==

Date: Wed, 28 Aug 2002 11:20:27 -0700

Sender: AAPORNET@ASU.EDU

From: Shapard Wolf <shap.wolf@ASU.EDU>

Subject: September 1997 archive - one BIG message

This is the USC Listproc archive of AAPORNET messages for this entire

month. It is one big message, in chronological order, just the way the USC

archive stored it. You can search within this month with your browser's

search function (usually Ctrl-F).

Turning this into individual messages that ASU's Listserv software can

index and sort means a lot of reformatting. We will do this as time

permits.

New messages are of course automatically formatted correctly, and I have

converted November 1994 through January 1995 and June 2002 to the present.

Shap Wolf

Survey Research Laboratory

Arizona State University

shap.wolf@asu.edu

AAPORNET volunteer host

Begin archive:

Archive aapornet, file log9709.

Part 1/1, total size 245930 bytes:

---------------------------- Cut here ----------------------------

Please excuse the cross posting. Please have any interested individuals

respond in writing. Do not respond via email.

Thanks,

Eric Rademacher

****

Research Associate

(Project Manager)

Job Description

The Institute for Policy Research (IPR) is seeking an experienced survey research professional to assist with the management and operation of the survey operations of the IPR including coding, data management, and recruiting and supervising field work personnel. This person will assist with the ongoing survey projects and programs of the IPR. This person will also assist with the management of the Institute's Computer-Aided-Telephone-Interviewing system. The Project Manager will develop interviewing and coding procedures and policies and will monitor project budgets.

Minimum Qualifications

Masters Degree in social sciences or behavioral sciences (or equivalent experience)

Demonstrated training and experience in survey research

Steadily increasing experience and responsibility in survey-based research

Experience with Computer-Aided-Telephone-Interviewing (CATI) Systems

Experience with financial data and procedures

Supervisory experience

Strong oral and written communication skills

Strong interpersonal skills

Familiarity with data base management, ability to design, write and modify
complex statistical programs

Send letter, resume, and three or more names of references by September 19,
1997 to:

>   Dr. Alfred J. Tuchfarber, Director

>   Institute for Policy Research

>   University of Cincinnati

>   P. O. Box 210132

>   Cincinnati, OH 45221-0132

The University of Cincinnati is an Affirmative Action, Equal Opportunity
Employer.

>From beniger@rcf.usc.edu Wed Sep 3 13:55:35 1997
Received: from almaak.usc.edu (almaak.usc.edu [128.125.19.166])

    by usc.edu (8.8.4/8.7.2/usc) with ESMTP

    id NAA25441 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Wed, 3 Sep 1997 13:55:32 -0700
(PDT)

>From Jim Beniger...

REQUEST FOR IDEAS--A STANDING FAVOR TO ASK OF YOU

With Labor Day's passage marking the end of summer, it's time to turn our

collective attention back to the business of AAPOR.

Our Council will next meet on Friday, September 19, in New York.

If you have any matters to bring to Council's attention at this meeting,

please either post them here on AAPORNET for general membership discussion

or, if you prefer, send them directly to me or to some other Council member.

One obvious and important topic for Council's attention, while many of our

plans for our 53rd Annual Conference in St. Louis are still in relatively

formative stages, is your opinion of last May's meeting in Norfolk. What

venerable Conference traditions would you like us to change, at least as a

trial? What recent changes would you like to see changed in some new way, or perhaps changed back to the tradition?

Among less pressing but I think no less important business, I would personally welcome your reactions to the following questions: How do you see your own work and profession changing in the decades ahead, both for better and for worse? Among the positive changes, which do you think AAPOR might help to foster or promote? Among the negative changes, which do you think AAPOR might act to mitigate or prevent in some way?

Answers to all derivative questions beginning with "how" will, of course, be especially welcomed.

                                        -- Jim

****

>From bnash@marketdecisions.com Thu Sep 4 08:10:33 1997

Received: from mail.gwi.net (root@mail.gwi.net [204.120.68.142])

    by usc.edu (8.8.4/8.7.2/usc) with ESMTP

    id IAA08244 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Thu, 4 Sep 1997 08:10:30 -0700

(PDT)

Received: from pld44.gwi.net (pld44.gwi.net [204.248.133.107]) by

mail.gwi.net (8.8.5/8.7.3) with SMTP id LAA02418 for <aapornet@usc.edu>;

Thu, 4 Sep 1997 11:10:29 -0400 (EDT)

Date: Thu, 4 Sep 1997 11:10:29 -0400 (EDT)

Message-Id: <199709041510.LAA02418@mail.gwi.net>

X-Sender: bnash@mail.biddeford.com (Unverified)

X-Mailer: Windows Eudora Light Version 1.5.2

Mime-Version: 1.0

Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"

To: aapornet@usc.edu

From: Barbara Nash <bnash@marketdecisions.com>

Subject: Scanning software

We need information on scanning software/hardware available for processing a large number of long self-administered surveys (about 26 pages long). We're looking at scanners in the mid-range that process 10-20 pages per minute.

Some of our concerns are...

- What is the best way to handle booklets?

- Should there be a preprinted respondent ID on every page?

- How difficult is the programming and how many hours should we expect it to take?

- How do we handle pages where the respondent writes in answers vs. fills in bubbles?

- What questions should we ask when comparing scanners?

As you can see, we're new at this -- ANY thoughts you might have, as well as your experiences, will be very much appreciated!

Thanks!

Barbara Nash

bnash@marketdecisions.com

Market Decisions

(207) 767-6440

The Social Research Laboratory at NAU is currently desiging a module for our

statewide poll of Arizona on sex education curricula and policy and

attitudes toward them. I am interested in knowing if anyone else has

previous experience with such issues, and if so, if survey questions and/or

results would be available for us to peruse. Thanks!

>From FFullam@aol.com Thu Sep 4 19:58:25 1997

Received: from emout05.mail.aol.com (emout05.mx.aol.com [198.81.11.96])

    by usc.edu (8.8.4/8.7.2/usc) with ESMTP

    id TAA25187 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Thu, 4 Sep 1997 19:58:23 -0700

(PDT)

From: FFullam@aol.com

Received: (from root@localhost)

    by emout05.mail.aol.com (8.7.6/8.7.3/AOL-2.0.0)

    id WAA20334 for aapornet@usc.edu;

    Thu, 4 Sep 1997 22:57:52 -0400 (EDT)

Date: Thu, 4 Sep 1997 22:57:52 -0400 (EDT)

Message-ID: <970904225541_-1633104420@emout05.mail.aol.com>

To: aapornet@usc.edu

Subject: Re: Scanning software

I have some experience with Teleform, a scanning system. I mainly process

many single page forms but do some work with multiple page forms. It works

very well for me for simple processing

My question back to you is, are you sure you want to jump into complex, long

form scanning? When all is said and done you may find that keypunching is

faster, more accurate and cheaper. I would be curious to hear what advice

you get.

Francis Fullam

>From penaloza@wsrl.cee.uwex.edu Fri Sep 5 08:45:37 1997

Colleagues -

We are interested in adding a couple of questions about lowering the

legal level of blood alcohol to our quarterly opinion poll this fall.

There is some discussion in Wisconsin about lowering the legal blood

alcohol level from 0.10 to .08, and want to see what support or

opposition exists to do this (yes, it is actually unrelated to Princess

Di; just one of those coincidences).

Does anyone out there have similar questions you've already asked on

a state or national poll? Any ideas about support for lowering legal

limits, or other similar means of getting tough on drunk driving?

I'm interetested in question wordings, as well as results that we might be

able to compare with Wisconsin data. Please reply to me at:

  penaloza@wsrl.cee.uwex.edu

Thanks!

****

        Linda J. Penaloza

   Associate Director and Head of Field Operations

     Wisconsin Survey Research Laboratory

     1930 Monroe St., Madison, WI 53711

     Phone: (608) 265-2796 FAX: (608) 262-3366

       email: penaloza@wsrl.cee.uwex.edu
****
"The researches of many commentators have already thrown much

darkness on this subject, and it is probable that, if they continue,

we shall soon know nothing at all about it." - Mark Twain

>From yogi@vt.edu Fri Sep 5 08:50:33 1997

Received: from quackerjack.cc.vt.edu (quackerjack.cc.vt.edu

[198.82.160.250])

    by usc.edu (8.8.4/8.7.2/usc) with ESMTP

    id IAA15575 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Fri, 5 Sep 1997 08:50:30 -0700

(PDT)

Received: from sable.cc.vt.edu (sable.cc.vt.edu [128.173.16.30])

    by quackerjack.cc.vt.edu (8.8.5/8.8.5) with ESMTP id LAA27427

    for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Fri, 5 Sep 1997 11:50:30 -0400 (EDT)

Received: from vtcsr.vt.edu (as5200-7.sl016.cns.vt.edu [128.173.38.125])

    by sable.cc.vt.edu (8.8.5/8.8.6) with SMTP id LAA01250

    for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Fri, 5 Sep 1997 11:50:22 -0400 (EDT)

Message-Id: <3.0.3.32.19970905114121.006973d4@mail.vt.edu>

X-Sender: yogi@mail.vt.edu

X-Mailer: QUALCOMM Windows Eudora Pro Version 3.0.3 (32)

Date: Fri, 05 Sep 1997 11:41:21 +0600

To: aapornet@usc.edu

From: Alan Bayer <yogi@vt.edu>

Subject: Re: Scanning Software

Mime-Version: 1.0

Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"

>Date: Thu, 04 Sep 1997 12:30:11 +0600

>To: aapornet@usc.edu

>From: Alan Bayer <yogi@vt.edu>

>Subject: Re: Scanning software

>In-Reply-To: <199709041510.LAA02418@mail.gwi.net>

>Mime-Version: 1.0

>Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"

>

>

>I recently heard a presentation from a vendor who can answer virtually

>all of these questions re. optical scanning and scanners. He sells

>both the software to design instruments (including multiple pages, and

>front/back

>forms) and the hardware for processing opscan sheets (products from

>National Computer Systems of Minneapolis -- a vendor I used for opscan

>surveys of up to 500K persons (college students) a few years ago, and found

>to be excellent). The person who gave the recent demo presentation here is

>Bill Gray, Bill Gray and Associates, 88 Stanmore Road, Richmond, VA 23236,

>804/330-7048. I have no personal relationship with this individual, nor

>any proprietary interest.

>

>Alan Bayer

>Virginia Tech

>

>

>At 11:10 AM 9/4/97 -0400, you wrote:

>>We need information on scanning software/hardware available for

>>processing a large number of long self-administered surveys (about 26

>>pages long). We're looking at scanners in the mid-range that process

>>10-20 pages per minute.

>>

>>Some of our concerns are...

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>>- What is the best way to handle booklets?

>>

>>- Should there be a preprinted respondent ID on every page?

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>>- How difficult is the programming and how many hours should we expect

>>it to take?

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>>- How do we handle pages where the respondent writes in answers vs.

>>fills in bubbles?

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>>- What questions should we ask when comparing scanners?

>>

>>As you can see, we're new at this -- ANY thoughts you might have, as

>>well as your experiences, will be very much appreciated!

>>

>>Thanks!

>>

>>Barbara Nash

>>bnash@marketdecisions.com

>>Market Decisions

>>(207) 767-6440

>>

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>   (@ @)

>===========================w===V===w============================

>   Alan E. Bayer, Director   e-mail: yogi@vt.edu

>   Center for Survey Research   phone: (540)231-3676

>   207 W. Roanoke St.   fax: (540)231-3678

>   Virginia Tech

>   Blacksburg, VA 24061-0543 USA

>

>   http://www.vt.edu:10021/centers/survey/index.html

>==

>   Never play leapfrog with a unicorn

>==

>

\>

\>

\>From dg@sei.cmu.edu Fri Sep 5 10:11:48 1997

Received: from as0a.sei.cmu.edu (as0a.sei.cmu.edu [128.237.1.11])

    by usc.edu (8.8.4/8.7.2/usc) with SMTP

    id KAA06905 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Fri, 5 Sep 1997 10:11:45 -0700

(PDT)

Received: from ts3a.sei.cmu.edu by as0a.sei.cmu.edu (8.6.10/3.00)

    id NAA01508; Fri, 5 Sep 1997 13:03:32 -0400

Received: from localhost.sei.cmu.edu by ts3a.sei.cmu.edu (8.6.10/3.00)

    id NAA24890; Fri, 5 Sep 1997 13:03:31 -0400

Message-Id: <199709051703.NAA24890@ts3a.sei.cmu.edu>

To: aapornet@usc.edu

cc: noel@datacap.com

Subject: Re: Scanning software

In-reply-to: Your message of "Thu, 04 Sep 97 11:10:29 EDT."

      <199709041510.LAA02418@mail.gwi.net>

Date: Fri, 05 Sep 97 13:03:30 EDT

From: Dennis R Goldenson <dg@sei.cmu.edu>

Barbara and others,

Let me also suggest that you seriously consider the PaperKeyboard suite of

products. We've been using them for several years now and have been much

more than satisfied with them. They were among the first to provide

flexible, cost effective solutions that are based in (intelligent) software

that uses general purpose scanners.

Multiple page forms (made for a human respondent not a machine) are no

problem. The programming is straightforward for anyone with a decent

background in high level languages. (I haven't looked lately, but I

unsderstand that the interface now requires even less programming.) The

software also can handle limited character recognition, although we often

enter verbatim text separately and join the data later.

The vendor, Datacap Inc, sells hardware bundled with the software, but I've

found them to be quite helpful and honest in recommending hardware even if

you purchase it elsewhere. You can find them on the world wide web

(http://www.datacap.com/Index.htm) and/or contact them at 580 White Plains

Road, Tarrytown, NY 10591 USA, 914/332-7515. Feel free to use my name.

Regards,

Dennis

_____

Dennis R. Goldenson   Office: 412/268-8506

Software Engineering Institute   Fax: 412/268-5758

Carnegie Mellon University   Internet: dg@sei.cmu.edu

Pittsburgh, PA 15213-3890

In message <199709041510.LAA02418@mail.gwi.net> you write:

>

> We need information on scanning software/hardware available for

> processing a large number of long self-administered surveys (about 26

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> well as your experiences, will be very much appreciated!

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> Thanks!

>

> Barbara Nash

> bnash@marketdecisions.com

> Market Decisions

> (207) 767-6440

>

>

>

>

>

>

>From norm_c@ix.netcom.com Fri Sep 5 16:00:56 1997

Received: from dfw-ix14.ix.netcom.com (dfw-ix14.ix.netcom.com

[206.214.98.14])

    by usc.edu (8.8.4/8.7.2/usc) with ESMTP

    id QAA29779 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Fri, 5 Sep 1997 16:00:50 -0700

(PDT)

Received: (from smap@localhost)

        by dfw-ix14.ix.netcom.com (8.8.4/8.8.4)

      id SAA15949 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Fri, 5 Sep 1997 18:00:12 -0500

(CDT)

Received: from wck-ca11-22.ix.netcom.com(204.31.231.182) by

dfw-ix14.ix.netcom.com via smap (V1.3)

    id sma015900; Fri Sep 5 17:59:33 1997

Message-ID: <34108ED7.5C76@ix.netcom.com>

Date: Fri, 05 Sep 1997 15:59:35 -0700

From: Norm Constantine <norm_c@ix.netcom.com>

Reply-To: norm_c@ix.netcom.com

X-Mailer: Mozilla 3.01 (Win95; I)

MIME-Version: 1.0

To: aapornet@usc.edu

Subject: Re: Call for sex ed questions

References: <01IN8Y137FEY90SL04@NAUVAX.UCC.NAU.EDU>

Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii

Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

Teri Nelson wrote:

>

> The Social Research Laboratory at NAU is currently desiging a module

> for our statewide poll of Arizona on sex education curricula and

> policy and attitudes toward them. I am interested in knowing if

> anyone else has previous experience with such issues, and if so, if

> survey questions and/or results would be available for us to peruse.

> Thanks!

See the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's "School Health Policies

and Programs Study (SHPPS), reported in the October, 1995 special issue of

the Journal of School Health. Or call the Division of Adolescent and School

Health at CDC in Atlanta for more recent information.

Norm

--

Norm Constantine, Ph.D.

Director, School and Community Health Research

WestEd, San Francisco

Phone: (510)284-8118 FAX: (510)284-8107

Email: norm_c@ix.netcom.com -or- nconsta@wested.org

WestEd Home Page: http://www.wested.org

In a recent column in SLATE, the Microsoft online magazine, Bill Barnes, the

SLATE program manager, provided an excellent overview of the difficulties in

counting web site "readership". At the end of the article, Mr. Barnes notes

parenthetically that:

    ...the off-line reader built into Microsoft's

    upcoming Internet Explorer 4.0 will actually send

    the server a log of the user's reading habits.

(the entire article may be read at:

http://www.slate.com/webhead/97-08-08/webhead.asp)

Internet Explorer 4 will be an integral part of the next version of Windows,

so, if this is true, it would appear that within a few years, almost every

personal computer will be using a system with a built-in capability for

reporting on their behavior without their explicit knowledge or approval.

