Peter Granda reflects on 30 years of progress in data preservation at ICPSR.
Over 170 attendees from 90 institutions joined us for 17+ workshops and sessions October 11-13, 2017, for Building for a Data-Driven Future! The biennial meeting highlighted ICPSR’s core functions, including current data collections and data-related tools and exciting new data projects. The meeting also imparted practical approaches and strategies to work with data producers to share data, write data management plans, and to support researchers seeking to reuse research data for analyses and publications. One key highlight was the “International Data Panel: Sources, Research Opportunities, and Challenges,” with presenters from the Joint Economic and Sociological Data Archive (JESDA); The GESIS Data Archive for Social Sciences; the UK Data Service; and the China Data Center.

Did you miss it? Recordings and presentation slides can be found on ICPSR’s YouTube Channel as well as on the ICPSR Meeting website.
I’ve enjoyed each OR meeting I’ve attended.

I’ve always come away with very helpful information.

Gasly, 50

Institutions represented

6

Countries represented

People with Librarian in their job title attended the meeting

50

Number of box lunches eaten

115

Percent of attendees who took the “OR Boot Camp” session

42%

1st time guests

57

Statistics

Snapshots of 2017 ICPSR Meeting

Meeting | Continued from page 3
New Data Deposit System
Upgrades User Experience

In case you missed it, we launched our new Data Deposit Manager over the summer. Among the benefits to data depositors:

• Customizable workspaces
• More control over the presentation of data and documentation files
• More project status communication

The Deposit Manager release is a pivotal step in the development of ICPSR’s new digital asset management system called Archonnex, which was launched in the summer of 2016. “I am thrilled that we have made this step in our transition to the future,” said ICPSR Director Margaret Levenstein.

ICPSR is excited about the next phase of the Archonnex transition. “Computing and Network Services (CNS) and the business team will continue to enhance the deposit system while at the same time developing of the next piece of the Archonnex platform — Dissemination,” assistant CNS director Asmat Noori said.

A closer look at features you’ll love

Didn’t finish describing your data? No problem! The new ICPSR deposit form allows you to save your work and finish tomorrow.

Also, ICPSR’s new deposit form supports a shared workspace between you and your collaborators and students. You could even set up a workflow where students upload and describe data, with a review of data done along the way!

See for yourself!

Watch a recording of our live demonstration of ICPSR’s new Deposit Manager.

By Dory Knight-Ingram
ICPSR’s Peter Granda Retires, Reflects on 30+ Years in Data Stewardship

After 32 years at ICPSR, Associate Director Peter Granda made 2017 his last at ICPSR. In anticipation of Granda’s retirement, his colleagues took every opportunity over the past several years to garner from him valuable insights gained during his years of experience at ICPSR. He answered the following questions, published here for the first time, from a “Knowledge Transfer” discussion on April 8, 2015.

Granda is congratulated at his retirement celebration in November 2017.
Take us back to when you first started at ICPSR. What you were working on? What was data processing like then?

I started on April 8, 1985, exactly 30 years ago. The organization then was about a quarter the size it is now. I was hired to work on a special project we had at the time, which was a conversion of some data documents — budget records compiled by the Department of Labor during WWI — a study of the cost of living for people during WWI. It was a pencil and paper survey across the US, which interviewed more than 13,000 people. Initially, the records were stored in Washington. Jerry Clubb was the director here at the time, and he got a grant from NIH (National Institutes of Health) to convert the paper interview schedules into electronic form. We managed to convince the Ford Library here at the University of Michigan to take the records so we could do data entry in Ann Arbor.

I got the job, I think, because my degree was in history. It was very different in those days. We didn't have statistical analytic software like SAS or SPSS or Stata. I had very little background in statistics. I think, if I was applying for a job here today, with my experience I would not have been hired as a Research Tech Senior. But it was a very different time then. So, I worked on that project and spent a lot of time at the Ford Library. We had several people who did data entry there on a PC-based program. We basically had the form that mimicked what the interview schedule looked like, on the screen. These interviews were about 12 pages long. We did processing in statistical software called OSiRIS at the time. We were working on a U-M mainframe system, and you had to submit all of your jobs to run overnight … you prepared your setup file and would only see it the next day. That's what I started on at ICPSR … that project. At that time we only had two topical archives — NACDA (National Archive of Computerized Data on Aging) and CJAIN (Criminal Justice Archive and Information Network, which is now known as the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data (NACJD).

