In this issue:

Editor's Log ...................................................................................... 1

Machine Readable Archives:
User Survey
Sue Gavrel ...................................................................................... 2

News and Events .............................................................................. 5

1984 IASSIST Conference ............................................................... 10

Book Reviews .................................................................................. 18
In this issue:  

EDITOR'S LOG ........................................ 1  

MACHINE READABLE ARCHIVES:  
   USER SURVEY  
       Sue Gavrel ........................................ 2  

NEWS AND EVENTS ................................. 5  

1984 IASSIST CONFERENCE .................... 10  

BOOK REVIEWS ................................. 18
EDITORIAL INFORMATION

The IASSIST QUARTERLY represents an international cooperative effort on the part of individuals managing, operating, or using machine readable data archives, data libraries, and data services. The QUARTERLY 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 QUARTERLY 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. Deadlines for submitting articles are six weeks before publication. Manuscripts should be sent in duplicate to the Editor:

Elizabeth Stephenson  
Institute for Social Science Research  
University of California  
405 Hilgard Avenue  
Los Angeles, California 90024  
USA  
(213) 825-0716 or (213) 825-0711

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

Kathleen M. Hein  
School of Library and Information Science  
Louisiana State University  
Coates Hall, Room 267  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803  
USA  
(504) 388-3158

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In this issue there is an interesting report supplied by Ms. Sue Gavrel, President, IASSIST, of a user survey conducted by the University of Western Ontario, Machine Readable Data Archives Division. Perhaps these efforts will be useful to others conducting similar surveys, or searching for documented surveys of quantitative researchers.

The section on NEWS and EVENTS of the QUARTERLY has been enlarged, and a number of interesting and timely articles from other publications have been included. It is my hope that readers will pass on all such items for inclusion in future issues.

With the last issue this year, a new format is being presented with the assistance of the Institute for Social Science Research, UCLA, which generously supplies secretarial support in preparing the QUARTERLY. We have had some additions to our staff: Dixie King and Lucy Bradley. It turns out that Ms. King has experience and considerable talent in manuscript preparation and layout. Many thanks to both of them, and I hope you readers agree with me that we have a snappy new design!

I would like to acknowledge some others who provided support to the Quarterly. Sincere appreciation goes to the Rand Corporation for their generosity in printing the issues. Ms. Jackie McGee is the archivist who supervises this aspect of the final preparation. Mr. Kenk Schrik, Vice-President, IASSIST, of the Steinmetz Archives kindly provided the remarks on the SWIDOC Annual Report, and item on the new Steinmetz Archives Catalog. Ms. Erika Von Brunken in her position as West-European Secretariat, supplied the informative article on SCANNET, and on the Coordination Group for Social Science Information and Documentation. Through Kathleen Heim, IQ Book Review Editor, there are reviews by Linda C. Smith of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and by Bert R. Boyce, of Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge. Harold Naugler, Chairperson for the 1984 IASSIST Conference Program Committee, prepared the information on next year's main event. Many thanks to all. Please continue to send your contributions.

Also, this is another reminder that a PROCEEDINGS for the 1983 Conference will not be prepared. Instead, papers will be published in the IQ. Those who gave papers, and who would like to have them published, should send them to me as soon as possible. I would also welcome any other writings that readers have authored.

Best wishes,

Elizabeth Stephenson, Editor
MACHINE READABLE ARCHIVES:
USER SURVEY

by

SUE GAVREL

Machine Readable Data Archives
Public Archives of Canada

This article is an abridged version of a report written by S. Paula Mitchell and Stavko Manojloovich of the Social Science Computing Laboratory, the University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario, Canada.

Background

In November, 1981, the Machine Readable Archives Division undertook an analysis of the requests and inquiries it had received for its services over the last few years. It became evident during the analysis that although the division provided a great deal of information on the establishment of machine readable programs, procedures and practices used to archive machine readable records, the actual holdings of the division were not being used. There were several possible reasons for the lack of use of the files, but the main conclusion from the analysis was that the MRA did not have sufficient information on who the user population was and therefore was not distributing information about its holdings to the appropriate areas. The users of the traditional archival records were not the same as those who would use machine readable data. It was decided that a survey of our existing users and potential users should be undertaken.

The Social Science Computing Laboratory of the University of Western Ontario was contracted to undertake the survey. Several steps were involved: the drafting of the questionnaire, the collection of the data and the analysis. The project spanned the period February 1, 1982 to October 30, 1982 and the total cost of the project was $12,478.07, which included staff charges, computing services, printing, stationery and postage.

The main objective of the survey was to obtain information on the needs of Canadian social scientists who created or used machine readable data. The results of the survey would be used by the MRA to help plan an expanded public service program and determine priorities for the allocation of resources. A secondary aim has been to identify sources of machine readable data in Canada. Specific objectives of the survey were as follows:

• to provide a measure of the relative usefulness of a number of products and services to the user community;

• to provide an indication of the preferred mode of acquisition for machine readable data files and the preferred type of codebook;

• to identify the location of machine readable data files for the purpose of expanding a union list of machine readable data files in Canada and identifying files of historical research value and national significance falling
within the archival mandate of the MRA;
• to provide an indication of the public's awareness of the holdings and services of the MRA;
• to provide an indication of the need for a national organization to coordinate selected information services for users of machine readable data (including special workshops and/or conferences);
• to provide a mailing list of individuals interested in receiving the MRA's publications or announcements; and
• to identify the need for products or services not covered by the first objective noted above.

Survey Population and Data Collection

The survey population was derived from two social science information systems, the Canadian Register of Research and Researchers in the Social Services (Social Science Register) developed by the Social Science Computing Laboratory, and the Canadian Directory Service of Social Scientists (SocScan), established by the Social Science Federation of Canada between 1976 and 1978. The Register supercedes the SocScan database.

The target population was derived from these two data bases by selecting variables defining methodology and research orientation. Although the target population does not include all social scientists who are current or potential users of machine readable data, the large number (4,065) does provide a good representation of users of social science data in Canada.

The questionnaire, designed to be as simple and short as possible, contained 15 questions. Data were collected using a mail-out/mail-back process. A covering letter explaining the objectives of the survey was sent with the questionnaire. A follow-up reminder was sent to all non-respondents three weeks (15 working days) after the initial mailing.

FINDINGS

Survey Response

As mentioned earlier, 4,065 questionnaires were sent out. Of the 4,065 questionnaires, 82 were returned as undeliverable mail, thus making the actual survey population 3,983. Response to the survey was very good with an overall response rate of 48.95 percent, or 1,950 completed questionnaires.