Alas, I find nothing in the AAPOR code of ethics that in any way condemns

the practice of gathering information from respondents without their

informed consent. I strongly feel that, given growing concern about matters

of personal privacy, this issue needs to be addressed as sson as possible.

I would hope that this might be raised at the AAPOR council meeting on

September 19th.

Jan Werner

jwerner@jwdp.com

_____

James Beniger wrote:

>

> REQUEST FOR IDEAS--A STANDING FAVOR TO ASK OF YOU

>

> Our Council will next meet on Friday, September 19, in New York. If

>you have any matters to bring to Council's attention at this meeting,

>please either post them here on AAPORNET for general membership

>discussion or, if you prefer, send them directly to me or to some

>other Council member. From dg@SEI.CMU.EDU Mon Sep 8 06:05:20 1997

Received: from as0a.sei.cmu.edu (as0a.sei.cmu.edu [128.237.1.11])

    by usc.edu (8.8.4/8.7.2/usc) with SMTP

    id GAA08753 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Mon, 8 Sep 1997 06:05:19 -0700

(PDT)

Received: from ts3a.sei.cmu.edu by as0a.sei.cmu.edu (8.6.10/3.00)

    id IAA21799; Mon, 8 Sep 1997 08:58:02 -0400

Received: from localhost.sei.cmu.edu by ts3a.sei.cmu.edu (8.6.10/3.00)

    id IAA01582; Mon, 8 Sep 1997 08:58:02 -0400

Message-Id: <199709081258.IAA01582@ts3a.sei.cmu.edu>

To: aapornet@usc.edu

Subject: Re: Personal privacy and AAPOR code of ethics.

In-reply-to: Your message of "Sun, 07 Sep 97 20:41:00 EDT."

       <3413499C.312F2C5@jwdp.com>

Date: Mon, 08 Sep 97 08:58:01 EDT

From: Dennis R Goldenson <dg@SEI.CMU.EDU>

Jan and others,

AAPOR could do a real service for the web community by clarifying the sorts

of security and privacy issues that Jan raises. The technology makes it

very easy to track people's behavior in quite some detail without their

knowledge. Well meaning web masters (and browser developers) often do so

without the slightest awareness of impropriety. This problem can only get

worse as more and more business and social intraction takes place

electronically.

Dennis Goldenson

_____

Dennis R. Goldenson   Office: 412/268-8506

Software Engineering Institute   Fax: 412/268-5758

Carnegie Mellon University   Internet: dg@sei.cmu.edu

Pittsburgh, PA 15213-3890

In message <3413499C.312F2C5@jwdp.com> you write:

>

> In a recent column in SLATE, the Microsoft online magazine, Bill

> Barnes, the SLATE program manager, provided an excellent overview of

> the difficulties in counting web site "readership". At the end of the

> article, Mr. Barnes notes parenthetically that:

>

>   ...the off-line reader built into Microsoft's

>   upcoming Internet Explorer 4.0 will actually send

>   the server a log of the user's reading habits.

>

> (the entire article may be read at:

> http://www.slate.com/webhead/97-08-08/webhead.asp)

>

> Internet Explorer 4 will be an integral part of the next version of

> Windows, so, if this is true, it would appear that within a few years,

> almost every personal computer will be using a system with a built-in

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> Jan Werner

> jwerner@jwdp.com

>

>

>_____

> James Beniger wrote:

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> > membership discussion or, if you prefer, send them directly to me or

> > to some other Council member.

>

>From rasinski@norcmail.uchicago.edu Mon Sep 8 06:27:13 1997

Received: from genesis0.norc.uchicago.edu (genesis0.norc.uchicago.edu

[128.135.45.38])

    by usc.edu (8.8.4/8.7.2/usc) with ESMTP

    id GAA12612 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Mon, 8 Sep 1997 06:27:11 -0700

(PDT)

From: rasinski@norcmail.uchicago.edu

Received: from norcmail.uchicago.edu (norcmail.uchicago.edu [128.135.45.4])

by genesis0.norc.uchicago.edu (8.8.5/8.8.5) with SMTP id IAA09802 for

<aapornet@usc.edu>; Mon, 8 Sep 1997 08:08:53 GMT

Received: from ccMail by norcmail.uchicago.edu (ccMail Link to SMTP

R6.00.02)

    id AA873724560; Mon, 08 Sep 97 08:16:03 -0600

Message-Id: <9709088737.AA873724560@norcmail.uchicago.edu>

X-Mailer: ccMail Link to SMTP R6.00.02

Date: Mon, 08 Sep 97 08:25:46 -0600

To: <aapornet@usc.edu>

Subject: Re: AAPORNET digest 601

MIME-Version: 1.0

Content-Type: text/plain; charset=US-ASCII

Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

Jan Werner wrote...

In a recent column in SLATE, the Microsoft online magazine, Bill
Barnes,
the SLATE program manager, provided an excellent overview of the

difficulties in counting web site "readership". At the end of the

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September 19th.

Jan Werner

jwerner@jwdp.com

_____

I wish to add that I am in complete agreement with Jan and thank her

for bringing up the issue. Although I believe that the practice she

describes is similar to collecting information about our purchases

everytime we use a grocery store's "Preferred Customer" card. Still,

I don't like the practice and it would be nice if AAPOR took a stand.

Ken Rasinski

rasinski@norcmail.uchicago.edu

>From jwerner@jwdp.com Mon Sep 8 06:54:28 1997

Received: from vgernet.net (vgernet.net [205.219.186.1])

　　by usc.edu (8.8.4/8.7.2/usc) with SMTP

　　id GAA16681 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Mon, 8 Sep 1997 06:54:27 -0700

(PDT)

rasinski@norcmail.uchicago.edu wrote:

>

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>   I don't like the practice and it would be nice if AAPOR took a

> stand.

_____

There is a major difference.

Presenting a grocery store card requires positive action by the consumer,

who is explicitly aware, at the time the card is presented, of what

information is being provided and to whom.

This certainly does not appear to be the case with the proposed browser "feature".

Jan Werner

jwerner@jwdp.com

>From beniger@rcf.usc.edu Tue Sep 9 12:09:07 1997

Received: from almaak.usc.edu (almaak.usc.edu [128.125.19.166])

    by usc.edu (8.8.4/8.7.2/usc) with ESMTP

    id MAA15884 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Tue, 9 Sep 1997 12:09:05 -0700

(PDT)

Received: from localhost (beniger@localhost)

    by almaak.usc.edu (8.8.4/8.8.4/usc) with SMTP

    id MAA27731 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Tue, 9 Sep 1997 12:09:06 -0700

(PDT)

Date: Tue, 9 Sep 1997 12:09:06 -0700 (PDT)

From: James Beniger <beniger@rcf.usc.edu>

To: AAPORNET <aapornet@usc.edu>

Subject: Call for Papers

Message-ID: <Pine.SV4.3.94.970909120311.16331I-100000@almaak.usc.edu>

MIME-Version: 1.0

Content-Type: TEXT/PLAIN; charset=US-ASCII

Date: Tue, 9 Sep 1997

From: "Allan L. McCutcheon" <amccutch@unlinfo.unl.edu>

CALL FOR PAPERS

on the Sociology of Religion

The Sociology of Religion session for the 1998 Midwest Sociological Society
is seeking papers for the April 2-5 meeting in the Kansas City Hyatt Regency
Crown Center. Papers on all aspects of the the field are sought. Titles
and extended abstracts (2-3 pages) should be sent to:

Allan McCutcheon

Department of Sociology

723 Oldfather Hall

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Lincoln, NE 68588-0324

The required abstracts should be sent by October 1. Please note that
completed papers will also be accepted.

****

>From billt@tidalwave.net Tue Sep 9 20:41:56 1997

Received: from proteus.tidalwave.net (proteus.nicom.com [208.206.112.1])

    by usc.edu (8.8.4/8.7.2/usc) with ESMTP

    id UAA06402 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Tue, 9 Sep 1997 20:41:54 -0700

(PDT)

Received: from default ([208.220.25.12]) by proteus.tidalwave.net

        (Netscape Messaging Server 3.0) with SMTP id AAA3476

        for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Tue, 9 Sep 1997 23:27:45 -0400

Message-ID: <341616DE.22BB@Tidalwave.net>

Date: Tue, 09 Sep 1997 23:41:18 -0400

From: "Bill Thompson" <billt@tidalwave.net>

Hello all,

My company, KRC Research & Consulting in Washington DC & NY is interested in learning about any vendors you have used to conduct online research.

We have a relationship with a few vendors and are looking to find out more about those companies that provide this service to companies like ours.

Who have you used, what are their weaknesses & strengths? What types of research have you done with them? Do they have any specialties? What types of audiences can they target?

Any information you could provide would be helpful. You may respond to me directly at either of the following addresses:

billt@tidalwave.net

bthompso@bsmg.com

Thanks

Bill Thompson

Senior Associate

KRC Research & Consulting

<smaller>At the UNM Institute for Public Policy, we have been in the field

for 90 days with a mail survey about post-cold war national and personal

security issues that includes a national sample of about 2500 state

legislators from all fifty states (with companion samples of scientists and

the public). We expected the response rate from legislators to be lower than

that for most groups because: (1) some legislators are reluctant to put

their views in writing; (2) most are busy professionals who may be unwilling

to take the time to answer a questionnaire; and (3) some have a standing

policy of not participating in any surveys. After following Dillman's total

design methods (repeated waves of mailings), our response rate is currently at approximately 22 percent. To better understand the implications for response bias, we are following-up with telephone contacts with 250 randomly selected "nonrespondents." We are asking them a short set of questions that will allow us to compare those who did not respond to the mail survey with those who did respond in terms of legislative demographics and selected items measuring attitudes and policy preferences. That process is in the early stages, but it appears to be eliciting responses from over 50 percent of those contacted by phone. If anyone has suggestions or references to previous research dealing with similar response rate issues, we would greatly appreciate your input.

I can be contacted at hjsmith@unm.edu.

Thanks,

Hank Jenkins-Smith</smaller>

****

Hank C. Jenkins-Smith

Director, UNM Institute for Public Policy

University of New Mexico

1805 Sigma Chi Rd. NE

Albuquerque, New Mexico 87131-1121

(505) 277-5028

(505) 277-3115 fax

****

I am looking for some help and advice on the best way to measure response latency using a CATI system. The survey center at Ohio State where I work uses CASES software which has the capability to start a timer upon finishing reading a question and then stop the timer as the respondent gives the answer.

Currently we rely on interviewers to start the timer and stop the timer with a keystroke. This works well when the question and response options are understood by the respondent and he/she responds unambiguously. My question is what to do when these conditions are not met. Can someone that uses response latency with CASES software share some programming expertise on how to efficiently deal with situations where the interviewer must re-read the question or skip back to change the answer. Currently we use a follow up to each timer that is not read to respondents where interviewers must respond whether or not they had to skip back and re-read the question. Can CASES be programmed to gather this information for us, eliminating the need for this extra question? In our current programming, skipping back restarts the timer and thus provides an invalid response time. When interviewers must do this, we simply set the response time as missing for analysis.

Also, if you use response latency measures in your CATI surveys, what instructions and training do you provide interviewers to help them collect valid response times and deal consistently with problem situations.

Thank you for your help,

Quin Monson
Ohio State University Survey Research Unit

I thought you may be interested in some suggestions for improving the

response rate among legislators. Please disregard if you have considered

these: 1)Legislators are motivated to respond to communication and other

events that are perceived as helping to further their re-election; 2) They

are quick to accept most invitations to behave or act when it is an

opportunity for favorable press; 3)Requests that include reference to THEIR

constituents are seriously considered; 4)Requests that are preceded or

followed with personal calls by an influential are almost always acted

upon; and 5)Inclusion of press releases about the project tailored for the

legislator to send to his local media are perceived as coming from a

professional who understands his or her needs, and is a response motivator.

Good luck.

At 08:33 AM 9/10/97 +0100, you wrote:

>At the UNM Institute for Public Policy, we have been in the field for

>90

days with a mail survey about post-cold war national and personal security

issues that includes a national sample of about 2500 state legislators from

all fifty states (with companion samples of scientists and the public). We

expected the response rate from legislators to be lower than that for most

groups because: (1) some legislators are reluctant to put their views in

writing; (2) most are busy professionals who may be unwilling to take the

time to answer a questionnaire; and (3) some have a standing policy of not

participating in any surveys. After following Dillman's total design methods

(repeated waves of mailings), our response rate is currently at

approximately 22 percent. To better understand the implications for response

bias, we are following-up with telephone contacts with 250 randomly selected

"nonrespondents." We are asking them a short set of questions that will

allow us to compare those who did not respond to the mail survey with those

who did respond in terms of legislative demographics and selected items

measuring attitudes and policy preferences. That process is in the early

stages, but it appears to be eliciting responses from over 50 percent of

those contacted by phone. If anyone has suggestions or references to

previous research dealing with similar response rate issues, we would

greatly appreciate your input.

>

>I can be contacted at hjsmith@unm.edu.

>

>Thanks,

>

>Hank Jenkins-Smith

>**************************************

>Hank C. Jenkins-Smith

>Director, UNM Institute for Public Policy

>University of New Mexico

>1805 Sigma Chi Rd. NE

>Albuquerque, New Mexico 87131-1121

>(505) 277-5028

>(505) 277-3115 fax

>**************************************

>

>From beniger@rcf.usc.edu Wed Sep 10 10:15:51 1997

Received: from almaak.usc.edu (almaak.usc.edu [128.125.19.166])

    by usc.edu (8.8.4/8.7.2/usc) with ESMTP

    id KAA29292 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Wed, 10 Sep 1997 10:15:48 -0700

(PDT)

Received: from localhost (beniger@localhost)

    by almaak.usc.edu (8.8.4/8.8.4/usc) with SMTP

    id KAA01608 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Wed, 10 Sep 1997 10:15:48 -0700

(PDT)

Date: Wed, 10 Sep 1997 10:15:48 -0700 (PDT)

From: James Beniger <beniger@rcf.usc.edu>

To: AAPORNET <aapornet@usc.edu>

Subject: Anthropologists Against Race

Message-ID: <Pine.SV4.3.94.970910101321.1010A-100000@almaak.usc.edu>

MIME-Version: 1.0

Content-Type: TEXT/PLAIN; charset=US-ASCII

Anthropological Assn. Urges Government
to Stop Collecting Data Based on Race

By DAVID L. WHEELER

The American Anthropological Association urged the federal government Monday to stop collecting statistics based on race.

The association said that the concept of race was based on pseudo-science, not science. "Biological-sounding terms add nothing to the precision, rigor, or factual basis of information being collected to characterize the identities of the American population," said a statement released by the association.

The anthropology group made the recommendation to the federal Office of Management and Budget, which is considering how to revise the racial and ethnic categories used in the official collection of information, including the

U.S. Census.

The association said that "ethnic origin," or a similar term, should be used to describe a person's ancestry in research.

Mary Margaret Overby, the association's director of governmental relations, said the anthropology group understood that research on human health, economic status, and other issues required that the U.S. population be divided into categories. "The idea is you can still track them," she said. "They just don't need to be labeled as race."

The association's statement said that racial categories have grown out of European folk taxonomies and wildly inaccurate misperceptions. Caucasians, for instance, were once believed to be descended from people in the Caucasus Mountains and to possess the world's most perfect skulls.

Dr. Overby said that discussion of new ways to study human variability would be a major theme in the association's

newsletters and at its annual meeting, in

November.

The association has posted background

information on the issue, as well as a

statement of its position on race-based

statistics, on the World-Wide Web, at

http://www.ameranthassn.org/ombprinf.htm

Dear Fellow AAPORneters:

I read a message earlier this month which asked if the AAPORnet was

discontinued, and someone replied "No, it was just sleeping." Well, I hope

that we all are rested from the summer, and that my message does not come as

an abrupt awakening, like someone shaking a person out of a good dream. I

feel, however, that there is a controversy which has arisen in our field

which we as an organization must discuss. As many of you are probably

aware, Christopher Simpson of American University wrote an article for the

Journal of Communication, where he criticized Elisabeth Noelle-Neumann for

having totalitarian tendencies, and for reflecting these in her research

work. While many of the accusations are old news, the statements about her

research are of direct interest to us. Basically, he makes two statements:

that the SPIRAL OF SILENCE clearly shows totalitarian influences and

impulses; and that Noelle-Neumann's survey research work is slanted to

reflect these politics, especially in that text. Since AAPOR chose the

SPIRAL OF SILENCE as one of the hundred most influential texts in public

opinion research in the past fifty years at our anniversary conference, I

feel a discussion of these issues is warranted. I have noted below some

observations which I feel respond to Professor Simpson. Please pardon the

length of this message, but I feel we must discuss these issues, given the

nature of his accusations.

