Building Community Engagement project places attention on key concerns around data citation, open access to data

Meetings reveal shared interest among attendees from different domains; challenge grants awarded to further related research

By Mark Thompson-Kolar
ICPSR Editor

ICPSR’s “Building Community Engagement in Data Citation and Open Access to Data” project, sponsored by a grant from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, has taken several significant steps in recent months.

The Foundation’s project with ICPSR is allowing ICPSR to work with stakeholders to develop and promote new standards in data citation, encourage greater transparency in the production of data and research transparency, and urge creation of sustainable funding models for access to data.

“I thought it was important for the (domain representatives) to meet one another, but the immediate issue was the challenge raised by the government’s Office of Science and Technology Policy memo about public-access data,” said George Alter, ICPSR director. “The memo says the public should have access to federally funded research data, but it doesn’t say anything about who’s going to pay for it. So the problem that we all face is: How can we change the funding environment so that we can have a more sustainable and...
sustained stream of funding?”

**Multiple Dimensions to Project**

The project has multiple elements. Two meetings were held in June 2013 in Ann Arbor, Michigan. The first brought together a cross-disciplinary group of journal editors and other stakeholders in academic publishing. The second gathered representatives from data repositories in the social, natural, and physical sciences.

A third meeting will bring together federal funding agencies, private foundations, and representatives from domain repositories and the scholarly publishing world to discuss sustainability and funding models for repositories. It is expected to be held in coming months in Washington, DC.

The project also awarded four challenge grants during the summer. These support innovative, small research efforts that focus on topics related to data management and citation. Additionally, ICPSR is investigating practices of data access, research transparency, and language used in nondisclosure agreements.

**Meeting on Data Citation and Research Transparency**

At the first meeting, “Data Citation and Research Transparency Standards,” held June 13-14, representatives of 16 journals and professional associations from several social science domains including demography, economics, education, political science, psychology, and sociology developed a set of recommendations for scholarly publications that embody a commitment to research transparency.

Such publications should, the participants determined, make available all evidence and methods upon which published claims rely, including numeric data; cite all evidence and methods; ensure cited objects are available to the community at time of publication; and make data available to editors before publication to facilitate verification. A set of technical recommendations for scholarly publications also was developed.

“There was a lot of discussion about what needs to be deposited to make sure that one can replicate or reproduce the findings in an article,” said Mary Vardigan, assistant director of ICPSR. “It includes not only depositing the data file that you got your findings from but also the original file and the relevant code and scripts.”

A Call to Action document from the meeting is being developed. Its release is expected in the near future.

**Sustaining Domain Repositories**

The second meeting, “Sustaining Domain Repositories for Digital Data,” held June 24-25 in Ann Arbor, brought together representatives of 22 organizations that archive scientific data. They met to discuss challenges facing domain repositories — archives that serve a specific scientific discipline or group of disciplines — especially in light of the February 2013 OSTP memorandum requiring public access to federally funded data. Participants, whose organizations encompass the social, natural, and physical sciences — including astronomy, anthropology, archaeology, linguistics, psychology — discussed major challenges in data preservation, infrastructure, and funding.

“The meeting convened a group of individuals from organizations that may not have been together before,” said ICPSR Council Member G. Sayeed Choudhury, associate dean for research data management at Johns Hopkins University. “The range of disciplines and perspectives represented within the room was impressive.”

“What was really quite remarkable was how all of the domain repositories discovered an enormous amount of shared interest,” said Alter. “It was significant to see somebody from anthropology and somebody from astronomy and somebody from proteins saying the same thing.”

As a result of the meeting, a Call for Change document was issued in September urging the creation of sustainable funding streams for domain repositories. Repositories may require varied funding models, the document states, “but in every case, creating sustainable funding streams will require the coordinated response of multiple stakeholders in the scientific, archival, academic, funding, and policy communities.” The Call for Change is endorsed by 26 domain repository representatives. A white paper that goes into greater depth on the subject also is being developed.

“One of our missions is to ensure data will be available for a long time, yet we’re being funded by short-term grants. There is a mismatch between our mission and the way we are funded,” Alter said. “We’re offering recommendations to funding agencies about how they can help us to curate

**Project / Continued on page 3**
and preserve the data they're paying for.”

“Since that meeting, we have experienced a shutdown of the federal government and the possibility of another shutdown shortly after the new year in 2014,” said Choudhury. “It will be interesting to see how the Call for Change is received or evolves in this fluid and challenging environment.”