Survey Results

The following section provides a brief summary of results. Findings are reported on a question-by-question basis.

01. Prior to receiving this questionnaire, were you aware of the activities and services of the Machine Readable Archives?

The results of the survey indicate that awareness of the activities and services of the MRA among social scientists is low. Of the 1,930 respondents answering this question, 14.2 percent indicated that they were aware of the Division's activities and services prior to receiving the questionnaire packet. There was no significant difference in the level of awareness between respondents in the academic and non-academic sectors (14.2 percent and 14.1 percent, respectively).

02. Do you use machine readable (computer) data in your research, teaching, or other activities?

Of the 1,908 social scientists who responded to this question, 1,293 (67.8 percent) reported that they are users of machine readable data, and 615 (32.2 percent) reported that they do not use machine readable --- continued
data. Given the quantitative orientation of the survey population, it is somewhat surprising that close to one-third do not use machine readable data. However, the very high interest shown by this "non-user" group in receiving information on the services and holdings of the MRA (76.8 percent wished to be on the MRA mailing list) suggests that the survey was on target in terms of reaching quantitative social scientists who are potential users of the MRA.

It is possible that some respondents in this "non-user" group found the question ambiguous: either limited the inclusive time frame of "use" to the present, or interpreted the question to mean use of secondary data rather than their own primary data.

The distribution of users of machine readable data geographically and by sector of employment is proportional to the distribution of all respondents in these two respects. Except for Ontario and Quebec, the percentage distribution by province of social scientists who use machine readable data does not vary by more than plus or minus 0.6 percent relative to the percentage distribution by province of all respondents. In Ontario, there are 1.9 percent more users relative to the percentage of social scientists from Ontario constituting the total respondent group, and 3 percent fewer in Quebec.

The distribution of users by employment sector (academic/non-academic) varies by only 0.3 percent relative to the sectoral distribution of social scientists in the responding population.

Q3. Is there a facility within your department or organization which provides information and/or other services for machine readable data?

1,269 users of machine readable data responded to this question. A very high percentage (93.2 percent) reported that there is a local facility which provides machine readable data services; 86 users (6.8 percent) reported that there is no local facility providing such services.

Q4. Please identify the facility within your department or organization which provides information and/or other services for machine readable data.

More than half (53.1 percent) of 1,172 users who are availed of a local facility are serviced by a computing center only. While the range of services provided by any one computing center may approach the full range of information, access, and utilization services provided by specialized local facilities, computer centers typically provide limited support services in these areas. It is a significant finding that such a high proportion of machine readable data users are availed of limited informational support services for finding and using machine readable data. 369 Respondents (31.5 percent) indicated that more than one facility provides local machine readable data services. 25.1 percent of users have a specialized local data support unit (such as a data archives) available to them. For 23.3 percent of users, the local research library integrates some level of service for machine readable data with other services.

Q5. Please indicate the potential usefulness of each of the following information products or services to your research, teaching, or other activities:

a) Catalogue of Holdings of the Machine Readable Archives;

Continued on page 22
PAST CONFERENCES

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON DATABASES IN THE HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

The Rutgers University Libraries
New Jersey, 10. - 12. June 1983

The papers describing research primarily historical formed mainly two categories: on the one hand reference systems, which improve the access to either bibliographical information or source collections, on the other hand data banks which contain the actual sources. The first application is probably not particularly relevant to most of our readers; the second was overwhelmingly dominated by the "demographic" projects in Scandanavia.

Continued on page 15

CHAPMAN JOINS WHITE HOUSE STAFF

Last month President Reagan appointed Bureau director Bruce Chapman to the White House Executive staff. Mr. Chapman, who became Director of the Census Bureau in October 1981, will serve as Director of the Office of Planning and Evaluation.

Mr. Chapman will be responsible for long-range issues identification, statistical analysis, and program evaluation. Current Deputy Director C. Louis Kincannon will serve as acting director.


FOCAL POINT:
NATIONAL LIBRARY OF CANADA

The Focal Point for Canada, the National Library, has recently published the following paper:

DUCHESNE, R.M., D.A. GUENTER, S. TSAI

ISBN 0-662,52108-0; ISSN 0226-8760

The interchange and sharing of machine-readable bibliographic data among Canadian libraries is essential for the networking of Canadian computerized library systems. However, the interchange and sharing of the data have raised a number of questions relating to the ownership of data. In recognition of this the National Library Advisory Board Bibliographic and Communications Network Committee asked the National Library to prepare a paper reviewing the current situation. The present paper is intended therefore to assist the development of a wider understanding of the topic and to stimulate discussion concerning this and other library networking issues.

This bilingual (English/French) publication is available from the Publications Section, Public Relations Office, at:

395 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Canada K1A ON4
Panel Study of Income Dynamics 1968 - 1982

The ICPSR has recently highlighted the availability of the PANEL STUDY OF INCOME DYNAMICS, which comes as a cumulative file and is free of charge to ICPSR members. The study monitored "the economic status of families and individuals over a 15-year time span," and has "followed all individuals in the sample households."

The study "began in 1968 with a sample of nearly 5,000 U.S. families and over 15,000 individuals. By 1983, the sample had grown to over 6,500 families and 19,700 individuals." There are "15,000 variables which present detailed information about family structure, income, spending habits, education, work hours, labor force participation, child care, changes in jobs, or residences, and other demographic changes." The result is a "versatile database" which can be used for "analysis at either family or individual-level either at a point in time or over time," and the researcher can "examine processes such as the persistence of poverty, unemployment or affluence."

"The PSID constitutes an intensive investigation into the factors that affect changes in the economic status of families over time. This panel study is an important vehicle for understanding the causal processes underlying family formation, dissolution, and other demographic changes."

For additional information on the ICPSR or the PSID contact:

ICPSR
P.O. Box 1248
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48106
USA

Umfagen Aus Der Empirischen Sozialforschung 1945 - 1982

The Zentralarchiv presents the catalogue of its holdings: "Data sets of Surveys in Germany from 1945 to 1982."

The just published "Datenbestandskatalog" of the "Zentralarchiv fur empirische Sozialforschung" in Cologne gives a complete overview over all data sets which were acquired and archived by the Zentralarchiv during the last 20 years.

The catalogue of holdings gives a description of the most relevant information for each machine readable data set: Topic of the survey, time of fieldwork, principal investigators, data collecting institute, abstract of subject content describing the research goal and the variable covered, universe and sampling procedure, technical format of the data set. In addition references to the most relevant publications based on the respective data set are given.

