THE REVISED IASSIST CONSTITUTION 28
Harold Naugler

1981 REGIONAL IASSIST CONFERENCE 42

SOCIAL TREND STUDIES: A REVIEW ESSAY 44
Richard Sobel
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 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. Articles and other information should be typewritten and double-spaced. Each page of the manuscript should be numbered. The first page should contain the article title, author's name, affiliation, address to which correspondence may be sent, and telephone number. Footnotes and bibliographic citations should be consistent in style, preferably following a standard authority such as the University of Chicago Press Manual of Style or Kate L. Turabian's Manual for Writers. If the contribution is an announcement of a conference, training session, or the like, the text should include a mailing address and a telephone number for the director of the event or for the organization sponsoring the event. Book notices and reviews should not exceed two double-spaced pages. Manuscripts should be sent in duplicate to the Editor:

Howard D. White  
School of Library and Information Science  
Drexel University  
Philadelphia PA 19104 USA  
(215) 895-2481 or (215) 895-2475

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

Kathleen M. Heim  
Graduate School of Library Science  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
329 Main Library  
Urbana IL 61801 USA

Key Title: Newsletter - International Association for Social Science Information Service and Technology  
ISSN - United States: 0145-238X  
Copyright © 1981 by IASSIST. All rights reserved.
THE REVISED IASSIST CONSTITUTION

HAROLD NAUGLER
PUBLIC ARCHIVES CANADA

Proposed Constitutional Changes

At the IASSIST annual meeting held in Washington, D.C., in May 1980, the general membership approved the establishment of a Constitutional Review Committee to review the Association's constitution of 1978 and to propose changes. As the Chairman of the Committee, I undertook a thorough review of the 1978 constitution, received recommendations and changes proposed by Association members, and incorporated changes approved by the membership at the 1979 and 1980 annual meetings concerning the establishment of Standing Committees as well as Action and Interest Groups. The proposed changes were submitted to the members of the Administrative Committee for their detailed review in the spring of this year. The proposed Constitution and By-Laws which are described in the following pages incorporate most of the changes suggested by Administrative Committee members. For a comparison of these proposals with the 1978 constitution, members are referred to the IASSIST Newsletter, Volume 2, Number 1 (Winter 1978).

The suggestion has been made that the proposed changes do not ensure a sufficient degree of continuity in the governance of the Association. It has been proposed that such continuity could better be attained as a result of the election of the Administrative Committee members on a rotational basis and through the Vice-President succeeding to the Presidency. In order to provide the members of the General Assembly with a clear choice on this issue, I have prepared specific Articles which are outlined after the main body of the Constitution and By-Laws.

As I shall be unable to attend the annual meeting of the Association in Grenoble, I would suggest the following course of action: that a motion be made, and seconded, that the proposed Constitution and By-Laws be approved in their entirety; that an Article by Article review of the Constitution and By-Laws then follow, at which time amendments can be made, seconded, and perhaps passed; and after the Article by Article review has been completed, the membership approve the Constitution and By-Laws as amended. Under most Rules of Order, it is customary for the General Assembly to move into Committee of the Whole in order to undertake a detailed review of an Association's Constitution and By-Laws.

I would like to express my appreciation to all of those who have taken the time and patience to review the proposals and make suggestions. It is my hope that the result is a Constitution with related By-Laws which reflect more accurately the views of the membership.

Harold Naugler
Ottawa, Canada
July 1981
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR SOCIAL SCIENCE INFORMATION SERVICE AND TECHNOLOGY/L'ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE POUR LES SERVICES ET TECHNIQUES D'INFORMATION EN SCIENCES SOCIALES

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

(Proposed Changes: September 1981)

ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of this organization shall be the INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR SOCIAL SCIENCE INFORMATION SERVICE AND TECHNOLOGY/L'ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE POUR LES SERVICES ET TECHNIQUES D'INFORMATION EN SCIENCES SOCIALES, hereafter referred to as "IASSIST".

ARTICLE II - HEADQUARTERS

The official headquarters of IASSIST will be located with the Treasurer.

ARTICLE III - OBJECTIVES

All activities of IASSIST will be based upon the following objectives:

3.1 To encourage and support the establishment of local and national information centers for machine readable data.

3.2 To foster international exchange and dissemination of information regarding substantive and technical developments related to machine readable data.

3.3 To coordinate international programs, projects, and general efforts that provide a forum for discussion of issues relating to machine readable data.

3.4 To promote the development of standards for machine readable data.

3.5 To encourage educational experiences for personnel engaged in work related to these objectives.

ARTICLE IV - ACTIVITIES

To accomplish the objectives of IASSIST, some or all of the following activities may be conducted:

4.1 COMMITTEES AND GROUPS

Committees may be established and groups of members organized to undertake specific tasks, to find solutions to specific problems, to develop and compile relevant materials for specific projects, and to disseminate information on specific subjects.