**Challenge Grants**

In May, the project also awarded four challenge grants that focus on topics related to improving data citation and data management. (See sidebar story on this page for details about the projects selected.) The funding runs for a year, with final reports summarizing the outcomes, lessons learned, and impact due in June 2014.

“We received 26 applications for the challenge grants, which is a few more than we were expecting,” said ICPSR Research Area Specialist Russel Hathaway, who manages the Building Community Engagement project. The selection criteria were the projects’ potential for improving current practices, impact on the community, innovation, and applicability to multiple scientific domains.

**Further Research Efforts**

Another avenue for adding to knowledge about transparency and data citation comes from the Building Community Engagement project’s exploratory research.

Hathaway and ICPSR Associate Librarian Elizabeth Moss gathered a sample of about 100 journal articles that contained language indicating the data had been provided under a nondisclosure agreement, and then contacted authors to ask them to provide the terms of their agreements.

Future plans include structured interviews with the researchers to learn how they got access to the data, and analysis of the NDAs to identify areas that are most likely to hinder open access.

“The next step is to analyze them to look for similarities and differences, with the goal of creating some kind of template for these sorts of agreements that would still allow some access to the data under restricted conditions,” Vardigan said.

Hathaway and Moss also are developing a pair of self-assessment tools for academic journals. In his focus on data access and transparency, Hathaway said, he is researching whether “the access policy is there, and is it clearly stated and has all the elements we want in it, or does it just generically say you need to have your data available but doesn’t give any specifics?” He is looking at when data are available to the journal editor or peer reviewer, where the dataset is located, and whether scripts sufficient to allow replication of data and analyses are submitted.

Moss developed a draft version of a

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**The challenge grants**

Details about the four challenge grants selected as part of the Building Community Engagement project:

**Richard Ball and Norm Medeiros**


- Haverford College
- The project’s goal is to disseminate to faculty at other institutions a protocol for documenting empirical research that the recipients developed over several years and teach to students in their undergraduate statistical methods courses.

**Thomas Carsey**

“Implementing a Data Citation Workflow within the State Politics and Policy Quarterly (SPPQ) Journal”

- University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- The project aims to develop a prototype data citation workflow. It will serve as an example for other journals — within the social sciences or beyond — interested in integrating data citations into their workflows.

**Lisa Neidert**

“OPEN Data Through a Restricted Data Portal”

- The University of Michigan
- This project will provide a reporting tool that shows access conditions across restricted-data contracts and develop a build-your-own contract, which allows a data provider to choose conditions to pass on to legal counsel.

**Jian Qin and Kevin Crowston**

“Development and Dissemination of a Capability Maturity Model for Research Data Management Training and Performance Assessment”

- Syracuse University
- This project aims to document, foster, and promulgate best practices in research data management to support research transparency and the replication of scientific results.

Sources: ICPSR, grant applications

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Project / Continued on page 4
ICPSR and you: Don’t miss out on these opportunities

**ICPSR Summer Internship Program**

Applications are being accepted for the 2014 ICPSR Summer Undergraduate Internship Program, an intensive, 10-week program in Ann Arbor, Michigan, for students interested in social science research. The NSF-funded Research for Undergraduates (REU) internship program matches students with mentors at ICPSR and supports exploration of a research question from start to finish. Applications are now being taken through the ICPSR online application portal. Two letters of recommendation are required. Visit our website or view the flyer for more information. For examples of research projects completed by 2013 interns, please see these videos.

**ICPSR Research Paper Competition**

ICPSR invites submissions for our 2014 Research Paper Competition from undergraduates and master’s students. Three contests are open to students at member institutions:

- The RCMD Research Paper Competition, for papers on issues relating to minorities, using data from the Resource Center for Minority Data.
- The IFSS Research Paper Competition, for papers on any topic using data from the Integrated Fertility Survey Series.
- The NAHDAP Research Paper Competition, for papers on issues relating to drug addiction or HIV using data from the National Addiction and HIV Data Archive Program.

