

SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH AND INSTRUCTIONAL COUNCIL
1977-1978 Academic Year

The Social Science Research and Instructional Council (SSRIC), a statewide body of the California State University and College System, was first organized in 1972. Its major functions were to (1) advise the Office of the Chancellor in areas related to computer-aided instruction in the social sciences, (2) encourage new instructional applications of quantitative social data and methodologies, and (3) serve as liaison to the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research in Ann Arbor, with whom the CSUC had recently become affiliated. Since 1972, however, the scope of SSRIC responsibilities has broadened substantially. (A following attachment, "Programs, Goals, and Objectives of the Social Science Research and Instructional Council," summarizes the scope of both Council responsibilities and responsibilities of each Council member.)

This Sixth Annual Report of the Council Chair describes briefly major SSRIC activities and programs during the 1977-1978 academic year, which was both a busy and productive one for SSRIC.

1. CSUC Membership in the California Opinion Research Consortium (CORC)

In June, 1977, the CSUC became the first academic institution to affiliate with the California Opinion Research Consortium, a component of the non-profit Field Institute. CORC was organized to provide institutions of higher education with access to contemporary economic, political, and social data obtained by the California Poll; access to archival data from past California Polls; and inclusion of faculty or student developed questions in a specified number of California (Field) Polls to be administered statewide. The UC system and some private institutions will be joining CSUC in CORC next academic year.

The 1977-1978 academic year was a "shakedown" one in relation to CSUC affiliation with CORC. That is, it was a period in which the CSUC system became familiar with services provided by the Field Institute, and the Field Institute became familiar with special instructionally-related needs of the academic community. The Office of the Chancellor, which had asked SSRIC's advice in relation to CORC affiliation, has relied on SSRIC to specify and outline both general and specific instructional needs that CORC affiliation could fulfill. Since, as was somewhat expected, a few problems developed during the course of the first year, SSRIC was called upon to provide professional and technical advice both to the Office of the Chancellor and the Field Institute.

In order to expedite resolution of problems related to instructional applications of Field Institute services, Institute personnel met with CSUC and UC representatives at a CORC meeting in late May. The following persons represented CSUC at this meeting:

- Bruce Haston (Humboldt), 1977-78 SSRIC Chair
- John Korey (Pomona), 1978-79 SSRIC Chair
- Paul Strand (San Diego), SSRIC Representative
- Charles McCall (Bakersfield), past SSRIC Chair
- Richard Hofstetter (San Diego), Social Science Data Laboratory
- Mike King (Chico), SSRIC Field Questionnaire Committee
- Charles Wilmot, Div. of Educ. Programs and Resources
- Bill Mason, Div. of Educ. Programs and Resources
- James Hightower, Division of Information Systems
- Penny Crane, Division of Information Systems

Several specific and technical suggestions were presented by CSUC representatives relating to how instructional objectives could more easily be met. Field Institute personnel were receptive to making changes in services provided academic institutions. Because CSUC was the first academic body to join CORC, Field Institute personnel agreed to work with CSUC as the "lead" academic body to institute changes which would result in wider instructional applications of California Poll data.

Overall, then, it appears that most problems resulting from our new consortia membership will be resolved shortly. As a result of SSRIC's lead in relation to this matter, students and faculty in the CSUC system should have available in the near future an even more easily usable resource for instructional and research purposes.

2. Field Questionnaire Committee

CSUC affiliation with CORC entitles CSUC faculty and students to include questions in the California Poll. Questions for inclusion in the California Poll are selected by a special SSRIC committee (Field Questionnaire Committee) from proposals submitted by CSUC faculty and students. The committee, chaired by A. Jay Stevens (Long Beach) and composed of ten CSUC faculty, has held two rounds of system-wide competition.

Because of time and cost factors, it is nearly impossible for faculty or students to conduct statewide surveys. However, affiliation with CORC provides CSUC personnel a unique and valuable opportunity to use the Field Institute. The Field Institute is a long established and highly respected organization both within and outside of California.

3. Internships with the Field Institute

SSRIC will continue to explore possibilities of placing student interns in the Field Institute, which the Council considers an invaluable learning experience. Larry Giventer, SSRIC representative from Stanislaus, has prepared a working paper outlining the goals and objectives of an internship experience of this type, which will be considered next academic year by SSRIC. The Field Institute has indicated a general willingness to

accept CSUC students as interns. However, many details will need to be worked out both within the CSUC system and between SSRIC and the Field Institute.