So, you were creating these new datasets and compiling the data into machine-readable format. How much of data processing at that time in the Consortium was spent on those activities, and how much was spent taking data that people shipped to us?

Most of it was dealing with data that was shipped to us from PIs. In those days, we had a very systematic way of processing data that many people don't realize. We had a four-class system, indicating minimal to extensive processing. This is visible in some of our early annual reports, where we listed all the studies we had processed during the year. The lists show studies in all the classes, and it's interesting to read the old reports to see what they were. Even in the early days, there was an effort made to use resources as efficiently as possible and make individual decisions on individual data collections about which processes would be used. It has been interesting to watch the changes in the reformatting of information over the years. There were a lot of transitions that happened. We got new computing equipment and new software. The formats that we store things in also changed over time … nine-tracks, cartridges, etc. As we got into the 1990s, we were making these transitions more and more often.
How much of our processes were driven by our users, and how much was driven internally?

A lot of it was a reaction to what our users wanted. Back then, if you wanted to get government data, it usually cost money because it was sold on tapes or other formats and people had to buy it for their own use. Part of our budget was to buy government data for the membership, and we depended on their suggestions for what to buy. A good example is the 1990 Census, which was still being distributed on tape. To buy it all was going to cost several hundred thousand dollars. One of the best things we ever did was to enter an agreement with the Census Bureau, which wanted its data to be used within the academic community. They gave us one copy for free, and we put it up and made it available to all ICPSR members. Since data did cost money, and a lot of it, we listened quite a lot to what the membership wanted.

How did you listen? Were the membership’s wishes communicated in meetings? Via mail?

A lot of it came up at the OR Meeting (the Biennial Meeting of ICPSR Official Representatives), and then I think there were call-in requests for data, too. There was a lot of communication between staff and some of our ORs.

It seems like you were more of a generalist back then? Has it served you well?

There wasn’t anything like data science in those days. To be an archivist meant you worked at the Bentley Historical Library (U-M’s campus archive) or some paper archive. I think people came to data processing from very different backgrounds, so we had all kinds of people who were doing data processing work at that time and kind of learned it on the fly. If you talk to other people my age, they probably came from very different environments, too. This has certain advantages or disadvantages. I may not be as skilled in technology or statistics, but I’ve been able to be involved in so many different projects at ICPSR and have gotten to know a lot of different people. It’s helped me to organize and deal with a great variety of things. You have to step back sometimes, and see how a project is going and ask very general questions about things. I think it’s happening less now because we’re hiring more people with specialized skills. We have to not be so concerned with day-to-day work that we don’t think about the big picture.

Any insight on quality control? On one hand we’ve gotten better, but on other hand we’re more likely to assume it’s correct as it comes out of the computer.

There was some quality control when we did the conversion projects. We didn’t do double entry or anything like that. The first program I worked with actually had built-in checks in the program. We had a lot of OSIRIS checks, too, after data was put into that format … consistency checks between variables, etc. I think we still had the same problems we have today with data collections. Sometimes, we don’t get the documentation we need, and we have to put in notes about it.

When did we become concerned about disclosure?

There are some old studies that, if you look in the catalog, indicate there were restricted versions, but those were few and far between. We told people if they wanted to get access to a particular restricted variable to contact us for access to the data. Those requests likely went to the data librarian who had a copy of the data, and would send it out to people making requests.
The data skills of graduate students have sort of changed. They desire to have data produced for them that they can use immediately, taking the data as is, as given, instead of opening to see if data matches what you have.

I think that’s changed dramatically. Of course we didn’t have any system files in those days, where people could open in SPSS or SAS. Now, we get questions about what setup files are. One of the first ways I learned to manage issues in data … I actually looked at the data record itself. I put it into a text file and went to column 2,072. I sometimes do that now, though many people wouldn’t do that today.

What is your vision on technology and its impact and what it needs to be in the future?

We have a lot of challenges, especially as we move into new types of data we will be dealing with. We’re on the verge of taking the organization to a very different infrastructure than we have had before. For some people it will be a big transition. There will have to be a lot of training about how it’s going to work. ICPSR is a story of lots of change. It’s hard to know exactly how things will change, but we’re just going to deal with a lot of different kinds of data than we ever had before. We will need to think about our membership as well.

