
DATA CRUNCH

Issue 18

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Meet Data Services

Data Services is located on the 6th floor of the Archer Library in LY 611.28 and LY 611.31, these being the offices of Marilyn Andrews, Data Librarian and Raye Quickfall, Systems Support Co-ordinator.

Our mandate is to assist university members to identify, acquire and manipulate numeric data sources to support research and teaching.

Hours are Monday to Friday, days. "Drop-ins" are welcome; appointments recommended.

Contact Data Services by telephone: 585-5113 **or** 585-5420 (Be sure to leave a voicemail; we'll return your call). Alternatively, send e-mail to datalib@uregina.ca. We look forward to hearing from you and will respond to your message as quickly as possible.

Who May Use the Data Library?

Use of the data files is subject to licence agreements. These agreements *restrict the use of the Data Library resources* to Faculty, Staff and Students of the University of Regina. Furthermore, use is restricted to teaching and non-commercial research at the University of Regina. Use of the data for generating projects or consulting is strictly prohibited. Copies of data resources may not be distributed in whole or in part outside the University of Regina.*

* No restrictions apply to the data documentation.

Why Use Data?

- ⊕ Term Paper Analysis
- ⊕ Statistical Analysis – to test a hypothesis using existing data files

- ⊕ Replicating another researcher's statistical analysis
- ⊕ Data not in print form
- ⊕ Geospatial data

University Email Accounts

Please use your University of Regina *Execmail* (e-mail) account when contacting or utilizing the Data Library. If you don't know your account information contact Computing Services (585-4685 or stop at the Help Desk on the main floor of the Library). You can also find your Username, Password & Email on the web http://www.uregina.ca/compserv/postcard/access_user_pass.shtml

<http://uregina.ca/datalibrary/>

The Data Library's homepage is the place to link to data announcements, Statistics Canada, ICPSR, IDLS, LANDRU, *SaskTrends Monitor*, *DataCrunch* and much more.

Data Workstations

WHAT & WHERE are the Data Workstations?

Four Pentium IV machines will soon be installed in the Data Pod on the Main Floor of the Library (adjacent to the government publications collection). A variety of data and GIS software are loaded on the machines.

If you are interested in using a specific data or GIS product or software not loaded onto the machines, contact Data Library Services. A working knowledge of the software is required of the user.



UNIVERSITY OF
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DATA SERVICES
DR. JOHN ARCHER LIBRARY

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WHEN are the Data Workstations Available for Use?

The workstations are available when the Library is open. For assistance, contact Data Library Services staff.

WHO may use the Data Workstations?

Users are required to enter their Novell user i.d. and password when logging on. **Priority is given to those using the Data Library products and software. Those not using the workstations for data purposes will be bumped when data users require the machines.**

If you need assistance with your NOVELL account information, contact Computing Services at 585-4685 or stop at the Help Desk on the main floor of the Library.

Computer Labs

Computer labs are located throughout the campus including one on the **6th floor of the Library (LY 612)**. Access to data services is available from all machines on campus:

<http://uregina.ca/datalibrary/>

Software

ArcGIS8

ArcGIS 8 is available on the Data Workstations, the Library computer lab (LY 612) and on machines elsewhere on campus.

Product information at:

<http://www.esri.com/software/arcgis/>

Beyond 20/20

Beyond 20/20 is proprietary software licensed to the DLI for use with Statistics Canada files, only. Use outside of this requires the user to register and purchase the software under a separate licence.

Beyond 20/20 files are in a tabular format allowing limited manipulation of the aggregate data. Download version 6.2 of *Beyond 20/20* from Data Services http://uregina.ca/datalibrary/util/b2020_62_install/

GeoPinpoint Suite

This DMTI Spatial product positions your data using a powerful and innovative geo-location process called geocoding. *GeoPinpoint Suite* attaches X and Y coordinates for map visualization. It is useful for georeferencing address information.

http://www.dmtispatial.com/geopinpoint_suite.htm

GeoSuite

GeoSuite is a powerful search tool based on the 2001 Census of Canada geographic reference information and includes population and dwelling count data for all standard geographic areas. With *GeoSuite*, users may retrieve data, explore the links between geographic areas and obtain information on those areas. 2001 population counts, 2001 dwelling counts, land area (except for blocks), geographic codes, names and, in some cases 1996 Census population counts (both final and adjusted) for growth calculations are available.

GeoSuite will be available on the Data Workstations.

SPSS

SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences) software is available on the data workstations and in the computer lab in the Library. *SPSS* is the only software available in the Library for analyzing raw data (ASCII/flat files).

What Data?

Statistics Canada

Statistics Canada is the major data supplier to the university through the ***Data Liberation Initiative (DLI)*** program. This program provides Statistics Canada Data, including the Census, to the University of Regina community, for teaching and research purposes at no charge to the user.