A fourth is open to students at member and nonmember institutions:

- The RCMD Research Paper Competition, for papers on issues relating to drug addiction or HIV using data from the National Addiction and HIV Data Archive Program.

For complete information, visit the website.

**Proposals for OR Sabbatical now being accepted**

ICPSR’s Resource Center for Minority Data (RCMD), in conjunction with the Instructional Resources unit, is sponsoring an OR sabbatical in 2014. It will provide an opportunity for researchers and instructors at institutions serving underrepresented populations to spend time at ICPSR in Ann Arbor, Michigan, to learn about the many resources offered, to create or suggest new resources, and to assist in efforts to diversify ICPSR’s user community. The sabbatical will focus on development of teaching modules for undergraduate education and/or tools or services designed to identify and disseminate quantitative and qualitative data focused on minority populations.

To learn more, visit the website.

**Project / Continued from page 3**

self-assessment rubric for journals to evaluate their data citation policies. “We all got together in these meetings (last summer), and we came up with common understandings of what we could all say is necessary for citing data,” said Moss. “Good practices for journals would be to have a policy regarding data citation, an instruction on how to do it, elements to show what you must have, and then a location for the citation to be in the article.” She said the current draft is an early one and that further improvements to it are expected.

Significant progress has been made on the project with the Sloan Foundation, Alter said. “We’re operating in an environment that’s extremely complicated. Big change is going on and nobody knows where it’s going to end up. We have important things to contribute and needs that should be recognized, and this project is allowing that.”

For more information, contact Russel Hathaway at rhataway@umich.edu.
New national membership increases data literacy in South Africa

ICPSR DataFirst federation provides variety of benefits for researchers, students, instructors throughout region

By Mark Thompson-Kolar
ICPSR Editor

ICPSR’s work with a new national membership is helping to increase data literacy, data curation, and access to research data in southern Africa.

In 2011, the South African National Membership DataFirst was established with DataFirst, a data archive and research group at University of Cape Town (UCT), as the hub institution.

DataFirst has been a member for a while, said ICPSR Director George Alter. “They approached us about becoming a hub for a federation in South Africa, and we thought it was a great thing to encourage.” ICPSR provided three years of subsidized membership.

DataFirst was established in 2001, providing data-curation services and online access to datasets from more than 250 studies. It emerged from the Southern Africa Labor and Development Research Unit (SALDRU). DataFirst has seven full-time and one part-time staff members. They perform research, curation, Web coding, and administrative tasks.

Leadership at DataFirst agreed to recruit other universities to the new national membership. “What I needed to do was to get other universities in South Africa and maybe eventually in southern Africa on board, as ICPSR members, which I thought was great,” said Lynn Woolfrey, manager of DataFirst. The University of KwaZulu-Natal, with campuses in Durban, Pietermaritzburg, Pinetown, and Westville; and the University of Witwatersrand, in Johannesburg, joined the national membership in 2012.

Another national membership, the South African National Membership — National Research Foundation, based in Pretoria, has been an ICPSR member for several years. It is not part of the DataFirst national membership.

Woolfrey, who also is the ICPSR Official Representative at UCT, said she plans soon to discuss membership with researchers at University of the Western Cape in Bellville. They are responsible for a number of major surveys in South Africa, and she believes they would be aided by having membership in ICPSR through the federation. “It’s quite an under-resourced university, and I think they would benefit greatly.”

Membership Benefits

The federation has helped the three member universities in several ways. First has been increased connections among researchers. “We don’t in South Africa have that much formal contact between the universities,” said Woolfrey. “Certainly, as far as data goes, there are no formal structures for data access and data sharing.” The new national membership fosters links among scientists who are interested in quantitative research, she said.

Another benefit has come in the form of access to ICPSR’s expertise in data curation and data citation via training opportunities and ICPSR resources. Woolfrey said she visited ICPSR in 2003, early in DataFirst’s existence. “We were so busy just getting to the point where we could actually make African data available online and easily accessible. … It was all very new to me, and of course we followed (ICPSR’s) example to a large extent. (The ICPSR’s) Guide to Data Preparation was always my bible in the early days — I’ve internalized so much of it.”

Illustrating DataFirst’s growing capabilities in data citation, the group received a contract in 2011 from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) to create citations for all the African datasets on The World Bank’s website. “I remember thinking a lot about it, looking at ICPSR’s linked publications, and of course that’s become a huge thing, citing linked data.”

