
DATA CRUNCH

Issue 1

September 1999

Welcome to the first issue of *DataCrunch*, the newsletter of Data Library Services at the University of Regina (<http://uregina.ca/datalibrary/>). We hope this newsletter will prove valuable to all members of the University of Regina community. A warm welcome is extended to new faculty and students.

About Data Library Services

The aim of Data Library Services is to support the research and teaching activities of University of Regina faculty, students and staff. This is done by acquiring, storing and disseminating data in machine-readable form.

We are located on the third floor of the Dr. John Archer Library with the Government Publications Section (LY 311).

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 About Data Library Services
- 1 Why Use the Data Library?
- 1 Data Liberation Initiative (DLI)
- 2 CANSIM / ICPSR
- 2 Collections
- 3 Recently Released / Coming Soon
- 3 U of R and U of S Team Up in Providing Data
- 3 Beyond 20/20
- 4 E-STAT / Contact Information

Why Use the Data Library?

- ❑ For statistical analysis – to test a hypothesis using existing data files
- ❑ To replicate another researcher's statistical analysis
- ❑ When the data you need is not available in printed form

Data Liberation Initiative (DLI)

The Data Liberation Initiative or DLI was developed as a co-operative effort between the Social Science Federation of Canada, the Canadian Association of Research Libraries, and the Canadian Association of Public Data Users, Statistics Canada and other government departments. Now in the fourth year of a five-year pilot-project, this initiative provides participating Canadian universities access to Statistics Canada data files and databases. These files are numeric data files *with no print equivalent*; they may complement some analytic print products.

Marilyn Andrews, Official Contact for the DLI, will acquire at no fee the data for the client. Most often the data arrives as "raw" data with electronic codebooks and sample programs; these programs can read data into SPSS. In addition, many files are also available as IVATION tables in the Beyond 20/20 format. Data may be disseminated on CD-ROM or through FTP; the most suitable format will be selected. Data will be transferred to the user as quickly as possible.

CANSIM

CANSIM (Canadian Socio-economic Information and Management) computerized database belongs to Statistics Canada. It contains 720,000 **time series** making it the most detailed and exhaustive statistical source for Canadian economic data. In addition to Statistics Canada data it also includes some data collected by the Bank of Canada and Canada Mortgage and Housing.

The Time Series Data Base contains a wide variety of data relating to such topics as the System of National Accounts, Labour, Manufacturing, Construction, Trade, Agriculture and Finance. As well, selected demographic and social data, such as population estimates and vital statistics, are available.

Access to *CANSIM* is provided over the web via CHASS (Computing for the Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Toronto). The annual fee paid for this service allows U of R users to make use of a sophisticated search and retrieval software to facilitate access to the data.

When to use *CANSIM*

Consider using *CANSIM* if you require a series of Canadian economic or social statistics organized by year, quarter or month and would like a copy of these data in digital format.

CANSIM is especially useful if you plan to use a data series as input to a statistical analysis or a graphics package.

For assistance using *CANSIM*, contact reference staff in the Data Library.

ICPSR Summer Program

Stacey Kadyschuk, a student in the Faculty of Administration was awarded a bursary from the ICPSR. This bursary enabled Stacey to attend the ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods of Social Research held in Ann Arbor, Michigan, in July.

ICPSR

July 1st marked the beginning of the University of Regina's seventh year as a member of the **Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR)**. The ICPSR is a membership-based, not-for-profit organization located at the University of Michigan. The University of Regina's affiliation with the ICPSR is the result of a COPPUL (Council of Prairie and Pacific University Libraries) initiative; fourteen universities throughout western Canada and the Atlantic provinces form this federation. ICPSR membership entitles all U of R researchers and students involved in quantitative analysis to a variety of privileges for teaching and non-commercial research:

- ❑ Use of the single largest archive of social science data files at no charge to clients
- ❑ Access to ICPSR databases including ICPSR VARIABLES, and SMIS: Survey
- ❑ Methodology Information System
- ❑ Training opportunities in quantitative techniques and statistical skills

For more information, contact Data Library Services.

