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ANNUAL REPORT 1976/77 FOR THE  
SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH AND INSTRUCTIONAL COUNCIL

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The Social Science Research and Instructional Council is a statewide organization of the California State and University system. The objectives of the Council are to encourage the use of quantitative methods in the teaching of social sciences to undergraduate and graduate students, to support the collection and distribution of social science data, and to help implement quantitative skill development and the use of computer assisted data analysis among faculty and students in the CSUC system. The membership of the Council includes one voting member from each of the 19 campuses, a non-voting member from the Chancellor's office, and a few affiliated but non-voting ex-officio members.

Each year the outgoing chairperson of the Council writes a summary of the activities of the Council during the past academic year. This year's report describes a period of transition and continuing development for the Council and outlines briefly some of the important issues to be faced in the coming academic year 1977/78.

The main SSRIC activities during the 1976/77 academic year were the following:

- The Council was renamed from the CSUC Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (CSUC-ICPSR) to the CSUC Social Science Research and Instructional Council (CSUC-SSRIC).
- The Council helped to negotiate a CSUC contract with the Field Institute for CSUC membership in the California Opinion Research Consortium and established procedures for implementing the membership.
- The Council continued to participate directly in the coordination and development of data based instruction in the social and behavioral sciences in the CSUC system. The Council acted as a liaison between social science faculty and the CSUC Division of Information Systems (DIS) and provided a means for CSUC faculty to exchange information, data files, and teaching aids for curriculum development and innovation in data-based social science instruction.

Council Name Change

In the May 1977 meeting, the Council voted to amend Council bylaws and retitile the name of the organization from the CSUC Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (CSUC-ICPSR) to the CSUC Social Science Research and Instructional Council (CSUC-SSRIC). The main reason for the change was the understanding that while ICPSR membership has been and continues to be a mainstay of CSUC social and behavioral science data-based instruction, the scope of the Council's activities has grown to include new interests as well as capabilities. Examples of the Council's many interests in addition to ICPSR coordination include the following:

1. CSUC membership in the Field Institute and Council coordination of the many new data sets to be made available through this membership.
2. Council development and coordination of CSUC data-based workshops and learning sessions.
3. Council sponsorship of the now annual CSUC Student Research Conference.
4. Council coordination of many CSUC faculty developed data bases and ancillary teaching aids.
5. Council assistance in the development and implementation of CSUC faculty grant applications and research.

CSUC Membership in the California Opinion Research Consortium

As of June 1, 1977 the CSUC system became a member of the California Opinion Research Consortium (CORC) -- a component of the Field Institute which is a non-profit organization devoted to the study of public opinion and behavior in California. CORC members are California institutions of higher learning, and CORC provides for member institutions several special benefits. These include: 1) rapid access to machine readable current as well as archive data from the California Poll, 2) advance information on California Poll questionnaires prior to the start of the studies, 3) inclusion of CSUC faculty developed questions in California Poll questionnaires, and 4) CSUC faculty and student participation in CORC meetings, workshops, and internship programs.

The SSRIC participated in the negotiations that took place between

representatives of the Field Institute and the CSUC Chancellor's Office by attending meetings with these representatives, identifying the needs and interests of CSUC social and behavioral science faculty and students that would use California Poll data, and by organizing procedures for coordinating CSUC membership in CORC.

The SSRIC will provide direction and coordination for CSUC membership in CORC through the usual Council practices of seeking local campus advice, communicating these interests at Council meetings, and then agreeing on appropriate Council action. In addition to these regular procedures, the Council has created--through a bylaw amendment--the Questionnaire Committee to help coordinate CSUC participation in the program. The Committee will carry a major portion of the coordinating burden for the CSUC system. The bylaw amendment which created the Questionnaire Committee was the following.

There shall be a Questionnaire Committee for the California Poll which will function in the following way:

- 1). The Committee will consist of 8 members and two alternates--one from the Northern California area and the other from the Southern California area. Terms of office will be two years. One half of the first selected committee members will have a one-year term.
- 2). Any CSUC faculty member is eligible for this committee. Committee membership will be selected by the SSRIC Council.
- 3). The Committee will have a Chairperson selected by the Council.
- 4). The Committee will represent the CSUC system and the Council at meetings of the California Poll Questionnaire Committee. Directives on CSUC question submittals and other interests will be provided by the Council.
- 5). The Committee will coordinate Field Data set development with the SSRIC Council and the Division of Information Systems.

Procedures also have been established to guide the Council and the Committee in their choice of CSUC questions to be submitted to CORC as California Poll questionnaire proposals. These guidelines--which are not formally included in the Council's bylaws--are the following:

1. Questions are to be submitted to the Questionnaire Committee. Submittals may include either a specific question or a set of questions.

2. Each question or question set must be accompanied by a research proposal explaining why the question or question set is desirable, how it fits into a particular teaching and/or research objective, and how it relates to other available materials.
3. Submitted questions will be sent out for review. The Council in coordination with the Questionnaire Committee will discuss the questions and reviews, and select for the entire CSUC system the 12 or less questions to be included in the Field Poll.