She also attended the 2011 Official Representatives meeting, and in 2013 attended two courses at the ICPSR Summer Program. “The short courses were immensely timely for me because I’ve been doing data-curation work

Africa / Continued on page 6
A partner in social science research

Africa / Continued from page 5

for 19 years. A lot of the material I knew, but it was good to see that we’re following best practice.”

The Data Management and Curation pages on the ICPSR website have been very influential in recent months, she said. “I’ve been giving talks to researchers who need to write data-management plans, and they need to manage their data, and the two sites that I always refer them to are the ICPSR and the UK Data Archive.” UK Data Archive at University of Essex is a member of ICPSR.

An additional source of ICPSR expertise was employed last summer, as Associate Director Peter Granda attended a meeting of the DataFirst External Advisory Board Meeting, in place of Alter, who is a board member. Granda gave a presentation to the board and researchers at UCT at the request of DataFirst Director Martin Wittenberg.

“There was a real emphasis on (Wittenberg’s) part to try to expand knowledge about data sharing and what ICPSR does,” Granda said. “There were questions back and forth about some of the datasets that we collect, and about our training program … what kind of courses we taught. I think there was interest in the ways we handle restricted data, too, the specific ways people get access to restricted data.”

DataFirst established a Secure Data Service at UCT in 2012 to house sensitive data provided by government services.

“One of the benefits of doing this kind of work,” said Granda, is that “it gets greater knowledge about ICPSR out to all these different countries, and different researchers.”

Access to Data

A third benefit for the national membership institutions is access to member data at ICPSR. From July 2012 through July 2013, South African National Membership DataFirst member universities downloaded 14 ICPSR member datasets. Twelve of those were by individuals at University of Witwatersrand (Wits), which had not previously had direct access to ICPSR member data.

At DataFirst, Woolfrey would like the usage of the ICPSR data to increase. “I don’t think that the data resource is used enough,” she said, explaining that the access to ICPSR materials has not been advertised as heavily on UCT’s different campuses as they had planned, as a result of the departure last spring of a colleague who had been promoting the ICPSR’s resources.

Additionally, she said, “there’s not a large amount of African data on the (ICPSR) site … so the first port of call for most South African researchers would be DataFirst. She has a plan she intends to pursue with ICPSR management to import into the DataFirst data portal the metadata from 63 ICPSR datasets related to Africa — and then to place links on the DataFirst data portal to those datasets. “People don’t like to go to more than one site to access things,” she said. With this approach, “DataFirst’s site will be the discovery site, and the ICPSR will be the download site. … I think then you will see a lot more hits and downloads from UCT.”

Instructing with Data

Over at Wits, Rod Alence, associate professor of international relations, has utilized an SDA dataset from ICPSR for an assignment in a third-year undergraduate course in theory and methods in international relations. The project began when he and Alter talked at a 2011 conference about how it might be possible to use the most recent Afrobarometer dataset with SDA tools for classroom teaching. “It wasn’t available in SDA, and I think George arranged that they would get that prepared so we would be able to use it with SDA; that was definitely a response to me saying, ‘If you do this, …”

Africa / Continued on page 7
A partner in social science research

Africa / Continued from page 6

I’ll be able to use it with a big class." About 300 students have made use of the SDA dataset; they require only about 45 minutes of training from Alence before they are able to handle the assignment in SDA.

Alence wanted a means of allowing students who have never used any statistical software to download crosstabs and do some basic assignments using that: … I have between 150 and 200 students per year, so to get them on statistical software to do one short assignment is actually quite difficult, but I was able to get them using SDA on the website.

“It’s a good way to demystify data — get them to at least get the feel that there’s data out there, and that with a manageable amount of training, they can actually do something with the data,” he said. “For the first few years that I offered (an advanced course in quantitative methods), it was only master’s students. Since I’ve started doing this assignment in third year, now I get two or three honors students who will also sign up for the advanced course.”

Even just a few people gaining data literacy and quantitative skills in Africa makes a big difference, he said.

Alence also was a visiting associate professor of political science at University of Michigan in 2008-2009. He also is the head of the Department of International Relations at Wits, as well as Wits’ OR.

