Stalking the Wild Dataset

Social Sciences 208B
Dissertation Workshop
Course code: 68825
Course units: 2
Spring Quarter, 1998, Thursdays, 5-6:50 p.m.
Location: Technology Enhanced Classroom, 228 Main Library, lobby, 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):


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:
1. April 9  Overview

   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

3. April 23 Data Archives: ICPSR's Collection
   For this session, browse: ICPSR Guide to Resources (Main Library Ref. H62 I277]; and its Web-site: www.icpsr.umich.edu/archive1.html.

4. April 30  Other Data Archives
   For this session, browse and search for holdings from one data archive linked at www.nsd.uib.no/cessda/europe.html [European and non-European Archives]

5. May 7  Data and Policy Change I
   Read chapters 2 and 4 in Statistics and Public Policy

6. May 14 Data and Policy Change II
   Read preface, chapters 3-5 and appendix, War of Numbers.
   Video presentation: "Vietnam Deception"

7. May 21  U.S. Government/IGO Data [Guest speakers: Kay Collins; Margaret Renton]

8. May 28 Data Sharing, Confidentiality, Privacy and Ethics.
   For this session, read:
   a: ICPSR Guide to Social Science Data... : Confidentiality chapter, pp. 17-19.
   b: "Sharing Social Science Data," chapter 1 in Sharing Social Science Data.
   c: "Sharing Confidential and Sensitive Data," chapter 4 in Sharing Social Science Data.

9 June 4 Getting data under public records acts.

10 June 11 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...

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 11.