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L'ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE POUR LES SERVICES ET TECHNIQUES D'INFORMATION EN SCIENCES SOCIALES

NEWSLETTER

VOL. 2, NO. 2, SPRING 1978

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IASSIST Newsletter, Vol. 2, No. 2 (Spring 1978)

EDITORIAL INFORMATION

The IASSIST Newsletter represents an international cooperative effort on the part of individuals managing, operating, or using machine-readable data archives, data libraries, and data services. The Newsletter reports on activities related to the production, acquisition, preservation, processing, distribution, and use of machine-readable data carried out by its members and others in the international social science community. Your contributions and suggestions for topics of interest are encouraged and welcomed. The views set forth by authors of articles contained in this publication are not necessarily those of IASSIST.

Information for Authors

The Newsletter is published four times yearly, as Winter, Spring, Summer, and Fall issues. Substantive articles are refereed. Articles and other information should be typewritten and doublespaced. Each page of the manuscript should be numbered. The first page should contain the article title, author's name, affiliation, address to which correspondence should be sent, and telephone number. An author should not place his or her name on the manuscript itself. The second page should contain an abstract of 100 to 200 words. Authors are requested to follow the instructions given by the "Publication Manual" of the American Psychological Association. Other material for inclusion in the Newsletter should be completely identified by name, address, and telephone number. If the entry is an announcement of a conference, training session, or the like, the notice should include a mailing address and telephone number for the director of the event, or of the organization sponsoring the event. Book notices and reviews may not exceed two, double-spaced, typewritten pages.

Manuscripts should be submitted in duplicate to the Editor:

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Book reviews should be submitted in duplicate to the Book Review Editor:

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Secretarial support is provided by Ms. Wilma Malone, Academic Computing and Research Services, Western Kentucky University.

This publication is prepared with an automatic text-editing and formatting system (CMS editor, Waterloc SCRIPT, on an IBM 370/165). Manuscripts may be submitted in machine-readable form on 9-track, 800, 1600, or 6250 EPI tape written in EBCDIC. Because we allow automatic hyphenation, a very small percentage of hyphenated words may be broken in an unusual manner. IASSIST Newsletter Volume 2, Number 2, Spring, 1978. Published quarterly by the International Association for Social Science Information Service and Technology (IASSIST).

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

AN OVERVIEW

The spring issue, 1978, of the IASSIST Newsletter contains three articles drawn from the papers given at the meeting in Itasca in February. The three are related in that they each are directed to some of the problems and opportunities inherent in the archival enterprise. Beginning with a discussion of the need for cataloging standards, Sue Dodd (University of North Carolina) sets forth some of the criteria implicit in the need for a means of retrieving and using machine readable datasets in a meaningful manner. Viewing the archival problem from an organizational perspective, William Gammell (University of Connecticut) describes the goals and objectives of the new organizational structure of the Roper Center, Inc. One of the primary points emphasized by Gammell is the continued desire of the Roper Center staff to improve documentation standards so that the archives will have expanded usefulness. Many of the problems facing the Roper Center (and many of the opportunities as well), are characteristic of large, general purpose archives, such as Roper of the ICPSR. On a more restricted level, yet facing many of the same problems, are special purpose archives such as that maintained by NCRC at the University of Chicago. In his paper, Patrick Bova (NCRC) seeks to delineate some of the problems and opportunities available to special purpose archives, and to describe the services the NCRC Library can make available to the survey research community.

BOOK REVIEW EDITOR

During the current year Ms. Kathleen Heim will continue to serve as book review editor for the Newsletter. Kathleen served ably during the editorship of Alice Robbin and has consented to continue in that capacity. Readers of the Newsletter should be aware that Ms. Heim's address has changed from the University of Wisconsin to:

Ms. Kathleen M. Heim
Graduate School of Library Science
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
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Urbana, IL 61801

If you wish to make suggestions for review material, please notify Kathleen, or if you wish to write reviews, also let her know. For a variety of reasons no reviews appeared in Volume 2, Number 1, nor do any reviews appear in the present issue. We should be back on track by Number 3, however.

OUR MISTAKE

Alice Robbin informed us that a strange type of error occurred in the first paragraph of her article (Vol. 2, No. 1). It makes no sense to say, "Computer technology has made it possible for the traditional library to service the user more quickly and (many enthusiasts of online data bases would add) more complicated than when the reference librarian relied on manual methods for searching and retrieving information." The correct expression should be "more fully." One typo was, apparently, not sufficient, for in the final paragraph, instead of "... networking creates the potential for independence from computing centers...", it should read "... networking creates the potential for independence for computing centers."

We might note that proofreading is a difficult and arduous task, and while we make every effort to provide clean copy, it is probably inevitable that some errors occur. While we will continue to try to improve our track record, I seriously doubt that this, or any other publication will achieve 100% accuracy. Please bear with us, however.

SOURCES OF PAPERS

In issues No. 1 and No. 2 of Volume 2, the papers published in the Newsletter were extracted from those given at the Itasca Conference in February. Because papers given at meetings are often not polished products, several of the completed articles have required occasional (and sometimes extensive) copy editing. Ordinarily we would have returned copy edited papers to the author(s) for review, but time exigencies for the first two issues have precluded that possibility. In doing the copy editing we have attempted to stay--as much as possible--with the author's original meaning and phraseology. I hope we have succeeded. To the present time, however, we have not
received any articles specifically designed for the Newsletter. For the remaining two issues of the Newsletter in the current year, we can continue to publish selections of the papers from Itasca, and, after the Uppsala meeting, papers from it. If any authors of papers from either the North American or the European meetings care to revise their papers and submit them, we would invite them to do so.

**FORTHCOMING DEADLINES**

I draw your attention to the fact that the deadlines for the summer and fall issues of the Newsletter are rapidly approaching. If you have any materials for the Newsletter, please send them as early as possible. The deadlines for Nos. 3 and 4 are as follows:

- **Number 3:** August 15, 1976
- **Number 4:** November 15, 1976

If there are any substantial delays in publication, the timing of the Newsletter will be off, and, perhaps, the usefulness of the publication will be less.

**NEWSLETTER FORMAT**

During the period since the publication and distribution of Volume 2, Number 1 of the Newsletter we have received a number of comments concerning the format and style of the journal. Comments on general format seem to be positive, although few have been overwhelmed with enthusiasm concerning the number of lines per vertical inch (8). By printing eight lines to the inch the lines are compressed and may be a bit difficult, at times, to read. On the other hand, Number 1, which ran about thirty pages at eight lines to the inch, would have been forty-two pages long at six lines to the inch. Because of the cost of publication of the Newsletter we have one of two choices: less material with the vertical spacing spread out a bit, or more material with the lines compressed. Because of cost considerations, the publication, in its present form, should not average more than about thirty pages per issue. I will appreciate comment from readers on this matter.

