

## What is Data Services?

Data Services is the primary source for computer-based numeric data resources on campus for quantitative analysis. Located near the Bartle Library Information Commons Service Desk, Data Services provides the following services:

- Locate, access and purchase data from ICPSR and other sources.
- Maintain collections of codebooks and other technical documentation, statistical manuals, and reference materials in the Data Services Office.
- Subset data stored on a variety of computer platforms and media including PCs, CD-ROMs, and reputable sites on the World Wide Web.
- Transfer data between statistical file formats.
- Download data for personal computer users or FTP data to your workspace.
- Maintain university memberships to the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR), New York State Data Center Program (U.S. Bureau of the Census), and the European Consortium of Political Research.
- Supply requisite information for grant proposals.
- Promote the ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods, held at the University of Michigan.

## Staff

Contact **Dave Vose**, [dvose@binghamton.edu](mailto:dvose@binghamton.edu), directly for assistance. We work closely with Academic Computing, in Computer Services, to facilitate access to numeric data. During the fall and spring semesters, Data Services is staffed by a graduate student whose office hours are posted in the Data Services Office and on the Libraries' web site.

## Locating Data

Our primary source for data, but not our only one, is the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR). The ICPSR Data Archive holdings are available from their web site at <http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/>. We also own or subscribe to many U.S. government and commercial data files including U.S. Census, International Financial Statistics, World Bank data, Datastream, and various other economic time series files. Check the Library Catalog or the Data Services section of the library web page (<http://library.lib.binghamton.edu/subjects/data/index.html>) for specific titles. Also see, <http://library.lib.binghamton.edu/subjects/business/wrds.html>.

## How You Can Assist Us

Start the process of locating your data early. What looks like the right data set "on paper" may not have the variables you need in the way you want them. We are often working with several people at a time and you may have to wait for personalized assistance. The sooner you get to us the more time we will have to assist you.

## Data Distribution and Processing

We can distribute data to you in a variety of ways, e.g., 3.25 diskette, CD-ROM, zip diskette, or ftp and in a variety of file formats, SAS, dBase, SPSS, Stata, etc. Although some ICPSR data files are available on CD-ROM or stored on the mainframe computing system, you should check the ICPSR data archive for the most up-to-date releases. Our goal is to make these data as accessible to you as quickly as possible.

(1) *Personal Computer Users*

You should be familiar with your statistical software and how it reads-in data. That is, can the software read comma-delimited or space-delimited data? We can create a subset of your data from a CD-ROM or some other media. You will need to provide a diskette for downloading if your subset is small enough or you can ftp data to your workspace from our server.

(2) *Mainframe Users*

Mainframe users have special requirements in order to run analyses on the mainframe.

You will need:

- A valid StatMart account on the UNIX system. If you do not have a computer account, contact the Computer Center Help Desk.
- Some familiarity with the primary statistical packages, e.g., SAS or SPSS. We do most of our data subsetting with SAS and SPSS. We have statistical manuals in the Data Services Office for your use. Documentation is also available at <http://training.binghamton.edu/>.
- Familiarity with how to read your results from the reader list and how to print them.

We can:

- Write the initial parts of the program to subset your data. Often, you will only need to use a subset of variables from a larger data set. We can assist in writing the program that will isolate those variables for you.
- Provide the job control language you will need to access the magnetic tapes of older files on the mainframe. If you are unfamiliar with the mainframe this can be a difficult task.

**Responsibility**

We do not write the statistical analysis parts of your program for you. You are responsible for analyzing your research results.