Collections

A sample of the collections available are:

- ◆ Canadian Census
- ◆ FAMEX
- ◆ General Social Survey
- ◆ Household Internet Use Survey 1998
- ◆ National Longitudinal Survey of Children & Youth
- ◆ National Population Health Survey
- ◆ Schools and Staffing Survey (U.S.)
- ◆ Survey of Consumer Finances
- ◆ Survey of Consumer Finances (U.S.)
- ◆ Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics
- ◆ Youth Smoking Survey

RECENTLY RELEASED

1996 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE (CD-ROM, RELEASE 2)

CANADIAN BUSINESS PATTERNS 1998

CANADIAN TRAVEL SURVEY (CTS) 1998

FOLLOW-UP OF GRADUATES (1990)

HEALTH AND ACTIVITY LIMITATION SURVEY 1986

HEALTH INDICATORS 1999 (82-221-XCB)

NATIONAL GRADUATE SURVEY 1995

**NATIONAL SURVEY OF GIVING, VOLUNTEERING &
PARTICIPATING 1997 (NSGVP)**

POSTAL CODE CONVERSION FILE – JULY '99 RELEASE

**SMALL BUSINESS PROFILES (1995 DATA AND REVISED
DATA FOR 1993)**

**SURVEY ON THE IMPORTANCE OF NATURE TO
CANADIANS 1996**

COMING SOON

**SURVEY FAMILY FOOD EXPENDITURES (FOODEX)
(FALL '99)**

SURVEY OF HOUSEHOLD SPENDING (FALL '99)

- **INCORPORATES THE FAMEX SURVEY, LAST
RELEASED IN 1996**

**SURVEY OF LABOUR AND INCOME DYNAMICS (SLID
95) (FALL '99)**

U of R and U of S Team Up in Providing Data

Since the summer of 1998, the University of Regina and the University of Saskatchewan Data Libraries have been collaborating to make *1996 Census* files available to their respective clients via the web. The files from the *Nation Series*, the *Profile Series*, *Basic Summary Tables* and the *Dimensions Series* have been put up on the Data Library Services Home Page (<http://uregina.ca/datalibrary/>).

A Revitalization Fund grant of \$75,000 will enable the two Data Libraries to purchase a server for the sole purpose of supporting data services at both campuses.

Future collaboration will focus on spatial data files.

Beyond 20/20

Some Statistics Canada data sets distributed via the Data Liberation Initiative are distributed in a tabular format using second-party software. In order to use these files, you must have Ivation Datasystem Inc. Beyond 20/20 browser software installed and running on your local computer.

The Beyond 20/20 Browser software can be used without payment with the DLI files. For use with other files, registration and licence will be required.

To download the Beyond 20/20 software, follow the instructions provided on the Data Library Services home page (<http://uregina.ca/datalibrary/>).

Version 5.0 has just been released.

"It is a capital mistake to theorize before one has data. Insensibly, one begins to twist facts to suit theories, instead of theories to suit facts" - Sherlock Holmes

E-STAT

The 8th annual edition of *E-STAT*, the electronic learning package developed by Statistics Canada to provide teachers and students with a warehouse of current, reliable and comprehensive statistical and demographic data about Canada and its ever-changing people became available on September 15th.

You can access *E-STAT* from the Data Library Services home page (<http://uregina.ca/datalibrary/>) if you are on campus or if you have internet access via URPPP. Clients requiring access through a different internet service provider can request a user name and password. Please contact Marilyn Andrews to arrange this.

E-STAT provides:

- ◆ complete results from the 1996 Census at the Provinces, Census Divisions (Counties, Regional Districts, etc.), Census Subdivisions (Municipalities) as well as Census Tracts levels (neighbourhood)
- ◆ Data from Census of Agriculture 1996 at the Province and Census Division levels
- ◆ All Censuses between Jean Talon's Census of 1666 and 1871
- ◆ Data from Elections Canada including statistics on the 1997 Federal General Elections at the provincial and Federal Electoral District levels
- ◆ 1991 Census Profiles for the Province, Census Division, Census Subdivision and Census Tract levels
- ◆ 1991 Census of Agriculture Profiles at the Census Division levels
- ◆ 1991 Aboriginal Peoples Survey at the Province and Census Subdivision levels
- ◆ 1986 Census Profiles at the Province, Census Division and Census Subdivision levels
- ◆ The most recent data from *CANSIM*

Contact Information:

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Data Library Services is located in the Dr. John Archer Library, LY 311, University of Regina.

Hours: Monday to Friday

8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Send to:

If you wish to have your name added to our mailing list please let us know. Likewise, if you wish to have your name removed from the mailing list please inform us.