4.2 CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS, SEMINARS, TRAINING SESSIONS

Members may convene organized efforts on any subject consistent with IASSIST objectives.

4.3 PUBLICATIONS

A Newsletter will be published and regularly circulated to all members, as well as to others wishing to subscribe. Other kinds of publications may be produced on occasions.
4.4 COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Efforts will be made to cooperate with other organizations in joint projects and activities when these are consistent with IASSIST objectives.

4.5 OTHER

Other activities that advance the objectives of IASSIST may be undertaken from time to time.

ARTICLE V - MEMBERSHIP

5.1 The membership shall consist of regular and student members.

5.2 Regular and student memberships shall be open to such persons as are interested in supporting the objectives of IASSIST.

5.3 Membership in IASSIST shall include a subscription to the Newsletter.

5.4 Resignations of any members shall become effective immediately upon receipt by the Treasurer of IASSIST. Resignation shall imply forfeiture of the annual membership fee.

ARTICLE VI - FINANCES

6.1 The fiscal year of IASSIST shall begin 1 January and end 31 December.

6.2 Membership fees for regular and student members shall be paid annually to the Treasurer by 1 March of each fiscal year.

6.3 The rate of membership fees may be changed by a two-thirds vote of the members on a mail ballot, such ballots to be undertaken between October and December of any calendar year, the results of such ballots to go into effect on 1 March of the following year.

ARTICLE VII - GOVERNANCE

7.1 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

IASSIST shall consist of a General Assembly composed of all regular and student members. The General Assembly will be organized by geographic regions.

7.2 FUNCTIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The General Assembly will establish general policies for IASSIST and elect the members of the Administrative Committee, as well as the officers of the Association. Each region will, in addition, elect its own administrative officer who will be known as the Regional Secretary.

7.3 ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

The Administrative Committee will be the executive body of IASSIST, and shall be composed of those members elected by the General Assembly from its membership. The composition of the Administrative Committee will reflect the geographic distribution of the members of
IASSIST and will be based on the number of members in each geographic region. The Administrative Committee will also include the Regional Secretaries. The members of the Administrative Committee, including the Regional Secretaries, will serve a three-year term and may be considered for re-election for no more than three consecutive terms.

7.4 FUNCTIONS OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

The Administrative Committee will implement policies, develop future directions, and coordinate activities for IASSIST. The Administrative Committee will organize the General Assembly into geographic regions, determine the number of Administrative Committee members from each geographic region, and call meetings of the General Assembly at least once every year. The Administrative Committee will also establish Committees and Groups as required.

7.5 OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

The General Assembly will elect from among its membership the officers of IASSIST: PRESIDENT, VICE-PRESIDENT, SECRETARY, and TREASURER. The officers shall serve a three-year term and may be considered for re-election for no more than two consecutive terms.

7.6 ROLE OF THE OFFICERS

The officers of IASSIST will be responsible for the conduct of business of the ASSOCIATION between meetings of the Administrative Committee.

ARTICLE VIII - MEETINGS

8.1 The annual meeting of the General Assembly shall be held at a time and place chosen by the Administrative Committee.

8.2 Special meetings of the General Assembly may be called by the Administrative Committee.

8.3 The Secretary shall give notice to the members as to the time and place of the annual meeting or special meeting not less than two months prior to the scheduled meeting.

8.4 A quorum shall consist of 20 members.

ARTICLE IX - ELECTIONS

9.1 A Nominations and Elections Committee will be appointed by the Administrative Committee.

9.2 The Nominations and Elections Committee shall conduct an election in each geographic region for officers of IASSIST, members of the Administrative Committee, and the Regional Secretaries. Members within each designated geographic region shall only be entitled to nominate and vote for the Regional Secretary in their home region. However, all members will be entitled to
nominate and vote for the officers of IASSIST and the other members of the Administrative Committee.

9.3 A public call for nominations will be sent out by the Nominations and Elections Committee. Voting will be conducted by mail ballot. Elections will be held every three years.

ARTICLE X - AMENDMENTS

The Constitution of IASSIST may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members on a mail ballot, such ballots to be undertaken between October and December of any calendar year, the results of such ballots to go into effect at the following year’s annual meeting of the General Assembly, provided that:

10.1 notice of the proposed amendments shall have been given in writing to the Standing Committee on Constitutional Review with the written support of at least five (5) members in good standing of the ASSOCIATION; and

10.2 two month’s notice of the proposed amendments is given in writing to all members of the ASSOCIATION prior to the conduct of the mail ballot.

ARTICLE XI - TERMINATION

IASSIST may be dissolved by a majority of the members. All property and funds of IASSIST will be transferred to the International Social Science Council upon dissolution.

