

FIFTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH AND
INSTRUCTIONAL COUNCIL: 1986-87

by

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This brief report, recounting some of the more notable accomplishments and milestones of the SSRIC during its fifteenth year, is being written somewhat in haste prior to my departure for merry ol' England, but I know how nostalgic this group gets and would not wish to disappoint it.

I would like to emphasize some of the particular accomplishments of the past year at the outset. Bruce Haston organized a terrific gathering at Humboldt for the Fall meeting and cannot be thanked enough. Gene Turner likewise did a great job setting up the meeting at Northridge in the winter, dazzling many of us with a Macintosh display of computers in geography as well as gracing the lucky ones with copies of the outstanding computer-developed map of California's population in 1980. Finally, Don Dixon organized a very good student research paper conference at Sonoma, at which a number of excellent papers were read and our three awards given out after much soul searching.

A number of developments during the past year warrant mention at the outset: an accurate and complete updating of the chairs' list was made; a compilation was finally achieved of interested faculty on all 19 campuses to whom we can write early in the year, alerting them about the spring conference; and a bi-monthly column in the ACGINFO was initiated in lieu of a separated newsletter, which I have called "Bytes from SSRIC"; the new SSRIC Chair will continue the column.

Ted Anagnoson replaced John Korey on the ACE Institute Board and Rich DeLeon was elected chair for 1987-88. Elliott Barkan also met with Curtis Roseman of USC (Chair, Geography) and Jim Johnson of UCLA (Geography) to establish a liaison between our faculty and those of the UC system and other universities in the Los Angeles Basin for purposes of obtaining grants, doing research - especially for government agencies - and providing an outlet for publication of working papers; it is hoped that this link can be continued during the coming year.

In June Richard Shaffer, SLO, put together a very fine two-week computer instructional conference, aided by John Korey, Larry Giventer, Jon Ebeling, and Gene Turner, and Shaffer has already submitted an application for another supporting grant. At the same time - literally - Ted Anagnoson, LA, held a conference on micros, ably supported by Jeff Johnson. And they survived an exceptionally strong enrollment. Ed Nelson and Robert Palacio were awarded the Field Institute Fellowship for 1987-88 to explore public attitudes toward higher education. (Sharyne Merritt had the fellowship for 1986-87.) Elliott Barkan

was awarded the question credits for 1987 to update his 1982 study of attitudes toward foreigners, refugees, and the amnesty program. The survey was once again expanded by Field and run on July 23.

Finally, Elliott Barkan, Bruce Haston, Ed Nelson, Jim Ross, and Rich DeLeon met in San Francisco in March, in response to an offer by the Academic Computing Enhancement Institute of the Chancellor's Office, and developed a grant proposal, entitled SSIMS - Social Science Instructional Modules - which will entail designing five data sets on current California issues and preparing accompanying student handbooks (along with aids for instructors). The \$26,000 grant was funded and the participants look forward to the close cooperation and support of SSRIC members, who will be sought as reviewers and to test the five modules by the early spring of 1988. It is expected that they will be available for general classroom adoption in the Fall.

With respect to some details reported at the three meetings: DIS, ISG etc. have all had name changes as well as a move to the Seal Beach vicinity. They now all come under the SCS: Systemwide Computer Services. It was also announced that Terry Dunn would replace Chuck Wilmot as liaison between the SSRIC and the Analytic Studies Office of the C.O. Chuck has been a delightful person to work with and he will be missed, but we console ourselves that we have again gotten the high quality work and geniality of Terry.

Among other items: the C.O. purchased a site license for SAS PC; CSUVARS is the new keyword for finding out what is available in the Cyber data bases ("Find, CSUvars"); and the ICPSR Guide to Resources is available by using "Find, ICPDB." The Roper Polls are now also available on the Cyber, as is the General Social Survey for 1972-86 and some 1980 ethnic economic data. Mention was also made about the Wadsworth Publish Company's book: "SPSSX Made Simple" as a good book on the subject. Finally, Ed Nelson was appointed chair of the Field subcommittee, replacing Elliott Barkan, and Bruce Haston replaced Richard Palmer.

As reminders: we can use Mail and DLSSRIC to send messages to all those on the Council; the SRICs Cyber account, 7ETPSSR, will now be regularly purged at the end of each calendar year unless individuals notify Jeff Johnson about particular files; and the schedule of meetings for 1987-88 is October 8-9 at Long Beach; February 11-12 at SLO; and April 28-29 at L.A.

At the spring meeting, several other items were handled. While Mike Chandler had been the student intern with Field during the Fall of 1986, applications for Fall 1987 were not received until April, when two were submitted and Ed Nelson was to investigate to see if one could work during the summer and one in the fall. Three applications were also received for the summer grant of \$2100 available from ICPSR for attending its summer

sessions at Ann Arbor. The allocation was made dependent on whether one of the three received a separate, larger award. On both of these matters Nelson will report in the Fall.

Jeff Johnson also reported that the Cyber data bases are now called SCCDB, with SCCDBG used to explain how to use them. A copy can be gotten by using DOC,SCCDBG or DOC,SCCDB. The Yanklovich, ABC News, and L.A. Times data will also soon be available. Don Dixon also indicated that he would report in the fall on the possibility of the CSU doing research for the California Senate Office of Research.

And last, about a dozen and a half papers were presented at the student conference and the Charles McCall Award for the best graduate paper went to Jeff Hoffman (Chico); the Betty Nesvold Award for the best undergraduate paper to Jean-Paul Martel (L.B.); and the Gloria Rummels Award for the best use of a data base to Tina Hodgins (Sacramento).