Lynette Hoelter, director of Instructional Resources at ICPSR, said almost 900 ICPSR datasets currently have SDA. “When we talk about using data in the classroom, we talk about SDA as being one way to do it without having to teach students the statistical packages.” Setting up a particular dataset with SDA tools upon request “is not uncommon for ICPSR; it may just mean a little bit of pushing through and saying, ‘Hey, this is a priority.’”

Using SDA as Wits is doing makes sense for a lot of places, certainly including international universities, Hoelter added.

Spreading the Knowledge

The impact of the national membership is being felt outside the three member institutions.

Alence teaches three-day summer courses in introduction to quantitative methods in Ghana as part of the University of Michigan’s African Social Research Initiative (ASRI). He said talks about adding a more advanced short course are happening, but “the real plus” would be to give a few very promising students from the ASRI courses an opportunity to attend the ICPSR Summer Program. “You’ve got some people who are really hungry to do something more advanced. They don’t really have the kind of training opportunities at their own institutions to take it further.

“Though the ASRI courses don’t directly involve ICPSR, there are obvious overlaps between my use of ICPSR data to teach methods to my students in Johannesburg and the capacity-building objectives of ASRI,” he added.

Data housed at DataFirst have been accessed by people in 16 African nations, Woolfrey said, showing the interest in research data that is growing beyond the bounds of South Africa. DataFirst also has provided training in data curation, quantitative research, and metadata editing for people from other African countries, including Botswana, Ethiopia, Gambia, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Tunisia, and Zambia.

“What would be really, really nice is to include other African institutions — other African universities (in the DataFirst national membership) — because I think there’s a huge need. People are only now scaling up to do data,” she said.

“In the future you will see a lot of demand from those universities,” Woolfrey said. “There will be more African universities in the network, but also there will be more African data in the ICPSR, because once you have those links, it’s much easier to get the resources. I think that we’ll probably have some sort of intercontinental network — linking to the ICPSR — and there will be a lot more data, as well.”

Mark Thompson-Kolar can be reached at mdmtk@umich.edu.

2014 Summer Program dates announced

Planning is in full swing for the 2014 ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods of Social Research.

• The first four-week session will run from June 23 through July 18.
• The second four-week session will run from July 21 through August 15.
• Additional Summer Program courses (in shorter, three- and five-day formats) will be offered from the beginning of June through the end of August in Ann Arbor and other locations across the US.

Posting of course and schedule information will begin in December at www.icpsr.umich.edu/sumprog.
Official Representatives meeting goes Beyond Access!

At the 31st ICPSR OR Meeting, held October 9-11, about 155 attendees from 94 institutions visited Ann Arbor to learn about public-access data perspectives, new datasets, instructional resources and tools, and successful methods used by ORs around the world. Six workshops, 11 concurrent sessions, and a poster session were offered, as well as a banquet. Most sessions were live-streamed; recordings and presentation slides are available at [www.tinyurl.com/ORprogram](http://www.tinyurl.com/ORprogram).

Clockwise from top left:
- Audience members listen to a session about public data access.
- OR Jim Yih-Jin Young describes community college use of ICPSR resources.
- OR Paula Lackie presents information for supporting teaching faculty with data.
- OR Steve Buddington asks a question during a session.
- Linda Detterman discusses restricted-use data with ORs at the poster session.
- The audience of OR/DRs, Council members, and staff listens during the business meeting luncheon.
- OR Bobray Bordelon presents a table talk topic to a group of ORs.

Photos by Mark Bialek
The Warren E. Miller Award and the William H. Flanigan Award were presented at a banquet held on October 10 during the meeting of Official Representatives in Ann Arbor.

The Warren E. Miller Award for Meritorious Service to the Social Sciences recognizes individuals who have had a profound impact on social science research and infrastructure.

The William H. Flanigan Award for Distinguished Service as an ICPSR Official Representative is intended to acknowledge the contributions of individuals representing ICPSR member institutions.

Below are the winners' biographies; longer descriptions can be found at www.tinyurl.com/ICPSRawards.