    Generally, I am disturbed by the manner and content of Mr. Simpson's

article for the following reasons:

 o his personality analysis is based upon faulty methodological

assumptions-- Mr. Simpson begins his analysis with Noelle-Neumann's

writings, and then abstracts back to what her personality and motivations

"must have been" fifty years ago. Most scholars have abandoned this type of

psychobiography for four reasons: first, it rests upon suspect constructions

of "personality" which are essentially unknowable without extensive

information not available to the author (see Simpson, pp. 151-152); second,

it fails the logical test of prediction, since the personality constructed

can easily explain opposite behavior or reactions to those the author

describes; third, it allows no room for growth, change, or learning in a

person's life-- an odd methodology to apply to a scholar; and fourth, there

is a tendency for analysts to select interpretations of past events that fit

their theory, rather than adjusting the schema to conflicting facts.

Further, the analogy between Heidegger and Noelle-Neumann is inappropriate;

Heidegger developed his philosophy first, and

then declared Nazism to be consistent with his thinking. As such,

the philosopher himself established this linkage. Noelle- Neumann, by

contrast, explicitly distinguishes her theory from Nazi ideology. That

linkage is Simpson's construction, not hers.

o he does not appear to understand the theory he is

attacking-- Mr. Simpson attacks the "spiral of silence"

theory as anti-democratic because it emphasizes "non-

rational motivations." In fact, non-rational motivations

are commonly discussed in democratic theory. Kenneth Arrow proved that

rational individuals will never be able to reach a social welfare function

by voting, given certain minimal conditions. Mancur Olson and others proved

that rational individuals are unlikely to participate in collective action

that benefits all. Indeed, I wrote an entire book showing how the threat of

social isolation can overcome these problems and make democracy possible if

the costs of silence are kept within reasonable limits. (See Isolation and

Paradox: Defining "the Public" in Modern Political Analysis).

o he omits relevant facts about Noelle-Neumann's writings--

Mr. Simpson argues that Noelle-Neumann uses her survey

research to promote false ideas, especially ideas which are threatening to

immigrants. In fact, the Allensbach Institute published a special report on

the subject of anti- immigrant violence, highlighting surveys showing that

right- wing extremists were among the least popular individuals in

Germany-- even less acceptable than drug addicts. To quote

the report, which was widely disseminated internationally: "right-wing

rioters and hooligans, who until recently believed they were admired or at

least tolerated by a silent majority of the German population, were

operating under completely false assumptions." This statement was supported

by survey data from the Institute.

o he states that the "spiral of silence" contradicts the Jeffersonian model

of democracy, without noting the historical referents of either theory--

Noelle-Neumann bases much of her analysis on theories drawn from John Locke;

in particular, she quotes liberally from Locke's statements about the "law

of opinion and reputation" in his Essay Concerning Human Understanding.

Locke was also, however, the primary inspiration for Jefferson's writings,

most notably, the Declaration of Independence. Is Simpson arguing that

Jefferson somehow misinterpreted Locke? The notion of silencing of

dissenting opinions in a democracy also has a distinguished pedigree.

Consider this quotation from Alexis de Tocqueville's Democracy in America:

"in America, as long as the majority is still undecided, discussion is

carried on; but as soon as its decision is irrevocably pronounced, every one

is silent, and the friends as well as the opponents of the measure unite in

assenting to its propriety." One may debate whether this is a positive

tendency (de Tocqueville did not think so), but it is a legitimate

sociological observation.

o his evidence of "totalitarian influences" often stretches

credulity-- at one point, Simpson argues that Noelle-Neumann derived the

idea for the "train test" described in the Spiral of Silence, in which

individuals are asked if they would discuss certain controversial subjects

on a crowded train, from intelligence-gathering operations practiced on

trains by the Nazis. One can more easily find a more modern

antecedent: the "guerilla theater" practiced by dissidents

in Chile during the Pinochet regime. According to this practice, a group of

players would board a bus or a train, and begin a conversation about

conditions in the country; after a certain drama was acted out, and the

indirect message was conveyed that the government was at fault, all the

players would exit the public transportation. The idea, of course, was to

stimulate conversation and affect opinion among the passengers. In fact, I

discussed this analogy with Professor Noelle-Neumann when she was presenting

some preliminary descriptions of the train test.

Indeed, a more direct referent to the train test is the

focus group, where individuals are encouraged to speak about certain topics,

and a monitor observes what is expressed or not expressed, and how opinions

change as a result. One assumes that Professor Simpson does not believe

focus groups derived from sinister motives.

o his method of argument tends to silence dissent-- Mr. Simpson states in

the Journal of Communication that "Those who publish Elisabeth

Noelle-Neumann's work are right-wing publishers." A comment like this can

have a chilling effect upon publishers accepting a scholar's work, for fear

of being tainted by the "right-wing" characterization.

Further, I am not familiar with Noelle-Neumann's entire

(extensive) bibliography, but I know that she has been published by the

University of Chicago Press, Greenwood Publishers, Public Opinion Quarterly,

the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, and the Journal of Communication, where

Professor Simpson's article appears, to name but a few reputable sources.

Such arguments paint those who defend Professor Noelle-Neumann as Nazi

apologists or opportunists motivated by self-interest (apparently, Simpson

stated the latter accusation explicitly at the International Communication Conference in Montreal). As academics, we have been down this road before-- being accused of being "dupes" of totalitarian influences, or "fellow travellers" if we find certain ideas useful or provocative. Such accusations can only serve to have a chilling effect upon academic discourse, leading to the very silencing of dissenting opinions that Mr. Simpson decries in his article.

To summarize, the main flaw in Simpson's approach to the "sociology of knowledge" regarding Noelle-Neumann's theory is that "personality analysis" can easily yield conclusions opposite from his. For instance, by adopting a "learning model" of personality development, one can argue that Noelle-Neumann is a democratic theorist who seeks, along with the communitarian theorists, to find the "social skin" which binds democratic societies together; that she is a staunch fighter against anti- immigrant violence, in that she uses the resources of the Allensbach Institute to show the unpopularity of right-wing extremists, even while acknowledging, as a social scientist, the problems of assimilation; and that she has learned valuable lessons about the dangers of totalitarianism from having lived under such a regime. These conclusions seem at least as reasonable as the ones Simpson reaches. To build an argument where the evidence and approach can easily produce the opposite conclusion is questionable scholarship at best; to use this scholarship as the basis for scurrilous accusations should give all of us pause. I am concerned that care was not taken in this instance, and when one is dealing with an individual's reputation, the utmost care is required.

However, a more important issue is at stake. In order to

avoid repeating the horrors of the Holocaust, we desperately need the

insights of those who existed under the monstrous regime responsible for it.

To refuse to listen to these individuals because we are so afraid of somehow

being misled is an act of intellectual cowardice. There is much to learn

from Noelle- Neumann's writings. Mr. Simpson's article warns us to be

fearful of the "hidden messages" implied by certain ideas, and so he attacks

the person behind them. If we are naive and timid enough to accept such an

attack, ideas are the least of what we have to fear.

I would add that these are the thoughts of one person on an issue which I

feel we, as an organization are compelled to address. It is not intended as

an attack upon anyone, notably Mr. Simpson. I really would like to hear

others' opinions on this issue, but please, no flaming-- enough vitriol has

already been expended in this discussion, and we have no need to add to it.

Frank Rusciano

Professor, Political Science

>From beniger@rcf.usc.edu Wed Sep 10 12:15:23 1997

Received: from almaak.usc.edu (almaak.usc.edu [128.125.19.166])

    by usc.edu (8.8.4/8.7.2/usc) with ESMTP

    id MAA05194 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Wed, 10 Sep 1997 12:15:15 -0700

(PDT)

Received: from localhost (beniger@localhost)

    by almaak.usc.edu (8.8.4/8.8.4/usc) with SMTP

    id MAA03360 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Wed, 10 Sep 1997 12:15:12 -0700

(PDT)

Date: Wed, 10 Sep 1997 12:15:12 -0700 (PDT)

From: James Beniger <beniger@rcf.usc.edu>

The Chronicle of Higher Education: Daily news

Wednesday, September 10, 1997

Closeness to Parents Helps Health

of Teen-Agers, Researchers Say

By DAVID L. WHEELER

Results from what researchers say is the

largest survey ever done of adolescent

health suggest that a sense of closeness

with others, at home and at school, will

help keep teen-agers from engaging in

risky behavior, including smoking,

drinking, and fighting.

The common wisdom about raising

adolescents is that parents have little

influence on them, but the study suggests

that parents may play a large role in

steering their teen-age children away from trouble and into productive pursuits.

"These findings offer the parents of America a blueprint for what works in protecting their kids from harm," said J. Richard Udry, a professor of maternal and child health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, who helped to conduct the study.

Parents should let their adolescents know that they care about them, the researchers said. Parents should also share activities with their children and try to be home at the same time as their children so they are available to talk.

Since 1994, Dr. Udry and other researchers at the University of North Carolina and the University of Minnesota have conducted what is known as the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health. The first results from the study, published in Tuesday's issue of The Journal of the American Medical Association, were based on 12,000 interviews with parents and teen-agers in

their homes.

While many American teen-agers are
thriving, the study found, many others
are at risk of harm or ill health.
One-third of the teen-age respondents
said they had smoked marijuana, 3.5 per
cent said they had attempted suicide in
the past year, and more than 17 per cent
said they drank alcohol more than once a
month. Almost half of the respondents in
high school said they had engaged in
sexual intercourse. Over 12 per cent of
the adolescents interviewed said they had
carried a weapon in the previous 30 days,
and one-quarter said they had been a
victim of violence.

>From slosh@garnet.acns.fsu.edu Wed Sep 10 18:34:04 1997
Received: from mailer.fsu.edu (mailer.fsu.edu [128.186.6.122])
    by usc.edu (8.8.4/8.7.2/usc) with ESMTP
    id SAA23252 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Wed, 10 Sep 1997 18:33:59 -0700
(PDT)
Received: from garnet.acns.fsu.edu (gmhub.acns.fsu.edu [128.186.195.10]) by

I am in the process of organizing a RDD survey of Leon County Florida. One

set of questions is on health practices (no HIV, no sex, etc.,nothing

illegal) with a standard preamble. The administrative assistant for our

Human Subjects Committee says we must have a statement in the Preamble that

states "You can hang up any time you want."

I have never seen this in any preamble. Does anyone know of any systematic

work, preferably experimental, that has seen differences (or similarities)

in response rates and anything else influencing the quality of the data on

whether respondents are invited to hang up at any point?

Any references appreciated. Any news from AAPOR and if there have been any
code of ethics issues on this one VERY appreciated.

The sponsors of the survey, the time, the use of the data, the random
selection, etc are all explained in the preamble (it's pretty standard),
including an "you only have to answer the questions you want to" statement.

You can reply to me at:

slosh@garnet.acns.fsu.edu

and I will post a summary of replies.

Thanks again,

Sue

If time were money, I'd be in debtor's prison.

Susan Losh

Department of Sociology

Florida State University

Tallahassee FL 32306-2270

PHONE 850-644-1753

FAX 850-644-6208

(AUTO REPLY)

I am on vacation through September 23, 1997. Please direct requests to

EUS.

>From lavrakas.1@osu.edu Thu Sep 11 04:43:59 1997

Received: from mail3.uts.ohio-state.edu (root@mail3.uts.ohio-state.edu

[128.146.214.32])

    by usc.edu (8.8.4/8.7.2/usc) with ESMTP

    id EAA19005 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Thu, 11 Sep 1997 04:43:58 -0700

(PDT)

Received: from lavrakas.1.acs.ohio-state.edu ([128.146.93.45] (may be

forged))

    by mail3.uts.ohio-state.edu (8.8.6/8.8.6) with SMTP id HAA19504

    for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Thu, 11 Sep 1997 07:44:00 -0400 (EDT)

Message-Id: <2.2.32.19970911114553.0081094c@pop.service.ohio-state.edu>

X-Sender: lavrakas.1@pop.service.ohio-state.edu

X-Mailer: Windows Eudora Pro Version 2.2 (32)

Mime-Version: 1.0

Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"

Date: Thu, 11 Sep 1997 07:45:53 -0400

To: aapornet@usc.edu

From: "Paul J. Lavrakas, Ph.D." <lavrakas.1@osu.edu>

Subject: Re: Human Subjects Committee. Come hang up any time

>Susan Losh wrote:

>

>I am in the process of organizing a RDD survey of Leon County Florida.

>One set of questions is on health practices (no HIV, no sex,

>etc.,nothing

>illegal) with a standard preamble. The administrative assistant for our

>Human Subjects Committee says we must have a statement in the Preamble that

>states "You can hang up any time you want.".........

I can't help with pointing you to research findings that show anything about

response rate differing by how explicit or implicit "voluntary

participation" is made to respondents in telephone survey intro spiels, but

I do want to share my opinion that I find your HSC person's demand simply

outrageous. I urge you to refuse to state that explicitly and I urge all of

us who must deal with HSC reviews to argue strongly against this type of

misguided intrusion into what, we as ethical survey researcher -- not

typical HSC members --, know best how to guard against.

* *

*   Paul J. Lavrakas, Ph.D.   *

*   Professor of Communication & Journalism   *

*   Professor of Public Policy & Management   *

*   Director, Survey Research Unit   *

*   College of Social & Behavioral Sciences, Ohio State University   *

*   Derby Hall [Room 0126], 154 N. Oval Mall, Columbus OH 43210   *

* Voice: 614-292-3468 Fax: 614-292-6673 E-mail: lavrakas.1@osu.edu   *

* *

>From SSDCF@UConnVM.UConn.Edu Thu Sep 11 05:33:36 1997

Received: from UConnVM.UConn.Edu (uconnvm.uconn.edu [137.99.26.3])

    by usc.edu (8.8.4/8.7.2/usc) with SMTP

I agree strongly with Paul. Substantively, the assurance that participation

is voluntary, and the lack on any implication that cooperation is required,

should do it. And we probably cannot stop such committees from asking to

see the script to make sure there is not IMPLIED coercion. That said,

however, the intrusion of such committees must be strictly limited to the

enforcement of appropriate privacy guarantees. Actually mandating a

particular wording steps well beyond the bounds and next they will want to

control content of instruments. (Beyond the STRICTLY limited requirement

that one not ask about certain things because of institutional or regulatory

standards -- even that would only extend to topic, not to wording, which

should fall clearly within the researchers' discretion and expertise).

G. Donald Ferree, Jr.   (860) 486-4440 / 6308(FAX)

Institute for Social Inquiry/Roper Center SSDCF@UCONNVM.UCONN.EDU

University of Connecticut U-164 341 Mansfield Road, Room 421 Storrs CT

06269-1164

>From mlosch@blue.weeg.uiowa.edu Thu Sep 11 07:33:49 1997

Received: from ns-mx.uiowa.edu (ns-mx.uiowa.edu [128.255.1.4])

    by usc.edu (8.8.4/8.7.2/usc) with ESMTP

    id HAA13742 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Thu, 11 Sep 1997 07:33:46 -0700

(PDT)

Received: from ns-mx.uiowa.edu

(CLImodem358-201617ThuSep1109333119970telnet_rdr29856@portal-4.weeg.uiowa.ed

u [128.255.56.104])

    by ns-mx.uiowa.edu (8.8.5/8.8.5) with SMTP id JAA29820

    for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Thu, 11 Sep 1997 09:33:39 -0500

Message-Id: <3.0.1.16.19970911093135.2e6f7cac@blue.weeg.uiowa.edu>

X-Sender: mlosch@blue.weeg.uiowa.edu

X-Mailer: Windows Eudora Pro Version 3.0.1 (16)

Date: Thu, 11 Sep 1997 09:31:35

To: aapornet@usc.edu

From: Mary Losch <mlosch@blue.weeg.uiowa.edu>

Subject: Re: Human Subjects Committee. Come hang up any time

In-Reply-To: <2.2.32.19970911114553.0081094c@pop.service.ohio-state.edu>

Mime-Version: 1.0

Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"

As someone who is both a survrey research professional and the vice-chair of

an IRB, I would suggest that you ask for the specific regulations requiring

such language in a telephone interview introduction. I am aware of no such

requirements. Your language stating that respondents don't have to answer a specific question should be adequate in my opinion. If you have stated that their participation is voluntary and that the responses will be confidential/not identifiable, then you have met the key requirements for compliance with the regulations. It could be argued that explicitly telling an adult that they can hang up is in fact insulting rather than helpful..

Since, in most cases, the IRB approval is required for conducting the research, I would try to use the incident as an opportunity to clarify the important issues with the committee. In addition, you should determine whether actual IRB committee members are similarly inclined or whether this is a situation where a well-intended but perhaps inexperienced staff member is making the judgment.

I agree with Paul Lavrakas that you should not simply modify the wording. However, simply refusing may not further your cause and may delay your project longer. By asking for the regulations, providing information from other IRBs, and insisting on the basis for the request, I think you may be able to resolve the issue and prevent other such unreasonable requirements in the future. IRBs can in fact ask for specific wording in the introductions to interviews or cover letters of questionnaires since there are no consent forms of information summary documents as are required for most other research designs.

