Providing Social Science Data Services: Strategies for Design and Operation

Diane Geraci
Associate Director for Information Resources, Massachusetts Institute of Technology Libraries

Chuck Humphrey
Data Library Coordinator, University of Alberta

Jim Jacobs
Data Services Librarian, Emeritus, University of California, San Diego

This workshop is designed for individuals who provide local support services for quantitative researchers using data from the ICPSR and other numeric data distributors. Its primary focus is to provide the basics of social science data services from the perspective of a data stewardship lifecycle model. Through discussion, hands-on computing exercises, and homework, participants will consider how to plan and design appropriate levels of service for local environments, including data reference and access services. Experiences will be provided in searching for data, interpreting documentation and using Web-based data access tools. Further topics to be discussed will include institutional repositories, open access publishing, the open data movement, and the influence of e-Science of data services. Throughout the workshop, an emphasis will be placed on social science concepts and terminology, as well as on practical solutions to service delivery.

Classroom and Computing Lab Location
We will meet in room G150 in the Perry Building, 330 Packard Street.

General Daily Schedule
Please note that there will be light homework assignments Monday-Thursday. On Friday we will wrap up by 3:00. Class times may vary slightly from those listed below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session One</th>
<th>9:00-10:30</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Break</td>
<td>10:30-11:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Session Two</td>
<td>11:00-12:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>12:30-1:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Session Three</td>
<td>1:30-3:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Break</td>
<td>3:00-3:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Session Four</td>
<td>3:30-5:00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The workshop is organized around the concepts in the data stewardship life cycle.

Data stewardship life cycle

Daily Workshop Schedule

Monday. Theme: Exploring the Contexts of Data Services
- Introductions and an Overview of Workshop
- Life Cycle Models and the Data Landscape
- Access and Preserving Research Data
- The Social Science of Data Sharing
- Levels of Data Service
- Statistics vs. Data, or What Are We Talking About?
- Statistical and Data Literacy
- Statistics in the News [exercise]

Homework: Data Lexicon

Tuesday. Data Discovery
- Numeric Information Framework
- Indexing and Citing
- Policies: Journals, Funding, Open Access, Privacy
- Social Science Data Concepts and Dataspeak
- Reference Interview
- Units of Analysis and Variables [exercise]
- Metadata: From Codebooks to DDI
• Using Metadata for Data Discovery [Lab]
• Searching for data: study/variable-level, data structures, network resources
• Searching from Familiar Starting Points: Heat Exhaustion Deaths [Lab]

Homework: Working with Variables
Homework: Subsetting Cases

Wednesday, Production and Dissemination
• Searching for data from familiar starting points [Lab]
• Data economy, numeric information frameworks
• Licensing; Access models: mediated, direct, pass-through
• Infrastructure
• Interpreting Data Documentation [Lab]
• The Continuum of Access for Data
• Ordering and acquiring data from ICPSR [Lab]

Homework: Re-engineering Research Outputs

Thursday, Data Repurposing
• Re-engineering Research Outputs [Lab]
• Modeling Your Environment: User Communities, Partners, Data Collections, Institutional Location
• Mapping the Data Service Environment, Part I: Strengths and Weaknesses

Homework Reading: Emerging Collections and Service Models: Federated Partnerships

Friday, Data Repository
• Mapping the Data Service Environment, Part II: Opportunities and Threats
• Public Service Perspectives and the Mission of Data Services
• Collection Strategies: building a collection
• Computing Strategies for Data Services
• Promotion Strategies
• Who Will Be Responsible for the Data Services Mission?
• Professional Development and Networking
• Emerging Collections and Service Models:

Homework: Return Home and Planning Data Services

Text