All subject abstracts and methodological information are alphabetically indexed. Further, to the alphabetical index there are registers on sampling area, populations and year of fieldwork. The central part with the data set descriptions is preceded by a title list of holdings. This list is organized systematically by the main context of a study.

By these means the catalogue offers the opportunity to interested researchers to select their relevant studies out of the archive holdings.

Copies of the catalogue are available from the Zentralarchiv (DM 35—for ZA clients) or from CAMPUS Publishing House, Frankfurt/NewYork, via the book market (DM 68,—).

The 530 page covering book is available in German only. ISBN 3-593-33216-7.

MEXICO'S WORKING-AGE POPULATION WILL GROW SUBSTANTIALLY OVER NEXT 20 YEARS

Mexico's working-age population—those likely to enter the job market—is projected to double in the next 20 years, creating an unprecedented demand for over one million new jobs every year until the end of the century, according to an unpublished Census Bureau report including data from the International Labor Office of the United Nations.

Entitled Detailed Statistics on the Urban and Rural Populations of Mexico, 1950-2010, the 242-page report contains substantial demographic and economic data about Mexico's working-age population. Topics include age and sex, fertility, education, literacy, urban-rural residence, employment, and industry. Selected data are shown for individual Mexican States. Population projections are also included.

From 1960 to 1980 Mexico created an annual average of 495,000 new jobs, although the available jobs didn't fully meet that demand so that underemployment was high. To meet this demand in the future, Mexico will need to create an estimated 1.3 million jobs each year between 1995 and 2000.

Mexico's agricultural labor force may begin to decrease in the years ahead, as is usually the case during economic development, creating added pressure for urban jobs.

Growth in the working-age population (15 to 64) will take place despite an expected slowing of its annual growth rate to 2.8 percent in the 1990s, since those entering that working-age group are already born—many of them during years of high fertility in the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s.

Mexico's total population growth has been slowing since the early 1970s.

It was 3.3 percent in 1970, 2.8 percent from 1970 to 1980, and should average 2.1 percent from 1980 to 1990. The working-age population grew 3.8 percent from 1970 to 1980 and is expected to be 3.6 percent from 1980 to 1990.

To order copies of the report (costing $20), contact the Center for International Research, Bureau of the Census, Washington, D.C., 20233, USA, telephone (301) 763-4221.

For more information about these data, contact Dr. Eduardo Arriaga at the same address and telephone.


COORDINATION GROUP FOR SOCIAL SCIENCE INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION

The Swedish Delegation for Scientific and Technical Information (DFI), and the Swedish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences (HSFR), have established a coordination group for social science information and documentation. Members of this group are DFI, HSFR, researchers, librarians, archivists, and information specialists. (Lennart Brantgärde is a representative of the researchers, and Erika von Brunken is a permanent standby for DFI. The group will consist of six representatives from each of the two units.)

In October of 1982, the members met and expressed the following needs:

- easier access for researchers to machine readable data collected by authorities;
- education and training;
- document delivery;
- coordination and exchange of knowledge (between researchers and existing...
In May, 1983 Steinmetz Archives published a new Catalog of studies filed. The publication (language: English) contains descriptions of 1184 machine-readable data files in empirical social science and public opinion research. Steinmetz Archives gives researchers the opportunity to use these mrdf's for secondary analyses, new initial research, and trend analysis. Researchers can get access easily and without great cost to empirical data of a very wide range of subjects in social science research.

The mrdf's have been described in the Catalog, each containing some 12 items, among which are included title (Dutch and English), keywords, major themes, sampled universe, investigator, number of cases, number of variables, and present mode of storage. Searching for particular mrdf's can be done via a number of indices that complete the Catalog: keywords, sampled universe, title, etc. An index on the major themes is also available, but because of its size, only available as a set of micro-fiches (can be ordered free with the Catalog). This index contains 21,000 keywords (KWIC-index) in alphabetical order with a reference to study number. See below an example of a Catalog entry.

---

**BEGELEIDING VAN BUITENLANDSE WERKNEMERS IN HET NEDERLANDSE BEDRIJFSLEVEN**

*1976*

**english title:** counseling of foreign workers in dutch firms

**keywords:** economic attitudes

**themes:** companies; recruitment- foreign labour force / giving information / recruitment in other country / the netherlands / introduction / education / communication and participation / housing / nourishment / holidays / remigration / conflicts.. foreign labourers: background / motivation to come to hollanid / type of job / finances / how recruited / how informed / introduction / following courses / language problems / housing-situation / nourishment / remigration / contacts with colleagues. dutch labourers: opinions on / attitude to foreign labourers: communication / contacts / treatment of foreign labourers.. dutch foremen: conflicts with foreign workers / attitude to them / evaluations as compared with dutch workers / communication / treatment / department

**sampled universe:** name of country: the netherlands / location of units of observation: non-total institutions: industrial companies / ethnic, nationality: dutchmen and foreigners / occupation: managers and industrial workers of different companies

**kind of data:** survey

**substudies:**

**number of cases:** 267

**number of variables:**

**principal investigator:** gerlach, p., iva instituut voor sociaal-wetenschappelijk onderzoek tilburg * tilburg

**depositor:** iva, instituut voor sociaal-wetenschappelijk onderzoek tilburg * tilburg

**accessibility:** no restrictions [a]

**mode of storage:** single punched cards
NEWS...

Bureau Releases Census Files

The U.S. Bureau of the Census has announced the release of the data listed below. Numbers in parentheses refer to the number of tape reels at 1600 bpi and 6250 bpi, respectively.

For further information, contact:

Data User Services Division
Customer Services
Bureau of the Census
Washington, D.C. 20233
Tel. (301)763-4100

1980 CENSUS OF POPULATION AND HOUSING

1980 Public Use Microdata Samples

1-in-1000 sample extract
File A. (2,1)
File B. (2,1)
File C. (2,1)

Summary Tape File 1G (STF 1G)
Arizona (1,1) Rhode Island (1,1)
Kentucky (1,1) Oklahoma (1,1)
Oregon (1,1)

Summary Tape File 3G (STF 3G)
Arizona (1,1) Rhode Island (1,1)
Kentucky (1,1) Oklahoma (1,1)
Oregon (1,1)

Summary Tape File 4A (STF 4A)
Arkansas (3,1)
California (55,14)
Georgia (6,2)
Illinois (19,5)
Indiana (8,2)
Kentucky (4,1)
Maryland (8,2)
Michigan (12,3)
Minnesota (5,2)
New Hampshire (1,1)
New York (25,7)
North Dakota (1,1)
Ohio (16,4)
Oregon (5,2)

Continued, p.17

SCANNET TODAY

SCANNET, Its New Objectives

SCANNET has been
A computer communication network dedicated to Nordic computerized information services. This function will be brought to an end during the spring of 1983.