There are longstanding disagreements about the what falls within the purview of an IRB review. In fact, the regulations do allow reviews of the entire design and content of research protocols (i.e., stimuli) when assessing the cost/benefit analysis of a project. IRBs differ in their approach to reviews but suggestions about content are not outside of their

responsibilities in general. In this case, I think the request is

unreasonable and you should press the committee to modify the request (if in

fact it is coming from the committee).

Mary Losch, Ph.D.

Program Director

University of Iowa Social Science Institute

(319) 335-2368

mary-losch@uiowa.edu

At 07:45 AM 9/11/97 -0400, you wrote:

>>Susan Losh wrote:

>>

>>I am in the process of organizing a RDD survey of Leon County Florida.

>>One set of questions is on health practices (no HIV, no sex,

>>etc.,nothing

>>illegal) with a standard preamble. The administrative assistant for our

>>Human Subjects Committee says we must have a statement in the Preamble

that

>>states "You can hang up any time you want."..........

>--

>-----

>

>

>I can't help with pointing you to research findings that show anything

>about response rate differing by how explicit or implicit "voluntary

>participation" is made to respondents in telephone survey intro spiels,

>but I do want to share my opinion that I find your HSC person's demand

>simply outrageous. I urge you to refuse to state that explicitly and I

>urge all of us who must deal with HSC reviews to argue strongly against

>this type of misguided intrusion into what, we as ethical survey

>researcher -- not typical HSC members --, know best how to guard against.

>* *

>*   Paul J. Lavrakas, Ph.D.   *

>*   Professor of Communication & Journalism   *

>*   Professor of Public Policy & Management   *

>*   Director, Survey Research Unit   *

>*   College of Social & Behavioral Sciences, Ohio State University   *

>*   Derby Hall [Room 0126], 154 N. Oval Mall, Columbus OH 43210   *

>* Voice: 614-292-3468 Fax: 614-292-6673 E-mail: lavrakas.1@osu.edu   *

>* *

>

>

>From DOrourke@SRL.UIC.EDU Thu Sep 11 08:47:13 1997

Received: from eeyore.cc.uic.edu (EEYORE.CC.UIC.EDU [128.248.171.51])

    by usc.edu (8.8.4/8.7.2/usc) with ESMTP

    id IAA00415 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Thu, 11 Sep 1997 08:47:10 -0700

(PDT)

Received: from SRL.UIC.EDU (MAIL.SRL.UIC.EDU [128.248.232.55])

    by eeyore.cc.uic.edu (8.8.5/8.8.5) with SMTP id KAA20400

    for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Thu, 11 Sep 1997 10:44:25 -0500 (CDT)

Received: from main-Message_Server by SRL.UIC.EDU

    with Novell_GroupWise; Thu, 11 Sep 1997 10:42:12 -0500

Message-Id: <s417cb04.098@SRL.UIC.EDU>

X-Mailer: Novell GroupWise 4.1

Date: Thu, 11 Sep 1997 10:44:05 -0500

From: "Diane O'Rourke" <DOrourke@SRL.UIC.EDU>

To: aapornet@usc.edu

Subject: You can hang up

As someone else has mentioned, telling someone they can hang up at any time

could be considered insulting their intelligence. It certainly sounds like

one person's (not too good) idea. The IRBs that I am aware of typically

accept (1) the implicit understanding by adults that, when they receive a

phone call, they can hang up initially or later on (with no explicit

statement in the intro) or (2) the short statement that "your participation

is voluntary." Particularly with the increasing problem of telemarketing,

does anyone believe that people don't understand this?

(Perhaps the statement "we're not selling anything" would allay more

concerns.)

Two good sources of literature on informed consent (although most of it is

about confidentiality) are: (of course the best source is Eleanor Singer

herself!)

Singer, Eleanor. "Informed Consent and Survey Response: A Summary of the

Empirical Literature." Journal of Official Statistics, Vol. 9, No. 2, 1993,

pp. 361-375. (The entire issue is about Confidentiality and Data

Access.)

Singer, E , Von Thurn, D, and Miller, E. "Confidentiality Assurances and

Response: A Qualtitative Review of the Experimental Literature" Public

Opinion Quarterly, Vol. 59, No. 1, Spring 1995, pp. 66-77.

Diane O'Rourke

Survey Research Laboratory

Univ. of Illinois

I must agree with all that has been said. Many IRB's do not understand the

regulations and all to often have never even read them. In my case, I am at

a medical school and they are even to the point of suggesting that ringing a

telephone could "cause a psychotic response" so we should not be allowed to

make telephone calls. I was able to defeat that insanity, from a

psychiatrist ironicly, but still find that IRB's do not know what they can

and can not do. In some sense every faculty member thinks they are a

lawyer. They get on IRB's and think they are saving mankind. While I have

a strong concern for ethics, I do think it goes both ways. Sometimes I

think we need an IRB of researchers to review IRB's. In no case should

introductory wording be changed as they suggest (in their tiny minds

"ordered"). That is not within their jurisdiction AT ALL. Ask for the reg.

citation and stand tall. Brian Vargus Director, Indiana University Public

Opinion Laboratory

>From vince_scardino@abtassoc.com Thu Sep 11 10:34:34 1997

Received: from abtmail.abtassoc.com (abtmail.abtassoc.com [198.105.0.7])

    by usc.edu (8.8.4/8.7.2/usc) with ESMTP

    id KAA09864 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Thu, 11 Sep 1997 10:34:23 -0700

(PDT)

From: vince_scardino@abtassoc.com

Received: from hadrian.abtassoc.com (hadrian.abtassoc.com [198.105.0.2])

    by abtmail.abtassoc.com (8.8.6/8.8.6/LeftBank-Abtassoc1.0) with SMTP

id NAA19352;

    Thu, 11 Sep 1997 13:37:10 -0400

Received: from [10.121.0.2] by hadrian.abtassoc.com

        via smtpd (for abtmail.abtassoc.com [198.105.0.7]) with SMTP; 11

Sep 1997 17:41:04 UT

Received: from cc:Mail by abtgwy.abtassoc.com

    id AA874010767; Thu, 11 Sep 97 13:45:53 est

Date: Thu, 11 Sep 97 13:45:53 est

Message-Id: <9708118740.AA874010767@abtgwy.abtassoc.com>

To: aapornet@usc.edu

Cc: slosh@garnet.acns.fsu.edu

Subject: Re[2]: Human Subjects Committee. Come hang up any time

Sue,

   It's unfortunate that your Human Subjects Committee has

such a stupid administrative assistant. Is this the first

time that your Human Subjects Committee has ever met? Is

this the first time the admin ass't has ever faced this kind

of issue? How come this issue hasn't come up before this?

   Generally, HSCs and IRBs are concerned with weighing the

potential benefits and risks to subjects in biomedical and

behavioral research -- with the obvious objectives to

minimize the risks to individuals and ensuring that the

potential benefits outweigh the risks. They are also

concerned about obtaining informed consent and protecting

the privacy rights of individuals.

   You may want to look at the Legislative History behind the

National Research Act of 1974 for some insights behind the

creation of Human Subjects Committees. Protecting

respondents who are asked to participate in a telephone

interview was NOT one of the abuses that led to the passage

of the Act.

   You may also want to take a look at the Privacy Act of

1974, which is probably much more relevant. Disclosures

required by the Privacy Act include informing the respondent

[a] the authority/legislation which authorizes the

solicitation of information; [b] how the information will be

used; [c] whether participation is mandatory or voluntary;

and [d] the effects, if any, of not providing all or any

part of the requested information. Most federal agencies

feel they are complying with both the spirit and the letter

of the law by simply telling respondents something like

"your participation is entirely voluntary and you are free

not to answer particular question ..."

   You are unlikely to come across any serious experimental

research that tests differential response rates by inviting

potential respondents to hang up. Survey researchers

concerned about response rates have more serious issues to

investigate than Beavis & Butthead "let's tell them to hang

up, Dude" suggestions.

   Good luck -- it sounds like you'll need it.

Vince Scardino, Abt Associates Inc.

Cambridge, MA 02138

e-mail: vince_scardino@abtassoc.com

_____ Reply Separator

_____

Subject: Re: Human Subjects Committee. Come hang up any time

Author: aapornet@usc.edu at internet

Date: 9/10/97 9:48 PM

I am in the process of organizing a RDD survey of Leon County Florida. One

set of questions is on health practices (no HIV, no sex, etc.,nothing

illegal) with a standard preamble. The administrative assistant for our

Human Subjects Committee says we must have a statement in the Preamble that

states "You can hang up any time you want."

I have never seen this in any preamble. Does anyone know of any systematic work, preferably experimental, that has seen differences (or similarities) in response rates and anything else influencing the quality of the data on whether respondents are invited to hang up at any point?

Any references appreciated. Any news from AAPOR and if there have been any code of ethnics issues on this one VERY appreciated.

The sponsors of the survey, the time, the use of the data, the random selection, etc are all explained in the preamble (it's pretty standard), including an "you only have to answer the questions you want to" statement.

You can reply to me at:

slosh@garnet.acns.fsu.edu

and I will post a summary of replies.

Thanks again,

Sue

If time were money, I'd be in debtor's prison.

Susan Losh

Department of Sociology

Florida State University

Tallahassee FL 32306-2270

PHONE 850-644-1753

FAX 850-644-6208

MIME-Version: 1.0

To: aapornet@usc.edu

Subject: Job Opening

Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii

Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

Job Posting: Public Opinion Research Analyst

Small Midwest research firm seeks numbers-savvy writer to manage projects

and serve as lead analyst for public opinion surveys and focus groups.

Looking for a first-rate thinker with excellent computer

skills.

This small but mighty firm specialize in research for the media--newspapers,

magazines, books, and so on, with a host of non-media clients, including

public policy groups, public libraries and so on. We work for newspapers

such as The Des Moines Register, The San Diego Union-Tribune, the Providence

Journal, and The Record (Bergen County, New Jersey). We do a great deal of

work for Meredith Corporation, publishers of Better Homes and Gardens and a

host of other magazines.

Please fax letter and resume to: 515.271.5710 or e-mail to

selzerco@concentric.net

>From smeltz@usia.gov Thu Sep 11 11:29:38 1997

Received: from xgate.usia.gov (firewall-user@XGATE.USIA.GOV [198.67.64.2])

    by usc.edu (8.8.4/8.7.2/usc) with SMTP

    id LAA00694 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Thu, 11 Sep 1997 11:29:35 -0700

(PDT)

Received: from Connect2 Message Router by xgate.usia.gov

via Connect2-SMTP 4.31.02; Thu, 11 Sep 1997 14:26:50 -0400

Message-ID: <971B183401BD11E0@xgate.usia.gov>

In-Reply-To: <941B183401BD11E0@xgate.usia.gov>

Date: Thu, 11 Sep 1997 14:23:31 -0400

From: "Smeltz, Dina" <smeltz@usia.gov>

Sender: "Smeltz, Dina" <smeltz@usia.gov>

To: aapornet@usc.edu

Subject: Re: Job Opening

X-SMF-Hop-Count: 2

MIME-Version: 1.0

Content-type: text/plain; charset="US-ASCII"

Content-transfer-encoding: 7bit

X-Mailer: Connect2-SMTP 4.31.02 MHS/SMF to SMTP Gateway

ok, coming down now.

>From BARRY@uga.cc.uga.edu Thu Sep 11 11:39:47 1997

Received: from uga.cc.uga.edu (uga.cc.uga.edu [128.192.232.5])

    by usc.edu (8.8.4/8.7.2/usc) with SMTP

    id LAA04959 for <aapornet@USC.EDU>; Thu, 11 Sep 1997 11:39:43 -0700

(PDT)

Received: from UGA.CC.UGA.EDU by uga.cc.uga.edu (IBM VM SMTP V2R3)

  with BSMTP id 3882; Thu, 11 Sep 97 14:38:58 EDT

Received: from UGA.CC.UGA.EDU (NJE origin BARRY@UGA) by UGA.CC.UGA.EDU

(LMail V1.2c/1.8c) with BSMTP id 1084; Thu, 11 Sep 1997 14:38:58 -0400

Date: Thu, 11 Sep 97 14:36:49 EDT

From: "Barry A. Hollander" <BARRY@uga.cc.uga.edu>

Subject: Re: You can hang up

To: aapornet@usc.edu

I've always understood telephone surveys to have

"implied consent." That is, people know they can just

hang up if they want, that continuing with the

survey implies they consent to being studied.

Barry A. Hollander

College of Journalism

 and Mass Communication

The University of Georgia

Athens, GA   30602

BARRY@uga.cc.uga.edu http://www.grady.uga.edu/(tilde)bhollander

The New York Times

OP-ED, September 11, 1997, p. A19

Feminist Number Games

By SALLY L. SATEL

WASHINGTON -- Feminists have seized on a new study

from the Bureau of Justice Statistics as proof that

domestic violence against women is even worse than they

thought. They note that the figures in this study,

based on 1994 data, are four times higher than

estimates of domestic abuse reported in another major

survey.....

But this interpretation of the new study is misleading. The most important finding is that of all the women who went to an emergency room for any reason -- roughly 47 million in 1994 -- only half of 1 percent, or around 200,000, sought emergency treatment for injuries resulting from domestic violence. This debunks the claim, widely cited by policy makers and women's groups, that up to a third of women who visit emergency rooms do so because they were assaulted by a current or former partner.

News reports on the Bureau of Justice Statistics study have pointed out that the new numbers, based on emergency room records, are four times higher than the estimate of domestic abuse by the National Crime Victimization Survey, which is based on interviews.....

The National Crime Victimization Survey asked women only about the criminal origins of any injury they suffered.....

The Bureau of Justice Statistics didn't even count all of the women who visited an emergency room because of a domestic assault. That's because researchers didn't find out the source of violence for 19 percent of the women who came in to be treated for injuries resulting from violence. Yet if we assumed that every one of

those women were victims of domestic violence, the

total number of women who went to the hospital for that

reason would only increase to 310,000, from 200,000.....

But current literature from the Health and Human

Services Department's Office of Women's Health still

claims that 30 percent of the women who visit emergency

rooms have suffered domestic assault.....

Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala has

asserted that 20 to 30 percent of the women who come to

emergency rooms do so because of physical abuse by

their partner.

Domestic violence is indeed a terrible problem. The

Bureau of Justice Statistics study reported that women

were eight times more likely to be injured by an

intimate than men. And it found that slightly more than

a third of the violent injuries women suffered were the

result of domestic abuse.

But we need to put those figures into context. Injuries

from domestic assaults still accounted for just half of

1 percent of female emergency room cases in 1994.

Distorting the extent of domestic violence only makes

it harder to address the problem..... Unless we get to

the truth about the prevalence of domestic violence, we

cannot take realistic action against it.

Sally L. Satel is a psychiatrist and a lecturer at

Yale's School of Medicine.

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Interested readers are encouraged to purchase today's

issue of the Times for the full text.

Mime-Version: 1.0

Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"

To: aapornet@usc.edu

From: johnf@icue.com (John M. Ford)

Subject: Help Changing Subscription Address (Sorry!)

I apologize for bothering the list with my email problem.

Could someone tell me how to change my aapornet suscription from my

"johnf@icue.com" address to my new "johnf@itsnet.com" address?

Thanks for the help and sorry for the list intrusion.

John Ford

>From stakacs@garnet.acns.fsu.edu Fri Sep 12 07:20:24 1997

Received: from mailer.fsu.edu (mailer.fsu.edu [128.186.6.122])

    by usc.edu (8.8.4/8.7.2/usc) with ESMTP

    id HAA21053 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Fri, 12 Sep 1997 07:20:20 -0700

(PDT)

Received: from garnet.acns.fsu.edu (gmhub.acns.fsu.edu [128.186.195.10]) by

mailer.fsu.edu (8.8.5/8.7.3) with ESMTP id KAA01353 for <aapornet@usc.edu>;

Fri, 12 Sep 1997 10:20:11 -0400 (EDT)

Received: from garnet2.acns.fsu.edu (garnet2.acns.fsu.edu [128.186.195.3])

    by garnet.acns.fsu.edu (8.8.6/8.8.6) with ESMTP id KAA53854

    for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Fri, 12 Sep 1997 10:20:08 -0400

Received: (from stakacs@localhost)

    by garnet2.acns.fsu.edu (8.8.6/8.8.6) id KAA155128

Brian Vargus writes:

>

> I must agree with all that has been said. Many IRB's do not

> understand the regulations and all to often have never even read them.

> In my case, I am at a medical school and they are even to the point of

> suggesting that ringing a telephone could "cause a psychotic response"

> so we should not be allowed to make telephone calls.

If I hadn't dealt with an IRB myself, I'd think this was a joke. In my case

it was that I wanted to use a cover letter (for a drop-off and pick-up

survey) in "plain english" rather than legalese. It would have accomplished

the goal of the board (protecting the subjects) but they opted for obeying

what they thought was the letter of the law (they told me to use their

format for cover letters and only change what I had to.)