**Miller Award Winners**

**Janet Box-Steffensmeier**

Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier (PhD, University of Texas) is the Vernal Riffe Professor of Political Science, Distinguished University Scholar, and professor of Sociology at Ohio State University (courtesy appointment), where she directs the Program in Statistics and Methodology (PRISM). Her research focuses on methodology and American politics. She serves as the ICPSR OR at Ohio State University. The Box-Steffensmeier Graduate Student Award for attendance at ICPSR’s Summer Program is named after her in recognition of her contributions to political methodology and her support of women in the field.

**Kathleen Mullan Harris**

Kathleen Mullan Harris (PhD, University of Pennsylvania) is the James Haar Distinguished Professor of Sociology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and an adjunct professor of public policy. She is the director of the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health (Add Health) at the Carolina Population Center. Her research interests include adolescent health and risk behavior, nonmarital childbearing, immigrant children, transition to adulthood, family formation, poverty and social policy, and social inequality. Harris was an ICPSR Council member 2006–2010.

**Flanigan Award Winners**

**Daniel Tsang**

Daniel C. Tsang (AMLS and AM in Political Science, University of Michigan) is a Distinguished Librarian at the University of California, Irvine (UCI), where he has served as ICPSR’s OR since 1986. At UCI, he serves as data librarian and a bibliographer for political science, economics, and Asian American Studies. He chairs an OCLC Research Library Partners ad hoc committee on research data management policies. He runs UCI’s Social Science Data Archive and is the UCI administrator for California Digital Library’s Web Archiving Service.

**Wendy Watkins**

Wendy Watkins is the Data Librarian at Carleton University and has served as the ICPSR OR since 1984. She was an ICPSR Council member from 1996 to 2000. Watkins is a founding member of the Canadian Data Liberation Initiative (DLI), and she contributed to the establishment of <odesi> (Ontario Data Documentation Extraction Service and Infrastructure). Watkins is a long-standing member of the International Federation of Data Organizations (IFDO) and served on its board until 2009; also, she was the Canadian secretary of IASSIST for several years.
Peter Granda named ICPSR’s new associate director

Longtime archive director adds slate of coordinating activities to his list of responsibilities

By Mark Thompson-Kolar
ICPSR Editor

Peter Granda was named ICPSR’s new associate director in October. In the position, he takes on new roles in coordinating activities and operations, in particular the newly formed Operations Coordinating Group (OCG).

The OCG will implement and monitor projects that have direct effect on all or most of the archives, including setting priorities for technology projects and offering suggestions for staff development.

Granda continues as director of both the General Archive and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation-funded Health and Medical Care Archive.

“No one knows more about ICPSR and data archiving than Peter Granda, and he was the obvious choice to be associate director,” said ICPSR Director George Alter. As leader of the General Archive and a number of important projects, Peter brings a deep understanding of the work that we do and the value that we bring to social science research. He is also very well known internationally for his involvement in IASSIST, the International Federation of Data Organizations, and the Data Documentation Initiative Alliance.

Granda said one of his goals is to improve communication at ICPSR. “Hopefully we can find some ways of making people feel that they have a voice and that they hear all of the things they need to hear about, and that ICPSR works more as a coordinated organization,” he said. “I’d like to see that happen, and I’ll try hard to provide opportunities to people — as many opportunities as possible.”

He also said he will keep performing other cross-organization tasks that he already has been performing at ICPSR, such as coordinating meetings of the archive directors and representing the organization at some meetings as an official backup in place of Alter.

Additionally, Granda has been director of data processing for the National Survey of Family Growth since 2003. “We’re right in the midst of producing the first public-use files for another round of their survey. So it’s a question of how I can get all this work done and budget my time effectively; I think that’s going to be one of the big challenges.”

He holds a PhD in history from the University of Michigan, as well as a master’s degree in history from Kansas State University and a bachelor’s in political science from Fairleigh Dickinson University in New Jersey.

Granda was a co-principal investigator of the Integrated Fertility Survey Series, a project of the Population Studies Center and the ICPSR, with funding from the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute for Child Health and Human Development.

In the early 1990s, he established a partnership between ICPSR and GESIS to process and distribute the widely used Eurobarometer public-opinion surveys. “We decided to try to join forces and make the processing less expensive for both organizations,” he said.

The associate director position “is a responsibility I’m glad to take on because I’d like to try to involve other people in some of the things that ICPSR does,” Granda said.