ARTICLE XII - BY-LAWS

SECTION I

DUTIES OF THE PRESIDENT

12.1 The President shall:

(i) be the principal officer of IASSIST;

(ii) provide leadership and guidance in the realization of IASSIST’s objectives;

(iii) preside at all meetings of the General Assembly and the Administrative Committee;

(iv) be an ex-officio member of all Standing Committees and shall coordinate their activities;

(v) represent IASSIST in its dealings with external bodies and agencies, particularly those at the international level; and

(vi) report on the state of IASSIST at each annual meeting of the General Assembly.

SECTION 2

DUTIES OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT

12.2 The Vice-President shall:

(i) perform the duties and exercise the powers of the President in the absence
or disability of the latter;

(ii) assist the President in recommending measures to further the objectives of IASSIST when and as often as requested;

(iii) be an ex-officio member of all Action and Interest Groups and coordinate their activities, and be responsible for proposing the Coordinators to the Administrative Committee and maintaining regular contact with such Action and Interest Groups throughout the year; and

(iv) in the event of the resignation, death, or incapacity of the President, succeed as acting President for the duration of the then President's term.

SECTION 3

DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY

12.3 The Secretary shall:

(i) attend meetings of the Administrative Committee and meetings of the General Assembly and shall record all facts and minutes of all proceedings in the books kept for that purpose;

(ii) be responsible for the maintenance of IASSIST's records and for its general correspondence;

(iii) be an ex-officio member of the Nominations and Elections Committee to maintain lists of nominees for office and to assist in the preparation and distribution of ballots;

(iv) be an ex-officio member of the Standing Committee on Constitutional Review to maintain notices of proposed amendments to the Association's constitution and to assist in the preparation and distribution of ballots;

(v) give notice of all meetings of the General Assembly and of the Administrative Committee; and

(vi) perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the Administrative Committee or President.

SECTION 4

DUTIES OF THE TREASURER

12.4 The Treasurer shall:

(i) have the custody of the funds and securities of IASSIST and shall keep full and accurate accounts of receipts and disbursements in books belonging to IASSIST and shall deposit all monies and other valuable effects in the name and to the credit of IASSIST and in such depositories as may be designated by the Administrative Committee
from time to time;

(ii) disburse the funds of IASSIST as may be ordered by the Administrative Committee;

(iii) render to the Administrative Committee at its various meetings, or whenever the members of the Administrative Committee may require it, an account of all his/her transactions as Treasurer and of the financial position of IASSIST;

(iv) prepare a written report for submission to the General Assembly at its annual meeting;

(v) provide the Standing Committee on Membership with up-to-date mailing lists of all members in good standing in each of the geographic regions; and

(vi) perform such other duties as may from time to time be determined by the Administrative Committee.

SECTION 5

DUTIES OF THE REGIONAL SECRETARIES

12.5 The Regional Secretaries shall:

(i) be the primary officers of IASSIST in their respective regions, working closely with the President of IASSIST;

(ii) provide leadership and guidance in the realization of IASSIST’s objectives in their respective regions;

(iii) represent IASSIST in its dealings with external bodies and agencies, particularly those at the national level;

(iv) serve as members of the Standing Committee on Membership;

(v) attend all meetings of the General Assembly and the Administrative Committee; and

(vi) work closely with the Program Director of the Annual Meeting when the latter is scheduled in their particular region.

SECTION 6

DUTIES OF APPOINTEE OFFICIALS

12.6.1 The Editor of the Newsletter shall:

(i) be appointed by the President of IASSIST, on the advice of the Standing Committee on Publications and with the consent of the Administrative Committee, for a term of three calendar years which may be renewed;

(ii) serve on the Standing Committee on Publications; and
(iii) be responsible for the regular preparation, publication, and distribution of IASSIST's official Newsletter.

12.6.2 The Program Director of the Annual Meeting shall:

(i) be appointed by the President of IASSIST with the consent of the Administrative Committee;

(ii) set up and organize the next annual meeting following the appointment;

(iii) be responsible for keeping the Administrative Committee regularly informed of all preparations; and

(iv) work closely with the Regional Secretary in the region in which the annual meeting is to be held.

SECTION 7
COMMITTEES

12.7.1 The Administrative Committee at the time of the annual meeting of the General Assembly shall appoint and/or confirm Standing Committees and shall appoint and/or confirm Chairpersons of the said Standing Committees.

12.7.2 Standing Committees shall advise the Administrative Committee on matters of policy within their particular sphere, and shall have a Chairperson appointed for a three-year term which may be renewed, two members drawn from the regular membership of IASSIST appointed for a three-year term which may be renewed, one member of the Administrative Committee appointed for a three-year term which may be renewed unless representation from the Administrative Committee is already included in the composition of the Standing Committee in another capacity, and such officers as are designated ex-officio members.

12.7.3 The Standing Committees of IASSIST are the following:

(i) CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW COMMITTEE: responsible for receiving proposals for the enacting, amending, and repealing of the by-laws of IASSIST and for preparing revised articles and by-laws for members' approval, as well as for undertaking an annual review of the constitution and by-laws and proposing amendments as it deems appropriate.