Another factor to consider is that universities have office politics (all

right, we all knew that) and sometimes a very bureaucratic perspective

(again, this is self-evident). Chances are someone in a position of greater

responsibility (Department Chair, Dean, etc.) has had similar problems, and

may be willing to champion your cause. That way instead of seeming like

another whining faculty member your request comes from someone who can vote

on budgeting and tenure review decisions. Worst case, you make someone else

in the administration aware that the board is potentially hurting the

university (lower/biased responses=worse research=less possibility of

getting published=less image for the

university.)

A more global issue might be to develop a two-tiered human subjects board

system: One "fast track" tier for projects that are strictly survey

research (which would only look for potentially actionable questions) and a

"long track" tier which would look at actual experimental manipulations of

subjects, particularly for psychological and medical studies where the risks

are more than minimal.

What would also help would be more people filing (and winning) countersuits

for frivoulous lawsuits. Take away the economic incentive for suing the

post office because you get too much junk mail, and the fear of a suit will

diminish.

Scott T.

>From igem100@indyunix.iupui.edu Fri Sep 12 11:03:49 1997

Received: from hermes.iupui.edu (root@hermes.iupui.edu [134.68.220.31])

    by usc.edu (8.8.4/8.7.2/usc) with ESMTP

    id LAA28030 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Fri, 12 Sep 1997 11:03:45 -0700

(PDT)

Scott Takacs suggested for a two-tiered system is essentially what I have at

Indiana University NOW! It took several years of faculty politics to get

there, but it works. We submit what we think is questionable and submit

others as an "exempt project." Most surveys fall in the latter category.

Obviously, a center director (my current spot in the organizational chart)

must be accountable and very open about what the facility is doing.

However, an expedited review system (two-tiered) avoids many of the most

irritating nuisance-type objections. You still must be very careful about

your staff's understanding of human subject-type concerns and make sure you

are meeting the standards. All in all, I think we have been successful

here. If any one wants to know more, please e-mail off net and I'll explain

how we got the system and any pertinent details.

   Brian Vargus

   Director, Indiana University Public Opinion Laboratory

e-mail IGEM100@indyunix.iupui.edu

On Fri, 12 Sep 1997, Scott J. Takacs wrote:

> Brian Vargus writes:

> >

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> countersuits for frivoulous lawsuits. Take away the economic

> incentive for suing the post office because you get too much junk

> mail, and the fear of a suit will diminish.

>

> Scott T.

>

>From beniger@rcf.usc.edu Fri Sep 12 11:19:20 1997

Received: from almaak.usc.edu (almaak.usc.edu [128.125.19.166])

    by usc.edu (8.8.4/8.7.2/usc) with ESMTP

    id LAA02155 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Fri, 12 Sep 1997 11:19:18 -0700

(PDT)

Received: from localhost (beniger@localhost)

>From Jim Beniger...

To echo the concerns of Jan Werner, Dennis Goldenson, and other AAPORNETers

about Internet threats to personal privacy:

In a front-page story in yesterday's (Sept. 11) New York Times, "Microsoft

Faces Challenge on Internet-Cable TV Link," John Markoff reports the

strategy of a small start-up company, Worldgate Communications of Bensalem,

Pa.:

   Worldgate's approach would employ a largely unused

   portion of the video spectrum called the vertical

   blanking interval. That means that a cable system will

   be able to continue to deliver all of its existing

   channels.

And unlike Web TV's technology, which amounts to a

television set-top computer, virtually no computing

takes place in the consumer's set-top box in

Worldgate's system. Instead, the processing occurs at

the cable operator's site. Only a relatively compact

video stream is sent down to the home and only simple

commands or keystrokes are sent back upstream.

"We thought, 'Why put the computer in the home?' " said

Worldgate founder and chief executive Hal Krisbergh,

who ran the cable business of Nextlevel -- the former

General Instrument Corp. -- for a decade. "We realized

if we did this we could offer very broad access."

Krisbergh acknowledged that the system would raise

thorny privacy issues because Worldgate could closely

link advertisers with the TV viewing and Internet

browsing habits of users. "We know everything," he

said. "We have to be very careful how we use this

information."

>From survey@uts.cc.utexas.edu Fri Sep 12 12:10:02 1997

Received: from moe.cc.utexas.edu (root@moe.cc.utexas.edu [128.83.42.2])

O'Neil:

I thought might enjoy this about Institutional Review Boards.

Veronica

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>the regulations and all to often have never even read them. In my

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>so we should not be allowed to make telephone calls. I was able to

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>do think it goes both ways. Sometimes I think we need an IRB of

>researchers to review IRB's. In no case should introductory wording be

>changed as they suggest (in their tiny minds "ordered"). That is not

>within their jurisdiction AT ALL. Ask for the reg. citation and stand

>tall. Brian Vargus Director, Indiana University Public Opinion

>Laboratory

Veronica Inchauste   (512) 471-2101

Director   (512) 471-4980

Office of Survey Research   FAX (512) 471-8500

CMA 3.110   survey@uts.cc.utexas.edu

University of Texas

Austin TX, 78713

>From lang@u.washington.edu Fri Sep 12 14:04:47 1997

Received: from jason05.u.washington.edu (root@jason05.u.washington.edu

[140.142.78.6])

    by usc.edu (8.8.4/8.7.2/usc) with ESMTP

    id OAA20401 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Fri, 12 Sep 1997 14:04:41 -0700

(PDT)

Received: from homer32.u.washington.edu (lang@homer32.u.washington.edu

[140.142.70.19])

     by jason05.u.washington.edu (8.8.4+UW97.07/8.8.4+UW97.05) with

ESMTP

    id OAA28620 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Fri, 12 Sep 1997 14:04:41 -0700

To: AAPORNetters

I'm compelled to disagree strongly with Frank Rusciano's

insistence that AAPOR get involved in the controversy surrounding the

publication of an article in last year's Journal of Communication. To do so

would only involve the association in what has all the earmarks of an

unseemly campaign against Christopher Simpson, its author, for his

ideologically based criticism of Elisabeth Noelle-Neumann and her spiral of

silence theory by some of her most ardent followers. Not only did they

defend her with great fervor at a session at the ICA conference in May,

organized explicitly for that purpose but, as revealed in that session, they

had also put great pressure on the editor of JC not to publish the Simpson

critique and at least one person had previously gone out of his/her way to

intervene with the committee that was then considering Simpson's tenure at

American University. The session, which I attended, was as much an ad

hominem debate as an intellectual discussion. I do not believe it served any

scholarly purpose. Nor would it if AAPOR were to get into the act.

In saying this, I am aware that this controversy must have caused as much pain to Noelle-Neumann as it did to Simpson; nor does it amount to an uncritical acceptance of Simpson's endeavor to trace the origins of the spiral of silence theory to its author's political past some fifty or more years ago. In a brief note, mailed to him after reading the article, I concurred that social scientists need always be alert to the ideological components that intrude into so much of their theorizing but pointed out that he had failed to address some of the most troublesome political uses made of the spiral of silence phenomenon. It provided the underlying rationale for attacks on
German news media for creating a climate of opinion against the conservatives. This, and other politically controversial causes served by research conducted by her and her disciples, are fully known and have undergone some examination in Germany, where the spiral of silence theory seems to have made less headway.

To be sure, the politics of the author neither establish nor undermine the validity of a scientific formulation. With that in mind, my note to Simpson was accompanied by an article, written with Gladys, on how people respond to the perceived opinions of others. It was based on a selective review of the social science literature but was flatly rejected by POQ and IJPOR. Four out of six reviewers saw absolutely no merit in it but lectured us to read up on the spiral of silence -- amazingly, since the article had been intended to put this formulation into an appropriate theoretical context. It argued that public opinion was not just a form of social control but also functioned as a forum, urged the need to focus on interaction between the public and government while recognizing that the overwhelming group pressure mobilized under some circumstances can be an obstacle to the public hearing itself.

One recipient of an offprint of the article (basically unchanged), sent to some 80 AAPOR/ICA members after publication elsewhere, volunteered his/her opinion that the reviewers' negative criticism reflected a simple fact: there are many true believers' who simply will not accept anything critical of the spiral of silence.

None of us are, nor should we be, "afraid to listen... to the insights of those who [like Noelle-Neumann] existed under the monstrous [nazi] regime," as Rusciano implies. Simpson's lone dissident voice is not likely to instill fear of isolation in anyone and certainly not in those, including many members of AAPOR, myself among them, who also experienced nazi horrors but from a less privileged perspective. Instead of joining the crusade against Simpson, who obviously can stand up for himself, AAPOR would be better advised to pay more attention to an original interest: the nature of public opinion. In my humble opinion, a focus on the spiral of silence as THE theory of public opinion would be an unwarranted and premature narrowing of that topic. Let's not repeat the ICA session at AAPOR!

Kurt Lang

P.S. In the unlikely event that anyone might be interested in our twice-rejected article, we would be happy to send a hard copy since we have not as yet established a website of our own.

>From mkuechle@shiva.hunter.cuny.edu Sat Sep 13 07:25:50 1997
Received: from shiva.hunter.cuny.edu (shiva.hunter.cuny.edu [146.95.128.96])
    by usc.edu (8.8.4/8.7.2/usc) with ESMTP
    id HAA29239 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Sat, 13 Sep 1997 07:25:47 -0700
(PDT)
Received: from social54.hunter.cuny.edu (social54.hunter.cuny.edu

At 02:04 PM 9/12/1997 -0700, Kurt Lang wrote:

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>insistence that AAPOR get involved in the controversy surrounding the

>publication of an article in last year's Journal of Communication. To

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>of an unseemly campaign against Christopher Simpson, its author, for

>his ideologically based criticism of Elisabeth Noelle-Neumann and her

>spiral of silence theory by some of her most ardent followers. .....

I fully agree with Kurt. While there may be legitimate objections to

Simpson's work (I had not have a chance to give it a full reading myself), I

find the attempts by the Noelle-Neumann clan (for lack of a better word, in

German I would say "Seilschaft") to intervene in the due process of

Simpson's tenure review highly objectionable. For this very reason, I have

decided not meet a commitment I had made earlier this year to review the

(slightly updated) new edition of SoS in the context of ENN's lifetime

contributions to the profession for the "Politische Vierteljahresschrift

(PVS)" -- the journal of the German Association for Politische Wissenschaft

(DVPW). I think that *silence* is the most adequat response at this time,

everything else just fuels a debate that does not serve any scholarly

purpose.

Manfred Kuechler

Sociology Department at Hunter College (CUNY)

695 Park Avenue, NY, NY 10021

Tel: 212-772-5588

Fax: as above, then select "3" from voice mail menu (***NEW*** as of

7/21/97)

WWW: http://social54.hunter.cuny.edu/ (experimental as of 8/6/97) OR

http://maxweber.hunter.cuny.edu/socio/

IMAGINATIVE USES OF ARCHIVAL POLL DATA DEPT.

>From Jim Beniger...

"Notebook" [no author listed], The New Republic, September 8 & 15, 1997, p.
8.

   "Mr. Speaker--Newt--the people have pretty much spo-
   ken: only 18 percent of Americans currently approve of
   the job you are doing. That puts you twenty-four points
   behind Gary Hart the week following l'affair Rice, fifteen
   points behind Stalin's current popularity in Russia and
   two points behind Nixon upon his resignation. You trail
   the hotel-haunting Frank Gifford by eight points. Sub-
   stantially more than 18 percent of the country thinks
   rapist-turned-masticator Mike Tyson deserves a chance
   to chomp his way back into boxing. Newt should keep in
   mind, as ex-Reagan aide Lyn Nofziger told the Atlanta
   paper [Journal and Constitution], "There's no sense run-
   ning for president when everybody knows you and most of
   them hate you."

   ****

Fellow AAPORneters:

I found much to agree with in Kurt Lang's statement about the controversy

over Noelle-Neumann's SPIRAL OF SILENC. First, I should have made myself

clearer in my original statement; I was not looking to involve AAPOR as an

organization in this discussion, but rather to open the subject to

discussion amongst ourselves in this forum, while offering my own opinion.

In no way was this intended to be an attack upon Mr. Simpson-- I merely

wished to state the intellectual problems I had with his article. In this

vein, I would add that it would be improper for us, as an organization, to

either praise or condemn any scholarly work, but it is our right (and

duty) to examine these in discussion forums like the AAPORnet. As far as

taking this issue up at the AAPOR convention, I tend to agree with Kurt that

from what I heard about the ICA, there would be little to be gained from

such an exercise. However, I would allow that someone might have

intellectual insights into this debate that might be useful and interesting

to members, so I wouldn't rule out the possibility.

Regarding Kurt and Gladys Lang's critique of the SPIRAL OF SILENCE, I find

it regretable when any idea or theory seems to achieve intellectual

hegenomy. I, for one, would like to see a copy of their paper.

I would think our current project would be to examine critically any

theories of public opinion, while trying to generate

other models if we feel the present ones are inadequate.

I'm not sure that this activity has much to do with the controversy

Simpson raises, however; it just seems to be basic

scholarly sense. At any rate, I would hope to see Kurt and Gladys's

critique in print soon.

Frank Rusciano

> >

> > On Fri, 12 Sep 1997, Kurt Lang wrote:

> >

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> > >

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> > > since we have not as yet established a website of our own.

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>From DMMerkle@aol.com Tue Sep 16 07:17:31 1997

Received: from emout03.mail.aol.com (emout03.mx.aol.com [198.81.11.94])

   by usc.edu (8.8.4/8.7.2/usc) with ESMTP

   id HAA11999 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Tue, 16 Sep 1997 07:17:27 -0700

(PDT)

From: DMMerkle@aol.com

Received: (from root@localhost)

   by emout03.mail.aol.com (8.7.6/8.7.3/AOL-2.0.0)

   id KAA16421 for aapornet@usc.edu;

Tue, 16 Sep 1997 10:16:56 -0400 (EDT)

In a message dated 97-09-10 15:06:00 EDT, Frank Rusciano writes:

>However, a more important issue is at stake. In order to avoid

>repeating the horrors of the Holocaust, we desperately need the

>insights of those who existed under the monstrous regime responsible

>for it.

This is one of the points made by Simpson in his Journal of Communication

article (and Bogart in his 1991 article "The Pollster and the Nazis" in

Commentary). Although a discussion of the spiral of silence as it relates to

Nazi Germany would be quite informative and interesting for a number of

reasons, Noelle-Neumann provides no discussion of it in her extensive

(English) publications on the spiral of silence.

However, any such analysis would have to revise the theory somewhat. Surely,

the "fear of social isolation" that sets the spiral of silence in motion

according to Noelle-Neumann's theory was replaced (or supplemented) in Nazi

Germany by a much stronger mechanism, namely the concern for one's physical

well being.

Daniel Merkle, Ph.D.

Director of Surveys

Voter News Service

New York, NY 10122

Ph: 212-947-7280

Fax: 212-947-7756

DMMerkle@aol.com

To: aapornet@usc.edu

From: Susan Losh <slosh@garnet.acns.fsu.edu>

Subject: Re: hanging up and HSC preambles

Cc: slosh@garnet.acns.fsu.edu, bbelling@garnet.acns.fsu.edu

First, thank you to everyone who replied to my request for information on Sept 10 and to the survey directors with whom I spoke. My inquiry was about Human Subjects Committees and a staff member who refused to send out an innocuous survey for Human Subjects Committee *review* until I added "you can hang up at any time" in the survey introduction. I was told that this was required by federal guidelines.

(1) No one is aware of any research that directly assesses whether a statement such as "you can hang up at any time" has any *comparative* impact on response rates or other data quality, although one then-doctoral candidate who did add this to his survey through Florida State University felt his response rates were still OK. Clearly this is one step past Eleanor Singer's work on confidentiality, anonymity etc!

(2) More importantly no one could find a Federal Guideline that requires those doing RDD surveys of adults to make such a direct invitation to hang up in the preamble. Our IRB may be confusing RDD surveys with telephone solicitations. I am now trying to obtain a direct copy of the Federal Guidelines. I have a set of "Tips" put together by the IRB that stresses the voluntary nature of participation but have no "hang up" requirement in them either. Clearly these "Tips" are insufficient under the circumstances.

(3) AAPOR does not really address this issue readily, directly, or easily either although some folks thought that we did. I called AAPOR and was

directed to our WEB site and explored everything on it, including our code

of ethics. I couldn't find anything directly related to the "hang up" on it.

(4) I did send over to the IRB office a slightly reworked phrase about total

participation "Your participation in the survey is totally voluntary..."

which was suggested by some responses. Thanks

(5) Thanks in part to AAPOR support, we were able to move review of the

project past office staff out to a subcommittee which does "expedited

review" of surveys. I was part of a Faculty Senate subcommittee last year

that recommended such a two-tier process which is apparently is now in

place. However, I am informed by the HSC head that I must now show I can be

"waived" or "exempt" from Federal Guidelines...when I have complied and have

not violated any of them in the first place which I find very strange. I

will keep you folks posted on our progress. I am not very sanguine about it.