4. ICPSR Membership

Since 1972 when CSUC as a system became affiliated with the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (a consortium of over 200 American and foreign universities), an increasing number of social science data bases have been acquired from ICPSR and made available in the system for instructional and research purposes. In addition, ICPSR has made available to affiliated institutions a growing number of instructional materials. Betty Nesvold (San Diego), an ICPSR Council Member and past SSRIC Chair, played a major role in the development of these new materials, which are currently one of the most widely used quantitative data resources available in the system. Another widely used instructional resource is the SETUPS (Supplementary Empirical Teaching Units in Political Science), jointly developed by ICPSR and the American Political Science Association with a grant from NSF. In fact, several CSUC faculty were involved in preparation of the SETUPS.

A delegation of 10 CSUC representatives attended the 1977 Biennial meeting of ICPSR in Ann Arbor in November where Bruce Haston, SSRIC Chair in 1977-1978, discussed CSUC multi-institutional membership affiliation with ICPSR. The innovative CSUC affiliation with ICPSR has been used as a model for other multi-institutional membership arrangements. A special highnote of the national meeting was the election of Charles McCall (Bakersfield), past SSRIC Chair, to Council Chairperson of the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research.

5. ICPSR Summer Workshop

Affiliation with ICPSR allows the CSUC system to send a specified number of faculty and students to the annual ICPSR Workshop on quantitative methodology. Since 1972 SSRIC has selected attendees and awarded travel stipends (provided by ICPSR). Donald Dixon, SSRIC representative from Sonoma, served as the Council's coordinator of the ICPSR Summer Workshop this year, and was instrumental in increasing the amount of travel stipends provided by ICPSR. Two faculty and 7 students from CSUC will attend the Summer Workshop with stipends.

6. In-Service Training Workshop

SSRIC meets three times yearly in two day sessions. One day is devoted to handling Council business; the second day is devoted to in-service training workshops or sponsoring the Student Research Conference (see below). SSRIC held two workshops this academic year. The first,

conducted by Jim Ross, SSRIC representative from Bakersfield, and Mark Hayes, from the Division of Information Systems, was devoted to using new data bases and the SPSS program on the Cyber computer. Paul Strand, SSRIC representative from San Diego, conducted a second workshop related to using California Poll data in the instructional program.

7. Student Research Conference

SSRIC sponsored the Third Annual Student Research Conference in April at Long Beach. The conference is structured similarly to professional conferences and allows students to present the results of studies they have undertaken. Twenty-six students from 10 different campuses delivered papers at the conference. (See attachment for a copy of program.) SSRIC considers the Student Research Conference a unique and valuable learning experience, and is pleased to note that other institutions both in and out of California have organized student conferences similar to SSRIC's.

8. Utilization of Social Science Data Bases in the Instructional Program

Although figures have not been compiled for this academic year, every indication points to another significant increase in the number of times social science data bases have been accessed and, even more heartening, the increasing (albeit much slower) number of CSUC faculty utilizing social science data bases and quantitative methodology as an integral part of the instructional program. This probably reflects at least two things. First, SSRIC representatives have been successful in disseminating to their campus colleagues information about social science data bases and statistical/data management programs. Secondly, increasing utilization seems related to the new instructional materials noted above and the relative ease with which they can be used by students.

9. Intra-System Data Bases

Several data bases oriented toward instructional applications have been developed exclusively within the CSUC system. Among those developed this year was a major international relations data base by Wayne Martin, SSRIC representative from Dominguez Hills. This data base, like others brought "on-line" by SSRIC representatives, is available for use by everyone in the CSUC system.

10. SSRIC Summer Workshop

One of the major new projects SSRIC wishes to undertake is sponsorship of a two-week summer workshop for faculty. The workshop goal is to increase the number of social science (and related fields) faculty familiar with quantitative data analysis, quantitative social data bases, and computer

applications in the social sciences. The primary purpose of the faculty development workshop, however, is to increase the number of students having some training in these areas. Study after study has indicated that both the private and public sectors increasingly expect graduates in social science to have had such training as part of their undergraduate education. Thus, SSRIC feels this can best be achieved by increasing the number of faculty able to integrate such training into their instructional programs.

Three SSRIC Representatives, Don Dixon (Sonoma), Bruce Haston (Humboldt), and Ed Nelson (Fresno), wrote an Innovative Instruction grant request for a summer workshop to be held in June, 1979, on the Sonoma State campus. SSRIC should know by August 1, 1978, whether the workshop grant has been awarded. If the grant is received, the first priority of SSRIC next Fall will be organizing the faculty development workshop and distributing notices to CSUC faculty. Workshop attendees will be selected by SSRIC from applications submitted by interest faculty.

11. California Election Study

Another project SSRIC hopes to sponsor is a major election study in 1980 of the State of California. This study would parallel the national election studies conducted by the Survey Research Center at the University of Michigan, and would be the first such study of its kind. A. Jay Stevens, SSRIC representative from Long Beach, has begun preliminary investigation as to project feasibility. The study would require outside funding and, in all probability, utilization of the Field Institute as the survey agency.

