R., Bean, Clive, Australian National University. International Social Survey Programme, Religion, Australia, 1991 (SSDA Study No. 817)

The International Social Survey Programme (ISSP) is a voluntary grouping of study teams in 11 plus nations, each of which undertake to run a short, annual self-completion survey containing an agreed set of questions asked of a probability-based, nation wide sample of adults. The topics change from year to year by agreement, with a view to replication every five years or so.

This study is largely a replication of the 1991 Religion Survey, held by the SSDA (ZA No 2150). The data consists of Australian respondents' answers to international

questions asked as a component of the National Social Science Survey (NSSS).

The current module looks at the impact of religious beliefs and behaviours on social, political and moral attitudes. Variables include government responsibility; criminal penalties; sexual relations; working women; belief in God, the Devil, heaven, hell and life after death; the influence of religious leaders on voting and government decisions; religious affiliation of respondent and respondent's partner and parents; church attendance and involvement in other religious activities; blasphemy; image of God and image of the world.

Background variables include age; sex; geographical location; ethnicity; marital status; employment status; occupation; trade union membership; level of education; political party affiliation; personal income; spouse's income; characteristics of spouse; occupation of father and mother; father's and mother's level of education; size and composition of household.

ICPSR Additions

The following titles have been extracted for the ICPSR Bulletins of February and May 1995. Data sets are not currently held by the SSDA, but may be ordered from ICPSR on request. Contact the SSDA for more details.

AIDS-Related Written Court Decisions in Federal and State Courts, 1984-1989: [United States] (ICPSR 6502)

American Housing Surveys: 1990: MSA Core and Supplement File (ICPSR 6462); 1991: National File (ICPSR 6385); 1992: MSA Core File (ICPSR 6464)

American Housing Survey, National Sample: Census Detail File, 1980 (ICPSR 6218)

American National Election Study, 1994: Post-Election Survey [Enhanced With 1992 and 1993 Data] (ICPSR 6507)

Americans' Changing Lives: Waves I and II, 1986 and 1989 (ICPSR 6438)

Annual Survey of Governments, 1992: Employment Statistics (ICPSR 6472)

British Election Study: Cross-Section, 1987 (ICPSR 6452)

Campaign Expenditures in the United States, 1991-1992: Detailed Report File (ICPSR 6334); Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Data (ICPSR 6337) CBS News Monthly Polls: #2, October 1993 (ICPSR 6327); #2, December 1993 (ICPSR 6331); CBS News/ NEW YORK TIMES Monthly Poll, November 1993 (ICPSR 6329)

Census of Population, 1880 [United States]: Public Use Sample (ICPSR 6460)

Census of Population and Housing, 1990 [United States]: Summary Tape File 4B (ICPSR 6271)

Census of Population and Housing, 1990 [United States]: Public Use Microdata Sample: 1/1,000 Sample (ICPSR 6497)

Central and Eastern Euro-Barometer 4: Political and Economic Change, November 1993 (ICPSR 6466)

Classification of Rapists in Massachusetts, 1980-1990 (ICPSR 9976)

Consolidated Federal Funds Report (CFFR), Fiscal Year 1993 (ICPSR 6408)

Consumer Expenditure Surveys, 1992: Diary Survey (ICPSR 6318); Interview Survey (ICPSR 6372); Interview Survey, Detailed Expenditure Files (ICPSR 6440)

County Business Patterns, 1992 [United States]: U.S. Summary, State, and County Data (ICPSR 6488)

County Population Estimates by Age, Sex, and Race [United States]: 1991 (ICPSR 6426)

Current Population Survey: Annual Demographic File, 1994 (ICPSR 6461)

Current Population Surveys: March Individual-Level Extracts, 1968-1992 (ICPSR 6171)

Drugs and Crime in Public Housing, 1986-1989: Los Angeles, Phoenix, and Washington, DC (ICPSR 6235)

Dutch Parliamentary Election Studies: 1986 (ICPSR 8876); 1986: Stratified Sample (ICPSR 9378)

Elections to the United States House of Representatives, 1898-1992 (ICPSR 6311)

Employee Records of the A.M. Byers Company [Pennsylvania], 1916-1952 (ICPSR 6359)

Employee Records of the Ford Motor Company [Detroit Area], 1918-1947 (ICPSR 6352)

Employee Records of the Pullman Car Works [Calumet, Illinois], 1902-1948 (ICPSR 6351)

Employment, Hours, and Earnings in States and Areas of the United States, 1940-1991 (ICPSR 9928)

Equality of Educational Opportunity (Coleman) Study (EEOS), 1966 (ICPSR 6389)

Escalation of Great Power Disputes: Deterrence Versus Structural Realism, 1816-1984 (ICPSR 6355)

Euro-Barometer 2: Problems Facing the European Community, October-November 1974 (ICPSR 6111)

Euro-Barometers: 37.1: Consumer Goods and Social Security, April-May 1992 (ICPSR 9957); 37.2: Elderly Europeans, April-May 1992 (ICPSR 9958); 38.1: Consumer Protection and Perceptions of Science and

Technology, November 1992 (ICPSR 6045); 40.0: Poverty and Social Exclusion, October-November 1993 (ICPSR 6360); 37.0 and 37.1: European Drug Prevention Program, March-May 1992 (ICPSR 9956)

