Federation Roundtable
ICPSR, OR meeting, Oct. 2001
Chair - John Korey and Bo Wandschneider

There was representation from the following federations:

- Massachusetts
- CUNY
- ACCOLEDS
- Virginia
- Associated Colleges of the South
- OCUL
- Florida
- Cal State
- ACM -- GLCA

The agenda was as follows:

- Outline
- Introductions
- Formal Discussion
    - how does your federation work?
    - Governing Structure?
    - Meetings?
    - Shared Projects?
- Major Changes
    - Direct Access
    - Membership Review
- Open Discussion
- Future Directions

The following points were used to describe the different federations

Massachusetts

- 90-95% of usage is by the hub
- usage is small outside hub, maybe 1 or 2 faculty, and this is the issue (low usage)
- struggling with whether to go direct access - concerned they may loose federation and the cost savings
- no formal governance structure
- .75 FTE devoted to providing hub services

CUNY

- they see themselves as one University - collection of Colleges
- share mainframe, so share data internally by ftp
- governance similar to Mass federation
- limited use by undergrad colleges

ACCOLEDS
- set up as library cooperative in '93 for other reasons
- group has taken responsibility for training
- has opened door for other opportunities
- cooperative governance
- the hub massages data by such things as simply renaming files
- have recommended direct access, but will leave hub open

ACM -- GLCA
- set up in 1974
- offered training in the beginning
- bounce between 9 and 13 schools
- some have moved to ICPSR direct
- concerned with feedback on usage to determine funding
- without federation subsidy, most would drop out

Southern
- minimal organization
- important to note they would not be a member without savings provided by federation

Virginia
- no governing structure
- no shared access
- in a sense they run their own icpsr direct
- most contract through departments, except Virginia which is library
- Old Dominion and UVA are by far the heaviest users
- expressed anxiety over membership review

OCUL
- originally a national membership 73/74
- with current federation they have way more participation
- OR's have direct access to hub
- governance does exist, but no meetings
- listserv
- no shared projects
- 1/2 have gone to direct access

Florida
- very concerned about changes in fee structure
- usage is very uneven —
- UF and FSU account for most usage
- feel that federation is good for maintaining membership — smaller colleges would likely drop out otherwise

Cal State

- oldest federation — founded in 1972 — membership had only been possible for a few of the largest campuses
- governed by Social Science Research and Instructional Council (SSRIC) — one representative from each campus
- SSRIC meets 3X/year — has led to numerous programs for training and development of instructional materials, including Teaching Resources Depository (http://www.csubak.edu/ssric/)

Overall observations/concerns

- federations tend to have very little administration, but it varies
- use federation to get access at an 'affordable' price. This is especially true for low use sites and numbers would go down without federation
- some offer a great deal of value added through the hub in the form of centralized support
- federations used to leverage other cooperative ventures beyond ICPSR
- ICPSR membership is necessary for PhD granting institutions, but optional for undergraduate institutions. It was generally felt this was not reflected in current due structure.
- concern over whether hubs will get reports from direct access. Some use it for funding
- question raised as to whether ICPSR should be doing some of the value added that hubs or individual sites do
- bottom line for most is to increase access to the data - how do we best do that? federated model may be more important under direct access (I can't recall who said this or what they meant)