T.W.M.
INTRODUCTION

Social science numerical and textual data files represent a vast amount of valuable and publicly-available information. For example, they are widely used by students, faculty, and policy makers engaged in research. Not only have such data files had an unprecedented growth in the last decade, but with the advance of small and relatively inexpensive computer terminals, data analysis and computer simulation models have moved into the classroom as legitimate instructional tools. Specialized files, often referred to as "educational data packages," have been developed to teach students analytical skills, so as to better understand social and economic phenomena. According to Nesvold (1976): "Experience with machine-readable 'laboratory' materials should be as appropriate to the beginning social science student as is the laboratory for the beginning chemistry student."

Unfortunately, many such data resources are not fully utilized because potential users are unaware of the existence and accessibility of social science data files. At the present time, information on usable MRDF is fragmented among varying government agencies, research institutions, and university computing and data centers. Among these various agencies, there is no common format for information on the existence of data files, nor is there any standardized structure that would facilitate retrieval of information from many different sources. Existing information on computerized files is available to some but not to all. What is needed is a central source of information within the public domain that would provide equal access to all interested users. What is needed is some form of bibliographic control and national standards for social science files—not unlike that which is available for printed materials.

DEVELOPMENTAL EFFORTS

The Social Science Data Library of the Institute for Research in Social Science at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill is currently engaged in some developmental work to create a bibliographic data base of machine-readable data files that would be available to users within the Triangle Universities Computing Center (TUCC) area. This centralized bibliographic data base would be designed to serve multiple purposes and would be converted to an on-line interactive mode to be accessed within the TUCC network environment. There would be at least three types of potential users of this data base: 1) the academic user who is looking for potential sources of data for scholarly research; 2) user service personnel who act as information brokers to other end-users within the network system; and 3) libraries and data centers who would use the system as a reference tool for clients, and as a records management system for their own data holdings.

The Logical Structure

The "logical structure" of the bibliographic data base would include three related informational levels. At the highest level would be those bibliographic elements required to uniquely identify the data file. For example: study number, title, author, director or principal investigator, edition, place of production, data producer, date of production, place and name of distributor, abstract, size of file, subject descriptors or headings, and series identification. This would be called the universal level of information, since it would be compatible with existing international standards for bibliographic references and cataloging, plus it would allow for the integration of machine-readable data files into multimedia collections. The next level of information would include bibliographic elements required to analyze the file. For example: sample description, number of data units, number of variables, time coverage, etc. This would be called the analytical level of information and would vary depending on the type of file (e.g., text, maps, physical sci-
ence, social science, administrative records, computer software programs, etc.). The lowest level of information would consist of those bibliographic elements which are variant in nature. For example: condition of data, file structure, physical characteristics, contact person, restrictions of use, etc. This might be called the local level of information, since it is dependent on local options, special applications of use, computer compatibility, etc.

**Physical Structure**

The "physical structure" of the data base would be the MARC II format. By way of explanation, MARC is an acronym derived from the phrase Machine Readable Catalog. It is a "generic term referring to bibliographic information that has been encoded and transcribed into a machine-readable form to permit its manipulation." (Wiesbrod, 1977) The MARC format constitutes the coding conventions under which MARC data may be organized. It was developed by the Library of Congress in the early 1960s and is very quickly becoming the international standard for bibliographic representation. The essential characteristic of MARC-formatted records is that they can accommodate a varying number of "variable length" data items—affording considerable generality of use.

The general purpose software programs to be utilized in the processing of the data are ones designed for use by the Carolina Population Center's Technical Information Service Library and collectively are called: Bibliographic/MARC Processing System (BPS). The internal processing capabilities of the BPS file primarily in the areas of information storage, retrieval, and report generation with additional programs allowing for automated thesaurus construction and interactive subject retrieval. Complementing this software is an on-line interactive retrieval program called TOBIAS (Terminal Oriented Bibliographic Information Analysis System). TOBIAS was designed locally and has been extensively revised by members of the Institute for Research in Social Science programming staff. TOBIAS uses simple English language and appropriate commands, provides prompting and on-line tutorial instruction, incorporates set theory and Boolean logic procedures, displays hierarchy of on-line and printed information off-line which can be received at various destinations.

The current bibliographic data base includes a representative sample of the Social Science Data Library's total holdings numbering to 1500 separate titles and including some 500 Harris national public opinion polls. Recently, however, the developmental work with the data base was extended to include other machine-readable data files which were available within the TUCC community.

**The Network Community**

The TUCC network community represents a wide and diverse set of users with varying degrees of sophistication in the areas of education, research, and commercial enterprises. TUCC may be described as a "star network" built around a central computer facility which is owned, operated and shared by North Carolina's three major universities -- University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Duke University, and North Carolina State University. Within this environment, there exists a Time Sharing Option (TSO) which allows a number of users to utilize the computer concurrently and in a conversational manner via a terminal (with telephone link-up) which may be remotely located from the system installation. TUCC maintains a small service staff, but most of the informational operations are carried out by the respective Computation Center's user services and by contact persons throughout the network system representing libraries, data centers, academic departments, state government agencies, and research organizations. Users outside the three major universities must purchase computer time from TUCC. Three very important "commercial" users of TUCC are North Carolina Educational Computing Service; Research Triangle Institute; and North Carolina Science and Technology Research Center.

The source of information for the TUCC data holdings is what is officially known as General Information Series Document No. G1R-045-3 "Data Files and Data Banks in the TUCC Community," but what is popularly known as the TUCC Directory. After some preliminary meetings, a cooperative effort was launched to automate the TUCC Directory which would then be processed by the BPS software. Also for the first time, additional information on these data files were collected to provide for cataloging information and
for better access points to the files including descriptors and index terms.

The cooperative effort included representatives from the following institutions: UNC at Chapel Hill, Duke University, North Carolina Education Computing Center, Triangle University Computation Center, and the School of Library Science (UNC). Four graduate students from the UNC School of Library Science joined this effort as part of a practical learning experience under the direction of Professor Martin Dillon. All representatives provided input via remote terminals and the local QED (Quick Edit) program available through TSO. Information was transferred from the various off-line disks to a master on-line disk and was then processed by the EPS "update" program which created the MARC record data base. In the near future, it is expected that the TUCU Bibliographic/MARC data base will be connected to TUCU-EIAS as an on-line interactive file available to all users within the TUCU network community.

In a network environment like TUCU, in which there is no one centralized reference center, the contact personnel at key locations throughout the state become crucial operational and information brokers of the entire network system. Consequently, they would act as "information specialist" or as a buffer between the "end-user" and the system. Having on-line access to information on available data in the TUCU community would greatly enhance the level of service these staff can provide to their users. The automated system would also offer more flexibility and refinement in the retrieval of information pertaining to a particular user's need than hard copy versions of the same information.

Selected staff in libraries and data centers throughout the state would perform the same responsibilities mentioned above, but in addition they would use the Bibliographic/MARC data base for certain in-house purposes such as acquiring, maintaining, classifying, and reporting information on available data files. For example, data centers and libraries could use the data base for the following:

1. Record management -- including the inputting, editing, updating, and various listings and sort arrangements.

2. Cataloging of records -- including shared cataloging (reducing duplication or effort), verification of title, author, series, etc.