Additional surveys are added regularly. For more information on the DLI and the current list of surveys available: <http://www.statcan.ca/english/Dli/ftp.htm>

Often there are multiple ways to access the data. Give us a call and we will help you determine the most effective method. Furthermore, it may be possible to acquire Statistics Canada data for surveys even if they



are not listed on the DLI page. Inform Data Services of the data you seek and we will explore the possibility of acquiring it for you. If it is available, we will obtain it for you as quickly as possible.

ICPSR

The Inter-university Consortium for Political & Social Research (ICPSR), a unit within the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan, is the world's largest social science data archive. University of Regina users are able to access this wealth by virtue of the University's membership in the consortium.

Access is provided by the Data Library or through a service called ICPSR Direct.

<http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/>

NRCAN

As a Full Depository Library for the Communication Canada Depository Services Program and Natural Resources Canada, the University of Regina is able to provide campus access to digital topographic maps and other products from the Centre for Topographic Information. Users are not charged for this service, but they must sign a statement regarding their use of the files.

NRCAN digital products available include:

- NTDB: The National Topographic Data Base
- CDED: Canadian Digital Elevation Data
- Administrative Boundaries
- URN: The Updated Road Network
- CanImage
- CanMatrix

DMTI

DMTI Spatial offers separate products that include detailed street maps, census data and boundary information, postal geography, topographic maps and geographic features for all Canadian urban areas. Included are topographic coverage of 156 urban areas covering 76% of Canada's population (as of the 1996 Census); street names for communities of 1000+ population and street addressing for communities of 2000+ population.

Data Retrieval

There are multiple ways to access most of the data. Either a Data Library staff member downloads the files or the user does it directly. In some instances, licencing permits only a staff member to do the downloading. In addition, to requesting datasets from the Data Library staff, the users themselves can download much of the material. Listed below are web extraction tools that can be used, at no charge, due to the licence agreements that are in place. In all cases, adherence to the licences is essential.

IDLS – Internet Data Library System

IDLS is a web extraction tool. Selected variables or complete datasets can be downloaded, as can codebooks and data documentation.

IDLS can be used to obtaining DLI, ICPSR and DMTI data. A licence agreement signed with the University of Western Ontario enables members of the University of Regina community to use IDLS in accordance with the data product licences also in place.

LANDRU

LANDRU (Local Access to Networked Data Retrieval Utility) provides a user-friendly point and click interface to retrieve DLI data files. Access to LANDRU is generously provided by the University of Calgary.

<http://uregina.ca/datalibrary/>

ICPSR DIRECT

If you chose, you may opt to download ICPSR data files directly. <http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/>

If you prefer to have Data Library staff download the data, please ask.

QWIFS -- Queen's Web Interface for SPSS

A licence agreement with Queen's University allows University of Regina data users to utilize QWIFS, an online SPSS interface for analysis of statistical data at no charge. A username and password are required to access QWIFS, contact Data Services for these. **Note** only Data Liberation Initiative (DLI) data are available to the University of Regina and the DLI Licence governs use

of the data.

[http://library.queensu.ca/webdoc/ssdc/
access_external.html](http://library.queensu.ca/webdoc/ssdc/access_external.html)

Basic and advanced guides to using QWIFS can be found at the following URLs:

[http://library.queensu.ca/webdoc/ssdc/
basic_analysis.htm](http://library.queensu.ca/webdoc/ssdc/basic_analysis.htm)

<http://www.ryerson.ca/library/subjects/qwifs/>

Research Data Centres Program

The Research Data Centres (RDC) program is part of an initiative to help strengthen Canada's social research capacity and to support the policy research community.

RDCs provide researchers with access, in a secure university setting, to microdata from population and household surveys. There are no Research Data Centres in Saskatchewan.

For more information contact Data Library Services or <http://www.statcan.ca/english/rdc/>

Citing Data

Of course, once you've used numeric or GIS data, it is essential that you cite your source correctly. Take a look at the following sample of helpful urls:

[http://www.statcan.ca/english/reference/
conditions.htm](http://www.statcan.ca/english/reference/conditions.htm)

<http://uregina.ca/datalibrary/bibliocit.html>

[http://www.umanitoba.ca/libraries/units/datalib/gis/
ntdb.html](http://www.umanitoba.ca/libraries/units/datalib/gis/ntdb.html)

<http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/org/citation.html>

<http://dpls.dacc.wisc.edu/cite.html>

http://www.census.gov/acsd/www/sub_all.htm

<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/howto/citelec.htm>

<http://library.mcmaster.ca/maps/mapcite.htm>

[http://www.lib.uwaterloo.ca/locations/umd/digital/
citation.html](http://www.lib.uwaterloo.ca/locations/umd/digital/citation.html)

<http://library.owu.edu/citing222.html>

Wise Reading

DATA CRUNCH, the newsletter of Data Library Services is published irregularly. Free subscriptions are available upon request; inform us of your preference for either the paper or electronic edition. All can be read online at: <http://uregina.ca/datalibrary/datacrunch.html>

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Data Services is located in:
Dr. John Archer Library, LY 611.28
University of Regina

Hours: Monday to Friday
Appointments recommended.

DataCrunch Issues on the Web:
<http://uregina.ca/datalibrary/datacrunch.html>

Send to:



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