(6) Given my experience, that of several people who contacted me, and other

FSU faculty, students and staff (I think my favorite is the IRB member at

"Unnamed U" who felt telephone surveys shouldn't be done because someone

might have a psychotic episode if the phone rang), "human subjects

protection" needs to be thoroughly reworked. So far I have not encountered a

shred of concern for protecting human subjects. Instead, I find extreme fear

that the University will be sued at the slightest provocation and that

everything must be centered around doing so, even if the solutions

endanger academic freedom or the research enterprise itself. What is

happening is that instead (a) some researchers just ignore IRBs which is

harder to do with funded research but seems to happen anyway because (b) so

many people are getting fed up with these kinds of experiences that no one

will turn in people who don't go through them. I find this social process

truly dangerous to human subject protection and setting the stage for

tremendous problems. Second is that several of the inputs I got from

non-professional staff were, in fact, detrimental to informed consent. Worse

yet, there are NO SOCIAL SCIENTISTS ON OUR HUMAN SUBJECTS COMMITTEE. I

cannot imagine how such a situation has come to pass.

Thanks again for all the support.

Sue

If time were money I'd be in debtor's prison.

Susan Losh

Department of Sociology

Florida State University

Tallahassee FL 32306-2270

(850) 644-1753

FAX (850) 644-6208

Does anyone have any thoughts on using Perception Analyzer (PA) research for
testing television copy? PA is a dial based data collection tool that is
sometimes referred to as an Audience Response System (ARS). Basically, we
are interested in advertising copy testing, and we want to get around group
dynamics that sometimes "pollute" findings from focus groups.

We intend to have a set of respondents view a clutter reel while operating
their dials, and then follow up with a subset using mini groups.
Do any of you have experience using this research method? Are there any
pitfalls (besides the obvious) that I should be aware of?

Thanks,

Fred Neurohr

Susan Losh is to be commended for bringing up the ethical treatment of

respondents. In one of her points she writes that ...

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either although some folks thought that we did. I called AAPOR and was

directed to our WEB site and explored everything on it, including our code

of ethics. I couldn't find anything directly related to the "hang up" on it.

It's true that there's no direct answer to her questions. But it is dealt

with in part in the recently-published "Best Practices for Survey and Public

Opinion Research and Survey Practices AAPOR Condemns."   In Item 9

of "Best practices," AAPOR endorses maximizing cooperation or response rates

within the limits of ethical treatment of human subjects.

In Item 11, AAPOR also endorses carefully developing and fulfilling

pledges of confidentiality given to respondents.   Both items carry fuller

explanations.

The booklet was available at the May conference, and if it's not up on the

web site already, it should be there soon. Also, the upcoming edition of

AAPOR News will have information about ordering print copies. Sorry I

didn't weigh in sooner.

Hope this helps, and I hope that Susan gets out of the temporal debtor's

prison she hinted at. <grin>

Rob Daves

AAPOR Publications and Information Chair

(PDT)

Information regarding the use of the Perception Analyzer can be

obtained from Mark Camack, Kim Fravil or Cindy Dederick, who

frequently utilize this methodology in advertising testing (both

television and print) for Utility and Technology clients.

All are at Market Strategies, Inc. whose subsidiary, Columbia

Information Systems, developed the PA system.

websites: www.marketstrategies.com or www.cis.com

Karin Clissold

The people to talk to about Perception Analyzer are at Market Strategies,

248-350-3020

_____ Reply Separator

_____

Subject: Perception Analyzer Research

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Fred Neurohr

Prof. Simpson asked me to post this for him as he is not on AAPORNET.

AAPORNET:

I deeply appreciate Dr. M. Keuchler's comments concerning the case, and his personal decision to take an action in response to it. I respectfully suggest, however, that my critique of Noelle-Neumann is no more "ideologically motivated" than any other piece of academic writing, and was in any case peer reviewed by a full committee of highly qualified academics at a journal known for its cautious and moderate approach to controversy. The source of the "ideological" claim, in my view, is the smear campaign by Noelle's protoges to which Dr. Keuchler quite properly objects.

I would be pleased to provide to any AAPORNET listserv reader a copy of my article via an attached file in electronic mail, so that readers might judge for themselves the merits of the various claims made in this controversy. I can be reached at: simpson@american.edu

The terms "ideology" or "ideologically motivated" are vexed, for reasons with which AAPOR readers are familiar. Having said that, perhaps AAPOR readers would be interested in reading the following excerpts from Hans Mathias Kepplinger's denunciation of me that was secretly sent to my

superiors at American University. For me, it speaks volumes about the deeply rooted preconceptions of Mr. Kepplinger and similar Noelle-Neumann protoges:

Kepplinger argues at length that Noelle presented a "neutral description of the role of Jews in public life" (p.8 of the unpaginated denunciation) in her Hitler-era writings, and thus should not be regarded as a public anti-Semite during the Hitler years.

Compare that claim to Noelle's published "nest of wasps" characterization of the "Jew hiding behind the Chicago Daily News" ("Wer informiert Amerika?, _Das Reich_ June 8, 1941) and her claim that "the hand of the Jews... endangered German cultural life and national unity. Germany saw only two ways out of this situation: Either to fight off by national ideals an apparently inevitable fate [of Jewish rule], or hopelessly to resign herself and await her own deterioration and extinction..... Consequently, the German people elected (and they actually did elect!) as their leader Adolph Hitler, who in this time of indecision had laid down the system of national defense in his book _Mein Kampf_ and in the twenty five points of the party program of the National-Socialists." ("A Nazi Version," _Columbia Missourian_, Nov. 24, 1937).

When characterizing me and the _Journal of Communication_, Kepplinger writes, "We are dealing with the destruction of science and its replacement by politics.... Both in the realm of science and without, there have always been and always will be _criminals_ [ie, Simpson, in this instance --my emphasis] by conviction who are willing to sacrifice all truth to their beliefs... An even greater scandal is the behavior of [the Journal of Communication's] editor, who neglected his responsibility in an utterly inexcuseable manner and thus carries a share of the blame" for allowing the article to be published at all. Both Simpson and the editor are said to be

motivated by "goals that have nothing to do with science" (pp. 30, 31-32 of

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denunciation).

    AAPOR readers of many different political persuasions can judge the

political and "ideological" forces at work in this controversy. My only

request is that they read the article that is under attack by Ms. Noelle's

protoges before reaching their conclusion.

Best wishes,

Christopher Simpson

School of Communication

American University

Washington DC 20016-8017 USA

simpson@american.edu

Fellow AAPORneters:

I appreciate Mr. Simpson's response to the AAPORnet; I feel that such communication can only help our discussion. With regards to his comments, I fully agree that it is inaccurate to attempt to ascribe motivations to an individual based upon their scholarly work; the statement that Mr. Simpson's article was "ideologically motivated" is without evidence. Indeed, that was the main point I made about Simpson's article regarding the SPIRAL OF SILENCE on the AAPORnet originally-- that we move into the realm of the unprovable once we attempt to construct a personality analysis of someone's work, or try to describe how their work reveals their personality or motivations. It therefore seems better to evaluate the work from a scholarly perspective, rather than from the perspective of a hypothetical "personality" or "motivations" for which we have no proof. In this regard, Mr. Simpson's objections are justified, just as Noelle-Neumann's are.

Frank Rusciano

On Wed, 17 Sep 1997 DMMerkle@aol.com wrote:

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>

>

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> Christopher Simpson

> School of Communication

> American University

> Washington DC 20016-8017 USA

>

> simpson@american.edu

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>From steenb@fleishman.com Wed Sep 17 19:35:19 1997

Received: from fhinternet.fleish.com (www.fleish.com [207.193.111.252])

    by usc.edu (8.8.4/8.7.2/usc) with ESMTP

    id TAA03007 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Wed, 17 Sep 1997 19:35:16 -0700

(PDT)

Received: from stlexg001.fleishman.com

      (smtp.fleishman.com [207.193.111.11]) by fhinternet.fleish.com

      (Post.Office MTA v3.0 release 0122 ID# 0-0U10L2S100) with SMTP

      id AAA72 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Wed, 17 Sep 1997 21:30:49 -0500

Received: by stlexg001.fleishman.com with SMTP (Microsoft Exchange Server

Internet Mail Connector Version 4.0.995.52)

    id <01BCC3B2.ADC0CCE0@stlexg001.fleishman.com>; Wed, 17 Sep 1997

21:43:04 -0500

While this ongoing discussion is interesting, it is at the same time

tiresome. I personally hope this does not become a cause celebre for an

AAPOR conference. I feel like we are dealing in tabloid academics, which

have a certain appeal, but make little difference in how I go

about the business of conducting opinion research.   What I learned from

the Spiral of Silence was another way to think about opinion formulation.

The politics of the author are not relevant to me.

Keep the discourse alive on AAPORNET. Publish another peer reviewed

analysis. Keep it off the 1997 Conference agenda. Bob Steen

Fleishman-Hillard Research St. Louis, MO 314-982-1752 Fax 314-982-9105

E-mail Steenb@fleishman.com

200 N. Broadway

St. Louis, MO 63102

>----------

>From: DMMerkle@aol.com[SMTP:DMMerkle@aol.com]

>Sent: Wednesday, September 17, 1997 12:01 PM

>To: aapornet@usc.edu

>Subject: Re: Spiral of Silence

>

>Prof. Simpson asked me to post this for him as he is not on AAPORNET.

>

>

>AAPORNET:

>I deeply appreciate Dr. M. Keuchler's comments concerning the case, and

>his personal decision to take an action in response to it. I

>respectfully suggest, however, that my critique of Noelle-Neumann is no

>more "ideologically motivated" than any other piece of academic

>writing, and was in any case peer reviewed by a full committee of

>highly qualified academics at a journal known for its cautious and

>moderate approach to controversy. The source of the "ideological"

>claim, in my view, is the smear campaign by Noelle's protoges to which

>Dr. Keuchler quite properly objects.

>

>   I would be pleased to provide to any AAPORNET listserv reader a copy

>of my article via an attached file in electronic mail, so that readers

>might judge for themselves the merits of the various claims made in

>this controversy. I can be reached at: simpson@american.edu

>

>   The terms "ideology" or "ideologically motivated" are vexed, for

>reasons with which AAPOR readers are familiar. Having said that,

>perhaps AAPOR readers would be interested in reading the following

>excerpts from Hans Mathias Kepplinger's denunciation of me that was

>secretly sent to my superiors at American University. For me, it speaks

>volumes about the deeply rooted preconceptions of Mr. Kepplinger and

>similar Noelle-Neumann protoges:

>

>   Kepplinger argues at length that Noelle presented a "neutral

>description of the role of Jews in public life" (p.8 of the

>unpaginated

>denunciation) in her Hitler-era writings, and thus should not be

>regarded as a public anti-Semite during the Hitler years.

>   Compare that claim to Noelle's published "nest of wasps"

>characterization of the "Jew hiding behind the Chicago Daily News" ("Wer

>informiert Amerika?, _Das Reich_ June 8, 1941) and her claim that "the

>hand of the Jews... endangered German cultural life and national unity.

>Germany saw only two ways out of this situation: Either to fight off by

>national ideals an apparently inevitable fate [of Jewish rule], or

>hopelessly to resign herself and await her own deterioration and

>extinction..... Consequently, the German people elected (and they

>actually did elect!) as their leader Adolph Hitler, who in this time of

>indecision had laid down the system of national defense in his book

>_Mein Kampf_ and in the twenty five points of the party program of the

>National-Socialists." ("A Nazi Version," _Columbia Missourian_, Nov. 24,

>1937).

>

>   When characterizing me and the _Journal of Communication_, Kepplinger

>writes, "We are dealing with the destruction of science and its

>replacement by politics.... Both in the realm of science and without,

>there have always been and always will be _criminals_ [ie, Simpson, in

>this instance --my emphasis] by conviction who are willing to sacrifice

>all truth to their beliefs... An even greater scandal is the behavior

>of [the Journal of Communication's] editor, who neglected his

>responsibility in an utterly inexcuseable manner and thus carries a

>share of the blame" for allowing the article to be published at all.

>Both Simpson and the editor are said to be motivated by "goals that

>have nothing to do with science" (pp. 30, 31-32 of unpaginated

>denunciation).

>

>   AAPOR readers of many different political persuasions can judge the

>political and "ideological" forces at work in this controversy. My only

>request is that they read the article that is under attack by Ms.

>Noelle's protoges before reaching their conclusion.

>

>Best wishes,

>Christopher Simpson

>School of Communication

>American University

>Washington DC 20016-8017 USA

>

>simpson@american.edu

>

>

>

>From R1MJM1@VM1.CC.UAKRON.EDU Thu Sep 18 08:02:00 1997

Received: from VM1.CC.UAKRON.EDU (vm1.cc.uakron.edu [130.101.5.2])

    by usc.edu (8.8.4/8.7.2/usc) with SMTP

    id IAA05483 for <aapornet@USC.EDU>; Thu, 18 Sep 1997 08:01:57 -0700

(PDT)

Message-Id: <199709181501.IAA05483@usc.edu>

Received: from VM1.CC.UAKRON.EDU by VM1.CC.UAKRON.EDU (IBM VM SMTP V2R4)

  with BSMTP id 8736; Thu, 18 Sep 97 11:01:36 EDT

Al, is this the setup i need to create an export file that can be read by

spss pc? Also, i don't know how to download the export file to my pc. you

mentioned you could send it to me, or would it be better to just put this

fairly small file on a floppy disk? McKee

//HERBERTN JOB (86010,AI1S0000),HERBERT,

// USER=

// EXEC SPSS,DSN4='SPSS.Export.S6870',UNIT4=SYSDA,VOL4=ACAD01,

// STATUS4=new,DISP4=CATLG,CYLS='10,20',GOSIZE=8152K,dsn3='r1mjm1.s6879'

GET FILE=spssin

FREQUENCIES VARIABLES=YEAR

export OUTFILE=SPSSOUT

FINISH

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS FOR MONOGRAPH PAPERS

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SURVEY NONRESPONSE

TIME: FALL, 1999

PLACE: UNITED STATES, PROBABLY IN THE

WESTERN U.S.

DEADLINE FOR ABSTRACTS FOR MONOGRAPH

PAPERS: JULY 1, 1998

BACKGROUND AND GOALS

The International Conference on Survey Nonresponse will

be the first international gathering totally devoted to the nonresponse

phenomena in sample surveys since the meetings of the National Academy of

Sciences panel in 1983. Since that time there have been important new

developments both in statistical estimation in the presence of missing data

and data collection procedures to reduce nonresponse. An edited volume

containing a description of state of the art research findings in the area

will be written

and a related conference will be mounted in 1999.

The edited volume and conference have the

following goals:

the volume will be designed to be a description of

the state of the art in social science and statistical

theory and practice in nonresponse rate reduction,

nonresponse error measurement, and postsurvey

compensation for nonresponse.

the volume will be designed to be suitable for

university use; that is, it will not be a proceedings

volume, but an integrated treatment of the field.

the conference will gather together large numbers of

active researchers in survey nonresponse and

missing data issues.

the conference will have presentations of current

research and practice regarding survey nonresponse.

TYPE OF PAPERS ELIGIBLE FOR THE MONOGRAPH

The ideal paper contributes both to theory and methods in

the handling of nonresponse in surveys. Papers with

empirical tests of ideas are preferred to papers that demonstrate an

approach, without evaluating it. Thus, assessing the merit of ideas,

hypotheses, and protocols is the target of the conference and the monograph.

Papers should focus on nonresponse; that is, the failure to measure a

sampled unit on some variable desired in a survey. Issues involving

coverage error; that is, missingness on sampling frame, are not in scope.

However, papers that address the intersection of the coverage error and

nonresponse error are eligible. Papers on editing and imputation, as a tool

to address missing data, are in scope, but should have evaluations of the

methods being described. Review papers, synthesizing an area of research

findings, are eligible for the monograph. We hope to assemble papers

across the breadth of research issues in survey nonresponse,

including: Unit nonresponse vs. item nonresponse;

design vs. estimation (including variance estimation);

methods to reduce nonresponse and methods to measure the effects of

nonresponse; theory (both social science and

statistical) vs. practice; onetime vs. longitudinal surveys;

surveys of persons, households, establishments; item

missing data on objective and subjective measurements; relationships between

nonresponse error and other survey errors.

This is a call for abstracts of papers to be considered for the edited

volume. Senior authors of the monograph papers will have travel and lodging

expenses paid at the conference. A later "contributed paper" call will be

made for abstracts of papers to presented at the conference.

HOW TO SUBMIT ABSTRACTS: An abstract of 500

words should be submitted as an attachment to ICSN@SURVEY.UMD.EDU.

Questions about submissions can also be sent to that ID, or queries can be

posed to Robert M. Groves, chair of the editorial committee, at

301-314-7911.

>From GCarcagno@mathematica-mpr.com Mon Sep 22 07:49:01 1997

>   Mathematica Policy Research, Inc., a leading employee-owned survey

>research organization, has positions available in its Princeton, NJ and

>Washington, DC offices for senior survey researchers. Mathematica's

>survey group is growing rapidly, and we are looking for senior survey

>professionals who want to work in a challenging and stimulating

>environment. Applicants must have senior-level experience designing and

>directing complex survey research projects in support of public policy

>research studies.