3. Classification of records -- including the application of construction of a thesaurus, and implementation of various subject classification schemes such as the Library of Congress Subject Headings.

4. Acquisition -- including information on location, person, location of data and file documentation, restrictions (if any), cost, etc.

5. Report generation -- including the extraction from the master file of an inventory of their own local holdings, printed catalog records; authority lists of titles, authors, series, etc.; shelf list of file documentation; etc. -- all with a choice of print formats such as on-line display, magnetic tape, microfiche, and hard copy.

The relationship between on-line technology and library functions, including how on-line technology has contributed to significant changes in quality and amount of services provided by the library is well defined in a recent paper by Miriam A. Drake (1977) of Purdue University Libraries. Drake points out that in addition to on-line technology allowing libraries to communicate with each other, it has also had an "impact" on such library functions as "collections, building, order processing and accounting, cataloging and user services" (Drake, 1977).

At the present time, cataloging information on machine-readable data files is not currently available through any library network system. Consequently, there is a need for a bibliographic data base that would provide librarians with this type of information. The bibliographic/MARC data base can generate such catalog records in many different formats, including the computer generated perforated 3x5 card stock.
Success is invariably measured not by what you hope to achieve, but by what you are able to produce. At the same time, the sum total of the lessons learned and the refinements made in the initial stages of any new endeavour becomes the foundation for future successes. The work described here is still developmental but it is designed to be a prototype which could be expanded and implemented by other parties. Present limitations could be overcome with additional resources -- both personal and technological. However, we have moved closer to our objective which is to provide information on available machine-readable data files to a wider audience. Building a multi-purpose bibliographic/MARC data base for a network environment with on-line capabilities opens up information exchanges and data access that have not previously existed for social science data files. By building the data base according to existing international standards for bibliographic representation, the potential audience is extended to include any user of a library resource.

References


WHAT IS THE ROPER CENTER?

Established thirty-two years ago, the Roper Public Opinion Research Center (now The Roper Center, Inc.) is today the oldest and largest archive of sample survey data in the United States. The raw data and supporting documentation from over 9,000 individual studies, carried out in more than 70 countries, have been deposited in the Center. Between two and three thousand social scientists annually avail themselves of this rich data resource by requesting various services of the Center, such as dataset duplication, information retrieval or specific data analysis. More than 40 colleges, universities, and research organizations are members of the International Survey Library Association (ISLA), the cooperative membership arm of the Roper Center.

THE ROPER CENTER IN TRANSITION

In 1975, the trustees and staff of the Roper Center began to consider seriously a major revision of the Center's organizational structure and institutional base. The first action following from this was to establish the Center in July 1975 as a non-profit corporation formally governed by a Board of Trustees. At about the same time, discussions were initiated between Center personnel and the officials of a number of American universities about the possibility of a new hosting arrangement. The University of Connecticut and Yale University entered into such discussions with the Roper Center in the fall of 1975.

A variety of considerations prompted the Roper Board's exploration of new hosting possibilities. Foremost among them, however, was the judgment that there are severe limits to what a small college can do to develop an archive such as the Center's to its fullest potential. Mindful of the significant accomplishments of the Center over its three decades, appreciative of the Williams College contribution and desirous of maintaining an association with Williams, the Trustees came to feel that the appropriate base for the Roper Center is the research university.

For their part, the University of Connecticut and Yale University saw the prospect of a cooperative arrangement through which they would host the Roper Center as especially attractive. Many faculty at both institutions shared the view that social science research should be based to a greater extent on laboratory structures and to a lesser degree on the private musings of scholars working in a singular fashion. They wanted a model more inclined to tap new sources of information and new technology such as survey research and computers provide. These faculty considered the Roper Center an already significant resource in this more recently evolving social science, one that could provide much value and impact, and hence one which they would like to see associated with their two universities.

Yale University had brought together a distinguished faculty in the social sciences with an international reputation for scholarly excellence. Still, its faculty and administrative leaders were convinced that the advancement of social science research and teaching on their campus required the elaboration of their social laboratory structures, and that formal association with the Roper Center as a host university would constitute a significant step in this elaboration.

For its part, the University of Connecticut in the late 1960's started making a major effort in this sector of social science through the development of a social data facility, the Social Science Data Center (SSDC), established in 1968, and assumed a central place in both social science teaching and research at the institution. By 1976, it had acquired a competent staff of twenty professional men and women comprising many of the skills and experience appropriate to a partnership with the Roper Center. The SSDC would provide an "in-place" structure which could offer immediate aid in the development of the Roper facility and which would itself benefit greatly from a hosting arrangement with an archive of the scope and international associations of the Roper Center.

Yale and Connecticut approached the possibility of a partnership...
with the Roper Center, then, as a natural extension of plans and commitments which had taken shape over a period of time. In addition to this, faculty at the two schools shared strongly the judgments of the Roper trustees that the research university setting was appropriate to further Center development, and that the two schools were well placed to provide the kinds of assistance that the Center required. They would be able to make a contribution to social science nationally and internationally through provision of expanded faculty expertise and technical facilities. It appeared, then, that a hosting arrangement with the Roper Center would mean a happy marriage of legitimate institutional interests and the requirements of an important social science resource.

By late fall, 1975, Connecticut and Yale had agreed that their invitation to the Roper Center would be a joint one. It was felt that such a cooperative venture would represent a sensible utilization of the resources of two neighboring schools. Yale and Connecticut faculty considered their institutions well matched in resources, in attainments, in interests, and concluded that their commonality geographically would make for an easy collaboration. The further development of the Roper Center would require all that both institutions would be able to contribute and would be advanced especially by the fact that the contributions of the two schools would be, to such a striking extent, complementary rather than overlapping and redundant.

In late 1976, the administration of Williams College expressed its support for the new hosting arrangement and in particular to be associated with it, and all of the necessary elements were in place. Meeting on February 2, 1977, with representatives of Yale, Connecticut and Williams, the Roper Center Board of Trustees formally approved the move and reorganization. The trustees of the three institutions separately endorsed the new partnership.

The Roper Center is now an independent corporation in formal partnership with the University of Connecticut, Yale University, and Williams College. Divisions of responsibility have been agreed upon. The development of the new staff structure is proceeding. The transition of the Archival Development section to Storrs is well underway, and the transfer of User Service to New Haven has been completed (see "News and Notes" in this issue of the Newsletter).

ADVANTAGES OF THE ROPER CENTER REORGANIZATION AND RELOCATION

The Roper Center will be able to function more effectively in its new setting than it has been able to in the old one. We identify the following gains as the most important.

Access to improved technical facilities

The Roper Center requires sophisticated computational facilities. As a result of the move, it has full access to the Yale and University of Connecticut computer centers, to all of the software in place at those facilities, and to the technical staffs associated with them. (Both centers, it might be noted, have fully compatible same-generation IBM computers.) In addition, the technical services staff of the Social Science Data Center, is available to assist the Roper Center in a number of ways. For one thing, it will be possible to achieve "economies of scale" which are so important. It has access to staff help enabling it to respond to the directions in which the user community is likely to proceed in the future.

