The University of Michigan invites applications and nominations for the position of Director of ICPSR, one of the leading research consortiums in the world.

THE POSITION

Reporting to the Governing Council of ICPSR and to the Director of the Institute for Social Research (ISR), James Jackson, the Center Director of ICPSR will manage the operations and personnel within the Research Center, lead the faculty and staff, seek external funding, set policy together with the ICPSR Council and the ISR, and be prepared to speak prominently, nationally and internationally, on behalf of issues related to social science and its data infrastructure. We seek candidates whose background, experience, and vision for the future will provide innovative leadership in all aspects of ICPSR’s mission in the context of the rapidly changing worlds of social science research, education, and information technology, as envisioned within the greater context of ISR. Therefore the scholarly discipline of an applicant is unrestricted.

THE INDIVIDUAL

Candidates must have a Ph.D. or the equivalent in a field related to the interests of the ICPSR as well as significant experience with quantitative social science research and instruction. They must have a strong record of publications in peer-reviewed journals, external grant funding, and a distinguished scholarly reputation. The accomplishments should be at a level that would qualify for tenure in an academic unit of the University of Michigan.

Ideal candidates will have demonstrated the ability to successfully lead and manage a large organization that receives substantial resources from external project-based funding. They will have the knowledge to set strategic priorities and policy for data curation, particularly as it relates to electronic data storage and retrieval, large computer databases, and the Internet. Strong business skills are essential. Candidates must be able to articulate a vision for ICPSR in coordination and aligned with the strategic plan and mission of ISR.

At a personal level, we are seeking an individual who is analytically disciplined and cosmopolitan in their ability to work across world geographies and cultures. She or he must possess good interpersonal and communication skills, both oral and written, in the English language. Sound judgment, intellectual and practical agility, flexibility, energy, and organizational skills to handle multiple projects are all critical. The ideal candidate will also possess an open and vibrant character, with a ready and easy ability to communicate at all levels of the organization.

For information on ICPSR, and ISR, visit http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/ICPSR/.
THE UNIVERSITY

The University of Michigan is one of the world’s premier research universities and is home to nineteen schools and colleges offering top-ranked academic programs and diverse cultural and social opportunities in a stimulating intellectual environment. Having perhaps the world’s strongest collection of social science and related professional schools in the world, the University has a long history of interdisciplinarity in its research and teaching. Joint curricular programs, theme semesters, collaborative research initiatives, and joint appointments for faculty are just a few of the institutional efforts that support connectivity across the schools and colleges at U-M.

The main campus in Ann Arbor has over 4800 faculty members and a fulltime enrollment of 40,000 students, a third of whom are pursuing graduate and professional studies. The total annual operating budget, consisting of monies from the General Fund (teaching, research, library services, student aid, and physical plant), the UM Health System, and all other specialized sources, exceeds $4 billion. Research expenditures exceeded $1 billion in 2009, making the University’s research program one of the largest in the nation, consistently among the top five. In broad outline, the University employs an "activity-based" budget system that directs resources automatically to areas of increased activity and revenue. This system provides considerably more room for central discretion and for support of campus-wide activities than is the norm in large universities.

U-M is well known for its commitment to public engagement and has a myriad of community-based research projects that are national models. The University also shares its cultural resources staging over 400 student/faculty music, dance, and theatrical performances annually. The Ann Arbor campus alone has a dozen galleries and museums; several nature areas, including the 123-acre Nichols Arboretum; and 24 libraries containing more than 8 million volumes.

Located forty miles west of Detroit, the main campus straddles the Huron River and consists of five major areas on 3000 acres: Central Campus, North Campus, East Campus, Medical Center, and South Campus. The University owns more than 300 major buildings and manages 28 million gross square feet of space. The Detroit Metropolitan Airport is thirty minutes away by car and is an international gateway with flights to all major cities in the U.S. and the world.

THE INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH & ICPSR

The University of Michigan Institute for Social Research (ISR) is the world’s largest academic social science survey and research organization. A leader in developing and applying new social science methods as well as in educating the next generation of social scientists, ISR continues to broaden its scientific reach through international ventures and new collaboration with federal agencies, foundations, corporations, and private individuals. ISR has five research centers: Center for Political Studies, Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR), Population Studies Center, Research Center for Group Dynamics, and Survey Research Center. An annual budget of more than $80 million supports the research of more than 200 scientists from 20 disciplines, including psychology, business, economics, public health, demography, statistics, and engineering.

ICPSR is a consortium of nearly 700 dues-paying colleges and universities around the world. ICPSR generates, maintains, and provides access to the world's largest archive of computerized social science data; training programs for the analysis of quantitative social science data; and resources for social scientists using large data sets. Maintaining a data archive of more than 500,000 files of research in the social sciences, ICPSR hosts 16 specialized collections of data in
education, aging, criminal justice, substance abuse, terrorism, and other fields. In the past decade, the growth in research and archival activity, funded through grants and contracts, has grown substantially. New potential endeavors include joint projects on environmental climate data and grid storage.

Educational activities at ICPSR include the Summer Program in Quantitative Methods of Social Research, a comprehensive curriculum of intensive courses in research design, statistics, data analysis, and social methodology. ICPSR also leads several initiatives that encourage use of data in teaching, particularly for undergraduate instruction. ICPSR-sponsored research focuses on the emerging challenges of digital curation and data science.

ICPSR has a 12-person Council that serves as the executive committee of the membership. Council members serve four-year terms, and six new Council members are elected every two years. The Council meets three times per year and, working with the Center Director, sets policy and acts on administrative, budgetary, and organizational issues on behalf of all the members of ICPSR.