SCANNET is today
A cooperation for a better exploitation of Nordic computerized information resources.

Who can benefit from SCANNET?

Users of information services:
• SCANNET will help in coordinating and act as an intermediary for wants and demands on Nordic systems, databases and computer communication
• SCANNET will compile and distribute information about Nordic databases, systems, and their availability

Database producers:
• SCANNET will help and advise in the structuring of databases
• SCANNET will forward requests from the users

Host service organizations:
• SCANNET will market available databases and services
• SCANNET will forward the wants and demands from the users

The service from SCANNET is free of charge, and it can be used:
By subscription to Scannet Today, the newsletter published by Scannet. It is scheduled for four issues per year.
DATE AND LOCATION:

The Conference will be held at the Park Lane Hotel in Ottawa, Canada's national capital, from May 14 through 18, inclusive. A general Conference schedule is outlined below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14 May</td>
<td>IASSIST Administrative Committee Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 May</td>
<td>Workshops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 May</td>
<td>Conference Sessions</td>
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<tr>
<td>17 May</td>
<td>Conference Sessions</td>
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<tr>
<td>18 May</td>
<td>General Assembly</td>
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<td>TOURS</td>
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THEME AND SUB THEMES:

The theme of next year's Conference will be "Coming of Age in the Brave New World."

There will be three sub-themes, all directly linked to the overall theme:

1. Privacy/Confidentiality—"Coping with Big Brother"
2. The Advance of Technologies—"Pursuing Technological Nirvana"
3. Roles and Responsibilities—"The Information Empire"

CONFERENCE STRUCTURE:

For each of the sub-themes, there will be a plenary session and three concurrent sessions. Tentative topics for the various sessions are described below.

(1) PRIVACY/CONFIDENTIALITY

- Concurrent Session I — Techniques for Anonymization
- Concurrent Session II — Legislative Aspects
- Concurrent Session III — Moral and Ethical Implications

(2) THE ADVANCE OF TECHNOLOGIES

- Concurrent Session I — Keepers and Users Dealing with Micros and Minis
- Concurrent Session II — Dealing with Complex Data Structures
- Concurrent Session III — On-Line Bibliographic Systems for Machine Readable Data
(3) ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Concurrent Session I - Data Archives and the Establishment of the Information Elite
Concurrent Session II - Changing Roles and Responsibilities of Data Archives/Libraries
Concurrent Session III - Problems in Acquiring Machine Readable Data

In addition to the plenary and concurrent sessions associated with each sub-theme, on the first morning of the Conference there will be a major address as well as a panel discussion.

CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS:

Consideration is being given to the organization of three workshops on May 15:

(1) Planning a Data Library - Morning Workshop
   Cataloguing Machine Readable Data Files - Afternoon Workshop

(2) Microcomputers and Minicomputers - All-Day Workshop

(3) Complex Data Structures - All-Day Workshop

CALL FOR PAPERS:

Anyone interested in delivering a paper at one of the plenary or concurrent sessions is encouraged to forward an abstract of the proposed paper to the Chairperson of the Programme Committee NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 31, 1983. Any proposals must be in keeping with the titles of the sub-themes and the topics of the various sessions for each sub-theme. In addition, the Programme Committee would be pleased to receive any suggestions for the guest speaker on the first day of the Conference, for the topic and possible participants of the panel discussion, as well as suggestions for workshop leaders.

All abstracts and suggestions should be forwarded to Harold Naugler, Machine Readable Archives Division, Public Archives of Canada, 395 Wellington Street, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, K1A ON3. For further elaboration or clarification, please feel free to call the Programme Committee Chairperson at 593-4096, area code 613.
By direct contact through letter or telephone to the Scannet coordinator:

Malin Edström  
Scannet  
Hälsingegatan 47  
S-113 31 STOCKHOLM  
Sweden  
Tel: +46-8-30 59 40  
Telex: 12563

SCANNET BOARD:

Scannet is a foundation financed by NORDINFO. Its board is composed of representatives from Nordic councils in library, information and documentation and other organizations with an active interest in Scannet. The present board is composed as follows:

Denmark - DANDOK  
Hans-Erik Hansen, Underdir.  
Industriradet, Teknisk afd.  
H.C. Andersens Boulevard 18  
DK-1596 KØBENHAVN

Finland - TINFO  
Sauli Laitinen, Dir.  
VTT  
Vuorimiehentie 5  
SF-02150 ESPOO 15

Norway - NTNF  
Nils Gram, Avdelingsbib.  
Riksbibliotektjenesten  
Postboks 2439 Solli  
N-OSLO 2  
(Chairman)

Sweden - DFI  
Göran Falkenberg, Avdelningsdir.  
Karolinska Institutets  
Bibliotek och Dokumentations-central - KIBIC  
Box 60201  
S-104 01 STOCKHOLM

NORDINFO  
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Univ. i Trondheim  
NTHB Dokumentasjonsavd.  
N-7034 TRONDHEIM - NTH

NORDFORSK  
Adolf Stern, Dir.  
Inst. för Byggdokumentation  
Hälsingegatan 49  
S-113 31 STOCKHOLM  
(v. Chairman)
news briefs from unisist ...  

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PROJECTS

Unesco is presently undertaking within the General Information Programme a number of activities designed to identify suppliers and information sources in the area of information handling technology (hardware and software) and to lay the basis for an expanded programme to assist Member States in the choice, acquisition and use of technology in establishing local data bases and accessing international sources of information.

The Unesco INVENTORY OF SOFTWARE PACKAGES IN THE INFORMATION FIELD has now been completed and will be available shortly from the PGI Documentation Centre. This inventory, compiled by Mr. C. Keren and Ms. I. Sered of the National Centre of Scientific and Technological Information (COST), Israel, contains descriptions of some 160 software packages which make use of mainframe, mini- or microcomputers for the purpose of library information centre and archives automation, along with guidelines on selecting and acquiring software and a number of tables and indexes to facilitate use of the data presented. The inventory does not itself attempt to evaluate any software packages, but rather is designed to assist information institutions, particularly in the developing countries, in conducting their own software evaluations and in negotiating with prospective suppliers of software. It is hoped that the readership of the inventory will be able to provide the Secretariat with advice on its usefulness in the software selection process and, in particular, how it might be improved on in possible future editions.