The new administrative arrangements

We are confident that the new administrative arrangement will work effectively, and that it represents the best possible arrangement for attaining a variety of quite disparate objectives. First, it was considered essential that the place of the Roper Center as a repository for commercial survey data -- foreign and domestic -- be maintained. The various commercial survey firms have looked upon Roper as "their own," and this encouraged them to contribute to the Center. On the Roper Board of Trustees have sat Burns' W. Roper of the Roper Organization, George Gallup of the American Institute of Public Opinion, William J. Wilson of Starch/INMA/Hooper, and other important leaders of the survey world.

Second, we wanted to add to this historic element of Roper Center organization the skills and facili-
ties of the research university. The absence of this component has been a decided debit in past Roper efforts to service the social science community. Yale, as the setting for User Services, is easily accessible to scholars from around the world.

A complete copy of the entire holdings of the Center will be maintained at the University of Connecticut, with another complete copy at Yale University. There is no unnecessary duplication here, of course, because one copy serves as a backup for the other. Williams College will continue to house various portions of the archive it chooses to maintain. The User Services Division will be located in New Haven. Requests for the duplication of data sets, for searches of the archive, and the like, will be the responsibility of this staff. The archival development component will be housed in Storrs. It will bear responsibility for bringing new data sets into the archive, for interactions with data suppliers, for reformatting data sets and bringing the data into one of various levels of accessibility for most effective utilization. This division of responsibilities is an entirely natural one. The fact that the two schools are separated by a distance of about 60 miles should not pose any serious obstacles. Linkage of the two computer centers will be achieved, and driving time between the two institutions is just over an hour. An operating committee, with two representatives from each of the three host schools, has been established, and it is charged with coordinating institutional involvement.

The Williams College continued to bear the major responsibility for servicing user requests during the transition year (July 1, 1977 - June 30, 1978), although user services and archival development activities now reside in New Haven and Storrs respectively. But we look to a continued prominent Williams role, through such areas as the publications program of the Roper Center, the development of teaching materials and packages where the standing of Williams as one of the outstanding undergraduate institutions in the country will be a major asset, in the hosting of special seminars, conferences, and training programs.

The continued importance of the Roper Center to the social sciences

Implementation of the new organizational arrangements was predicated upon the assumption that the Center would help the already valuable social science instrumentality become even more important, more successful in meeting research and teaching objectives of faculty in the social sciences. The move to new facilities at Connecticut and Yale makes it possible, if not desirable, of course, only because the Roper Center is a valuable resource.

The following is a partial list of some of the archival resources available at the Roper Center:

1. It maintains the raw data (in reformatted, numeric files) from polls conducted regularly by the American Institute of Public Opinion (The Gallup Poll). This series of nearly 1,000 studies dating from 1936 is clearly one of the most impressive collections of attitude and behavioral data available anywhere for the investigation of social change.

2. It is the repository for studies from many other major U. S. polling organizations, including the Roper Organization, National Opinion Research Center (NORC) Bureau of Applied Social Research, Eberly Associates (Texas), The Minnesota Poll, and dozens more. These thousands of surveys are key questions - by-question into a machine-retrievable instrument which makes subject searches efficient.

3. It annually acquires between 300 and 400 surveys conducted by major non-American research organizations and the overseas affiliates of U. S. survey groups. Today, approximately 7,000 non-American survey data sets, from 72 different countries and dating from 1938, are available through the Roper Center. These include, for example, 275 studies from Denmark, 415 from France, 450 from Germany, 906
It scores countries 73 much the surveys aiiuaiT icnTare many be punched wide international higher tape. these share will the the clean very this published world. provides the the monthly conducted tral standardization in Japan series. These data include many of the landmark surveys in the field of population such as the CLADE urban (1964) and rural (1969) studies, the U.S. GAF and NFS series.

It is the archival site for surveys sponsored around the world by the U.S. Information Agency. The use of identical questionnaires in many different countries as part of the USIA World Survey effort makes this impressive data series extremely valuable in the field of international relations.

It provides data resources to investigators wishing to study highly specialized samples: foreign elites, U.S. business executives, high school youth, racial minorities, aged persons, university students and religious groups.

It has archived data from surveys undertaken by major national commissions. Examples include: The National Commission on Marijuana and Drug Abuse (1973) and The Commission on Population Growth and the American Future (1971).

It publishes an annual summary (NEWSLETTER) of recently acquired data sets containing sample information and content abstracts.

It has published a monthly digest (CURRENT OPINION) of significant findings from recent opinion surveys throughout the world. This phase of the publications program will be taking on new dimensions this month and I will explain the details below under Cooperative Projects.

The point is often made by Roper Center supporters that this is the largest collection of survey data in the world. And so it is. But size is not, by itself, the decisive consideration. It is far more important to note that the Roper archive contains a very rich collection of survey data, well suited to a wide variety of forms of comparative social research. Comparative research may be thought of as having two primary dimensions — research across time, and research across national boundaries. The Roper collection is especially well structured to sustain both. It is our hope that by devoting attention to making our data sets easier to access and less expensive, a larger segment of the social science community will come to share this awareness through first-hand experience.

NEW INITIATIVES FOR THE FUTURE
Doing what has been done better

The Roper Center today is the repository for a very large proportion of the best survey research conducted by commercial survey organizations in 73 countries. It should continue to be this. That is, the collection, maintenance, and dissemination of these data to the social science community should remain the principal raison d'etre for the Roper Center. But the various activities defined by this mission can and should be brought to a higher performance level. A number of new initiatives are being planned.

Increased accessibility to present holdings

Large segments of the archive are now on tape. A substantial portion — some eight million cards — were available in punched card form only when we started transporting these data to Connecticut. Over the next several months, all of the data will be brought into tape storage. Major efforts will then be necessary with the tape-based holdings to clean the data and to reformat them. The presence of multiple punches in much of the data represents one problem requiring special attention. The Social Science Data Center has already de-
Developed special-purpose software for "recoding and sprayting" multiple punch data. A high proportion of the American Gallup Collection is available in "cleaned" standard card image and OSIRIS formats. Work of the remainder of the Archive will proceed as quickly as funding permits, following a set of priorities established through close consultation with the user community. It is in everyone's interest, of course, that extensive reformatting work be confined to those portions of the archive which have the most serious social science value and that the most important data be brought to a form facilitating contemporary social science research before other portions of the holdings are touched.

Active Role for Member Institutions

We expect to establish consultative mechanisms actively involving the user community. We hope to host a users' conference as one means of achieving advice and counsel on priorities. One component of this conference would be a session attended by representatives of all member schools. The intention of this session would be to establish some means for extending the role of member schools in the process of decision making for the Center. It will be necessary, as well, to establish committees in the various areas of research touched by the Roper holdings to aid Center staff in establishing specific priorities.