“This is an opportunity to get the staff more involved in things — and they’ve expressed an interest in doing that when we had our discussions with them about the Strategic Plan.”
ICPSR provides resources for OSTP data-access plans, updates site

ICPSR posted a new “Guidelines for OSTP Data Access Plan” page to support federal funding agencies affected by the February 2013 White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) memo, “Increasing Access to the Results of Federally Funded Scientific Research,” which directs funding agencies with an annual R&D budget over $100 million to develop a public-access plan for disseminating the results of their research.

The page provides an overview of each requirement laid out in the memo, discusses why they matter, and lists key issues to consider when formulating plans.

Planning resources also are available on ICPSR’s Slideshare account. Additionally, ICPSR has updated the Data Management and Curation section of its website (main page is shown above) to better highlight the curation process ICPSR uses to add value to data, maximize access, and ensure long-term preservation.

ICPSR seeks to fill two high-level positions

ICPSR is searching for qualified candidates for two positions: Director of the Summer Program in Quantitative Methods of Social Research and Director of Computer and Network Services. Visit the Careers page to learn more.

• **Director of the Summer Program.** The distinguished social science educator who serves as director will lead the Summer Program, with responsibility for recruiting, retaining, and assisting the program’s outstanding faculty, managing the program’s professional staff, and overseeing the student experience. This position may be held full time or part time, and it may be combined with other activities at the University of Michigan or at another institution that is a member of ICPSR.

• **Director of Computer and Network Services.** The holder of this position will lead the information and technology efforts of an internationally prominent institution as it provides state-of-the-art services to a growing internal and external user community of social science researchers, students, instructors, and policy makers. The position is comparable to a CIO/CTO role for a small-to-medium, not-for-profit company.

To apply or make a nomination, or to request further information, please contact George Alter, Director, Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research, Institute for Social Research, P.O. Box 1248, Ann Arbor, MI 48016-1248.

2012 Election teaching resource available

The newest SETUPS (Supplementary Empirical Teaching Units in Political Science) module is available for use. The Voting Behavior: 2012 Election website provides students the ability to analyze an accessible dataset drawn from the 2012 American National Election Study (ANES) survey of the American electorate. (The ANES is funded by the National Science Foundation.)

Charles Prysby, professor of political science at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, and Carmine Scavo, associate professor of political science at East Carolina University in Greenville, developed the module.

Access to Voting Behavior: 2012 Election is open to the public. APSA or ICPSR membership is not required.
Updated Strategic Plan readied; site coming

The final version of the updated Strategic Plan was approved and published in September 2013 after more than a year of planning and development by ICPSR leadership, staff, ORs, and Council members.

The Strategic Plan contains a new Mission Statement prepared as the result of months of information gathering: ICPSR advances and expands social and behavioral research, acting as a global leader in data stewardship and providing rich data resources and responsive educational opportunities for present and future generations.

Watch for an announcement of the Strategic Plan website in December.

ICPSR webinars offer wealth of information

ICPSR hosts a large library of presentations on the ICPSR YouTube Channel. Videos and slides from these recent webinars and others are available.

• “Archiving NIJ Data at NACJD.” This webinar, originally broadcast November 6, 2013, describes the steps to successfully archive National Institute of Justice-sponsored research with the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data (NACJD). The focus is on describing best practices to assist NIJ grantees in the preparation of their data for use by their own project team and the research community, reviewing the NACJD deposit checklist and guidelines, and viewing a demonstration of the resources available through the NACJD website.

• “Working with Data from the Pathways to Desistance Study.” This National Addiction and HIV Data Archive Program (NAHDAP) workshop exposes investigators to the Pathways to Desistance Study and its accompanying datasets. The webinar, originally broadcast November 6, 2013, describes the Pathways to Desistance study methods and sample and the measures used over time, and discusses possible areas of investigation the study might be useful for addressing.

• “An Orientation to Accessing the Measures of Effective Teaching Longitudinal Database (MET LDB).” MET LDB is ready for secondary analysis, and this webinar, originally broadcast September 24, 2013, is the first in a series of four planned webinars discussing the rich and complex quantitative and video data held within the Measures of Effective Teaching Longitudinal Database at ICPSR. This first webinar offers an overview of the MET Project, a summary of the data files available at ICPSR, and a description of ICPSR’s specialized data-access systems.

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