

At the IASSIST-IPSA panel, Martinotti presented an analytic framework for the historical and present uses of process-produced information by governmental, administrative and research institutions and the implications of these data for the European data archives and of the growing demand for policy-oriented data. Some of the implications he identified included the linking of different data bases, quality of the data, and the political and institutional nature of the consequences of publicly supported social science research.

At the IASSIST-IPSA panel, Erwin K. Scheuch provided the session's attendees with an historical overview of the development of information systems for storage and management of large data bases. He described the problems encountered with these information systems, some of the large data bases which have been organized and the problems utilizing them, the relationship between the data collectors who have been primarily the public agencies and other communities such as researchers, and the relationship between the data archive and public agency. [Editor's Note: His paper will be forthcoming.]

Further input from Action Group members will help the group coordinators decide which projects are of most immediate interest, but tentative plans call for a continuation of the study of confidentiality laws; a preliminary pilot survey of available files in order to define the magnitude of this potential resource; a documentation and coding manual specifically for aggregate data; and, a survey of completed research using process-produced data.

Paul Müller has suggested the following priorities: (1) an overview (survey) of process-produced data for each country of interest; (2) decisions and guidelines on which information should be put into machine-readable form; and, (3) recommendations to public administrators for preservation of materials for social scientists.

It is likely that given the enormity of the tasks outlined by Müller and Leavitt and other issues identified in the Müller memo, these issues might well be handled by other Action Groups, but these matters are still fluid.

This Action Group will be interacting with QUANTUM, the US Association for Public Data Use, and other organizations to address subjects of mutual interest.

DATA ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT

- Canada- Greg Morrison, Social Science Data Archive, Department of Sociology, Carleton University, Ottawa, Ontario K1S 5E6
- Europe- Eric Tannenbaum, Social Science Research Council Survey Archive, University of Essex, Wivenhoe Park, P.O. Box 23, Colchester, Essex, England CO4 3SO
- United States- William Gammell, Social Science Data Center, University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut 06268

Mandate

This group addresses the problems of data base organization and management for effective and efficient analysis purposes. The Action Group will investigate and evaluate existing procedures for data and documentation preparation and data management software and hardware capabilities. After evaluation the group will recommend guidelines for preparation procedures and software development. Workshops and seminars will be sponsored for the transfer of information and professional training in the organization, management, and use of machine-readable data bases.

Activities and Plans

The Steering Committee established this Action Group in recognition of the felt need of many potential IASSIST members for a forum to discuss matters relating to software for data management because this topic has received far less attention than data analysis and because other organizations have been established to address research needs.

Eric Tannenbaum prepared a paper for the Edinburgh meetings on "Data Preparation Procedures in European Archives," which addresses such topics as data file quality, cleaning classifications, data verification procedures, software and hardware availability, and organizational characteristics of the archive staff. This paper is based on the results of a questionnaire sent to the seven major European archives (Norwegian Social Science Data Services, Danish Data Archives, SSRC Survey Archive, Zentralarchiv für Empirische Sozialforschung, Steinmetzarchives, Archivio dati e programmi per le scienze sociali, and the Belgian Archives for the Social Sciences. This Action Group will send a similar questionnaire to other archives and the resultant report on existing facilities and procedures will be of value to both existing and developing archives and libraries.

At the IASSIST session at IPSA, Bjørn Henrichsen, Norwegian Social Sciences Data Service, and Terje Sande, Institute of Sociology, University of Bergen, presented a paper on software capabilities for mapping process-produced data. Entitled, "Computerized Statistical Mapping," the paper describes the adoption of an automated mapping system, using POLYVRT, to deal with data structures, and SYMAP and CALFORM, for describing and shading of maps. Discussion after the presentation concerned the interaction between Norwegian official (governmental agencies) and the Data Services and the degree of success that the Data Services has had in convincing the agencies to utilize map producing systems.

AGENDA FOR IASSIST-IPSA PANEL

The following papers were presented at the IASSIST-IPSA Panel, 20 August 1976. The panel was chaired by Ivor Crewe of the Social Science Research Council Survey Research Archive, University of Essex. Carolyn Geda, IASSIST chairperson served as discussant. Copies of these papers can be obtained by writing to the authors.