(ii) EDUCATION COMMITTEE: responsible for the development and advancement of professional programs in education and training and for advising the Administration Committee on the criteria for the approval and certification of such programs.
(iii) **MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE:**
responsible for recruiting membership in IASSIST, maintaining an up-to-date mailing list of all members in good standing in each of the geographic regions, and for recommending alterations in the classes of membership and dues. This Committee's membership shall also include the Regional Secretaries.

(iv) **NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE:** responsible for receiving nominations for the election of the Administrative Committee, the Regional Secretaries, and the officers of IASSIST, distributing ballots and electoral information according to regulation, and for recommending alterations in procedures.

(v) **PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE:**
responsible for advising the Administrative Committee on general publications program policy and for reviewing manuscripts submitted for publication. This Committee's membership shall also include the Editor of the Newsletter.

SECTION 8

ACTION GROUPS

12.8.1 The Administrative Committee, at the time of the annual meeting of the General Assembly, may appoint Action Groups and for every Action Group so appointed a Coordinator shall be named.

12.8.2 A minimum of three(3) members of IASSIST may make application to the Administrative Committee for the establishment of an Action Group at least one month prior to the annual meeting of the General Assembly.

12.8.3 Action Groups shall be expected to undertake specific tasks, to find solutions to specific problems, or to develop and compile relevant materials for specific projects. The mandate or terms of reference of Action Groups shall be clearly defined, including the resources and time required and the specific nature of the output or product.

12.8.4 Action Groups shall report to the Administrative Committee through the Vice-President on matters relating to their particular sphere, and shall have a Coordinator appointed for a one-year term which may be renewed, two or more members of IASSIST appointed for a one-year term which may be renewed, one member of the Administrative Committee appointed for a one-year term which may be renewed, and such officers as are designated ex-officio members.
SECTION 9

INTEREST GROUPS

12.9.1 The Administrative Committee, at the time of the annual meeting of the General Assembly, may appoint Interest Groups and for every Interest Group so appointed a Coordinator shall be named.

12.9.2 A minimum of five (5) members of IASSIST may make application to the Administrative Committee for the establishment of an Interest Group at least one month prior to the annual meeting of the General Assembly.

12.9.3 Interest Groups shall be expected to disseminate information on specific subjects and to serve as a forum of discussion between as well as during annual meetings.

12.9.4 Interest Groups shall report to the Administrative Committee through the Vice-President on matters relating to their particular sphere, and shall have a Coordinator appointed for a one-year term which may be renewed, four or more members of IASSIST appointed for a one-year term which may be renewed, and such officers as are designated ex-officio members.

SECTION 10

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS PROCEDURES

Any regular member in good standing is eligible to hold office in IASSIST.

12.10.1 The Administrative Committee

(i) Every three years, commencing in 1981, the Administrative Committee shall be elected from a slate of candidates put forward by the Standing Committee on Nominations and Elections.

(ii) During the first two weeks of October in any election year, any member in good standing may submit in writing to the Nominations and Elections Committee, the names of as many as five (5) persons for the Administrative Committee regardless of the geographic region in which the nominees reside.

(iii) All nominations must be accompanied by a written statement from the nominees declaring their willingness to stand for election; the signatures of two (2) additional members in good standing who have agreed to co-sponsor the nomination; and an outline of the qualifications of the nominees.

(iv) The Nominations and Elections Committee will compile a list of nominees and mail ballots to the membership during the first two weeks of November in
any election year.

(v) All members in good standing, regardless of the geographic region in which they reside, shall be eligible to vote for a limited number of nominees from each geographic region. The number of nominees from each region will be specified on the ballot, based on each region's percentage of the total membership of IASSIST. Voting will take place over a period of one month during any election year, but in no instance will it extend beyond mid-December.

(vi) The results of the election shall be announced by the end of December in every election year. The results shall be published in the first issue of the Newsletter following the election.

(vii) Newly elected members of the Administrative Committee shall take office after the annual meeting of the General Assembly following the elections.

12.10.2 The Regional Secretaries

(i) Every three years, commencing in 1981, the Regional Secretaries shall be elected from a slate of candidates put forward by the Standing Committee on Nominations and Elections.

(ii) During the first two weeks of October in any election year, any member in good standing in a particular geographic region may submit in writing to the Nominations and Elections Committee, the name of a person for Regional Secretary who must reside in the same geographic region as the nominator.

(iii) A nomination must be accompanied by a written statement from the nominee declaring his/her willingness to stand for election; a statement indicating that the nominee has institutional support to undertake the duties; the signatures of two(2) additional members in good standing from the same geographic region who have agreed to co-sponsor the nomination; and an outline of the qualifications of the nominee.

(iv) The Nominations and Elections Committee will compile lists of nominees and mail appropriate ballots to the membership of each geographic region during the first two weeks of November in any election year.

