

THE INTERNATIONAL DATA LIBRARY AND REFERENCE SERVICE

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This note is an attempt to describe one example of a new and growing movement in the social sciences: the data archive. It has long been recognized that while many sociological studies are not initially planned to validate the hypotheses of later investigators, they may nevertheless serve such a purpose. In addition, they provide information useful in the design and interpretation of other studies.² Therefore, in 1958, the Institute for International Studies at the University of California (Berkeley) and the Survey Research Center of the University began to collaborate in the development of a campus facility to serve the needs of local scholars in this regard. Sample survey data conducted by scholars and, in some cases, commercial polling organizations was sought for the archive. The data came at the specific request of individual users—in the form of punched cards and the various documents associated with the conduct of the original studies. Proceeding through informal channels, the Survey Research Center began to acquire the basic, raw data collected by various scholars in their own work. It then made this data available to other scholars in order that it might be analyzed further and in combination with other studies. These analyses were usually carried out with a perspective distinct from that of the original authors and produced many new conclusions.

As the amount and diversity of the information stored at the Survey Research Center increased, so did the number and variety of users of the facility. Graduate students utilized the data archive for writing dissertations; local and foreign scholars began to use it for supplementing their work. In 1961, a social science data archive was formally established as part of the Survey Research Center including in its holdings the many studies executed

¹ For a recent comment on this type of unanticipated use, see J. Graciarena, "Algunas Consideraciones Sobre la Cooperación Internacional y el Desarrollo Reciente de la Investigación Sociológica" in *Revista Latinoamericana de Sociología*, Vol. 65, No. 2, p. 240. For additional descriptions of archives, see Ralph L. Bisco, "Social Science Data Archives: a Review of Developments," in *American Political Science Review*, Vol. LX, No. 1, March, 1966, pp. 93-109, and *Information sur les Sciences Sociales*, Vol. V, Mars, 1966, pp. 110-125.

² Students and scholars from such diverse countries as Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Taiwan and Venezuela have used the archive in their own research and as an aid in teaching the techniques of survey analysis to students.

by the Center itself, other organizations on the Berkeley campus, and materials from individual scholars at Berkeley and other campuses.

The archive continued to solicit contributions of data from various scholars without developing a specific substantive focus until 1963. During that year, Professor S. M. Lipset (the Director of the Institute for International Studies) and Professor C. Y. Glock (Director of the Survey Research Center) agreed to sponsor a joint program of data acquisition emphasizing comparative studies with special emphasis upon the developing nations, and formally announced the establishment of the International Data Library and Reference Service (IDL & RS). Since that time the IDL & RS has continued to develop as a general purpose service archive but has given special emphasis to that part of its total holdings dealing with sample survey data from the developing countries, particularly those in America and Asia.

In 1966, the University of California, in collaboration with the Chinese University of Hong Kong established the Social Survey Research Centre in Hong Kong. The operations of this Centre are coordinated with those of the Survey Research Center in Berkeley, and data gathered by the Hong Kong Centre will become part of the holdings of the International Data Library and Reference Service.

Until late in 1964, the IDL & RS focused its activities almost exclusively on acquiring data. While involved in these activities personnel of the IDL & RS were also able to become more familiar with the problems and the prospects for obtaining survey data from the developing countries: locating potential sources, making contact with them, establishing personal relations, and making the legal and technical arrangements necessary before data and supporting documentation could be shipped to Berkeley. Toward the end of this year, sufficient preliminary work had been accomplished along these lines to begin to turn away from the problems of acquisition to emphasize those associated with use of the data Archive and dissemination of its holdings to scholars.

Since there were, at that time, well over one hundred different studies from countries in Africa, Latin America and Asia (each study carried out independently and according to different customs and procedures), the problems of making them useful for secondary analysis were considerable. Funds to aid in this endeavor were therefore, sought, and obtained, from the National Science Foundation of the American Government. These funds permitted the staff in the Archive to devote increasing attention to problems of translation of codebooks, checking and verifying the correspondence of data with codebooks, obtaining supporting documentation and similar activities.

The holdings of the Library have grown since that time, and the problems of organizing and maintaining the Archives have grown with them. In order to keep up with the increasingly complex demands of the users, therefore, the

Archive has shifted, more and more, toward a reliance upon electronic computers for certain kinds of basic operations. The inventory of holdings, for example, is maintained by computer. Similarly, in reproducing specific studies (or part of studies) for users, or in carrying out statistical computations that they have requested, the computer is utilized extensively. Funds have recently been obtained to foster this activity and to develop, if possible, a direct connection of the Berkeley Archive with other archives in order to enable users of the IDL & RS to gain rapid access to data from those archives which may be either more general or more specialized in their holdings.

The costs of utilizing the IDL & RS are kept at a minimum through the indirect support provided by the University of California and the National Science Foundation funds used for program development. Thus, only the direct costs of reproducing and shipping the desired data or documents are charged to the users. While these costs may change, they are, at the present, approximately \$6.00 per thousand IBM cards and \$.05 per page for the reproduction of codebooks and other documents. The costs of making statistical calculations vary, of course, with the complexity of the calculations desired and the number of respondents and variables involved. Estimates of the costs for any specific computation may be obtained through correspondence. When the number of respondents and the number of variables in an analysis are large, it is frequently most economical to utilize the computer for making such computations (even though the computations themselves may be relatively simple) because of its great speed.

More detailed information including a schedule of fees and a list of studies currently held in the Archive can be obtained by requesting them from

Data Librarian
International Data Library and Reference Service
Survey Research Center
University of California
2220 Piedmont Avenue
Berkeley, California 94720

CRITICA

Elaboración de Tests Psicológicos por Dorothy Adkins Woods, versión castellana, México, Editorial F. Trillas, S.A., 1965, 157 págs.

La obra publicada tiene una serie de características que hacen de ella un texto de gran utilidad para el psicólogo de habla castellana. En efecto, en el campo de las pruebas mentales y de la medición psicológica existen pocos textos