Re-construction of the fee schedule

One of our major tasks in the future must be to encourage new participants to join the ISA program. The present fee structure has not supplied sufficient incentive to potential members. We at the Center are committed to bringing the per study cost down significantly and to the development of "special packages" of related data at more attractive prices.

In the case of "special packages", efforts to improve fees have already been implemented to some extent. The price of NORC General Social Survey Single Year files is now 25% of what it was previously. Similar pricing structures are also available for the NORC 1972-1977 Cumulative Data Set, the Gallup Presidential Election Series 1936-1976, and the American Soldier Surveys (Studies in Social Psychology in World War II, 1949). A completely new fee structure will be implemented July 1, 1978, which will favorably affect all users of the Center.

Cooperative Projects

Recently, members of the Roper Center staff have been active in exploring new areas of cooperation with various organizations involved in social data research. In January, 1979, representatives from the ICPSR and The Roper Center met and agreed upon the following specific collaborative enterprises:

1. working on the development of joint ICPSR - Roper data sets, such as integrated longitudinal files of election surveys;
2. sharing resources in the future processing of the NORC General Social Surveys;
3. establishing jointly operated booths at professional meetings;
4. exploring the development of teaching packages and social science applications of minicomputer technology.

Similarly, discussions between representatives of Carleton University's Social Science Data Archive and The Roper Center have centered on the sharing of resources to clean and document surveys from the Canadian Institute for Public Opinion.

On another front, The Roper Center and the American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research have entered into an agreement whereby the Center produces a sixty-page section reviewing current survey data for Public Opinion. The first issue of Public Opinion will appear in February, and the magazine will be published six times a year. Both the Roper Center and AEI intend this section to be an objective and comprehensive review of popular opinion on the range of important issues involving the United States. As part of this arrangement, AEI has agreed to take over the subscription list for Current Opinion. All Current Opinion subscribers would have a choice - to get their money back or to receive a couple of years subscription to the new magazine without additional charge.
There is, inevitably, a trade off in the organization I have just described. We are getting some additional administrative complexity, but we are bringing the resources and commitments of two major research universities to the needs of the Roper Center. We are not going to succeed unless we satisfy user needs. We very much hope data consumers will communicate any thoughts concerning the new arrangements or unmet needs which seem especially acute.
INTRODUCTION

The objective of this paper is to provide a description of the origins of the National Opinion Research Center (NORC) library and its information base, the user community it serves and some of the problems encountered, especially with the data archive. Although this paper describes the NORC Library, we will also refer to NORC itself, since the Library is, in many ways, the public arm of the organization. The NCRC Library is that part of the agency through which information passes to the public.

The NCRC Library can best be described as a special library, in the sense that word is used to classify libraries. It is active as a conventional library with a book and reference collection closely aligned to the current research interest of the Intramural Research Programs. It is the NCRC Information Office which supplies all manner of information about NORC, NCRC studies, and survey research in general, to a wide variety of publics. It is the data archive for NORC data and for data generated with NORC participation. It is definitely not the local service data archive for the University of Chicago, although many people acquire data from NORC for research as well as information about data located elsewhere. The University maintains a separate data facility (within the Division of the Social Sciences) which houses data from ICPSR and, interestingly enough in the present context, the University copies of the General Social Survey. The present form of the NORC Library is a direct result of the recent history and growth of NORC and of the social sciences.

HISTORY OF NORC

The history of NORC includes changes in the size of NORC and in the number, complexity and subject matter of studies undertaken. NORC was founded in 1941 as a place where the then new technique of opinion sampling could be applied in the neutral setting of a university. From 1941 to about 1960 the center had a modest budget and a small staff in the Chicago headquarters and in a New York City office. NORC could be characterized in that period as a research center housed in an old mansion on campus; the staff was small enough to meet every day in the dining room of that house for coffee and cake.

The notable studies conducted during that period were the series of national surveys on the conduct of foreign affairs conducted for the U.S. Department of State between 1945 and 1957 (more about these later), the 1947 North-Hatt occupational prestige study, the Shirley Star study of popular attitudes toward mental illness, and a series of health-related surveys which were all being repeated by the Center for Health Administration Studies (CHAS) at the University.

A library existed in those days to serve the professional staff in Chicago and New York. One important and useful activity was the maintenance of a question or item index, by subject, of the foreign affairs studies conducted in the period from 1945 to April, 1957. This index contains the full question text with percentage margins, plus some information on sample type and size. It is still in use today, although we are not confident that it is any longer complete. The item index is quite useful in accessing these studies (now at Roper Center), which number about 125, and since the files are included, the file is a research tool in itself, for certain kinds of analysis.

Besides the question index, the library maintained files of materials used in studies and a small book and journal collection closely related to the subject matter of the studies being done (we still have a concise collection of important health-related survey research done in the 1950s). In addition, rather extensive files of poll and survey results from many agencies then producing them were maintained, including foreign sources. These files still exist and are used from time to time, although we have not made an attempt to keep them up to date due to cost and low user interest. We intend to keep the files, of course, since they are probably a unique resource for that time period.
It appears that the librarian, a
half-time staff, worked mainly in
the information needs of the staff; 
the poll and survey results files 
were there because at that time
NORC was issuing press releases 
much in the fashion that Gallup
does now as well as publishing the
journal Opinion News, which covered
results from studies by NORC and
other organizations. Public contact
by the library was probably
minimal, and whatever public contact
there was at NORC was often a
function of the study director.
Even in the early 1960s, when the
present librarian began working for
NORC, the level of public information
activity was quite low.

The 1960s changed NORC's style
of public representation, just as
the period changed other aspects of
academe. At NORC several things
occurred which had consequences for
the Library -- the number and
complexity of studies in progress
increased and the topics proliferated
beyond health studies, so that the
library collections expanded and
diversified. The NORC profes-
sional staff grew and changed.
New staff members came to depend
on the library for historical infor-
mation; as public contact increased,
requests and questions were in-
creasingly referred to the library.

THE CONTEMPORARY RECORD OF NORC

The brief preceding discussion
has largely to do with the internal
research programs at NORC. In 1963
NORC founded its Survey Research
Service (SRS) to formally provide
research services, chiefly data
collection (but including all
phases of survey research), to the
social science community. The
Center had previously contracted
to conduct studies for extramural
sponsors (a good example is the
Stouffer communism study in 1954 in
conjunction with the Gallup organi-
zation), but SRS was actively
promoted as such. The major char-
acteristic of SRS that should be
noted is that in most cases NORC's
role was technical -- we usually
had little to do with the initial
planning of these studies and litt-
le to do with analyzing data and
reporting the results. This char-
acteristic has implications for the
library in its information and data
archive activities, as we shall
see.

Coincident with the founding of
SRS were some of the Great So-
cial-Fraternity projects which in-
cluded built-in evaluation appro-
priations. SRS was available to
carry out some of the massive data
collection programs needed and be-
came quite busy at it.

