ICPSR

ICPSR advances and expands social and behavioral research, acting as a global leader in data stewardship and providing rich data resources and responsive educational opportunities for present and future generations.

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About ICPSR

An international consortium of more than 760 academic institutions and research organizations, ICPSR provides leadership and training in data access, curation, and methods of analysis for the social science research community.

ICPSR maintains a data archive of more than 250,000 files of research in the social sciences. It hosts over 20 specialized collections of data in education, aging, criminal justice, substance abuse, terrorism, and other fields.

ICPSR's Summer Program in Quantitative Methods of Social Research offers over 200 intensive courses in research design, statistics, data analysis, and social methodology. Participants generally represent about 25 different departments and disciplines from over 350 colleges, universities, and organizations around the world.

Strategic Plan

ICPSR recognizes the importance of setting clear directions and continually working toward an even more successful future. The strategic plan consists of four strategic directions:

1. *Enhancing our Global Leadership*
   ICPSR will enhance its role as a global leader in data stewardship, engaging the global community as a partner, convener, advocate, and supporter.

2. *Developing New and Responsive Products and Services*
   ICPSR will create innovative data services through ongoing research and development driven by systematic approaches to increasing engagement and eliciting feedback. These data services will lead to new revenue models and funding sources. ICPSR will also expand the types of data it provides to reflect new research methodologies.

News

3. *Advancing Knowledge, Skills, and Tools for the Research Community*
   ICPSR will expand its role in building knowledge, awareness, and understanding of the research process — including all phases of data management and analysis — to facilitate effective, responsible, and productive research activities.

4. *Expanding Organizational Capacity for Leadership and Innovation*
   ICPSR will invest in its staff and internal organizational structures and systems to establish a solid foundation for new undertakings and successes.

Recent Major Activities

1. *openICPSR*
   Released in 2014, openICPSR is a research data-sharing service that allows depositors to rapidly self-publish research data, enabling the public to access the data without charge – or in the case of restricted-use data, for nominal charge.

2. *Biomedical Data*
   ICPSR is playing a key role in the bioCADDIE project, which is creating a prototype data discovery index for all data funded by the U.S. National Institutes of Health. In addition to ICPSR staff participating in and leading bioCADDIE working groups, the bioCADDIE prototype is indexing data from the ICPSR catalog.

3. *Metadata Portal Project*
   An initiative to improve the metadata of the General Social Survey and the American National Election Studies, this project brings metadata for the existing studies up to the Data Documentation Standard (DDI) using XML, creates a Web portal to demonstrate prototype tools (e.g., question banks, harmonization and comparison tools), and develops new metadata-driven workflows to capture metadata early in the data production process so it can be reused across the research lifecycle.

4. *Community Engagement*
   ICPSR has hosted several meetings to build community engagement in: data citation, sustaining domain repositories, data access and research transparency in political science, and documenting data transformations. Additionally, ICPSR is the lead partner in the Data Preservation Alliance for the Social Sciences (Data-PASS) and is a lead organizer of the Research Data Alliance Domain Repositories Interest Group.

Formal Assessments

In addition to WDS certification, ICPSR has completed the following assessments:

1. *Data Seal of Approval* – ICPSR was one of the first six data repositories to earn the Data Seal of Approval in 2011.

2. *Trustworthy Repositories Audit and Certification (TRAC)* – ICPSR participated in a 2006 test audit, and more recently has undertaken a self-assessment against TRAC and the Trusted Digital Repository Checklist (TDR) or ISO 16363.