INFORMATION SERVICES ON RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

The activities of Unesco's General Information Programme include a continuing effort to encourage the establishment and use of information services on research in progress, particularly in developing countries. A major element of this effort is the recent publication of the following work:


This inventory, available in English only, is the second Unesco-sponsored attempt to highlight world trends in systems and services for information on research in progress, following on after the first Worldwide Inventory of ongoing research information activities.

NOTE: The UNISIST NEWSLETTER "provides current information on activities in the fields of scientific and technological information and of documentation, libraries and archives, related to the General Information Programme (PGI) of UNESCO, including the development of UNISIST, the promotion of the NATIS concept, sessions of the governing bodies and working groups of the PGI, activities contributing to the various programme sub-objectives, as well as programme developments in UNESCO Member States. It is published in English, French, Russian and Spanish."

Editor: Mrs. C. Coudert-Sohklowski; Assistant Editor: Stella M. McDowall; Division of the General Information Programme, UNESCO, 7, place de Fontenoy, 75700 Paris.
This book is the first publication by a group of European economic historians who have informally engaged in writing a new economic history of Western Europe. The project focuses on measuring and explaining the differences in the levels of income and productivity among national economies from the late eighteenth to the mid-twentieth century.

The papers included in this volume were submitted for a preparatory conference held at the Zentrum für Interdisziplinäre Forschung of Bielefeld University. They mainly deal with three subjects: first, the recent development and present state of European economic history (Jos Delbeke, Herman Van der Wee); secondly the conceptual problems involved in measuring and comparing income and productivity across countries (Richard Tilly, William P. Kennedy, Patrick K. O'Brien, Robert C. Allen); thirdly, empirical studies on growth, cyclical fluctuations and productivity in certain countries or sectors (Robert C. Allen, Angus Maddison, Carl-Ludwig Holtfrerich, Gabriel Tortella, Jean Gadisseur, Rainer Fremdling, Rainer Metz).


SWIDOC
Sociaal-Wetenschappelijk Informatie-centrum/Social Science Information and Documentation Centre.

The following remarks highlight the SWIDOC Annual Report for readers.

"SWIDOC's objectives may be summarized as the documentation of social science research in the Netherlands: the collecting of research reports and raw, machine-readable data of empirical research; the publication of information about these collections as well as about social science literature; and, the study of patterns of dissemination of social science information in the Netherlands and abroad.

"SWIDOC's tasks are carried out by three departments: Information on Ongoing Research; Department of Documentary Information; and the Steinmetz Archives. The department of Information and Ongoing Research registers research for Dutch doctoral theses, while the Department of Documentary Information... provides an international on-line literature service in addition to loan and study facilities. The Steinmetz Archives documents all acquired data sets according to a detailed and internationally adopted standard scheme for study description."

Steinmetz Archives

The Steinmetz Archive continues to increase the number of data sets acquired. This..."is partly due to an increased willingness of researchers to put their research files at the disposal of the archives." Also, "...the transfer of data sets is arranged for in the original research contracts between researchers and government funding agencies. New acquisitions have been published in SWIDOC's 'TITELS VAN SOCIAALWETENSCHAPPELIJK ONDERZOEK.' All data sets are documented according to a

Continued on page 15
UNISIST

Continued from page 13

which was compiled under Unesco auspices in 1977. This first inventory included an overview of the state of the art in this increasingly important field which underscored the unique value of information on research in progress as a resource in socio-economic development.

In the present inventory the earlier summary of world trends has been brought up to date with new information from a survey undertaken in 1980 and the authors have also provided references to more recent literature. For the benefit of first-time readers, this updated overview includes most of the content and bibliography from the original version. The three main sections of the inventory are: "World trends in research in progress information"; "Profiles of information systems and services on research in progress"; and the indexes to system and service profiles.

Suggestions and evaluative comments on the work, as well as information on further developments in this area in Member States, are very welcome from readers. A limited number of complimentary copies have been set aside for interested institutions in developing countries and can be applied for from the General Information Programme.


SWIDOC

continued from page 14

detailed and internationally adopted standard study description scheme and integrated in the archives' automated documentation system."

Two projects undertaken by the Steinmetz Archives will be of interest to others:

1. Documentation project of the European Data Archive.

"In cooperation with the national data archives of the German Federal Republic, Denmark, and the United Kingdom, a project has been started to connect the national computerized data files. The detailed description scheme used by the Steinmetz Archives has been adopted by other participants. The common language is English. In the near future, international online access will be possible."

2. ICPSR

"Through the Vogelback Computing Center of Northwestern University in the USA, the Steinmetz Archives can dispose of the machine-readable documentation file of the ICPSR. This file has been incorporated into the automated retrieval system of the Archives and can be searched online."

The SWIDOC Annual Report was supplied by Mr. Henk Schrik of the Steinmetz Archives.

PAST CONFERENCES

Continued from page 5

Data bases which deal with demographic information, family history, or generally the feasibility of micro studies on a large scale, were presented by J. Ehmer from the University of Vienna, J. Oldervoll from the University of Bergen, B. Kronberg and E. Soderlund from the Demographic Data Base Project at Umea/Haparanda and from S. Gofelvik and S. Sperlings from Stockholm's Historical Data Base.

The last two of these projects are undertaken on an enormous scale: Umea/Haparanda employing about 120 people (no joke), Stockholm about 90 (no joke either). In both cases, the necessary money comes from funds for fighting the unemployment. While being extremely impressive in size, one cannot help wondering if after all analysis that far is not falling somewhat short of the input. This is not intended as criticism, data collection on such a

Continued...
PAST CONFERENCES continued...

scale being editorial work if there ever was such a thing. However, the question most interesting about those enormous collections will be if and how their data are generally available for the research community, which is not yet ultimately clear.

A very exciting paper was presented by D. Watson of "Computers in the Curriculum" at the University of London. In Great Britain a very determined effort is currently undertaken to increase computeracy at schools by encouraging the use of micros as teaching instruments in virtually all subjects. Among the teaching packages available there is one which is specifically designed to allow pupils in secondary schools to enter the lists of a 19th century census of their respective communities and analyse them with the help of their micro. While the teaching package is not designed primarily to support statistical analysis, still one should emphatically point at the importance of such an approach for quantitative or any formal methodology in history in their very first term already knowing concepts like "variable," having had their first encounter with "the computer," having done coding of historical source material, and so on! Mrs. Watson has agreed to publish an account of this impressive British package in one of the next issues of HSR.