The public image of the social
sciences changed in the 1960s, too:
-- one could say that the social
sciences wanted the public to be
more attentive to its results, and
the public apparently began to be,
helped along by such magazines as
Research and The Public.

There were other currents -- the
boom in higher education and in the
graduate student population, the
increased sophistication in the use
of the computer in the soft sci-
cences -- that had effects on the
NORC Library and forced it to be
more responsive to a larger and
larger audience.

One development in the 1960s had
a great impact on the NORC Library:
the development of the NORC Library.
Prior to 1960 people were certainly
sharing data but in a more personal
way as opposed to an agency to
person manner. Times were, after
all, simpler; there simply was not
as much data or demand for them as
we see now. What there was tended
to be more straight forward, per-
haps, than many studies are today.
At NORC the first and probably most
dramatic act related to data ar-
chiving was the depositing of the
State Department studies in the
Roper Public Opinion Research
Center in 1959. This act is more than
symbolic of our policy (if not our
activity) on archiving at NORC
which evolved during the 1960s: to
departmentalize archiving. The act of
releasing the State Department sur-
veys was significant because it ant-
icipated the revised policy.

Our decision to try, at least,
to de-emphasize NORC as a data ar-
chiving had to do with the fact that
maintaining an archive is an expensive
proposition. Our data are NORC
studies, many quite old and many in
bad condition. The organization
could not get funds to do the ar-
chiving properly, and could not
provide the funds itself, so we de-
cided to try to send those studies
we felt were useful to a logical
archive (we hoped to find appropri-
ate archives which would house many
of the studies).

Although data archiving has been
deemphasized, we have not stopped
archiving machine readable data.
The old studies mentioned above
although not all are worth equal
attention --- still require much
work before we would inflict them
on any archive. We therefore pro-
vide sample survey data for second-
ary use, but we do not collect or
keep data from other sources, ex-
cept those which may have been acquired for a specific project.

Just as our data archive activity is closely identified with NORC production, so is our information activity. And just as data are the result of a long line of activity, so too do our information services cover all aspects of these events, not only to NORC staff but also to the interested public.

The survey movement is enourmously active these days, and more and more people are interested not only in the results of these many studies but also in the methods of conducting them. The Library responds to most requests for information on NORC projects or tries to get someone on the staff to respond. We also provide an introduction to NORC and survey research to school groups that might be interested in visiting NORC. The questions we receive cover the social sciences, but mainly stay within the purview of survey research. Questions have to do with methods (e.g. question wording), procedures (e.g. interviewer training) and with particular subject matter.

Our problem with using NORC generated information is the usual one - access; at present our methods of retrieval are primitive, but we are working on solutions. The location of a study on a particular subject or method is just the start, depending on what information the user needs. In most cases, the results of a study are requested, and here we inform the user as best we can. If data are required, we supply them, assuming we have a copy. In any case, data are supplied only with sponsor or study director permission.

The data for extramural studies which reside at NORC are in an interesting limbo. Although most contracts call for public release of data after a set time (usually 2-3 years), our feeling is that contact with the original sponsor to seek permission to use the data serves useful purposes, not the least of which is to learn about the original analysis and to talk with someone who is presumably working in the same area. As time passes more and more of these data sets are "willed" to NORC. What usually happens is that the sponsor will get tired of giving permission and allows us blanket permission to make the data available to all comers, including archives. In some cases it turns out that we have the best, original copy of the data, since we will not have used the tape (except maybe to copy a few times) and since many original sponsors lack the institutional setting needed to care for tapes and documentation for any length of time. These data sets are treated in the same manner as NORC's own data.

THE IMPACT OF USER DEMAND

We turn now to a consideration of how user demand affects the work of the Library (and perhaps how it should affect that work) and how the nature of survey research as a scientific enterprise may help us set some priorities. We will be concerned with two basic problems of documenting or archiving surveys at NORC: how to cope with the diversity of information requests which compete with and take precedence over the archiving and documenting of surveys, and how recent changes in data processing and analysis have created additional documentation problems.

One of the fundamental problems in the NORC Library is that we serve a wide variety of users with quite diverse information needs -- from high school students who need help with a debate topic, to quite sophisticated professionals who have serious and complex data requirements. As a result we quite often find ourselves reacting, in a passive way, to immediate demands. The careful work that is required to get a data set in shape for secondary use is quite often simply another thing to do in the long list of things to do, and most often just does not get done. It appears that in the hurly-burly of day to day routine, we take the pragmatic route only and try to satisfy those who are most insistent for service.

THE ROLE OF THE ARCHIVIST

Now, everyone deserves attention - one would presume the high schooler as much as the potential user of one of our surveys (which may lie "unarchived", in unusable shape). Why should we pay special attention to the archive function when limited resources are stretched in the first place?

We suggest that the scientific nature of survey research demands that special attention be paid data for secondary use. The overriding philosophy of the NORC Library in its role as conservator of NORC surveys is that the entire history of a survey should be preserved so
that it can be examined by anyone at a later date. The natural history of surveys is required if the claim to science is to be satisfied, especially in that aspect of science which supports that experiments be repeatable. Of course, surveys can never be fully repeated, since time is a variable, but an approximation is possible, and history is needed for that.

DOCUMENTATION AND ITS USES

Ideally, then, the final documentation or a study (not only of data, but by the way) would permit replication in order to test the published findings, or, at the very least, to intelligently judge the conclusions drawn from the data. This ideal is not wholly impractical at NORC, since the various stages of surveys do in fact produce written documentation. Thus, our codebooks contain information which recognizes the broader nature of survey documentation by including information on the sample, field work and training, question specifications, bibliographies of publications and the usual data location and coding instructions.

Although the view of documentation outlined above does not solve the daily crunch, it does give a basis for deciding what documentation should include. It is too bad that there is really very little pressure for good documentation even from the most sophisticated users. The rare exception is the graduate student or professor working in the area of survey methodology.

In the work of archiving, we are largely dependent on the quality of documentation produced by each survey. Until recently, there were traditions of processing at NORC which made it possible to supplement missing information from what one knew about other studies done at about the same time. With the widespread use of statistical analysis software packages and the transition from operating controlled data processing to operating systems, there has been a loss of information about data processing and data analysis of surveys. The older systems required that records be kept in order to communicate jobs to other persons. The trend now appears to be that the individual researcher or research assistant does most of his or her own work. One cannot, however, expect more documentation than is required by the work organization. The individual researcher requires fewer records and tends not to produce intelligible information about his work, because there is little need, at that point in the research, to communicate with others. As a consequence the constructed variables and final form of data as used by researchers tend to be unusable. For these reasons the NORC library emphasizes the need to maintain the original file and to document the derivation of important variables so that they may be reconstructed using the original data.