12. Election of Council Chair

At the Spring, 1978, meeting, Professor John Korey (Pomona) was elected to chair the Council during the 1978-79 academic year. Because of the increasing workload on Council Chairs (see below), it is imperative that we give John as much help as possible.

Some Observations by the Council Chair

Serving as Chair of a statewide organization is, as past chairs know, a very time-consuming responsibility. In spite of many pressing concerns and our busy schedule this past year, a retrospective examination indicates that it was all worthwhile.

One of the "variables" that especially made it worthwhile has been the growth and spirit of SSRIC since its inception. In 1972 one of SSRIC's major concerns was establishing a workable intra-system organization devoted to improving both the quality of instruction and research opportunities for students and faculty in the CSUC system. In six years, it is apparent that an effective, dynamic body has evolved, and that SSRIC's activities have had an impact on the instructional program, primarily because of CSUC's consortia

memberships in ICPSR and CORC and the commitment of SSRIC representatives to upgrade and improve instruction by innovatively integrating quantitative social data analysis into the overall program.

Four other factors also contributed to a productive year in 1977-78. First, I want to express appreciation for all the assistance this past year. Needless to say, several tasks were handled more expeditiously because many of you assisted in time of need.

Secondly, I have never been associated with a group so willing to share materials and assist colleagues--even at other campuses--as SSRIC. I know I have made mention of this before, but people in other systems (including UC) do not believe me when I note the degree of inter-campus sharing and cooperation that occurs. This is something in which both the SSRIC and its 19 representatives can and should take pride. This spirit of cooperation has contributed to SSRIC's impact on the instructional program, for several CSUC faculty are using instructional materials or data bases developed by colleagues on other campuses. Thus, SSRIC has continued to serve this past year as a very important vehicle for intra-campus communication about (1) materials and ideas for improving instructional programs, and (2) new or expanded research possibilities.

Third, the working relationship between the Division of Information Systems (DIS), especially the Instructional Support Group (ISG), and SSRIC appears to have substantially improved this past year. SSRIC made several requests to DIS concerning acquisition of new data bases from ICPSR, which were promptly handled by DIS. In fact, in one case a new data base was put "on-line" for batch and interactive instructional applications within 30 days of initial request. Also, communication between SSRIC and DIS (or, at least, between the Chair and DIS) has been quite good this past year. As Chair, I appreciated the periodic phone calls from DIS staff inquiring about SSRIC concerns. When something arose, I felt my calls to DIS were handled courteously and as promptly as possible. Overall, then, 1977-78 was a year in which it appeared that major efforts were made by DIS, in spite of ISG being understaffed, to improve communications between the central office and SSRIC and to resolve some past SSRIC concerns.

Finally, Charles Wilmot's office continued to lend strong support of SSRIC programs and goals, particularly in relation to CORC membership. His office understood and appreciated our special needs in instructional areas. At the same time, Charles effectively communicated to SSRIC general policies and procedures of the Office of the Chancellor. Finally, a special note of thanks. Charles continually solicited from the Chair ideas and concerns expressed by SSRIC about several matters, most notably our affiliation with the Field Institute. This "consultation" rather than "informing" or "directing" was appreciated.

Although 1977-78 was a productive year, it was not without some concerns. In my twelve month tenure as Chair, I became increasingly concerned about the following.

1. Increasing Workload on Chair

As SSRIC activities and programs have increased, so has the workload on the Chair. It seems imperative that, at minimum, reimbursable assigned time be granted the Chair, preferably at the central office level since SSRIC activities are systemwide in scope. (I wrote Charles Wilmot about this earlier.) In addition, if the workload continues to increase, SSRIC may want to re-examine the organizational structure--possibly creating some type of executive council that could act on behalf of SSRIC or to delegate more responsibilities to committees.

2. Underestimations of Instructional Needs

Past utilization data seem to indicate that needs in quantitative data and computer-aided instruction have been underestimated. Although some new equipment and facilities have been added at the central office and on local campuses, there is serious question as to whether they are adequate to handle rapidly increasing instructional demands. If demands outstrip resources and facilities, there will be, of course, serious degradation of instructional programs. This concern may be resolved if the CSUC system is able to replace its ten-year-old equipment with newer, more efficient computing facilities. If this does not occur soon, then it will be imperative that DIS consult with all user groups about how instructional needs can be fulfilled as best as possible.

3. In-Service Training Workshops

As every SSRIC representative is well aware, the business part of our meetings have been getting longer. Several times the past two years the business portion of the meeting has not been completed in one day. As a result of continuing the business session the following day, the amount of time spent in workshop sessions has been reduced. Since the workshops have been an invaluable in-service training device to disseminate new ideas, methods, and materials, it is essential that one of the two days be devoted exclusively to the workshop (or the Student Research Conference in Spring). This may require a longer business meeting the first day or delegating more SSRIC decision-making to the Chair, an Executive Council, or a series of committees.