(v) All members in good standing in each geographic region shall be eligible to vote for the Regional Secretary for that particular geographic region. Voting will take
place over a period of one month during any election year, but in no instance will it extend beyond mid-December.

(vi) The results of the election shall be announced by the end of December in every election year. The results shall be published in the first issue of the Newsletter following the election.

(vii) Newly elected Regional Secretaries shall take office after the annual meeting of the General Assembly following the elections.

12.10.3 The Officers of the Association

(i) Every three years, commencing in 1981, the officers of IASSIST - the PRESIDENT, VICE-PRESIDENT, SECRETARY, and TREASURER - shall be elected from a slate of candidates put forward by the Standing Committee on Nominations and Elections.

(ii) During the first two weeks of October in any election year, any member in good standing may submit in writing to the Nominations and Elections Committee, the name of a person for the position of PRESIDENT and/or VICE-PRESIDENT and/or SECRETARY and/or TREASURER.

(iii) All nominations must be accompanied by a written statement from the nominees declaring their willingness to stand for election; a statement indicating that the nominees have institutional support to undertake the duties; the signatures of two(2) additional members in good standing who have agreed to co-sponsor the nomination; and an outline of the qualifications of the nominees.

(iv) The Nominations and Elections Committee will compile a list of nominees and mail ballots to the membership during the first two weeks of November in any election year.

(v) All members in good standing, regardless of the geographic region in which they reside, shall be eligible to vote for the PRESIDENT, VICE-PRESIDENT, SECRETARY, and TREASURER. Voting will take place over a period of one month during any election year, but in no instance will it extend beyond mid-December.

(vi) The results of the election shall be announced by the end of December in every election year. The results shall be published in the first issue of the Newsletter following the election.

(vii) Newly elected officers shall take office after the annual meeting of the General Assembly following the elections.
ARTICLE VII - GOVERNANCE

7.3 ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

The Administrative Committee will be the executive body of IASSIST, and shall be composed of those members elected by the General Assembly from its membership. The composition of the Administrative Committee will reflect the geographic distribution of the members of IASSIST and will be based on the number of members in each geographic region. The Administrative Committee will also include the Regional Secretaries. The members of the Administrative Committee, including the Regional Secretaries, will serve a four-year term and may be considered for re-election for no more than two consecutive terms.

7.5 OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

The General Assembly will elect from among its membership, the officers of IASSIST: PRESIDENT, VICE-PRESIDENT, SECRETARY, and TREASURER. The President and Vice-President shall serve a two-year term, the Vice-President automatically succeeding to the Presidency of the Association after the expiration of his/her term. The Secretary and Treasurer shall serve a two-year term and may be considered for re-election for no more than two consecutive terms.

ARTICLE IX - ELECTIONS

9.3 A public call for nominations will be sent out by the Nominations and Elections Committee. Voting will be conducted by mail ballot. Elections will be held every two years for the positions of Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer, and for half of the membership of the Administrative Committee.

ARTICLE XII - BY-LAWS

SECTION 2

12.2 The Vice-President shall:

(v) automatically succeed to the Presidency of the Association after his/her two-year term of office.

SECTION 6

DUTIES OF APPOINTIVE OFFICIALS

12.6.1 The Editor of the Newsletter shall:

(i) be appointed by the President of IASSIST, on the advice of the Standing Committee on Publications and with the consent of the Administrative Committee, for a term of two calendar...
years which may be renewed;

SECTION 7

COMMITTEES

12.7.2 Standing Committees shall advise the Administrative Committee on matters of policy within their particular sphere, and shall have a Chairperson appointed for a two-year term which may be renewed, two members drawn from the regular membership of IASSIST appointed for a two-year term which may be renewed, one member of the Administrative Committee appointed for a two-year term which may be renewed unless representation from the Administrative Committee is already included in the composition of the Standing Committee in another capacity, and such officers as are designated ex-officio members.

SECTION 10

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

PROCEDURES

12.10.1 The Administrative Committee

(i) Every two years half of the Administrative Committee shall be elected from a slate of candidates put forward by the Standing Committee on Nominations and Elections. During the 1981 election year, members will vote for a full slate of Administrative Committee candidates, half of the elected candidates to serve for four years and half to serve for two years. The number of votes cast for each candidate will determine the length of office. Thereafter, commencing in 1983, the procedure for a rotational Administrative Committee will be in effect.

12.10.2 The Regional Secretaries

(ii) Every four years, commencing in 1981, the Regional Secretaries shall be elected from a slate of candidates put forward by the Standing Committee on Nominations and Elections.