Older and more recent surveys pose very different sets of problems for archiving at NORC. An example of each will point out some of these. An example of an older study is the May, 1964 occupational prestige study, which is the basis for the Hodge-Siegel-Rossi prestige score (used in the General Social Survey). The most remarkable and revealing thing is that this study was not archived until February, 1976, due to study director reluctance to allow secondary use. In the not too distant future, studies such as these will be virtually irretrievable, for the simple reason that much of the data are saved only on punched cards (which are warped now) with multiple punches, and the collective memories of the people involved with the studies tend to be more and more vague. Almost all NORC data prior to mid-1960s can be expected to contain some multiple punches which require special processing that increases cost (and tediousness, too) of archiving. This problem also makes it difficult to create fresh copies of data. Time, in general, is a crucial factor in data storage, since even tape copies can be expected to become unreadable after a while. There is also the problem of reconstructing documentation for these older studies. In many cases we must rely on memories or personal files to recreate some crucial piece of information. Finally, with the immanent loss of the last few pieces of unit record equipment at NORC, we can expect that the solution for the problems of archiving older data sets will become even more difficult.

The Continuous National Survey (CNS) was archived in December, 1975 and is an example, although extreme, of some problems with more recent studies (this study was conducted from April, 1973 to May, 1975). Although the data are documented and usable, they are only available in the form of SPSS system files or character coded data derived from the SPSS files. The original data were not processed by
the traditional means at NORC. Rather, they were punched in free-field format and processed almost entirely with custom designed software, which was never used again. The original data have been entirely lost; an intermediate form of the character coded data is unusable because of a lack of documentation. There is virtually no way to verify the quality of the SPSS system files (short of going back to the seven or eight thousand questionnaires). A less serious but aggravating problem is the complex documentation required for the system files as opposed to the usually more straightforward material associated with original data.

CONCLUSIONS

Archival problems will continue at NORC—of that there is no doubt. If there was serious concern with archiving as a part of the methodology in the social sciences, and perhaps more of a recognition that a scientific enterprise requires good documentation (and the means to get it), we would be more optimistic. As it is, we expect to see more archival problems with recent studies and increasing difficulty with data from older studies.

So that we should not end on such a glum note, let us point out that as a special library mandated with the care of and communication of NORC information and data, we do fairly well, considering the pressures for service with which we must cope. For the future we will continue to be as responsive to our publics as we can be, but we may adjust our priorities and spend more time with the all-important job of study documentation. So that NORC studies can find their way, at perhaps a faster rate, into the nation's data archives and data libraries.
IAASSIST NEWS

EUROPEAN IAASSIST CONFERENCE

There is still time to make reservations to attend the IAASSIST Conference to be held in conjunction with the Annual Meetings of the International Sociological Association at Uppsala, Sweden, August 16-17, 1978. Action Group meetings are scheduled for the afternoons and the panels are scheduled for the evenings, 8:30 - 11:00 p.m. The IAASSIST panels will include the following:

ISSUES IN COMPARATIVE DATA AND RESEARCH, Elliott Avedon, Chair. Department of Recreation, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Canada.

RESEARCH PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH COMPLEX DATA BASES, Joan Devries, Chair. Department of Sociology, Carleton University, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1S 5B6.

PRIVACY VERSUS FREEDOM OF INFORMATION, Guido Martinotti, Chair. Archivio dati e programmi per le scienze sociali, Via G. Cantoni 4, 20144 Milan, Italy.

In order to attend the World Congress, you must complete the Registration/Reservation Form and return it to the IAASSIST Secretariat. Advance payment of registration fees will be accepted by the Secretariat. The fees are somewhat higher now that they were prior to April 30. All accommodations in Uppsala will be reserved for IAASSIST participants. Therefore, in order to secure reservations, the accommodations section of the reservation form must be completed. A copy of this form should also be sent to your Regional IAASSIST Secretariat. While IAASSIST is not organizing charter flights, nor is IAASSIST group travel plans, they are available from some countries. For further information, contact Volume 2, Number 1, IAASSIST Newsletter or for more up-to-date information call your Regional IAASSIST Secretariat.

W f n d E u r o p e a n S e c r e t a r i a t -- Status Report

During the past few weeks the Newsletter received a copy of the Status Report produced by Peer Nielsen, the West European IAASSIST Secretariat. In the report Nielsen described the work of IAASSIST as it related to the West European membership, especially concerns emanating from the Itasca Meeting in February. While noting the need for membership renewal, the IAASSIST election procedure, and the Uppsala Conference, Nielsen also made a plea for help in recruiting new members.

TRAINING AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

ICPSR Summer Program

There is still time to attend some of the sessions of the ICPSR summer program at Ann Arbor. Detailed information may be obtained from: Summer Program, ICPSR, P.O. Box 1498, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48106; or phone (313) 764-3892. Check the Newsletter, Vol. 2, No. 1, for additional information on this and other conferences this summer.

NEWS OF RELATED ORGANIZATIONS

The Roper Center

The transfer of the User Services division of the Roper Center, Inc., has been completed and is now located at Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut. Information concerning user services may be directed to:

Dr. Donald R. DeLuca
The Roper Center
Yale University
Box 1732 Yale Station
New Haven, CT 06520 USA

MRDF Cataloging Conference

The Problem

One of the manifestations of the "information explosion" is the enormous increase in all types of information potentially available in computer-readable form. Administrators, policymakers, students, faculty and others engaged in scholarly research rely heavily on the information stored in a machine-readable format. Unlike books, journals, documents, and more recently audio and visual material, there are no standard procedures for acquiring, cataloging, storing, and disseminating information about machine-readable data files (MRDF). At the present time,
information on usable MRF is fragmented among varying government agencies, research institutions and university computing and data centers. Among these various agencies, there is no common format for information about the existence of data files, nor is there any standardized structure that would facilitate retrieval of information from many different sources. Existing information about machine-readable data is available to some but not all. Therefore access to and subsequent use of MRF is seriously limited for both users and potential users. As a result, there has been much interest and some progress in developing bibliographic standards for controlling MRF. However, until the convening of the National Conference on Cataloging and Information Services for Machine-Readable Data Files on March 29-31, 1978 at Airlie House, Warrenton, Virginia, there had not been a concerted and coordinated effort at the national level.

Conference Objectives

With this perspective, the conference brought together key persons and organizations having an active interest in establishing a framework within which a national program for cataloging and information services could be developed. The specific objectives of the conference were to:

1. Identify key technical issues requiring resolution prior to implementing a coordinated cataloging effort,

2. Define the operational components of a centralized clearinghouse for MRF cataloging and identify the procedural steps for establishing a clearinghouse,

3. Identify and describe potential information products and services that would result from a coordinated effort, and

4. Establish a limited secretariat to facilitate continuing post-conference efforts to initiate a national program to catalog machine-readable data.

Approximately 60 conferees were selected because of their expertise or interest in establishing standards and bibliographic control for MRF, or because they represented organizations which produce, store, disseminate, and use MRF. The distribution of participants by major organizational affiliation was: 45% federal, 30% academic, and 25% non-profit and other private.

The three-day conference included: a series of "state-of-the-art" reports; a strategy session designed to focus subsequent discussion; working group sessions dealing with technical standards, operational procedures, products and services, and user input; summary reports from working group leaders; and a concluding session on what the next steps should be.

