

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Charter Meeting of the National Bureau of Economic Research's
Inter-Institutional

CONFERENCE ON THE COMPUTER IN ECONOMIC
AND SOCIAL MEASUREMENT

Current Population Survey

(September 19-20, Pennsylvania State University)

Session 1 9:30-11:30 am: What You Have Always Wanted to Know About the
CPS, BUT.

Chairman: Richard Ruggles, Yale University.

Contributions: The CPS: An Overview, Conrad Taeuber, U.S. Bureau of the
Census; Suggested Substantive Changes in the Content of the CPS, James
Smith, The Pennsylvania State University.

Discussant: To be announced.

Session 2 1:30-4:00 pm: Microsimulation and Social Accounting Applications
with the CPS Files.

Chairman: Edward Budd, The Pennsylvania State University.

Contributions: Simulation Estimates of the Cost of Family Assistance Programs,
John Moeller, The Urban Institute; Measuring Labor Force Activities,
Malcolm Cohn, University of Michigan.

Discussants: Robinson Holister, Swarthmore College and Mathematica; Edward
Gramlich, Office of Economic Opportunity.

Session 3 7:00-9:30 pm: Dinner and Organizational Meeting.

Chairman: Richard Ruggles.

Session 4 9:30-11:30 am: Methodological Considerations.

Chairman: M. I. Nadiri, National Bureau of Economic Research.

Contributions: Use and Abuse of Regression Applications to CPS Files, Richard
Porter, Board of Governors, Federal Reserve System; Ransacking CPS
Files, Frederick Sheuren, Office of Economic Opportunity.

Discussant: Arnold Zellner, University of Chicago.

Session 5 1:00-4:00 pm: Toward a Standard Public Use File.

Chairman: Marshall Turner, U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Contributions: Matching CPS Observations Across Months and Years, Terry
Kelly, The Urban Institute; Cleaning the CPS Files: Lessons Once Learned,
Jody Allen, The Urban Institute; The Methods and Ethics of Access, Richard
Taeuber, Oak Ridge National Laboratories.

Discussants: John Beresford, DUA Laboratories; Benjamin Okner, The Brookings
Institution.

Persons desiring to attend the meeting should contact James D. Smith,
Center for the Study of Income and Wealth, 613 Graduate Center, The Pennsyl-
vania State University, University Park, Pa. 16802.

PUBLICATION SERIES ON PROGRAM AND MODEL
DOCUMENTATION

Computer science is having a fundamental effect on every academic area, with computers making possible models or analytical techniques which otherwise would be too large, complicated, and expensive to handle. When translated into a computer program, the technique of analysis or model may become available for use by others. Such computer programs or models are often as significant a contribution to a discipline as a new theory or the discovery of new empirical regularities.

Because of the unique characteristic of its contribution, computer science requires new types of publications, which are professionally recognized and specifically structured for displaying the work of those who develop computer programs and models. The newness of the field also necessitates a set of standards to promote expertise in this new area and to guide those beginning to use computers.

To provide such a publication, the Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology, Texas A & M University, is initiating a new publication series, *Program and Model Documentation*. The structure and standards of documentation will be provided by the first publication in the series: "Program and Model Documentation Standards." Copies of various publications in the series are available upon request. Because the series is a departmental publication, contributors must be members of the Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology. However, it is hoped that the series will stimulate other departments and institutions to initiate similar series.

For further information on the series or particular publications in it, contact

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THE NEWSLETTER OF SOCIAL SCIENCE ARCHIVAL ACQUISITIONS

The Laboratory for Political Research of the University of Iowa has been funded by the National Science Foundation to publish a quarterly newsletter on data acquisitions of all archives. The basic function of the newsletter is to collect and communicate at regular intervals information on such acquisitions. Each archive will be contacted quarterly and will be requested to provide information on its new data sets. The information requested will include: the original data collection agency and principle investigator, the time period of the data, the population covered, and a paragraph describing the substance of the study. While this information falls short of a complete description that might be desirable under optimal conditions, it is at least adequate to alert users to the kinds of data becoming available. If a reader is interested in a data set, he can contact the archive where the data is held to get further information.

Approximately 30 archives have been contacted and they have been asked to cooperate in the publication of the Newsletter. A majority have responded favorably thus far, and it is hoped that others will join in this feature in the near future. Some of the archives have also sent information about their holdings and have been published in issues, beginning in September 1971.

The Newsletter will be mailed free to all social scientists in the United States and Canada who are interested in receiving it. Foreign subscriptions to the Newsletter are also available, but a special mailing and handling fee will be charged. All individuals who are interested in receiving the Newsletter on a permanent basis are asked to contact

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The goal of the Newsletter is to contribute to a more effective utilization of machine-readable data for academic research and research training in the social sciences. This goal will be pursued by the publication of several kinds of information. The primary component of the Newsletter is the listing of data acquisitions made by a range of archives in the United States and Canada. This listing is intended to give the reader a notion of the kinds of research data being generated by social scientists and information as to their location. It should not necessarily be taken as an "advertisement" for data. Some data sets listed will undoubtedly carry restrictions as to use or distribution. Likewise, some archives are not staffed or organized to service large numbers of requests for data on a routine basis. With these cautions in mind, however, an individual finding data sets appropriate to his research needs is encouraged to contact the archive where the study is held. Clearly, the advantage of communication between data archives and research users is a mutual one.