12.10.3 The Officers of the Association

(i) Every two years the VICE-PRESIDENT, SECRETARY, and TREASURER shall be elected from a slate of candidates put forward by the Standing Committee on Nominations and Elections. During the 1981 election year, members will vote for a full slate of officers - PRESIDENT, VICE-PRESIDENT, SECRETARY, and TREASURER. All officers will serve for two-year terms, except the VICE-PRESIDENT who will automatically succeed to the Presidency at that time. Thereafter, commencing in 1983, the procedure for the Vice-President succeeding to the Presidency after his/her two-year term of office will be in effect.
Another in the continuing series of informal, local West Coast IASSIST meetings is planned for fall 1981, after the International conference. For information about this seminar or other activities of the West Coast group, contact Jackie McGee, the Rand Corporation, 1700 Main St., Santa Monica, CA 90406, (213) 393-0411; Ilona Einowski, State Data Program, 2538 Channing Way, Berkeley, CA 94720, (415) 642-6571; or Elizabeth Stephenson, UCLA Institute for Social Science Research, 405 Hilgard Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90024, (213) 825-0711.

1981 REGIONAL IASSIST CONFERENCE

A 1981 Regional IASSIST conference was hosted by the Rand Corporation in Santa Monica, California, on May 15 and 16. The conference was suggested by the IASSIST Administrative Committee as a way for those members who would not be able to attend the International Conference in Grenoble to nevertheless participate in a major IASSIST activity this year. Program and local arrangements were handled by Jackie McGee and Don Trees of the Rand Corporation.

Conference sponsors also hoped to attract new members to IASSIST and the West Coast group. Although gains in IASSIST membership cannot yet be evaluated, over 80 percent of the conference attendees were non-members.

About 75 individuals representing more than 40 organizations attended or participated during the two-day period. A majority were state and local government researchers or administrators. The major California universities and data archives were also represented.

The conference was organized around four areas (details below):

- Subject area data bases
- Data collection and processing issues in archiving and secondary analysis
- 1980 Census data content and software systems for access
- Geographic profiles and commercial data bases

Each area contained multiple 45-minute sessions, structured so as to emphasize technical aspects, with workshops in topics related to data processing.

The workshops provided hands-on experience if desired. The various census software packages and the commercial data bases were used through Rand's computer system or the session leaders' own facilities accessed in dial-up mode. Most attendees considered themselves as beginners in programming and data processing. Approximately 20 percent categorized themselves as intermediate and 20 percent, advanced.

The conference was considered a great success by those attending. In
retrospect, more time should have probably been made available for informal or roundtable discussions to clarify the technical material and to provide additional chances for attendees to meet.

A description of the conference's four topical areas and the speakers follows.

Subject area data bases

Chair: Jackie McGee, the Rand Corporation

The subjects and speakers were: Population Data, Kevin McCarthy, the Rand Corporation; Economic and Employment Data, Larry Kimbell, UCLA Graduate School of Management; Education Data, Millicent Cox, the Rand Corporation; Health Data, Anne Coulson, UCLA School of Public Health. A final speaker, Tom Blaschke, the Rand Corporation, covered the linking of multiple subject area data bases using county and place reference codes.

Each speaker gave an evaluation of data types and sources, and assessed existing data bases for research purposes. Topics included critical research issues, types of data generally of interest, data bases currently important, usual sources of data, major problems with existing data and data sources, and types of data that will be important to future research.

Data collection and processing issues in archiving and secondary analysis

Chair: David Nasatir, California State University, Dominguez Hills

Two areas were covered: Data Collection, Don Trees, the Rand Corporation; and Data Processing, John Sonquist, UC Santa Barbara. Trees covered problems involving populations and samples, units of analysis, data types and measurement levels, time frames, data collection techniques and documentation, and data quality measures. Sonquist discussed data structures and formats, file organization, data dictionaries, and data extraction.

1980 Census data content and software for access and processing

Chair: Ilona Einowski, UC Berkeley State Program

An overview of census data and files was presented by Bud Steinfield, Bureau of the Census. The remaining sessions focused on various software systems. Speakers were: CENSPAC, Ray Schulze, State Data Center, California; DUALabs and MOD series, Jack Barrett, International Data and Development, Inc.; and SAS, Sally Carson, the Rand Corporation. For each of the systems, the speakers covered data management and statistical capabilities, documentation quality, user friendliness, special features, preparation of program control cards, and costs. After the speakers and a general discussion, workshops and demonstrations were given for each system.

Geographic profiles and commercial data bases

Chair: Elizabeth Stephenson, UCLA Institute for Social Science Research

Representatives from three commercial data base vendors gave a description of data and services available. The companies present were RAPIDATA, Rod Austin; National Planning Data Corporation, Dean Stoecker; and Urban Decisions,
Inc., Hilary Baker. Each of these organizations provides time-sharing network access to large-scale numerical, social, and economic data bases.

Topics covered were vendors' information services, content and scope of the data bases, data sources and update procedures, access and analysis capabilities, and costs. After the presentations, workshops and demonstrations were given on system access, retrieval, and analysis capabilities.