Points of Consensus

The conference did not develop any solutions to the problems associated with applying standard bibliographic control procedures for MRF. However, there was general consensus that such procedures and related information services are urgently needed to improve user access to machine-readable data resources. It was also generally agreed that any resulting procedures should be directed towards an automated system of bibliographic records for MRF.

Within the framework of this automated system, it was suggested that three levels of descriptive information be included for each data file. The first level of information would be prepared by professional catalogers and would consist of standard cataloging information; such as author, title, producer, distributor, edition, etc., according to the forthcoming Anglo-American Cataloging Rules. The second descriptive level would provide detailed information about the content of the data resource, including those elements required for analytical purposes in the case of numeric data files. The third level of information would describe the physical characteristics of the data and other file characteristics which are subject to change. The first level of information would enable a user to identify a particular data file. The second level of information would meet the analytical needs of the user of a numeric data such as the census or public opinion survey data. The third level of information would provide the user with the necessary information to access the data file.*
Call for Action

The conference concluded with a call for action and a strategy outlined in two phases. Phase I would consist of a period of testing and evaluation of the existing standards for MRDF cataloging. Phase II would consist of defining operational procedures and components which would facilitate the implementation of a national program of cataloging MRDF. Such procedures must be acceptable to all parties involved, especially the major data producers. Specific recommendations of Phase I stated:

1. That the AACR II rules should be tested on a broad range of machine-readable data files to determine the feasibility of using these rules as a standard for cataloging.

2. That the results of the cataloging tests based on the AACR II rules must be evaluated.

3. That the products and services which could be derived from such a cataloging effort must be defined.

4. That the content and form of the MRDF bibliographic record be tested to insure that it would support previously defined products and services.

5. That an advisory committee representing the various participants should be formed to coordinate and report on testing and evaluation activities.

Specific recommendations of Phase II stated:

1. That before implementation of a national program of MRDF cataloging can take place, operational procedures and components which are acceptable to the parties involved must be established.

2. That in order to insure widespread acceptability and use, plans for cataloging MRDF must be disseminated to all major federal and non-federal data producers.

3. That feedback received from major data producers should be evaluated and proposed plans modified based on perceived problems.

4. That a plan for establishing a permanent program should be developed.

5. That resource requirements based on the implementation plans must be specified.

The call for action was extended to both the federal and private sector. However, without sources of immediate funding being assured, it was suggested that testing be done on a voluntary basis using available resources. Federal agencies which have volunteered staff resources towards this effort include: the Bureau of the Census, the Government Accounting Office, the Office of Federal Statistical Policy and Standards, and the Federal Libraries Commission. Private academic organizations already involved in testing the AACR II cataloging rules for MRDF include: University of North Carolina, Social Science Data Library; University of Wisconsin, Data and Program Library Service; Yale University, Social Science Library; and Princeton University.

As part of the original funding grant from the National Science Foundation, a Secretariat will be formed to facilitate the work of the voluntary groups who will be testing standard procedures for cataloging. The Secretariat duties will also include publicity, responding to inquiries about the conference and related issues, and disseminating the conference proceedings. For additional information persons should write to:

MRDF Cataloging Conference
the world's population-related literature, is actively investigating the expansion of its coverage to include machine-readable data bases concerned with demographic material. Based at the Office of Population Research at Princeton University, Population Index is a quarterly publication containing between 3,000 and 4,000 citations per year. Those people interested in providing assistance in the form of guidelines and suggestions are requested to write:

Sara R. Stracan
Associate Editor
Population Index
21 Prospect Avenue
Princeton, NJ 08540 USA

Book Notice


POSITION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Institute for Social Research

The Center for Political Studies of the Institute for Social Research has an opening at the Associate Research Scientist level, beginning in September 1978. Primary duties include directing the ICPSR Summer Program, which includes responsibility for curriculum design, recruitment of teaching staff, development of training modules, etc. There is a preferred candidate, but other individuals with a strong interest in such a position should send a vita and supporting documents to:

Jerome M. Clubb,
Executive Director
ICPSR
Center for Political Studies
Institute for Social Research
P. O. Box 1248
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48106 USA

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME ____________________________________________________________

MAILING ADDRESS __________________________________________________

INSTITUTIONAL AFFILIATION __________________________________________

TELEPHONE NUMBER _________________________________________________

Date ____________________________ Amount Enclosed ____________________

Membership fees for calendar year 1977

Individual: Regular $15 ___ Student $5 ___

Institutional (two individual memberships): $35 ___

Charter Individual Membership (three years): $100 ___

Institutional Subscription: $25 ___

Payment Enclosed _________ (amount)

Make check or money order payable to IASSIST. Send payment to:

Judith S. Rowe
PRINCETON UNIVERSITY COMPUTER CENTER
87 Prospect Avenue
Princeton, N. J. 08540

For individual memberships, indicate interest in participation in one of the following action groups:

DATA ARCHIVE REGISTRY ___ DATA ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT ___

DATA ARCHIVE DEVELOPMENT ___ CLASSIFICATION ___

DATA ACQUISITION ___ DOCUMENTATION ___

PROCESS-PRODUCED DATA ___

Membership in the IASSIST includes a subscription to the IASSIST Newsletter and a subscription to S S Data, A Newsletter of Social Science Archival Acquisitions, each to appear four times a year. In addition to these subscriptions, the IASSIST membership affords the opportunity to participate at both the international and regional levels.

(for individual's file)

I applied for membership in IASSIST. Dues paid (amount) ______ Date ______
REGISTRATION FORM

To be returned to:
9th World Congress of Sociology
C/o RESO Congress Service
S-105 24 Stockholm, Sweden

Please type or use block letters

Complete both copies of this form and keep one copy for your own files.

Family Mr name First name
Address
Country
Title or Profession University or Institution
Accompanied by
Accompanied by

ACCOMMODATION

Hotel reservations are binding unless notice of cancellation or change is received at least two (2) weeks before date of arrival.

Type of Accommodation | Single Room | Double Room | No. of Persons | For official use only
--- | --- | --- | --- | ---
Hotel Room in Uppsala | | | |
Student Room in Uppsala | | | |
Hotel Room in Stockholm | | | |
Student Room in Stockholm | | | |

DATE OF ARRIVAL ............. DATE OF DEPARTURE .............

☐ I do not require accommodation in Uppsala

Mode of travel
☐ by automobile ☐ by airplane ☐ other means

REGISTRATION

(circle the appropriate amount)

NOTE that the fees depend on the date of the postmark on your envelope.

These fees must be paid on submission of this form (see below)

Type of Membership | Before Jan.1/78 | Before Apr. 30/78 | After Apr. 30/78 | No. of Persons | Total Fee | For official use only
--- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | ---
ISA member in 1978 | Skr 235 | Skr 300 | Skr 405 | | | |
Non-Member | Skr 300 | Skr 365 | Skr 470 | | | |
Student ISA Member | Skr 65 | Skr 110 | Skr 150 | | | |
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