I will say, that in my travels on ICPSR business, I hear that people are still impressed by the longevity of the organization and the amount of work that we do for the social science community.
Dive into a wealth of information in ICPSR’s Deep Blue collection

Deep Blue provides access to the work of faculty, staff, and student scholars at the University of Michigan. ICPSR has its own collection in Deep Blue.

Recent additions include:

- RDMI — Examples in Practice, Murphy, Thomas (2017-09-14)
- Controlled Vocabularies Published by the DDI Alliance, Ionescu, Sanda (2017-04-06)

New Releases

List includes some of the data released through January 18, 2018

- 33462 The Role and Impact of Forensic Evidence on the Criminal Justice System, 2004-2008 [United States]
- 33742 Coroner Investigations of Suspicious Elder Deaths, 2008-2011 [California]
- 34748 Census of Population and Housing, 2010 [United States]: Demographic Profile Summary File
- 36356 Bridging the Gap, Elementary School Data (Food and Fitness Survey)
- 36419 Massachusetts Health Reform Survey, 2015
- 36692 Chinese Longitudinal Healthy Longevity Survey (CLHLS), 1998-2014
- 36696 Campus Climate Survey on Sexual Assault and Sexual Misconduct, 2010-2015
- 36741 State Health Expenditure Dataset (SHED), 2000-2013
- 36767 Self-Esteem by Age, Gender, & Sociocultural Region
- 36797 General Social Survey, 1972-2016 [Cumulative File]
- 36816 Newly Licensed Registered Nurse Survey, 2015
- 36864 Afrobarometer Round 6: The Quality of Democracy and Governance in South Africa, 2015
- 36865 Creating Connection: Building Public Will for Arts and Culture, 2014 [United States]
- 36902 The National Survey of Fertility Barriers, 2010 [United States]
- 36954 Community College Civic Outcomes Survey, Spring 2015
- 32547 Building Healthy Relationships: An Evaluation of the Fourth R Curriculum with Middle School Students in Bronx, NY (2010-2012)
- 36952 Millennium Cohort Study

Among our new releases: State of Michigan: Taking Action on Flint Water Test Results, 2015-2017 (ICPSR 36953)
ANOTHER HOME RUN
by the 2017 SUMMER PROGRAM

30 countries represented
330 institutions represented
974 participants
109 courses
127 instructors
30 disciplines represented

See the 2016-17 ICPSR Annual Report for more details.
Snapshots of 2017 Summer Program

Three honored with ICPSR’s Miller and Flanigan Awards

At the 2017 ICPSR Meeting in October, Julia Lane and Robert McCaa were honored as the 2017 Warren E. Miller Award, and Bobray Bordelon was honored as the recipient of the 2017 William H. Flanigan Award.

Lane is a Professor at New York University’s Center for Urban Science and Progress (CUSP), and at NYU’s Wagner Graduate School of Public Service. She also serves as a Provostial Fellow for Innovation Analytics and Senior Fellow at NYU’s GovLab.

McCaa is a founding member as Ambassador of the Integrated Public Use Microdata Series (IPUMS)-International project. His publications are focused on the questions and concerns of National Statistical Offices about what happens to the microdata once they are entrusted to the Minnesota Population Center (MPC).

Bordelon, a Princeton University Economics & Finance Librarian/Data Services Librarian, is a long-time, active ICPSR Official Representative, who has been a knowledgeable and effective promoter of ICPSR’s data and other resources. Since 2014, he has co-taught the ICPSR Summer Program workshop on Providing Social Sciences Data Services.

The Warren E. Miller Award for Meritorious Service to the Social Sciences was initiated in 1993 to recognize 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 was established in 1995 and is intended to acknowledge the contributions of individuals representing ICPSR member institutions.
NEWS AND NOTES

ICPSR Council news
ICPSR held its fall Council Meeting on October 11. In addition to a full agenda, the Council and staff bid a fond farewell to five members who have guided ICPSR over the last four years. These members include: Robert S. Chen, Columbia University & CIESIN; Lisa Cook, Michigan State University; Colin Elman, Syracuse University; Philip N. Jefferson, Swarthmore College; Ronald Nakao, Stanford University. ICPSR thanks you for your years of service and leadership!

Left to right, are Ronald Nakao, Lisa Cook, Robert Chen, Chandra Muller, Philip Jefferson, Colin Elman, and Margaret Levenstein.