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Federal Outlays, 1976-1980: [United States] (ICPSR 6029)

First Malaysian Family Life Survey, 1976-1977 (ICPSR 6170)

Flash Euro-Barometers: Omnibus: United Europe, January 1992 (ICPSR 6109); 9: Maastricht, February 1992 (ICPSR 6107); 10: European Managers Survey, April 1992 (ICPSR 6108); 14 Omnibus: Maastricht, August 1992 (ICPSR 6110)

French Election Pre-Test Survey, 1994 (ICPSR 6434)

General Social Surveys, 1972-1994: [Cumulative File] (ICPSR 6492)

German Election Studies: 1991 (Politbarometer East) (ICPSR 6391); 1991 (Politbarometer West) (ICPSR 6390); 1992 (Politbarometer East) (ICPSR 6393); 1992 (Politbarometer West) (ICPSR 6392)

Immigrants Admitted to the United States: 1992 (ICPSR 6449); 1993 (ICPSR 6456)

Informal Trading: Economic Integration, Internal Diversity, and Life Changes in Quito, Ecuador, 1990-1991 (ICPSR 6062)

Initiation of Militarized Disputes Among Great Power Rivals, 1816-1975 (ICPSR 6356)

International Social Survey Program: Role of Government I and II, Cumulative File, 1985-1986, 1990 (ICPSR 6233)

Intuitive Toxicology [United States]: A Comparison of Expert and Lay Judgments in Chemical Risk Assessments, 1988 (ICPSR 6354)

Israeli Election Study, 1992 (ICPSR 6269)

Milwaukee Domestic Violence Experiment, 1987-1989 (ICPSR 9966)

Monitoring the Future: A Continuing Study of the Lifestyles and Values of Youth, 1993 (ICPSR 6367)

National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey, 1989: Drug Mentions (ICPSR 6498)

National Ambulatory Medical Care Surveys: 1991 (ICPSR 6430); 1991: Drug Mentions (ICPSR 6431)

National Education Longitudinal Study, 1988: Second Follow-Up (1992) (ICPSR 6448)

National Health Interview Survey, 1991: Family Resources Supplement (ICPSR 6510)

National Health Interview Surveys: 1990: Family Resources Supplement (ICPSR 6432); 1991: Hearing Supplement (ICPSR 6433)

National Health Interview Surveys: Multiple Cause of Death, Dates of Death: 1986-1991 (ICPSR 6475); 1987-1991 (ICPSR 6476); 1988-1991 (ICPSR 6477); 1989-1991 (ICPSR 6478); 1990-1991 (ICPSR 6479)

National Hospital Discharge Survey, 1992 (ICPSR 6459)

National Maternal and Infant Health Survey, 1988: Longitudinal Follow-Up, 1991 (ICPSR 6401)

National Medical Expenditure Surveys, 1987: Household Survey, Disability Days and Medical Conditions [Public Use Tape 29] (ICPSR 6473); Institutional Population Component, Facility Use and Expenditure Data for Residents of Facilities for Persons With Mental Retardation [Research File 22R] (ICPSR 6467)

National Medical Expenditure Survey, 1987: Household Survey, Jobs File and Link to Employment-Related Insurance Coverage [Research File 34R] (ICPSR 6474); Survey of American Indians and Alaska Natives, Population Data, Data From the Health Status Questionnaire and Access to Care Supplement, and Expenditures and Sources of Payment Data [Public Use Tape 37] (ICPSR 6490)

National Nursing Home Survey Follow-Up: Mortality Data, 1984-1990 (ICPSR 6435)

National Pretrial Reporting Program, 1992-1993 (ICPSR 6489)

National Survey of Functional Health Status, 1990 (ICPSR 6370)

National Survey of Jails: Jurisdiction-Level and Jail-Level Data, 1992 (ICPSR 6395)

103rd Congressional District Geographic Entity File, 1990: [United States] (ICPSR 6425)

Partisanship in the United States House of Representatives, 84th-101st Congresses, 1955-1990 (ICPSR 6404)

Public Attitudes Toward Lawyers and Legal Disputes, 1993: [United States] (ICPSR 6403)

RAND Health Insurance Experiment [in Metropolitan and Non-Metropolitan Areas of the United States], 1974-1982 (ICPSR 6439)

Saving and Dissaving by 12,817 American Households, 1917-1919 (ICPSR 6276)

Schools and Staffing Surveys [United States]: 1990-1991(ICPSR 6313); 1990-1991: Teacher Followup Survey, 1991-1992 (ICPSR 6317)

Spouse Abuse Replication Project in Metro-Dade County, Florida, 1987-1989 (ICPSR 6008)

State and Local Government [United States]: Sources and Uses of Funds: Census Statistics, Twentieth Century [Through 1982] (ICPSR 6304); City and County Data, Nineteenth Century (ICPSR 6305); State Financial Statistics, 1933-1937 (ICPSR 6306)

State and Metropolitan Area Data Book [United States]: 1991 (ICPSR 6398)

Street Gangs and Drug Sales in Pasadena and Pomona, California, 1989-1991 (ICPSR 6255)

Subjective Vulnerability: The Role of Disempowerment in the Utilization of Mediation Services by Women in a Northeastern Town of the United States, 1989-1990 (ICPSR 6357)