

Building Partnerships Between Social Science Data Archives and Institutional Repositories

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Overview

This is a lightening talk proposal to describe ICPSR's Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) supported project to take the first steps toward fostering partnerships between social science domain archives and Institutional Repositories. The Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) at the University of Michigan distributes social science data to more than 700 member universities, colleges, and research organizations. As our members develop their own repositories and digital archiving capacities, we are eager to develop new services to help Institutional Repositories discover, evaluate, curate, preserve, and disseminate social science data.

Goals

This project has three primary goals:

1. Form partnerships with Institutional Repositories to curate and archive a small number of social science datasets as pilot studies. We will follow the framework outlined by Myron Gutmann and Ann Green in their *OCLC Systems & Services* (Volume 23, Number 1, 2007, pp. 35-53) article "Building Partnerships Among Social Science Researchers, Institution-based Repositories, and Domain Specific Data Archives": Discovery & Planning, Initial Data Collection, Final Data Preparation & Analysis, Publication & Sharing, and Long-term Management.
2. Use these experiences to develop best practices for archiving such materials, which we will publish in a guide designed for use by Institutional Repositories. There is a need for guidelines and tools to inform Institutional Repositories about best practices in archiving social science data and specialized services for unusual or complex curatorial tasks. The case studies to be processed at ICPSR will be used to develop guidelines and decision rules for Institutional Repositories at each stage of the OAIS model (Consultative Committee for Space Data Systems, 2002). ICPSR's *Guide to Social Science Data Preparation and Archiving* is an example of providing guidance to data creators.
3. Identify and design services that ICPSR and other domain repositories can offer to Institutional Repositories to assist them with specialized tasks in the archiving and dissemination of social science data. Institutional repositories have different capabilities and needs. We will provide a menu of services that IRs can use to archive social science data. These services may include: data recovery from obsolete file formats and media, disclosure analysis, codebook validation, metadata construction and editing, management of dissemination of confidential data, and/or links in the shared catalogs to data in IRs.

Projected Outcomes

The rapid spread of institutional digital repositories offers hope that many valuable social science data collections will be saved. Institutional Repositories can draw upon institutional loyalties and personal contacts to encourage faculty to reveal and deposit their research materials. As more and more faculty members learn that depositing in an institutional repository preserves and enhances their scholarship, large quantities of these materials will be revealed. We look forward to partnering with Institutional Repositories in the development of a network of distributed digital archives.