

Stalking the Wild Dataset

Social Sciences 208B
Dissertation Workshop
Course code: 68830
Course units: 2
Spring Quarter, 1997, Wednesdays 5-6:50 p.m.
Location: Technology Enhanced Classroom, 228 Main Library
University of California, Irvine
Lecturer: Tsang, Daniel
380 Main Library
824-4978, dtsang@uci.edu
Social Science Data Archives homepage:
<http://sun3.lib.uci.edu/~dtsang/ssda.htm>

Office Hours: Tues. 3-4; Thurs. 3-4 and by appointment

Description: This class aims to acquaint students with the diversity of data that are available out in the research community, and how to find it. Students will get practical experience creating and documenting a dataset; discuss issues of ethics and privacy relating to data collection and use; discuss data sharing issues; learn how to locate data around the world; and especially learn to use the Internet to locate data.

On Reserve in Student Center (across from Main Library entrance):

1. Beyond Conjecture in International Politics: Abstracts of Data-based Research, by Susan D. Jones and J. David Singer (Itasca, IL: Peacock, 1972).
2. Quantitative Data Analysis for Social Scientists, by Alan Bryman and Duncan Cramer (New York: Routledge, 1990).
3. Sharing Social Science Data: Advantages and Challenges, ed. by Joan E. Sieber (Newbury Park, CA: Sage, 1991).
4. Statistical Computing Environments for Social Research, ed. by Robert Stine and John Fox (Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage, 1997).

Online resources:

1. ICPSR Data Deposit Form
<http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/ICPSR/Archive/Deposit/depositform.html>
2. ICPSR Guide to Social Science Data Preparation and Archiving
<http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/ICPSR/Archive/Deposit/dpm.html>

Schedule of classes:

[No class April 2]

1. April 9 Overview [Meet at Seminar Room, 229 Main Library]
2. April 16 Data? What's that?
For this session, locate recent news articles about data, and be prepared to discuss what you find in class. Check out WWW News Resource Page

<http://sun3.lib.uci.edu/~dtsang/netnews1.htm> or

the news search engines

<http://sun3.lib.uci.edu/~dtsang/newssrch.htm>

3. April 23 Data Collection and Documentation
For this class, read:
 - a: ICPSR Guide to Social Science Data Preparation and Archiving: Introduction through Technical Aspects...pp. 1-15 on reserve copy.
 - b: Chapter 5 in Sharing Social Science Data
4. April 30 Data Archives: ICPSR's collection
For this session, browse: ICPSR Guide to Resources (Main Library Ref. H62 I277]
5. May 7 Other Data Archives
For this session, read: Chapter 6 in Sharing Social Science Data.
6. May 14 U.S. Government Data
7. May 21 International Data
8. May 28 Intro to Data Analysis [Guest speaker: JoAnn Prause]
For this session, read: "Analyzing Data with Computers," chapter 2-3 in Quantitative Data Analysis..., pp.16-60.
Recommended: Statistical Computing Environments...
9. June 4 Data Sharing, Confidentiality, Privacy and Ethics.
For this session, read:
 - a: ICPSR Guide to Social Science Data... :
Preparing Data for Archiving, 19-22
 - b: ICPSR Data Deposit Form
 - c: Chapters 1-3, 8-9 of Sharing Social Science Data
 - d: ICPSR Guide to Social Science Data... :
Confidentiality chapter, pp. 17-19.
 - e: "Sharing Confidential and Sensitive Data,"
chapter 4 in Sharing Social Science Data.

Papers or Projects:

1. Write an abstract of a data-based journal article using a format similar to what is in Beyond Conjecture.
Due: April 23.
2. Describe how the trials and tribulations of obtaining an actual dataset (of your choice) for secondary analysis.
Due: May 14
3. Create a questionnaire or coding instrument and a sample dataset with documentation ready for deposit.
Due: June 4.