ICPSR Official Representatives Sabbatical

Deadline for 2011 Proposals: November 30, 2010

Each year, ICPSR sponsors an Official Representative Sabbatical, an opportunity for an OR to work in Ann Arbor on a special project for up to three months during the winter or spring/summer term. ORs and ICPSR have found the sabbatical fellowships to be very rewarding.

Sabbatical project proposals for the following calendar year are due in November and an announcement of the sabbatical recipient is made in December. Proposals should briefly describe the planned activities and should be accompanied by a vita.

The key requirement for Sabbatical proposals is that projects benefit the ICPSR member community. Example ideas include:

- Prepare instructional materials in one of the core or related social science disciplines. We especially encourage the development of modules that help students understand diversity issues, e.g., racial and ethnic health disparities, gender and gender identity, economic status, disabilities, geographic origins, religiosity.
- Develop materials to promote statistical literacy such as materials for the Online Learning Center
- Work on browse classifications for studies in the ICPSR archive
- Work on preservation activities

ICPSR will pay a stipend of up to $7,500, depending on the length of stay, and will also pay for the OR's travel and lodging. Finding housing is the responsibility of the OR, but we will be happy to assist with this. ICPSR will provide the OR with an office and a computer during the stay. We ask that the OR write a Bulletin article after completing the sabbatical.

OR Sabbatical Fellow Quotes

“In addition to developing the Web site (for my project), the time spent in-residence provided me with an invaluable educational and networking opportunity. I was able to meet and interact with a host of ICPSR staff and council members and with several faculty from the Summer Program.”
-2006 Fellow Lori Webber

“We (the fellows) spent quite a bit of our time at ICPSR fleshing out the ideas behind our projects. . . It was our “extramural” activities, the conversations those activities inspired, and the knowledge and networks gained from those conversations that made this program so valuable for me and (I hope) ICPSR staff members.”
-2006 Fellow Rachael Barlow
Recent Awardees

2008
Gregory Adams, Sociology, Southern Connecticut State University, designed a project to help social scientists and librarians maximize their complementary relationship and advance the utility of social science data at the college level. He discusses his findings in: “Librarian and Faculty ORs: Shifting Roles and Social Capital” found in the Spring 2009 ICPSR Bulletin.

Rui Wang, Social Sciences Librarian, Central Michigan University, identified best practices in the OR role that serve the growing needs and dynamic changes related to using the ICPSR collection. Her article in the Spring 2009 Bulletin, “The Evolving Role of ICPSR Official Representatives,” suggests a re-invention of OR roles to address the growing cyber-infrastructure of social science.

2007
In an effort to meet the growing demands for international data, Denise DeGarmo, Political Science, Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville, produced a comprehensive online resource guide highlighting the international data holdings of ICPSR. The International Data Resource Center (IDRC) acts as a clearinghouse for international data housed at ICPSR.

2006
Lori M. Weber, Political Science, California State University, Chico, developed a resource based on data about social capital. The module, titled "Investigating Community and Social Capital," introduces students to important social science concepts and develops skills in quantitative reasoning and data analysis.

Rachael E. Barlow, Social Sciences Data Coordinator at Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut, created a set of Web-based instructional materials designed to help students understand the links between datasets and the publications that report on analyses of datasets. The module is titled, "Exploring Data Through Research Literature."

2005
Donald Davison, the OR from Rollins College, spent a month in spring 2005 in Ann Arbor working on an instructional module using the National Election Studies. You can read more about his work in the Fall 2005 Bulletin found on the ICPSR Web site.

2002
Michal Peleg, of the Israel Social Sciences Data Center, Hebrew University, worked on issues of confidentiality in social science data (see her article in the Fall 2002 Bulletin) and also helped ICPSR to create an online Data Use Tutorial.

Jim Oberly, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, focused on the preparation of instructional datasets using ICPSR data (see his article in the Winter 2003 Bulletin).