About ICPSR

ICPSR is the world’s largest archive of digital social science data. We acquire, preserve, and distribute original social science research data.

What We Do
ICPSR, a membership organization, is a vital partner in social science research and instruction. We support students, faculty, researchers, and policymakers who seek to:

• Write articles, papers, or theses to fulfill undergraduate or graduate requirements
• Conduct secondary research to better understand study results, support findings of primary research, or generate new findings
• Study or teach statistical methods in quantitative analysis
• Preserve and disseminate primary research data

Value-added Data Resources
• Bibliography of Data-Related Literature with links to full-text articles and reports
• Analysis-ready data in multiple software formats including SPSS, SAS, Stata, and SDA (online analysis package)

Online Data Analysis
A significant number of ICPSR studies include online data analysis (SDA) tools. SDA allows users to run analyses, recode, and compute new variables with no requirements for additional software. SDA is a solid package for students who need to explore data or access and run analyses to complete in-class or homework assignments.

Membership in ICPSR

Our membership consists of over 700 educational and research institutions from around the world. Members include universities and colleges, national data archives, statistical and research agencies, government departments, and nonprofit organizations.

Individuals at member institutions have direct, free access to all of ICPSR’s data resources and user support. They also receive discounted tuition rates to attend the Summer Program in Quantitative Methods of Social Research.

Membership is available to all institutions. Fees are based on a university’s Carnegie classification. Associate memberships are also available for nonacademic institutions.

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Web-Based Instructional Materials

ICPSR offers several Web-based resources designed to enhance the learning of social science content and quantitative skills in the undergraduate classroom.

Online Learning Center: ICPSR’s Online Learning Center contains numerous Data-Driven Learning Guides (DDLGs) designed to assist instructors in integrating data into introductory level courses. The DDLGs focus on core substantive concepts for disciplines such as political science, social psychology, and sociology. DDLGs — which are self-contained and include online analysis of ICPSR data — are useful additions to lectures, supplemental assignments, study aids, or larger research projects. An introduction to data early in coursework helps students grasp the importance of research methods and statistics in the work of social scientists. www.icpsr.umich.edu/OLC

Exploring Data Through Research Literature: Using ICPSR’s Bibliography of Data-Related Research Literature, EDRL teaches students how to conduct research by locating academic journal articles and examining the connections between them within a disciplinary context. The resource supports collaboration between faculty and librarians by illustrating how to use new technological platforms to teach and conduct scholarship and research. www.icpsr.umich.edu/EDRL

Voting Behavior: The 2008 Election: This set of exercises offers students the ability to analyze a dataset drawn from the 2008 National Election Study. Students learn about survey research by examining patterns in voting behaviors. The latest in a long line of voting behavior SETUPS which began with the 1972 election, the site is created in collaboration with the American Political Science Association. www.icpsr.umich.edu/SETUPS2008

Investigating Community and Social Capital: This site introduces quantitative research using Robert Putnam’s book Bowling Alone as a case study. The assignments walk students through steps in the research process from variable identification using a codebook to analyzing data and tying the result to theory. Exercises are particularly well suited to political science, public administration and policy, and sociology. www.icpsr.umich.edu/ICSC

Student Learning Opportunities

For undergraduate students wanting more direct experience with the practice of social research, ICPSR offers the following opportunities.

Summer Undergraduate Internship Program: The popular 10-week internship allows students to gain experience in data processing and management in the context of working on research papers in their areas of interest. Additionally, interns have the opportunity to take courses in ICPSR’s Summer Program in Quantitative Methods of Social Research. Participants leave with research posters suitable for submission to conferences in their fields. The internship includes a stipend, housing, and coverage of additional fees. www.icpsr.umich.edu/ICPSR/careers/internship.jsp

Research Paper Competitions: ICPSR encourages students to submit course papers that use quantitative data available in ICPSR’s holdings to critically analyze a social science topic. Prizes are awarded in three competitions each year — one for undergraduates, one for Master’s work, and one sponsored by the Resource Center for Minority Data for undergraduate papers addressing issues relevant to minorities in the U.S. Complete descriptions and entry information are found on the Web site: www.icpsr.umich.edu/ICPSR/prize/index.jsp

Summer Program in Quantitative Methods of Social Research

ICPSR’s summer training program offers courses in research design, statistics, data analysis, data handling, and social science methodology. Instruction is for beginning or advanced students of quantitative methods. The program attracts university faculty and researchers, graduate students, and nonacademic research scientists. Members of ICPSR member institutions receive discounted tuition. www.icpsr.umich.edu/sumprog