4. Travel Funds

Availability of travel funds has been a problem for several SSRIC representatives, and probably will be more of a problem next academic year. If a substantial reduction in travel funds occurs, it will adversely affect SSRIC programs, inter-campus coordination, inter-campus sharing of ideas and materials, and the in-service training workshops. Every effort should be made to obtain campus rather than departmental funding, for the scope of SSRIC concerns and programs encompasses more than a single department.

The SSRIC representative from a local campus must serve in the additional capacity as a systemwide representative. In addition, extraordinary travel responsibilities of the Chair should be provided by the central office, not the local campus.

5. Need for Outside-of-System Funding

Although SSRIC has largely succeeded in programs it has undertaken, new programs or projects, such as a series of two-week faculty development workshops, a California election study to parallel the national study, or internship programs with organizations like the Field Institute, will probably require outside-of-system funding. SSRIC has frequently discussed the need for outside funding, and probably will be more vigorous in seeking such funding in the 1978-79 academic year.

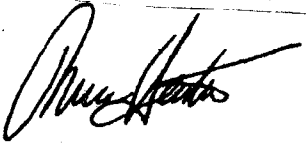
6. Need for Updated Equipment

As noted above, the CSUC batch computing facilities are ten or more years old. Few, if any, major universities or statewide systems--and certainly no large private corporation--have computing facilities and equipment that old. Major technological changes have occurred in ten years, and it is imperative that CSUC students be trained on the type of equipment with which they would be working in the private or public sectors. The employment market is competitive, and the CSUC system should insure that its graduates are not at a competitive disadvantage.

7. Increasing the Number of Social Science Graduates Trained in Quantitative Data Analysis

SSRIC has been an instrumental body in both directly and indirectly increasing the number of social science graduates trained in some areas of quantitative data analysis. Studies have vividly shown that private and public agencies expect individuals to have training in this area as a supplement to their traditional training in the social sciences. Although SSRIC has initiated a grant request to sponsor a faculty development workshop, thus increasing the number of students having training in quantitative data analysis, more needs to be done in this area. However, SSRIC resources are very limited. Consequently, it is essential that resources be obtained centrally or from out-of-system in order to substantially increase the number of students trained in contemporary methods of data analysis and data management. SSRIC should more vigorously note this need in the 1978-79 academic year, for the gap between professional needs of the private/public sectors and CSUC instruction in the social sciences may be widening, not narrowing.

In addition to the above, new concerns will probably arise next year or old ones reappear. Next year also will be a busy and important one for SSRIC, particularly in relation to the many new uncertainties in the CSUC system. As a result, we should plan to give John Korey, the SSRIC Chair for 1978-79, whatever help is necessary.



Bruce Haston
Chair, Social Science Research and Instructional Council

June 30, 1978

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Encls.: •"Programs, Goals, and Objectives of the Social Science
Research and Instructional Program"
•Program of SSRIC's Student Research Conference
•Social Science Research and Instructional Council Membership

SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH AND INSTRUCTIONAL COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

1977-1978 Campus Representatives

Bakersfield	Jim Ross, Sociology
Chico	John Ebeling, Political Science
Dominguez Hills	Wayne Martin, Political Science
Fresno	Edward Nelson, Sociology
Fullerton	Philip Gianos, Political Science
Hayward	Daniel Graves, Political Science
Humboldt	Bruce Haston, Political Science
Long Beach	A. Jay Stevens, Political Science
Los Angeles	Ken Wagner, Political Science
Northridge	Roger Harrell, Political Science
Pomona	John Korey, Political Science
Sacramento	Ron Fox, Political Science
San Bernardino	Brij Khare, Political Science
San Diego	Paul Strand, Political Science
San Francisco	Gene Geisler, Political Science
San Jose	Larry Brewster, Political Science
San Luis Obispo	David George, Political Science
Sonoma	Donald Dixon, Political Science
Stanislaus	Larry Giventer, Political Science

1977-1978 Non-Council Members Serving on SSRIC Field Questionnaire Committee

Professor Mike King, Chico
Professor Ellen Boneparth, San Jose
Professor Jim Fay, Hayward
Professor Richard Hofstetter, San Diego

1977-1978 Council Associates

Professor Betty Nesvold, San Diego
Professor Charles McCall, Bakersfield
Professor Charles Wilmot, Div. of Educ. Programs and Resources
Professor James Hightower, Div. of Information Systems
Ms. Penny Crane, Div. of Information Systems
Mr. Mark Hayes, Div. of Information Systems