>   The positions require at least ten years of experience. We are

>especially interested in applicants with survey expertise in health

>services research and early childhood development.

>   Job qualifications include an advanced degree in the social sciences,

>statistics, or a related field, or an equivalent combination of education

>and experience. The positions require extensive knowledge of survey

>research methods, strong management and business development

>skills, and excellent written and oral communication skills.

>   We offer a competitive salary and benefits package. Contact:

>   Ms. Patty Welsh

>   MPR

>   P.O. Box 2393

>   Princeton, NJ 08543

>   609-937-2767

>   Fax: 609-799-0005

>   E-mail: PWelsh@mathematica-mpr.com

>   Visit our website at www.mathematica-mpr.com

>

>

>

>From beniger@rcf.usc.edu Mon Sep 22 09:50:31 1997

Received: from almaak.usc.edu (almaak.usc.edu [128.125.19.166])

    by usc.edu (8.8.4/8.7.2/usc) with ESMTP

    id JAA17319 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Mon, 22 Sep 1997 09:50:29 -0700

(PDT)

Received: from localhost (beniger@localhost)

    by almaak.usc.edu (8.8.4/8.8.4/usc) with SMTP

    id JAA19323 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Mon, 22 Sep 1997 09:50:29 -0700

(PDT)

Date: Mon, 22 Sep 1997 09:50:29 -0700 (PDT)

From: James Beniger <beniger@rcf.usc.edu>

To: AAPORNET <aapornet@usc.edu>

Subject: Growing Controversy on Research Ethics

Message-ID: <Pine.SV4.3.94.970922094253.12860E-100000@almaak.usc.edu>

MIME-Version: 1.0

Content-Type: TEXT/PLAIN; charset=US-ASCII

A new report questions the ethics of 15 studies currently being

conducted in third-world countries on ways of reducing the

transmission of HIV from mothers to infants.

 - researchers from the Public Citizen's Health Research Group in

   Washington, D.C. write in the report that the studies involve

   placebo groups in which mothers with HIV are not given the

   test treatment of AZT, even though it is already known that

   AZT can significantly reduce mother-infant HIV transmission.

 - the report notes that nine of the 15 studies are funded by

   the U.S. government, and that the experimental designs being

   used would be considered unethical if conducted in the U.S.

 - the report is in The New England Journal of Medicine

   (1997;337(12):847-849, 853-855).

_____

>From Med-Brief, (c) 1997 Intelligent Network Concepts, Inc.

>From paniotto@kmis.kiev.ua Mon Sep 22 11:48:19 1997

                    21 September 97

Dear Colleagues,

   Between October 30 and November 25, 1997 the Kiev
International Institute of sociology will conduct an
omnibus-survey of the adult population of Ukraine (16+). A large part
of the questionnaire is reserved for potential clients. We are inviting
you to take part in this survey.

Enclosed you will find information about survey and about conditions of including your questions in the questionnaire;

We would be glad to cooperate with you.

Sincerely yours,

Director, doctor of science

Vladimir Paniotto

For more information, write or call

Vladimir Paniotto, Director of KIIS

(Kiev International Institute of Sociology)

Milchakova 1/18, kv.11, Kiev-253002, UKRAINE

Phone (380-44)-517-3949

Fax (380-44)-228-0875

E-mal: paniotto@kmis.kiev.ua

KIIS UKRAINE OMNIBUS SURVEY

The Kiev International Institute of Sociology informs that between October 30 and November 25, 1997 it will conduct an omnibus survey of the

adult population of Ukraine.

Sample. 1800 respondents aged 16 years and older, living in Ukraine. Sample is based on random selection of 200 sampling points (post-office districts) all over the Ukraine. The sampling process consists of random selection of streets, buildings and apartments inside each post-office district. The last stage - random selection of respondents from families. The sample is representative not only for Ukraine as a whole but for separate regions and groups of regions.

Closing Date for Questions: 20 October 1997

Results Available: 25 November 1997 (Marginals and the data
            in SPSS-file)

Costs:

Entry fee $380 plus $260 per closed (pre-coded) question, $370 for open-ended question (receiving the information without including your own questions - $19 per question).

Discount:
- for clients who will purchase more than 10
  questions - 10% discount;
- for clients who purchased data of one previous omnibus -
  $200 per closed question and $330 per open-ended question.

Questions already included in questionnaire:

Demography: sex, age, education, ethnicity, marital

status, occupational status, socio-economic status, language, religion,

place of residence - oblast, city or village, size.

   Political questions: view   on   general situation in

Ukraine, social problems, attitudes toward economic reforms, private

property, free market, opinion about the Black Sea fleet, Crimea,

relations with Russia, independence of Ukraine, nuclear weapons, language

problems.

  The full list of questions (with exact wording) will be send on your

request.

>From daves@startribune.com Mon Sep 22 13:59:38 1997

Received: from firewall2.startribune.com (firewall2.startribune.com

[132.148.80.211])

    by usc.edu (8.8.4/8.7.2/usc) with ESMTP

    id NAA05889 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Mon, 22 Sep 1997 13:59:34 -0700

(PDT)

Received: by firewall2.startribune.com; id PAA08668; Mon, 22 Sep 1997

15:59:00 -0500 (CDT)

Received: from gw.startribune.com(132.148.71.49) by

firewall2.startribune.com via smap (3.2)

    id xma008646; Mon, 22 Sep 97 15:59:00 -0500

Received: from STAR-Message_Server by mail.startribune.com

    with Novell_GroupWise; Mon, 22 Sep 1997 16:01:40 -0600

Message-Id: <s4269664.073@mail.startribune.com>

X-Mailer: Novell GroupWise 4.1

Date: Mon, 22 Sep 1997 16:00:03 -0600

From: Rob Daves <daves@startribune.com>

To: aapornet@usc.edu

Subject: "Best & Worst Practices" now available on AAPOR web site

Fellow researchers,

"Best Practices for Survey and Public Opinion Research and Survey Practices

AAPOR Condemns," originally published earlier this year in booklet form, is

now available at AAPOR's web site. Point your browser to

http://www.aapor.org, and go to the ethics section.

We plan to continue updating aapor.org and regularly adding things that

would be helpful to public opinion researchers.

Rob Daves, publications chair

>From DOrourke@SRL.UIC.EDU Tue Sep 23 10:05:24 1997

Received: from eeyore.cc.uic.edu (EEYORE.CC.UIC.EDU [128.248.171.51])

    by usc.edu (8.8.4/8.7.2/usc) with ESMTP

    id KAA00149 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Tue, 23 Sep 1997 10:05:17 -0700

(PDT)

Received: from SRL.UIC.EDU (MAIL.SRL.UIC.EDU [128.248.232.55])

    by eeyore.cc.uic.edu (8.8.5/8.8.5) with SMTP id MAA27674

    for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Tue, 23 Sep 1997 12:01:50 -0500 (CDT)

Received: from main-Message_Server by SRL.UIC.EDU

    with Novell_GroupWise; Tue, 23 Sep 1997 11:53:00 -0500

Message-Id: <s427ad9c.014@SRL.UIC.EDU>

X-Mailer: Novell GroupWise 4.1

Date: Tue, 23 Sep 1997 11:56:07 -0500

From: "Diane O'Rourke" <DOrourke@SRL.UIC.EDU>

To: aapornet@usc.edu

Subject: Job position available

SAMPLING OPERATIONS SUPERVISOR

SURVEY RESEARCH LABORATORY

The Survey Research Laboratory of the University of Illinois has an

immediate opening at its Urbana office for an individual with a background

in the social sciences to develop sampling design and selection techniques

for population-based survey research projects.

Responsibilities include working with clients and staff on survey sample

designs, planning methodological experiments, designing and selecting

population samples, calculating sampling errors, writing reports,

supervising staff, preparing and monitoring budgets, advising faculty and

staff on research designs, and proposal development. Minimum

requirements: BA/BS in a social science, quantitative methods, or related

field with sampling methods course work, with at least 2 years' experience

in research methods and supervisory responsibilities; or a Master's degree

in social sciences or related field with demonstrated research and

supervisory capabilities. Salary commensurate with experience. For full

consideration, send resume by October 18, 1997 to Seymour Sudman, Ph.D.,

Survey Research Laboratory, University of Illinois, 909 W. Oregon, Suite

300, Urbana, IL 61801. NO PHONE CALLS. The University is an affirmative

action/equal opportunity employer.

>From mkuechle@shiva.hunter.cuny.edu Tue Sep 23 14:41:26 1997

Received: from shiva.hunter.cuny.edu (shiva.hunter.cuny.edu [146.95.128.96])

    by usc.edu (8.8.4/8.7.2/usc) with ESMTP

    id OAA22211 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Tue, 23 Sep 1997 14:41:20 -0700

(PDT)

In a recent posting to AAPORNET (Sep 12) -- related to the

Simpson/Noelle-Neumann controversy -- Kurt Lang pointed to the apparent

reluctance on part of a fair number of influential scholars in the field to

accept anything critical of the "Spiral of Silence". As a case in point he

cited the flat rejection by both POQ and IJPOR of a paper that tried to put

the issue in a larger context.

I think that the paper by Kurt and Gladys Lang is a very valuable

contribution and -- with the approval of the Langs -- I have made their

paper available on the web at:

http://maxweber.hunter.cuny.edu/socio/facpaper/BWAGON.htm

Feel free to visit and download.

Manfred Kuechler

Sociology Department at Hunter College (CUNY)

695 Park Avenue, NY, NY 10021

Tel: 212-772-5588

Fax: as above, then select "3" from voice mail menu (***NEW*** as of

7/21/97)

WWW: http://social54.hunter.cuny.edu/ (experimental as of 8/6/97) OR

http://maxweber.hunter.cuny.edu/socio/

>From daves@startribune.com Wed Sep 24 07:24:01 1997

Received: from firewall2.startribune.com (firewall2.startribune.com

[132.148.80.211])

    by usc.edu (8.8.4/8.7.2/usc) with ESMTP

    id HAA02922 for <AAPORNET@usc.edu>; Wed, 24 Sep 1997 07:23:56 -0700

(PDT)

Received: by firewall2.startribune.com; id JAA18621; Wed, 24 Sep 1997

09:23:27 -0500 (CDT)

Received: from gw.startribune.com(132.148.71.49) by

firewall2.startribune.com via smap (3.2)

    id xma018507; Wed, 24 Sep 97 09:23:02 -0500

Received: from STAR-Message_Server by mail.startribune.com

    with Novell_GroupWise; Wed, 24 Sep 1997 09:25:42 -0600

Message-Id: <s428dc95.084@mail.startribune.com>

X-Mailer: Novell GroupWise 4.1

Date: Wed, 24 Sep 1997 09:24:09 -0600

From: Rob Daves <daves@startribune.com>

To: bgroves@survey.umd.edu, AAPORNET@usc.edu

Subject: Scout Report for the Social Sciences

AAPORfolk ...

I thought many of us might find this useful, so I've taken the liberty of attaching Vol. 1, No. 1 of the Internet Scout Report for the Social Sciences. It is a weekly compilation of new or interesting web sites dealing with the social sciences and humanities. If you'd like to subscribe to it -- you receive it once a week via e-mail -- subscription information is at the bottom of the report.

Rob Daves

Director of Polling & News Research

Star Tribune

Minneapolis MN 55488   612-673-7278   daves@startribune.com

>>> Michael de Nie <mwdenie@cs.wisc.edu> 09/23/97 02:22pm >>>

======== Social Sciences Report   ==

======== September 23, 1997   ====

======== Volume 1, Number 1   ======

======   Internet Scout Project ========

====   University of Wisconsin ========

==   Department of Computer Sciences ========

=======   S C O U T R E P O R T   ========

=========   F O R T H E   =========

===========   S O C I A L S C I E N C E S   ===========

T H I S W E E K

====== Research ====

1. The Data Archive

2. Cambridge University Press Journals Online

3. European Association of Sinological Librarians (EASL)

4. Working Papers--Center for Demography and Ecology (CDE)

5. Electronic Journal of Africana Bibliography (EJAB)

====== Learning Resources ====

6. CAIN Web Service--The Northern Ireland Conflict

7. The Valley of the Shadow Archive: Two Communities in the American Civil

War 8. Fieldwork--The Anthropologist in the Field 9. International

Constitutional Law 10. Syllabus Web

====== Professional and General Interest ====

11. Conference Announcements

12. Job Guides

13. UN International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) 14.

FinAid 15. European Museum Guide

====== Publications ====

16. American Graduate

17. Latin American Studies Association LASA97 Papers Online

18. New Think Tank Policy Papers and Briefs

19. Academia Book Releases--Baker & Taylor--September 1997

20. 33 New ERIC Digests--August 1997

21. New Tables of Contents/Abstracts

====== New Data ====

22. Basic Tables: 1990 Demographic Profile Generator

23. Housing Vacancies and Home Ownership--Second Quarter 1997

====== In the News ====

24. Scottish and Welsh Devolution

Copyright and subscription information appear at the end of the Social

Sciences Report. For more information on all services of the Internet Scout

Project, please visit our website: http://scout.cs.wisc.edu/scout/

If you'd like to know how the Internet Scout team selects resources for

inclusion in the Scout Report and the Social Sciences Report, visit our

"Selection Criteria" page at:

http://scout.cs.wisc.edu/scout/report/criteria.html

Feedback is always welcome: scout@cs.wisc.edu

====== Research ====

1. The Data Archive

http://dawww.essex.ac.uk/

The University of Essex hosts "the largest collection of accessible

computer-readable data in the social sciences and humanities in the United

Kingdom," housing over 7000 datasets of information for secondary research

in a variety of disciplines. Users can search the catalog and indexes by
subject or keyword using the BIRON (Information Retrieval On-line) system or
its associated thesarus, HASSET (Humanities And Social Science Electronic
Thesaurus). Bibliographic information returned is comprehensive. The site
also features links to a number of other archives and social science
information services, including the CESSDA Integrated Data Catalog, "a
unified collection of mainly European social science data archive
catalogues, which can be searched through one common interface." Authorized
users (conditions vary by dataset) can order data in a variety of formats
and media. [MD]

2. Cambridge University Press Journals Online

http://www.journals.cup.org/cup/html/nm_intro.htm

Cambridge University Press (CUP) has unveiled a new free service that gives
users full access to its online journals. After registration, users can
browse the content of all Cambridge online journals, read abstracts,
download the full text in PDF format, and sign up for an alerting service.
CUP plans to make at least 50 titles available by the end of 1997. At
present there are several titles of interest to social scientists, including
Journal of American Studies, _The Journal of African History_, _Journal of
Latin American Studies_, and _Journal of Social Policy_. Please note that
free access to full text articles will cease at an unspecified date in late
1997. However, tables of contents, abstracts and search facilities will
remain free to all. [MD]

3. European Association of Sinological Librarians (EASL)

http://www.uni-kiel.de:8080/ORIENTALISTIK/easl/easl.html

This site is an excellent collection of resources for both librarians and scholars interested in China. Highlights include recent and past issues of BEASL (Bulletin of the European Association of Sinological Librarians), notes from European China Library Groups, and an annotated list of selected European Sinological Libraries which includes information on holdings, focus, communication, and some hyperlinks. The site also offers telnet access to the catalogue of the Sinological Series in European Libraries Project (SSLEP). Two large collections of links are also featured: the first to libraries and East Asian Library Associations worldwide, the second to a wide variety of general and specific Asian resources. [MD]

4. Working Papers--Center for Demography and Ecology (CDE) [.pdf, .ps]
http://www.ssc.wisc.edu/cde/workpap.htm

The CDE at the University of Wisconsin-Madison is "a multi-disciplinary faculty research cooperative for social scientific demographic research whose membership includes sociologists, rural sociologists, economists, and historians." CDE research focuses "on population composition and distribution within the United States, especially on changes in family structure and process and social inequality, but the total range of research and training activities of CDE members is far broader in content and scope." This page features two working paper series: CDE papers and National Survey of Families and Households (NSFH) papers. Selected papers (Adobe Acrobat [.pdf] and PostScript) are avialable online, but ordering information is provided and available abstracts may be viewed without special software. [MD]

5. Electronic Journal of Africana Bibliography (EJAB)

http://www.lib.uiowa.edu/proj/ejab/

Provided by John Howell, International Studies Bibliographer at the University of Iowa Libraries, "EJAB is a refereed online journal of bibliographies on any aspect of Africa, its peoples, their homes, cities, towns, districts, states, countries, regions, including social, economic sustainable development, creative literature, the arts, and the Diaspora." The site currently has three bibliographies: Guides, Collections and Ancillary Materials to African Archival Resources in the US; Foreign Periodicals on Africa; and Medical/Health Periodicals and Books on Africa. Combined, they contain over 2100 entries. Anyone studying Africa will undoubtedly find numerous important resources. [MD]