American projects are at least five years ahead of their European counterparts in the application of commonly available technology. Computer supported bibliographies and archival information retrieval systems are not on the march, they are here. This is simply a reflection of the availability of resources: very many American university computing centers seem to consider it as self-evident meanwhile, that providing a flexible data base system is part of their job--very many European ones still don't; no American colleague mentioned psychological problems when asking students or secretarial staff to work with video screens--some European ones did so during their lectures and many of them afterwards.

An example for this North-American attitude is the contribution by J. Tague and K. Matthews from the University of Western Ontario, Canada, about the design and networking of an archival inventory system collecting the source materials in the Maritime History Archives. The data collection as well as the data base management of this large amount of different sources including, for example, shipping records, crew lists, census records, or newspapers has been done by using both powerful computers and software (DATATRIEVE) and microcomputers (DBASE II). So, user demands will be supported by a "finding aid system" and, finally, by a publication system.

A very interesting project was introduced by Andrew A. Beveridge of Queens College of the City University of New York dealing with Action Data Bases and the historical process. The main idea was to analyze the dynamics of social change by establishing an entire community over 80 years using each inhabitant's data which not only included information about the individual but also about transfer actions between persons and/or groups as, e.g., inheritance practice or credit allocation. The report was to stress specifically this "new" methodology which deals with so-called "running records" that take as its main focus the actions of groups and individuals over time and thus represents a different scientific approach which was claimed to be more sophisticated in comparison than research done by, for example, the QUANTUM people; a remark which will probably induce further discussion among the readers of this conference report, at least.
When it comes not to the application of general technologies, though, but to attempts at developing solutions which take into consideration the specific needs of the disciplines concerned, the picture looks different. Considering the general belief that the USA is the promised land of information technology it may sound like heresy; but from the methodological point of view, the European contributions were at least at this conference usually more interesting and ambitious than the American ones: getting computer resources for really sophisticated developments which cannot be utilized commercially seems simply to be quite a bit easier on this side of the Atlantic right now.

A final remark: while Rutgers was not really exhaustive of data base related projects in history (let alone the Humanities) and some of the larger projects were missing altogether, the conference probably gave a representative picture of the current situation. What may have been one of the most interesting aspects is a difference in the current development in the USA and Europe.

—Manfred Thaller, Henning Bauer, Ralph Ponemereo


CENSUS FILES

Continued from page 17

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Summary Tape File 4B (STF 4B)

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The title of this reference book is quite descriptive of its contents. It deals with machine readable databases containing bibliographic information which can be searched online through a computer terminal. Its scope is thus somewhat restricted in that it excludes numeric databases (which are covered, for example, in the Directory of Online Databases published by Cuadra Associates, Inc.) as well as databases not yet available online (which are included, for example, in Computer-Readable Databases: A Directory and Data Sourcebook published by Knowledge Industry Publications, Inc. for the American Society for Information Science). Nevertheless, this is a useful tool for anyone seeking descriptions of the principal English-language online bibliographic databases. This edition supersedes the second edition published in 1981.

The directory portion of this book includes descriptions of 179 databases currently accessible through one or more of 44 online service suppliers located in the U.S., Canada, Western Europe, or Japan. Descriptions of databases have a standard format, including the following information:

- Database name and/or acronym;
- Supplier: the organization responsible for database creation;
- Subject field: brief description of topics covered;
- Printed version: name(s) of printed abstracting/indexing journal(s)
contributing to the online database (if any);

• Online version—typical record printout: a sample record showing the type of information which is provided about documents in the database;

• Online file details: number of years covered online, total citations added per year, frequency of update;

• Online service suppliers: names of suppliers providing access to the database;

• Typical access charges: cost per connect hour and per citation printed offline (subject to change);

• Documentation available: manuals, thesauri, and published articles which can aid in more effective use of the database.

Although much of the information presented in this directory can be found in other database directories, the section in each entry on "documentation available" is a unique and very helpful feature. Because databases exist in machine readable rather than "human readable" form, the user of databases can benefit from any printed documentation which is available. In selecting databases to be used for a particular search, all the information included in directory entries is potentially helpful.

The arrangement of database descriptions is alphabetical by database name. There are two groupings of database names by subject which can serve as subject indexes to the directory: one uses keywords from database names as the basis for subject groupings of particular interest to social science information specialists include: business/industry/safety (e.g., Trade and Industry Index), economics/

**TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS AND SERVICES DIRECTORY**

Three issue subscription: $150.00
ISBN 0-8105-1696-X (pt.1)

This reference tool provides directory information on a not too clearly defined group of organizations, including consultants, regulatory bodies, publishers, and providers of services and systems in the telecommunication industry. It focuses on organizations involved with technical level information transfer unrelated to content. This is a growing and rapidly changing area and such a tool is a very useful idea.

This review is based upon the first issue of the three issues which will make up the first edition. Thus, it is difficult to comment on the completeness of coverage of the first edition. Issue 1 contains 242 unique records, a number predicted to grow to over 800 at completion.

The number of records does not represent the number of organizations in the field, however. Instead, it focuses on services provided. Thus, if a company's subsidiaries are offering different telecommunication services, there may be records for each service and subsidiary so engaged. For example, Western Union Telegraph Company has three; one for its Datagram Service (a telex based service), one for its Infocom Service, and one for its Telex Service. Another Western Union subsidiary, Western Union Video-conference, Inc., which supplies turnkey video-conferencing systems, also has a separate entry. This format provides considerable duplication of information but is quite useful if one is looking for a particular service.

Continued on page 20
BOOK REVIEWS

ONLINE BIBLIOGRAPHIC DATABASES

Continued from page 19

statistics (e.g., American Statistics Index), government/political science/public affairs/law (e.g., PAIS), social sciences/behavioural science/population/psychology (e.g., Population Bibliography), and urban matters (e.g., ACOMPLINE).

The sourcebook portion of this book includes background information on databases and online services, helpful to the reader with little prior knowledge in this area. Of particular interest is the section titled "Statistical Profile of the Database Repertory" which includes data on such things as the growth in number of references available online, the growth in use of databases, and the knowledge fields covered by available databases. There is a bibliography of 215 selected references on topics related to online searching. The key to the contents of this bibliography as well as to the rest of the book is the general index which includes the names of databases, printed abstracting/indexing journals, database suppliers and online service suppliers, as well as subject entries for articles in the bibliography. In addition to providing pointers back to the contents of the rest of the book, the index includes brief entries for a number of databases known to the compilers but not included in the main directory, e.g., new databases announced after the cutoff date for inclusion in the main directory. Because no use can be made of online databases without making arrangements with the appropriate online service supplier(s), the appendix providing complete addresses and telephone numbers for online service suppliers is an important supplement to the directory portion of the book.