SOCIAl Trend STUDIES: A REVIEW ESSAY

RICHARD SOBEL
PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

With the wealth of data now archived at centers like the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) and Roper, it is not surprising that there have recently appeared a number of studies of historical trends in social attitudes. Two sourcebooks from ICPSR (via Harvard University Press) and a compendium from the National Opinion Research Center (NORC) are examples. American Social Attitudes Data Sourcebook presents trends in attitudes and behavior from 1947 to 1978. Its companion, American National Election Studies Data Sourcebook, includes election and demographic data from 1952 to 1978. A Compendium of Trends on General Social Survey Questions examines the changes in issues, attitudes, and demographics from the late 1930s to 1970.

The Social Attitudes Sourcebook presents 84 repeated items drawn from a potential pool of 500. These variables are taken from 15 major studies archived at ICPSR, including the Panel Study of Income Dynamics, the American National Election Studies, the Surveys of Consumer Finances, the seasonal Surveys of Consumer Attitudes and Behavior, and the Fall and Spring Omnibus Studies. Developed by Philip Converse, Jean Dotson, Wendy Hoag and William McGee, the report runs from personal items to abstract, national issues. The presentation begins with attitudes toward self and others, toward racial issues, toward women and family living, and toward retirement. Subsequently treated are government spending, war and peace, and outlooks on personal finances and on the national economy. Tables are broken down by demographic variables including sex, race, age, and education.

The Election Sourcebook has data from the 14 American National Election Studies conducted by the Survey Research Center and the Center for Political Studies at Michigan during election years from 1952 to 1978. Prepared under the direction of Warren Miller, Arthur Miller, and Edward Schneider, it is based on the expansion of a 1970 idea for studying "who votes and for whom." In attempting to locate electoral behavior and specific elections in historical and demographic context, the report is broader but less deep than The American Voter (1960), whose tradition it continues. Chapters include the social characteristics of the electorate, partisanship, position on public policy issues, support of the political system, involvement and turnout, and, finally, the vote.

The NORC Compendium is based on questions found in the General Social Survey, since 1972 a longitudinal study of social indicators and attitudes. While
concentrating on the GSS years 1972-78, the Compendium includes other studies which have asked comparable questions since the 1930s. Trends in 238 attitudes, personal evaluations, and behaviors, and in 57 demographic items are shown in time series. Topics range alphabetically from opinions on Abortion to Work attitudes. In addition, there are six clusters of issues: satisfaction with life, attitudes toward racial integration of the schools, job characteristics, qualities of children, opinions on the effects of pornography, and images of foreign countries. The study includes a methodology for analyzing the trends in the time series and indicates the type of trend for each variable.

Individually and in the aggregate, these studies provide an overview of stability and change in social attitudes and behavior over the last generation. Each merits additional systematic study, but a few noteworthy points may be mentioned. For instance, the level of general happiness has declined slightly over time, so that today only one in three claims to be very happy. Half of all employed people work in white collar jobs, and a similar proportion of all employees are very satisfied with their work. Confidence in the President is low (13 percent) and falling. While only two percent have been robbed and seven percent burgled (unchanging figures since 1972), one in five has been threatened with a gun, and a similar number own hand guns. Another 30 percent have rifles. Newspaper readership on a daily basis has declined to about six people in 10 (57 percent in the Compendium; 73 percent in the Attitudes Sourcebook).

Approval for women working is high (72 percent) and growing. There is a higher rate of approval for abortion than in the 1960s, but in the 1970s it leveled off. Support for busing is limited (20 percent) but on the increase. In a paper on liberalism based on the GSS, Smith (1979) finds a general growth in liberal attitudes through the 1970s, with a slight leveling off later in the decade. (A similar rising and leveling trend appears in the research of Beniger et al. on abortion.)

In the aggregate the NORC results indicate that about 56 percent of all items have shown change over time, and 44 percent have been approximately stable. The most change is seen in social attitudes.

Methods

Statistical methods for analyzing trends made of a limited number of points over time are not necessarily familiar to potential users of these studies--e.g., to journalists, policy makers, and some social scientists. While apparently simple, the aggregation of survey data points into time series does not involve a simple analytic process. Many groupings of points move up and down over time, and in graphic presentation, may appear to have a slope or shape. But it is not clear when these are indications of random oscillation, a linear trend, or a cyclical trend. When does a pattern actually represent change and when is it merely perturbations around a horizontal line? The rather large proportion of stability found in the NORC analysis suggests that a null hypothesis of "no change" should be the initial assumption.

A simple approach for determining trends from multiple points is to regress against time (weighting by the square root of the sample size to compensate for different numbers of cases). If the slope is significant, then the
The Compendium includes another procedure for patterning points as trends and applies it to each of the series in the study. Based on goodness of fit models, the procedure evaluates constancy, linear or nonlinear change, and indeterminate trends. The model determined for the series is stated at the bottom of each Compendium table. The Compendium and Taylor (1975) present somewhat unclear explanations of the procedures.