Members of the CSUC Questionnaire Committee as selected in the Spring 1977 meeting are the following:

Jay Stevens (Chairperson)	Jim Ross
Paul Strand	Jim Fay (Alternate-Northern area)
Mike King (Chico)	Don Dixon
Ken Wagner	Dick Hofstetter
Ellen Bonaparth	Wayne Martin (Alternate-Southern area)

It is expected that CSUC membership in CORC will provide our faculty and students with an opportunity to not only have rapid access to data on California public opinion and behavior but also to gain direct and practical experience in survey research through California Poll question submittals and data analysis, CORC workshops, and eventually CORC/CSUC internship programs. Data are already available at the DIS from the Spring California Poll, and we can expect their use in instructional programs early next academic year.

#### Second Annual Student Research Conference

On May 6 the SSRIC sponsored the second Annual CSUC Student Research Conference--Perspectives on Social and Political Research. The intent of the annual research conference is to provide for all of the 19 CSUC campuses the opportunity to have some of their best student research papers--that were written in regular academic programs--recognized and formally presented to others interested in social science research. The research conference is modeled after professional meetings with students, faculty members, and invited guests as the audience. Graduate and undergraduate students present their papers at topical panels where a faculty member acts as a panel chairperson.

This year's one-day conference was held at Sonoma State College. The

program showed a 100% increase in student participation over last year's conference. Thirty-two papers were prepared for six different panels by students representing 15 of our campuses. About 80% of the papers were prepared by undergraduate students and the general conclusion of all in attendance was that the presentations and the research they described were of especially high quality.

In association with the conference there were two special addresses. On the night before the conference State Senator John Dunlap addressed a faculty-student dinner meeting on the topic of higher education in California. On the day of the conference, Dr. Mervin Field of the Field Research Corporation addressed a luncheon meeting and discussed his research on U.S. electoral college reform as well as some recent findings from the California Poll.

The CSUC research conference is truly a rare event in academic institutions especially since the bulk of the participants are undergraduate students. The conference is organized completely and without supplemental funds by Council members and the local campus where the conference is held. This year the administration, faculty, and student body at Sonoma College did a fine job of providing space, programs, and other assistance for the conference. The SSRIC believes that the conference is an excellent example of the educational opportunities that thoughtful and coordinated efforts in our system can provide for our students.

The success of the annual conference has encouraged Council members to begin preliminary organizational plans for next year's student research conference which will be held in the Spring at California State University, Long Beach.

#### Social Science Data Based Instruction

Most of the work of the Council is directed toward improving data based instruction in the CSUC system. Council members have been actively engaged in 1) distributing information about available data bases and statistical programs to CSUC faculty and students, 2) developing and conducting workshops, 3) submitting grant proposals and directing grant supported research and instructional programs, and 4) participating in local campus and statewide

committees concerned with data-based instruction. Through Council efforts many data sets, statistical programs, and innovative teaching techniques developed by faculty members from CSUC and other academic institutions have been distributed to interested individuals in our system. This sharing of information through organized communication has resulted in a literal "explosion" over the past several years of social science data-based instruction on our campuses. Some specific examples of these activities are the following:

1. Each Council member has codebooks of available CSUC data-bases as well as easy to use and well documented DIS developed manuals of procedures for accessing the data on tape or disk files. Council members at frequent intervals send memos to interested faculty on their campuses announcing new additions of data, statistical programs, workshops, the summer ICPSR program, and other information on data-based instructional materials and events. Codebooks for the data-bases are kept in central locations on all campuses and each Council member is available for consulting assistance.
2. Periodically Council members in coordination with DIS staff hold workshops on various campuses. These may be demonstrations of how to use SPSS, the Cyber system, SET-UPS, or other software, hardware, or instructional materials.
3. The Council attempts to identify--as early as possible--CSUC faculty developed data sets and data-based instructional materials from individual research and teaching efforts. When available, the Council distributes information about these materials to other interested CSUC faculty and provides as much assistance as possible to interested users. Similar efforts are made with non-CSUC developed materials when they are made available. Information on several such data sets was distributed by the Council this year.
4. The Council gives its support to grant research when the proposed research has clear and general instructional value for the CSUC system. This year the Council passed resolutions to provide assistance to two proposals--a National Science Foundation and a CSUC Innovative Funds grant proposal. Both proposals were from Council members and CSUC associates and they both--if funded--would improve data-based instruction in the CSUC system.
5. The Council also acts as an information channel between the DIS, the Chancellor's Office, and CSUC social science computer users. DIS and the Chancellor's Office support this relationship and they regularly have one of their representatives at our three annual meetings. Telephone and written communication also takes place between Council members--as campus representatives--and the Chancellor's Office and DIS.

6. For the past two years information has been provided in the annual report on the number of CSUC courses using ICPSR data as well as the frequency of ICPSR-DIS disk and tape file accesses. This year because there has been such a major increase in CSUC social science data-based instruction using ICPSR and other data bases in a very large number of courses, the Council decided not to include usage information in this report, but to begin a major review of CSUC social science data based instruction in the CSUC system. Steps already have been taken to account for all of the data bases in the CSUC system which are fully or in part coordinated by the SSRIC. Information is being collected now on local as well as central usage of ICPSR, California Poll, and faculty developed data files and their usage in classroom instruction. The main reason for this review is not for data to include in the annual report, but to provide information to help better organize some of the administrative functions of the Council. Information collected from our review and pertinent to the annual report will be presented in the future.

What can be stated now is that there has been a major increase in data based instruction on almost every one of the 19 campuses this past year. According to Council member reports, more students are now being provided skill development instruction in computer use and social science quantitative data analysis than ever before. The number of data files stored on tape or disk on local campuses and at the DIS data center have increased significantly this year. Furthermore, efforts are being made to develop faculty designed data bases from available data files for specialized instruction, and more of our faculty are creating their own data bases from individual research and teaching interests. The result of the increase in data analysis has been reflected in student participation in this year's Student Research Conference and in the fact that the DIS has become especially concerned with the amount of central computer time now used by social scientists accessing central data bases and SPSS.

#### Chairperson's View of the Next Academic Year

While the description of the Council's accomplishments are important for recording our past work, it is the plans of the SSRIC that are perhaps most significant. These are a few of the issues which will concern the SSRIC in the 1977/78 academic year.

1. The working relationship between CSUC social science computer users and DIS has been very good. DIS personnel have ordered ICPSR data when requested by Council members, maintained SSIRC data files, provided excellent documentation for the data files maintained by DIS, consulted freely with Council and other faculty members, and helped in various workshops and computer user demonstrations. Furthermore DIS representatives regularly attend SSRIC meetings where they take note of the needs, interests, and requests of CSUC social science computer users as well as provide the Council with information about DIS procedures and interests.

In order to maintain this good working relationship the Council should continue as the main liaison between CSUC social science computer users and DIS. When necessary the Council should act to insure that the DIS understands the needs of social science instruction. Large data bases, for example, must continue to be maintained centrally, and user access to these data bases must be rapid. Reasonable turn-around time (minutes to an hour) is needed for good social science instruction, and large data bases that are considered by social scientists to be essential to their instructional needs must be maintained and available to students at all times. The Council must make sure that DIS and others understand these needs.

2. The Council should spend some time discussing utilization needs for each of the various CSUC computer systems. This is an especially important question for undergraduate and graduate education in the social sciences. The trend in business and government is toward an increasing dependence on timesharing systems, and the Council should consider our current and future computer needs regarding batch and timesharing computing. After Council consideration, the DIS should be informed of our projected computing needs.
3. A related need that was discussed in Council meetings this past year was that a procedure should be developed for monitoring the creation, use, and deletion of social science data files both locally and centrally. The control of such information can increase the efficient use of CSUC resources by reducing duplication. By having information well distributed on available data files, more users can make effective use of our limited resources. Faculty members at Sonoma have begun some preliminary work on the problem which eventually will require significant assistance and support from the DIS.
4. Another issue for 1977/78 should be the role of the Council in continuing to provide a systemwide environment conducive to improving faculty and student data analysis and computer use skills. The council should encourage support for the ICPSR Summer Program, Field Institute workshops and internships, as well as CSUC in-house workshops and training programs.



Faculty members should be encouraged to attend the ICPSR Summer Program. As an extra inducement for faculty participation the Council may want to consider increasing the dollar amount of the stipend given to program participants by reducing the number of funded slots. Mervin Field has agreed that the idea of an internship program for CSUC students in either the Field Corporation or some Field Institute affiliate is a good one. The Council should work to develop this idea into an operative program. The Council should also work on more CSUC-sponsored workshops. A CYBER-large data base session might be a worthwhile workshop. So, too, would be one on available CSUC data management systems. Finally, the Council should be able to have during the 1977/78 period more time set aside during our three meetings for discussion and demonstration of data based instructional experiences and teaching aids.

5. Finally, the Council should consider procedures for fully integrating Field Institute membership into the CSUC social science curriculum. This means that special efforts must be made to explain the membership to our colleagues, questions for Field Questionnaires must be solicited, and internship possibilities explored. Some preliminary investigation on the development of Field type "SET-UPS" will be needed--even on an ad hoc basis and without extra funding. We might also consider having a special session at next year's Research Conference on California Politics. These and other issues relating to the Field Institute should be discussed as early as possible.

With these and other issues that will face us next year the Council will again have a busy and important schedule. We should all plan now to give our chairperson--Bruce Haston--all of the support he will need.

Encls: 1977 Revised SSRIC By-Laws  
1977/78 SSRIC Mailing List