This directory is recommended to anyone seeking information about particular online bibliographic databases or an overview of databases available in a subject area. For databases within its scope, the directory provides good descriptions together with references to relevant documentation. For databases such as numeric files which lie outside its scope, other database directories must be consulted.

--Linda C. Smith
Graduate School of Library and Information Science
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS

Continued from page 19

Included in each of the 242 item records for each organization are up to 18 categories of information including name, address, telephone number, date established, number of staff, a contact person, relationship with other organizations, fees and associated publications.

These basic records are arranged alphabetically by organization name and occupy pages 13 through 135. A glossary of 233 terms, numbered in a continuous sequence with the main records, follows on pages 139 through 156. The publisher anticipates this glossary will have 500 additions by completion of the first edition. Pages 159–175 contain the "Master Index" which refers by number to both the main records and to the glossary terms. The "Master Index" entries for the main records are mostly permutations of the organization name, but other names appearing in the record may be included. Publications titles appearing in the main records are also used to produce permuted entries in the "Master Index." Pages 178–193 provide a 17 class arrangement of the entries in a short record form that includes name, address, telephone and entry numbers. The entries in this "Function/Service Index" may appear in more than one of the classes.

Continued...
In the geographic Index, pages 197 through 208, the same short entries are arranged alphabetically by States of the United States, subarranged by city. Those in other countries follow in a new alphabet by country. Finally, pages 211 through 218 provide entry by personnel names used in the main records.

Some examples may serve to show the strengths and weaknesses of this indexing structure. If one wishes to find TELENET, the data packet network, and uses the alphabetical arrangement of the records, one will find no entries between Teleglobe Canada and "Telephone Angles." However, in the Master Index we find four different records referenced under the term TELENET, two of which are associated with GTE TELENET, the network sought.

A search for the data packet network UNINET will take us on a grander tour of this source. UNINET appears neither in the main record listing nor in the Master Index. Thus, following the principle of moving to more general entry, we try "data packet network" in the Master Index to no avail. The glossary provides the term "data link control," which describes the protocols used by such a network, but not the network itself. The term "value added network" is to be found in the glossary but, of course, without any cross reference from "data packet network." This synonym has the correct definition and so we return with it to the Master Index. There is an entry under both "VAN" and "Value Added Network," but they lead only to the glossary entry from which we came.

Only the Function/Service index remains as a possibility. The third of the 17 classes "Data Communication Services" covered 44 such networks but not UNINET. If one is aware that UNINET is an arm of United Telcom, the results are no better. We are forced to conclude that it is as yet to be included.

These problems primarily exist because one is trying to check all avenues to be sure one has not missed the entry. Should it have been included, we might well have found in on the first step. A search for TYMNET in the main records leads directly to the proper record and it is easily found in both the Master Index and the "Function/Service Index."

This will be a very useful tool when the complete issue is available.

--Bert R. Boyce
School of Library and Information Science
Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge
Q6. Please indicate the potential usefulness of each of the following products or services to your research, teaching, or other activities:

a) Statistical tabulations or analyses of MRA holdings provided by archives staff;

b) Workshops/training sessions on the creation and use of machine readable data in quantitative analysis;

c) Formal conferences with papers on the use of machine readable data in quantitative analysis.

Q7. The Machine Readable Archives is presently studying the feasibility of creating Public Use Samples from Canadian historical censuses. Please indicate the usefulness of Public Use Sample historical census data in supporting your present or future research and teaching interests.

a) Historical Public Use Samples for research.

b) Historical Public Use Samples for teaching.

All of the services itemized under Q5, Q6, and Q7 were assessed as useful or very useful for research, teaching, or other activities by a majority of responding machine readable users.

Information services and products were consistently rated as useful by a significantly higher percentage of respondents. These findings suggest that there is a clear priority among social scientists for information products and services in the area of machine readable data. A published union list of machine readable data files in Canada was perceived as useful by the largest percentage of respondents (93.5 percent), while only 6.5 percent assessed such a product as not useful to their research and/or other activities. 41.5 percent of respondents to this question rated a union list as very useful, which is the largest percentage of "very useful" responses for any item. A published catalogue of the holdings of the MRA was rated almost as highly as a union list (92.8 of respondents). The relatively high ratings of a current awareness newsletter and an on-line information data base (86.3 percent and 83.8 percent respectively) further consolidate the conclusion that the establishment of a central source of information on available machine readable data, which would provide more direct access to such information than now exists, is perceived as a priority relative to the other products and services itemized.

More than three out of four users of machine readable data (77.0 percent) indicated that Public Use Samples drawn from historical Canadian censuses would be useful for either research or instruction or both applications. This group is composed of social scientists working in a wide range of disciplines in both the academic and non-academic sectors.

While it might be expected that the usefulness of historical PUS for research would be limited, in the main, to historians, the results of
User Survey

The survey indicate that historical PUS could be of value to researchers in many fields. In order to determine the usefulness of historical PUS for research as perceived by the various disciplinary groups represented in the survey, a departmental code was added to the record of each respondent in the academic sector, where a researcher's principal disciplinary orientation could be directly inferred from his or her departmental base. A significantly high percentage of researchers in a number of departments perceived historical Canadian PUS as potentially "useful" or "very useful" to their research activities (Psychology--N=113, 58.4 percent; History--N=35, 68.6 percent; Economics--N=76, 77.6 percent; Political Science--N=61, 70.5 percent; Education--N=165, 72.1 percent; Geography--N=55, 74.6 percent; and Sociology--N=95, 85.3 percent).

Statistical services for MRA data holdings, workshops on the creation and use of machine readable data files, and formal conferences on the use of machine readable data in quantitative analysis, are all perceived as useful by a majority of responding social scientists, but by significantly lower percentages than the other services (69.4 percent, 62.5 percent, and 53.3 percent, respectively). The survey data indicate that while development in these areas would result in services that would benefit social scientists, development priority should be given to information products and services.