Questions and Concerns

The three reports provide valuable information for the sophisticated user, but each has its own problems. First, no explanation is given of why the Election Sourcebook does not begin with the 1948 Election Study. As variables in one sourcebook are sometimes excluded, sometimes included in the other, cross-references between the two would have greatly enhanced their complementarity. The Attitudes Sourcebook includes in the same time series studies such as Americans View Their Mental Health (1957), based on a sample of the entire population, and the Panel Study of Income Dynamics (1968- ), based only on household heads. This shift lays interpretations open to question.

In addition, it would have been helpful if actual election results were included in the Election Sourcebook for comparison. For instance, the number and proportions of registered voters (the eligible electorate) and voter turnout could easily have been incorporated. (See Kelley and Mirer, 1974:584-5, and Tufte, 1977:310, on "overreporting" voting.) Validating census figures and Current Population Survey data would have been welcome complements to the survey items.

The sourcebooks fail to mention that the data may be obtained from ICPSR for secondary analysis. In particular, no mention is made that each year's election data and the individual social attitudes studies listed in the ICPSR Guide to Resources and Services are presently available for use. Somewhat minor but irritating is the bulky form of the sourcebooks, whose pages will tear easily. It would have been better to put them into standard size books, like the NORC study, perhaps at a lower cost.

As the sourcebooks mention, there is significant cost in retrieving information, and this should be a strong incentive for further study of both the material in the sourcebooks and the series items retrieved but not reported in the published volumes. A system of identification and retrieval of items should be developed for ICPSR, NORC, and Roper to assist in secondary research and to avoid the huge amount of time that went into producing the sourcebooks. It is also important to develop a series of articles which explain clearly the various methods of analyzing trends with limited numbers of points. The Compendium series and analytic model should of course be made widely available.

In sum, these books yield insights into social attitudes and behaviors based on a vast store of data. They begin to illuminate some significant social trends during the last 30 years. Over the next few years there will be other presentations of trend data, as well as additional information on methods for analysis, and they can build upon the successes and failings of these timely reports.
References


IASSIST MEMBERSHIPS

IASSIST offers two types of memberships: Regular, at $20 per calendar year, and Student, at $10 per calendar year. Both include a subscription to the Newsletter, a subscription to SS Data, and special rates on other IASSIST publications. Institutions such as libraries may subscribe to the Newsletter alone for $35 per volume. Further information on membership and on IASSIST's current activities is available from the Regional Secretaries, listed opposite. Members and subscribers are asked to remit payments directly to the Treasurer, also listed there, by cheque, money order, or bank draft payable to IASSIST in U.S. or Canadian funds.
ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

President: Alice Robbin, Data and Program Library Service, University of Wisconsin, 4452 Social Science Building, Madison, Wisconsin 53706, U.S.A.

Vice President: Per Nielsen, Danish Data Archives, Niels Bohrs Alle 25, DK-5230 Odense M, Denmark

REGIONAL SECRETARIES

Asia: Naresh Nijhawan, Indian Council of Social Science Research, Data Archive, 35 Ferozshah Road, New Delhi 11001, India

Canada: Sue Gavrel, Machine Readable Data Archives, Public Archives of Canada, 395 Wellington Street, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A ON4, Canada

East Europe: Krzysztof Zagorski, Instytut Folosofii i Socjologii, Polskiej Academii Nauk, Nowy Swiat 72, Palac Staszica, 00-330 Warszawa, Poland

West Europe: Henk Schrik, Steinmetz Archives, Herengracht 410-412, 1017 BX Amsterdam, The Netherlands

United States: Judith S. Rowe, Computer Center, 87 Prospect Street, Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey 08544, U.S.A.

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Patrick Bova, National Opinion Research Center, 6030 South Ellis Avenue, Chicago Illinois 60637, U.S.A.

Nancy Carmichael McManus, Social Science Research Council, 1755 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036, U.S.A.

John de Vries, Department of Sociology, Carleton University, Ottawa, Ontario, K1S 5B6, Canada

Sue A. Dodd, Social Science Data Library, Manning Hall, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27514, U.S.A.

Carolyn Geda, Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research, P.O. Box 1248, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48106, U.S.A.

Guido Martinotti, Archivio dati e programmi per le scienze sociali, via G. Cantoni 4, 20144 Milan, Italy

Harold Naugler, Machine Readable Archives, Public Archives of Canada, 395 Wellington Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1A ON4, Canada

EX OFFICIO

Treasurer: Ed Hanis, Social Science Computing Laboratory, University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario, Canada

Editor: Howard D. White, School of Library and Information Science, Drexel University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19104, U.S.A.
IASSIST

JUDITH S. ROWE, U.S.A SECRETARIAT
PRINCETON UNIVERSITY COMPUTER CENTER
87 PROSPECT STREET
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

08544, U.S.A.