ICPSR Membership categories & fees updated for period beginning July 1, 2018
At its June meeting, the ICPSR Council set membership fees one year in advance as required by the ICPSR Constitution. The Council also adopted the 2015 Carnegie Classification as a means to associate membership fees; ICPSR has been working with the 2000 classifications since 2005. More information is forthcoming and will be provided to Official and Designated Representatives. The new fees begin on July 1, 2018.

Heitowit scholarship helps returning Summer Program students
A scholarship fund has been established in honor of Hank Heitowit, who served as Director of the Summer Program from 1981 to 2007. Every year, a sizable number of former Summer Program participants want to come back to the Program to strengthen their research capabilities. But, for a variety of reasons, many are unable to do so. The Henry “Hank” Heitowit Scholars Fund was established to help people in this situation. Learn more about the Henry “Hank” Heitowit Scholars Fund and how you can help sustain the Heitowit Scholarship.

Alexander, Hemphill join ICPSR leadership team
Trent Alexander recently joined us as ICPSR Associate Director and Research Professor, and Libby Hemphill joined ICPSR as the Director of the Resource Center for Minority Data (RCMD), and as Associate Research Professor at ICPSR, and Associate Professor in the University of Michigan School of Information.

ICPSR publishes 2016-17 Annual Report
ICPSR has released its 2016-2017 annual report. ICPSR started the fiscal year with a new director, Margaret Levenstein, who reflected on her first year at the helm. The year also saw the launch of a new data deposit system, and the Datalumos and Open Data Flint projects, among others. It was truly a year of r(E)volution within!

CivicLEADS releases data from Stanford Civic Purpose Project
Researchers now have access to data from the Stanford Civic Purpose Project, which explores the development of civic purposes among young people from diverse backgrounds in the state of California. The study’s quantitative and qualitative data provide new insights into the varying social and identity issues impacting civic purpose and engagement. See our full story about this project for more information.

New forum connects PATH Study data users
NAHDAP is excited to host the PATH Study Data User Forum to encourage communication and collaboration among all researchers in the PATH Study data user community. Through the Forum users can learn about releases of the Population Assessment of Tobacco and Health (PATH) Study data, connect to publications by other PATH Study data users, and communicate with each other about their current research using the PATH Study data. Forum accounts are free. All posts can be viewed without a forum account or logging into the forum. You must have an account and log in to the forum to post or respond to a post.

2017 rewind
Our holiday video reflected upon a year full of creativity, commitment, leadership, kindness, and innovation.
40,903 # of people who have visited icpsr.umich.edu
July 1–September 11, 2017

Membership Stats
- 763 member institutions
  - Community Colleges
  - Specialized
  - Associate members
  - Canadian Members
  - Intensives
  - Masters
  - BAs
  - Extensives
  - Foreign members

Conferences
- International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics: World Congress of Gerontology and Geriatrics (IAGG)
- American Psychological Association (APA)
- American Sociological Association (ASA)
- American Political Science Association (APSA)

Website Traffic Sources
- Search Engines: 43%
- Referral Sites: 23%
- Social: 33%
- Direct: 1%

Top Referrers:
- Princeton
- rs.io (Robb Seaton website)
- MIDUS – Wisconsin-Madison
- Orcid.org
- UNC
- Zhudai.baidu.com
- Ihds.info
- Mail.google.com
- Princeton libguide

Social Media & User Support
- Twitter: 3,322 followers
- Facebook: 4,451 fans
- YouTube (FY18): 3,285 views
- Opt-in email: 1,900
- User support contacts (past mth): 250

From June - September 2017

Unique Visits to ICPSR Member Sites from July 1–September 11, 2017

Council members
- Christine L. Borgman
  University of California
  Los Angeles
- Robert S. Chen
  Columbia University & CIESIN
- Lisa Cook
  Michigan State University
- Colin Elman
  Syracuse University
- Jane Fry
  Carleton University
- Elizabeth Groff
  Temple University
- Philip N. Jefferson
  Swarthmore College
- Michael Jones-Correa
  University of Pennsylvania
- Verna M. Keith
  Texas A&M University
- Chandra L. Muller, Chair
  University of Texas at Austin
- Ronald Nakao
  Stanford University Libraries
- Robert D. Stine
  University of Pennsylvania

Bulletin staff
Editor: Dory Knight-Ingram
Graphic Designer: Jenna Tyson
Special thanks to Shelly Petrinko

About us:
ICPSR is a center within the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan.