

BOOK REVIEWS

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BORUCH, ROBERT F.; WORTMAN, PAUL M.; CORDRAY, DAVID S.; AND ASSOCIATES
REANALYZING PROGRAM EVALUATIONS: POLICIES AND PRACTICES FOR
SECONDARY ANALYSIS OF SOCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS. (SAN
FRANCISCO: JOSSEY-BASS PUBLISHERS, 1981), 403PP, ISBN 0-87589-495-X.

Aimed primarily at researchers who must capitalize on existing data by applying their findings in the interest of advancing science and policy, this volume provides much material for social science information specialists seeking to gain greater understanding of the publics they serve. The book is divided into four parts plus an introduction. Part One represents policies of the federal government and selected key agencies (National Archives; National Institute of Justice; Government Accounting Office) and methods for locating public and private data resources; Part Two is comprised of a discussion of the need for better documentation of data files and technical guidelines for preparing and documenting them; Part Three contains essays suggesting methods to improve reanalyses of evaluations; and Part Four includes case studies.

Perhaps the most useful chapters for data specialists are those on documentation. Joan Linsenmeier, Paul M. Wortman and Michael Hendricks outline their problems with the Riverside School Study of desegregation data set. Their perceptions support the need for generally accepted standards for data documentation.

Alice Robbin proposes a set of guidelines for the documentation of machine-readable files which reflect the concerns of a variety of users. These extensive guidelines (59 pages) are divided into four sections: 1) "Technical Standards for Documentation,"--which addresses five major components (general study overview, history of the project, summary of the data file's processing history, codebook, appendices); 2) "Technical Standards for Quality Data"--which recommends good practice for organizing a data file, identifying record types and data items, describing missing data, employing standardized coding schemes, maintaining data at their lowest level of aggregation, and recording standards for the transfer of data files from one computer to another; 3) "Providing Access to Information About Machine-Readable Data Files,"--which suggests standard rules for identifying files for inclusion in library, scientific, and technical information systems; and 4) "Roles of the Researcher, Sponsor, and Government Agencies."

Robbins' "Guidelines" are organized into clear sections and subsections and are correlated with figures to illustrate how each should be developed. A subject index provides cross-referenced access. These "Guidelines," if applied by developers of machine-readable data files, should begin to move files from the fringes of respectability close to the mainstream of information resources.

This is an extremely important book for the data professional. It provides theoretical, intellectual, and technical background for data provision. The thirty-one contributors include data archivists, social scientists (university, government, and independently affiliated), and research program directors. Highly recommended. Includes name and subject index.

LOIS LENROOT-ERNT, EIDTOR, AND BRIGITTE T. DARNAY, ASSOCIATE EDITOR,
DIRECTORY OF SPECIAL LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION CENTERS: A GUIDE TO
SPECIAL LIBRARIES, RESEARCH LIBRARIES, INFORMATION CENTERS, ARCHIVES
AND DATE CENTERS MAINTAINED BY GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, BUSINESS,
INDUSTRY, NEWSPAPERS, EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, NONPROFIT ORGANIZA-
TIONS AND SOCIETIES IN THE FIELDS OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, MEDICINE,
LAW, ART, RELIGION, HISTORY, SOCIAL SCIENCES, AND HUMANISTIC
STUDIES. DETROIT: GALE RESEARCH COMPANY, 1982. ISBN 0-8103-0261-6.
1,578pp, \$225.00.

This seventh edition of a major reference work contains 16,000 Canadian and American entries in a single alphabet. It is a comprehensive guide and the libraries included may be grouped into five categories.

- 1) subject divisions, departmental collections and professional libraries in colleges and universities;
- 2) branches, division, departments and special collections in large public library systems which concentrate exclusively upon one particular subject or group of subjects.
- 3) company libraries operating within a profit-making framework producing goods, services or information;
- 4) governmental libraries including those serving city departments, bureaus and boards; state legislative reference, department, and divisional libraries; and federal libraries within federal departments, agencies, and military, and divisions of national libraries; and
- 5) libraries supported by non-profit institutions, associations or organizations including scientific, technical and learned societies, civic, social and religious organizations, historical societies, bar associations, museums and hospitals, business and trade organizations; and major private collections available for research use.

A typical entry includes (where applicable): name of the organization; name of the library or information center; principal subject key word; mailing address; telephone number; head of library or information center; founding date; number of staff; subjects; special collections; holdings; subscriptions; services; automated library operations (access to online information systems as well as computer applications to other library processes such as cataloging, acquisitions, serials, and circulation); networks/consortia (membership in formal or informal groups involved in cooperative sharing on the local, regional or national level); publications; special catalogs; special indexes; remarks (not adaptable to the standard entry); former names; alternative names; merged libraries; names and titles of supervisory personnel. The Roper Center entry is produced below as an example.

4153*

UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT - ROPER CENTER (Soc Sci)

Box U-164R

Phone: (203) 486-4440

Storrs, CT 06268

Everett C. Ladd, Exec. Dir.

Founded: 1946. Staff: Prof 21; Other 4. Subjects: Survey data contributed by the world's major survey organizations. Special Collections: Gallup opinion surveys, 1936 to present; Yankelovich, Skelly and White surveys for Time magazine; CBS News/New York Times Series; USIA Surveys; International Research Associates surveys; Gallup Affiliates surveys. Holdings: Over 9000 surveys. Services: Data set production; data analysis; search and retrieval; duplication of questionnaires and codebooks. Publications: Annual newsletter of recent data acquisitions; study listings organized by country; under contract, produces the "opinion Roundup" section for the magazine Public Opinion; Data Set News, announcements of data sets of special interest to the research community. Remarks: Since 1977, the Roper Center operates through a formal partnership of the University of Connecticut, Yale University, and Williams College. The University of Connecticut branch of the Roper Center--which has primary operating responsibilities--is housed administratively within the Institute for Social Inquiry.

List of general abbreviations, geographic abbreviations, and network acronyms, are provided for easy look-ups.

Appendixes include lists of libraries for the blind and physically handicapped; depository libraries; federal information centers; federal job information centers; and United Nations depository libraries. A detailed subject index with good cross-referencing provides access by topic.

The scope of this Directory is enormous but in spite of many entries of only peripheral interest to the social science data community, there is much pertinent and up-to-date information that indicates that this volume should be examined and considered for purchase.

While no subject access is provided under "data archive" or data library, headings under "survey research," "public opinion," and "social science" do include major data libraries. Access under specific subjects such as "population," "political science," and "census" also lead to data holdings. There are omissions of some major data libraries (notably ICPSR, which is referred to only under the University of Michigan-Institute for Social Research, without reference to holdings) and federal files such as the Criminal Justice data held by ICPSR or the BLS Data Bank Files are not identifiable through this Directory. If the IASSIST membership is interested in better coverage of data libraries, comments should be forwarded to Gale Research Company, Book Tower, Detroit, Michigan 48226.

In addition to this major reference tool which is volume 1 of a set, Gale produces two additional allied volumes: volume 2, Geographic and Personnel Indexes, lists all entries according to state or province and an alphabetical list of all personnel (24pp. ISBN 0-8103-026204 for \$200); and New Special Libraries (follows the same format as the Directory but provides up-to-date information between major editions and includes cumulative indexing. ISBN 8102-0281-0 for \$210) is volume three.