Q9. When acquiring a data file from the Machine Readable Archives, which of the following data formats would you prefer?
1) Raw Data
2) SPSS
3) SAS
4) OSIRIS
5) Other (Specify)

This question elicited 250 responses. As expected from an open-ended question, responses were diverse and sometimes idiosyncratic. Many responses contained recommendations for specific products, services, or data sets, and some consisted of more general recommendations regarding existing gaps in machine readable data services. Taken as a whole, the set of responses to this question suggest a perceived need for an agency to assume a coordinating role for services related to identifying, accessing, and using machine readable data. Responses were organized into six categories, although some responses fit logically into more than one category. The categories and number of responses falling within each category are as follows: General Coordinating Role (34); Coordination of Standards (15); Archival/Clearinghouse Role (75); Information Clearing House Role (52); Promotion of MRA Services (25); and Access and Format Requirements/Priorities (26).

Q8. Please list any other products or services that you feel should be provided by a national organization such as the Machine Readable Archives to improve the level of services now available to you for machine readable data files.

The predominance of SPSS among the analytical packages used by social scientists is reflected in the data format preferred by the largest percentage of users responding to this question. Data in raw format ranked second. Often a marginal note explained that files formatted for an analysis package would be preferable, but were not importable to the local computing facility.
USER SURVEY

Responses to this question are summarized below:

1) Raw Data - 410 responses, 35.0 percent;
2) SPSS - 542 responses, 46.3 percent;
3) SAS - 92 responses, 7.9 percent;
4) OSIRIS - 7 responses, 0.6 percent;
5) Other - 16 responses, 1.4 percent;
6) More Than One - 103 responses, 8.8 percent.

Q10. Which mode of acquisition would you prefer from the Machine Readable Archives?

1) Tape
2) Punched Cards
3) Online
4) Other (Specify)

The preferred mode of acquiring data is via magnetic tape. While 34 percent of respondents indicated a preference for on-line access to data, many indicated through marginal notes that this preference was conditional on the cost-effectiveness of on-line access. Responses to the question are summarized below:

1) Tape - 622 responses, 51.4 percent;
2) Punched Cards - 75 responses, 6.2 percent;
3) Online - 411 responses, 34.0 percent;
4) Other - 25 responses, 2.1 percent;
5) More Than One - 77 responses, 6.4 percent.

Q11. If you acquired a data file from the Machine Readable Archives, what type of codebook would you prefer?

1) Machine Readable
2) Microfiche
3) Paper Copy
4) Other (Specify)

Printed codebooks are preferred by close to two-thirds of users responding to this question. The results are as follows:

1) Machine Readable - 298 responses, 24.5 percent;
2) Microfiche - 70 responses, 5.8 percent;
3) Paper Copy - 780 responses, 64.2 percent;
4) Other - 6 responses, 0.5 percent;
5) More Than One - 61 responses, 5.0 percent.

Q12. Have you produced original machine readable data in conjunction with your research, teaching, or other activities?

Of the 1,268 users of machine readable data responding to this question, a large number (891, 70.3 percent) reported that they have produced original machine readable data in conjunction with research, teaching, or other activities.

If the results of this survey are representative, roughly the same high proportion of social scientists in the non-academic sector are involved in the creation of machine readable data as in the academic sector (66.8 percent of respondents in the non-academic sector compared to 71.5 percent of respondents in the academic sector).

Q13. Would you be willing to deposit your data files with the Machine Readable Archives if they were appraised by MRA staff as having long-term research value?

Of the 891 respondents who have produced machine readable data, 627 (70.4 percent) expressed their willingness to deposit data with the MRA if the data were appraised as having
User Survey

long-term research value. Of these 627, 75 percent are employed in the academic sector and 25 percent are in the non-academic sector. Willingness to deposit data with the MRA is closely proportional in the two sectors; in the academic sector 76 percent of producers are willing to deposit their data, while 71 percent of the non-academics are willing. Quite a number of respondents made marginal comments which indicated that their willingness to deposit files is conditional upon MRA policies and conditions of deposit: such issues as mechanisms for the protection of confidentiality, conditions of access to the data, and retention of copyright were frequently mentioned. A number of respondents suggested that some form of incentive or subsidization should be provided since it would be very time-consuming and costly to clean the data and to produce documentation.

208 respondents (23.3 percent of those who produce machine readable data) are not willing to deposit their files with the MRA, and 56 (6.3 percent of producers) did not respond to the question. Quite a number of those responding negatively noted that the data are either high confidential or not of long-term research value.

Q14. Would you be willing to include information on your data files in a published list of machine readable data files in Canada?

682 social scientists who have produced machine readable data (76.5 percent of the total number who have produced machine readable data) are willing to supply information to the MRA about the data for inclusion in a union list of Canadian files. If this survey is representative of social scientists in Canada, an effort to meet the requirement among machine readable data users for more comprehensive information products will be strongly supported by those social scientists who create original machine readable data files.

Q15. The Machine Readable Archives would like to inform its user community of its products and services. If you are interested in receiving information on our holdings, activities, and services, please indicate below and provide a mailing address.

A very high percentage of social scientists responding to the questionnaire wish to receive information concerning the holdings, services, and activities of the MRA. 84.2 percent of all respondents, and 89.2 percent of those who categorized themselves as users of machine readable data, indicated that they wish to be added to the MRA mailing list (1,641 social scientists in all).

Further Information

Should any readers wish to obtain a photocopy of the Final Report in which the results of the survey are described in considerable detail, please forward a written request to: Documentation and Public Service Section, Machine Readable Archives Division, Public Archives of Canada, 395 Wellington Street, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A ON3, Canada.


IASSIST

MEMBERSHIP AND SUBSCRIPTION FEES

The International Association for Social Science Information Services and Technology (IASSIST) is a professional association of individuals who are engaged in the acquisition, processing, maintenance, and distribution of machine readable text and/or numeric social science data. The membership includes information systems specialists, data base librarians or administrators, archivists, researchers, programmers, and managers. Their range of interests encompasses hardcopy as well as machine readable data.

Paid-up members enjoy voting rights and receive the IASSIST QUARTERLY. They also benefit from reduced fees for attendance at regional and international conferences sponsored by IASSIST.

Membership fees are:

REGULAR MEMBERSHIP: $20 per calendar year
STUDENT MEMBERSHIP: $10 per calendar year

Institutional subscriptions to the QUARTERLY are available, but do not confer voting rights or other membership benefits.

INSTITUTIONAL SUBSCRIPTION: $35 per calendar year
(includes one volume of the QUARTERLY)

THE TREASURER
INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS, IASSIST
SOCIAL SCIENCE COMPUTING LABORATORY
THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
LONDON, CANADA N6A 5C2
ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

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

Vice President: Henk Schrik, Steinmetz Archives, Herengracht, 410-412, 1017 BX Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

REGIONAL SECRETARIES

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