====== Learning Resources ====

6. CAIN Web Service--The Northern Ireland Conflict

http://cain.ulst.ac.uk/index.html

The CAIN Project (Conflict Archive on the Internet) is in the process of creating a wonderful multimedia resource for anyone researching or teaching "the Troubles." The site is still under development, but the amount of information already offered is well worth a visit. Sections currently available include Background to the Conflict, Key Issues, Key Events, and Bibliographic Databases. Sections on Northern Ireland Society, Conflict

Studies, and a Directory of Researchers are under development. Users may conduct both full text page and bibliographic searches of the entire site. Although the Key Issues and Events sections will eventually be the largest, the Background area currently has the most content. Among its offerings are a glossary and thesaurus of relevant terms, acronyms of prominent organizations, a bibliography and chronology of the conflict, a guide to research data, related links, and a photo collection which includes political wall murals. [MD]

7. The Valley of the Shadow Archive: Two Communities in the American Civil War http://jefferson.village.Virginia.EDU/vshadow2/

This ambitious and well-executed web site is the product of a University of Virginia research Project funded in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities. It seeks to document the story of the Civil War as seen by the people of two communities in the Great Valley of the United States which were separated by only a few hundred miles: Franklin County, Pennsylvania and Augusta County, Virginia. Users can take a walking tour of the archive or search its rooms, which include Public Records, Newspapers, Letters and Diaries, Church Records, Military Records, or Maps and Images. Collectively, they contain an amazing amount of primary source material. The site also features a Reference Center, which includes a bibliography, tools for using the archive, and examples from teachers who have used the project in the classroom. In addition, this site, which focuses on the period between John Brown's Raid in October 1859 and the outbreak of the Civil War in April 1861, is only the first of three planned installments. The project plans to document life in these counties through Emancipation and Reconstruction. [MD]

8. Fieldwork--The Anthropologist in the Field

http://www.truman.edu/academics/ss/faculty/tamakoshil/index.html

This site is part of an effort by Professor Laura Tamakoshi of Truman State University to deepen her student's understanding and appreciation of fieldwork in anthropology. The content is based on Dr. Tamakoshi's five and one-half years of research in Papua New Guinea, but her experiences and advice can be applied to any region. The site is divided into four major sections, Planning, Method, Writing, and Reference, which address such topics as writing proposals, choosing field sites, setting up, adjusting to culture shock, and writing field notes and reports. The Reference section also contains a bibliography and a short list of links. This site is especially useful for Anthropology graduate students planning their research, but anyone with an interest in the field or in Papua New Guinea will find the site interesting and engaging. [MD]

9. International Constitutional Law

http://www.uni-wuerzburg.de/law/home.html

Hosted by the University of Wuerzburg (Germany), International Constitutional Law (ICL) provides English texts of constitutional documents and links to background information on over seventy countries. Documents are cross-referenced for comparison of constitutional provisions. Also featured are links to Constitutional Court sites, a Model Constitutional Code, a section on German Case Law, a comprehensive list of international organizations, and a strong collection of links to constitutional and

international law and constitution sites. The material available at ICL is

widely applicable to fields such as political science, international

relations, or government, and could be very useful for research projects in

both secondary and university classrooms. [MD]

10. Syllabus Web

http://www.syllabus.com/

This site is produced by Syllabus Press, publishers of the free _Syllabus

Magazine_, which covers the use of technology in secondary and higher

education. Syllabus Web features full text archives of several of the

company's publications and an index of case studies on technology innovation

in classrooms. The site also has four sections which are updated

weekly: Job Listings, Case Studies, News/Resources/Trends, and Higher

Education Web Site. Additional content includes detailed information on the

annual Syllabus Conference and reviews of the latest educational technology

products. [MD]

====== Professional and General Interest ====

11. Conference Announcements

IRISS'98 Internet Research and Information for Social Scientists

http://www.sosig.ac.uk/iriss/

March 25-27, 1998 University of Bristol, UK. The first international IRISS

conference aims to bring together social scentists who are interested in the Internet, either as a means of supporting and enhancing their work, or as a focus for their research. IRISS is aimed at people working in the social sciences and they invite papers and participation from practitioners, researchers, librarians, educators, and information providers. [MD]

"Globalization From Below: Contingency and Contestation in Historical Perspective" http://jefferson.village.virginia.edu/~spoons/global/

February 5-8, 1998 Duke University, Durham, North Carolina, USA. "This conference is concerned with globalization as a dynamic, contested and often contingent process. Rather than concentrating upon the huge, apparently irresistible structures that have shaped our world in the last 500 years, we will look rather at how different people and groups in specific situations and places have struggled to come to terms with, and often conduct resistance against, the developing global system." [MD]

(For links to additional calls for papers and conference announcements, see the Conference section of the Current Awareness Resources Page (http://scout.cs.wisc.edu/scout/report/socsci/metapage/index.html)).

12. Job Guides

H-Net Job Guide for 22 September 1997

http://www.h-net.msu.edu/jobs/jobcats.cgi

American Studies Crossroads Project Opportunities Database

http://home.dc.lsoft.com/archives/opportunities.html

American Sociological Association Employment Bulletin September 1997

http://www.asanet.org/eb0997.htm

(For links to additional Job Guides, see the Employment/Funding section of

the Current Awareness Resources Page

(http://scout.cs.wisc.edu/scout/report/socsci/metapage/index.html)).

13. UN International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY)

http://www.un.org/icty/

The ICTY was established by the UN Security Council in May 1993 to

"prosecute persons responsible for serious violations of international

humanitarian law committed in the territory of the former Yugoslavia since

1991." This site was recently established to provide information on the

Tribunal's proceedings. Users can view the latest documents and news, press

releases, and lists of detainees and indictments. Other features at this

site include Tribunal Publications, Basic Legal Documents, Tribunal cases,

the ICTY _Bulletin_, and links to information on the Dayton Peace Agreement.

Quick access to information is provided in the ICTY at a Glance section and

the entire site is also searchable. [MD]

14. FinAid

http://finaid.org/

Maintained by Mark Kantrowitz and sponsored by the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA), the Financial Aid Information Page is one of the finest online sources of free information and guidance on student financial aid. The site is divided into categories which address various aspects of finding and securing aid. The Assistance section includes an overview of financial aid, a glossary, a bibliography, and scam alerts. Under Tools users will find Kantrowitz's financial aid calculators, which help students and their parents better plan their financial futures. The core of the site is the collection of links to databases of aid sources, lists of lenders and loan guarantors, government information, and links to major scholarship and fellowship sources such as FastWEB, SRN Express, and ExPAN. FinAid is an excellent place for students at any level to begin their electronic search for funding. [MD]

15. European Museum Guide

http://www.museumguide.com:80/

Museum Media Publishers publishes this guide to the major museums in twelve European countries. The current edition describes some 1500 exhibitions planned between May 1997 and May 1998. Museums and exhibitions are listed alphabetically by country and city. Each entry describes the museum's collection, visiting information, and a description of their exhibitions through May 1998. When possible, a hyperlink to the museum's web site is also provided. Users can also view a chronological index of all the exhibitions in each country or search the site by museum or exhibition. [MD]

====== Publications ====

16. American Graduate http://www.usm.edu/~history/american_graduate/

American Graduate, provided by the Department of History at the University of Southern Mississippi, is a new free e-journal of social and cultural history aimed at graduate students in History and related fields. Each issue will include essays written by graduate students, book reviews, news and announcements, and interviews with established historians. [MD]

17. Latin American Studies Association LASA97 Papers Online [.pdf]
http://info.pitt.edu/~lasa/elecpaprs.htm
No frames
http://info.pitt.edu/~lasa/epapersnoframes.htm

The Latin American Studies Association has recently begun to place papers from the LASA97 meeting online in Adobe Acrobat (.pdf) format. Papers are organized into 17 different categories, including Agrarian and Rural Issues, Latinos in the US, Gender, and Democratization. [MD]

18. New Think Tank Policy Papers and Briefs

Gary Burtless, "The Future of Organized Labor"--Brookings Intstitution
http://www.brookings.edu/es/oped/burtless/8-26-97.htm

Ariel Cohen, "Russia's Assault on Religious Freedom"--Heritage Foundation
http://www.heritage.org/heritage/library/categories/forpol/bg1137.html

http://www.heritage.org/heritage/library/pdf_library/backgrounder/bg_1137.pdf [. pdf]

Keith Watson and Steven D. Gold, "The Other Side of Devolution: Shifting Relationships Between State and Local Governments"--Urban Institute
http://newfederalism.urban.org/html/other.htm
.PDF version (16p.) http://newfederalism.urban.org/pdf/other.pdf

Alan Vick, David T. Orletsky, Abram N. Shulsky, John Stillion, "Preparing the US Air Force for Military Operations Other Than War"--Rand Organization
http://www.rand.org/publications/MR/MR842/MR842.pdf/

(For links to additional new Think Tank publications see the Think Tank Policy Papers section on the Current Awareness Resources Page (http://scout.cs.wisc.edu/scout/report/socsci/metapage/index.html)).
[MD]

19. Academia Book Releases--Baker & Taylor--September 1997
http://www.baker-taylor.com/Academia/M09/UBBS.html
(Please see the Publications section of the Current Awareness Resources Page for links to new book releases sorted by specific fields (http://scout.cs.wisc.edu/scout/report/socsci/metapage/index.html)).
[MD]

20. 33 New ERIC Digests--August 1997
http://www.ed.gov/databases/ERIC_Digests/index/

33 New ERIC Digests, "short reports (1,000 - 1,500 words) on topics of prime current interest in education," were added to the US Education Department's ERIC Digest Page in August 1997. The full text ERIC Digest database contains over 1,700 Digests. [JS]

21. New Tables of Contents/Abstracts for recent and forthcoming issues are available for the following Journals: [MD]

Archaeology Magazine http://www.he.net/~archaeol/9709/index.html
History and Theory http://www.wesleyan.edu/histjrnl/forthcom.htm
Social Science and Medicine
http://www.elsevier.com/estoc/publications/store/6/02779536/SZ976801.shtml
Columbia Journalism Review
http://www.cjr.org/
Review of Politics
http://www.nd.edu/~rop/recent.forthcoming/summer97/introsummer.htm

====== New Data ====

22. Basic Tables: 1990 Demographic Profile Generator
http://www.oseda.missouri.edu/uic/uicapps/xtabs3.html

The University of Missouri-St. Louis Urban Information Center has recently updated this online application, which allows users to "generate a single 1990 'Basic Tables' (demographic profile) report for any of the supported geographic units, including census tract, block group, city (no size limit),

5-digit ZIP code, state, county or metro area for anywhere in the United

States. Examples are provided to assist users. [MD]

23. Housing Vacancies and Home Ownership--Second Quarter 1997

http://www.census.gov/ftp/pub/hhes/www/hvs.html

The Census Bureau has recently released data on housing vacancies and home

ownership for the second quarter 1997. The site features the Bureau press

release, tables, annual statistics for 1995 and 1996, and a graph of

homeownership rates by region. [MD]

====== In the News ====

24. Scottish and Welsh Devolution

The Scottish Devolution Web Site

http://www.scottish-devolution.org.uk/frame.htm

Record Campaign: Make it a Double for Scotland's Parliament

http://www.record-mail.co.uk/rm/devo/

A Voice for Wales

http://floor.ccta.gov.uk:8080/assembly/english/homepage.nsf

Scottish National Party

http://www.snp.org.uk

Plaid Cymru

http://www.plaidcymru.org

On 11 September the Scottish people voted strongly in favor of creating

their own Parliament and granting that body tax varying powers. One week

later, Wales approved its first devolved government in over 500 years by the

narrowest of margins (0.6%). The first site is the official devolution site

by the office of the Secretary of State for Scotland. It includes the full

text of the White Paper, an explanation of the main elements of the

Government's proposals, the full text of the Referendum Act and its results

by region. The second site is put up by Scotland's largest-selling

newspapers, the Daily Record and Sunday Mail, which strongly supported the

initiative. Their site has a number of items of interest, including the

latest devolution news, a chat room, a resource guide, and a history of the

fight for Scottish home rule. A Voice for Wales is the official devolution

site of the Secretary of State for Wales. It features full text press

releases and the White Paper on Welsh devolution. The site is also available

in Welsh. Naturally, the Scottish National Party and Plaid Cymru (the Welsh

nationalist party) strongly backed both initiatives. Their sites offer

profiles of party leaders, party manifestos and white papers, and the latest

news. [MD]

======   ====
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====   ======

To subscribe to the Social Sciences Report, send email to:
  scoutlst@cs.wisc.edu
In the body of the message type:
  subscribe SRSOCSCI

For subscription options:

  scoutlst@cs.wisc.edu

In the body of the message type:

  query SRSOCSCI

Internet Scout team member information:

http://wwwscout.cs.wisc.edu/scout/team.html

====== The Social Sciences Report

====== Brought to You by the Internet Scout Project

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The Social Sciences Report is published every other

week by the Internet Scout Project, located in the University of

Wisconsin-Madison's Department of Computer Sciences.

  Managing Editor   Susan Calcari

         Editor   Jack Solock

  Assistant Editor   Michael de Nie

  Production Editor   Jeannine Ramsey

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Michael de Nie

Project Assistant

Internet Scout Project

http://scout.cs.wisc.edu

e-mail: mwdenie@cs.wisc.edu

608.265.4678

>From FNEUROHR@pch.com Wed Sep 24 14:45:09 1997

Received: from mail.pch.com (firewall-user@mail.pch.com [209.2.117.2])

    by usc.edu (8.8.4/8.7.2/usc) with ESMTP

    id OAA19833 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Wed, 24 Sep 1997 14:45:02 -0700

(PDT)

Received: by mail.pch.com; id RAA29861; Wed, 24 Sep 1997 17:26:45 -0400

(EDT)

Does anyone have any experience using TextSmart(tm) from SPSS? It's a new

program (new to ME, anyway) geared toward survey researchers that uses

linguistics technology to help analyze open-ended questionnaire data to save

time on coding.

It sounds terrific, but before I take it for a spin, I would like to hear

more about it from others in the research community.

I look forward to your insight,

Fred Neurohr

Manager of Marketing Research

Publishers Clearing House

Port Washington, NY

ps. For those of you who are interested, I found information on TextSmart

(tm) at the following website:

http://www.spss.com/software/TextSmart/

>From MILTGOLD@aol.com Thu Sep 25 04:19:47 1997

Received: from emout16.mail.aol.com (emout16.mx.aol.com [198.81.11.42])

   by usc.edu (8.8.4/8.7.2/usc) with ESMTP

   id EAA18200; Thu, 25 Sep 1997 04:19:43 -0700 (PDT)

From: MILTGOLD@aol.com

Received: (from root@localhost)

   by emout16.mail.aol.com (8.7.6/8.7.3/AOL-2.0.0)

   id HAA00898;

   Thu, 25 Sep 1997 07:19:13 -0400 (EDT)

Date: Thu, 25 Sep 1997 07:19:13 -0400 (EDT)

Message-ID: <970925071912_1043626383@emout16.mail.aol.com>

To: FNEUROHR@pch.com, owner-aapornet@usc.edu, aapornet@usc.edu

cc: kbergend@pch.com

Subject: Re: TextSmart (TM) Software

In a message dated 9/25/97 1:32:03 AM, FNEUROHR@pch.com (Fred Neurohr)

wrote:

<<Does anyone have any experience using TextSmart(tm) from SPSS? It's a new

program (new to ME, anyway) geared toward survey researchers that uses

linguistics technology to help analyze open-ended questionnaire data to save

time on coding.

It sounds terrific, but before I take it for a spin, I would like to hear

more about it from others in the research community.

>>

You're right, it seems to be very new yet tantalizing. I just received

literature about it from SPSS. May I suggest something that seems almost

too

simple: you or others contact the marketing representatives at SPSS, either

in Chicago at 312-329-2400, their main number I believe, or in your local

area if SPSS has an office there. I'm in Washington, DC and they have a

Federal marketing office there. Ask those representatives directly: can

they tell you of any studies, articles, analyses, etc. or research

investigators currently using the product, and how effective the product's

been in those settings? Sometimes the reps track down users and studies to

induce others to buy/examine the product.

Also you said: "take it for a spin"--- perhaps they do have a demo or

limited edition version or can loan it to you on a short-term basis.

Good luck!

Milton R. Goldsamt, Ph.D.

Dept. of Justice

miltgold@aol.com

>From KDOUMA@pscinc.com Thu Sep 25 05:35:47 1997

Received: from vixa.voyager.net (vixa.voyager.net [198.109.136.2])

by usc.edu (8.8.4/8.7.2/usc) with ESMTP

id FAA27652 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Thu, 25 Sep 1997 05:35:41 -0700

(PDT)

Received: from pscinc.com (ftp.pscinc.com [207.74.101.2]) by

vixa.voyager.net (8.8.5/CICNet) with SMTP id IAA17275 for

<aapornet@usc.edu>; Thu, 25 Sep 1997 08:35:03 -0400 (EDT)

Received: from GWDOMAIN-Message_Server by pscinc.com

with Novell_GroupWise; Thu, 25 Sep 1997 08:31:29 -0400

Message-Id: <s42a2161.004@pscinc.com>

X-Mailer: Novell GroupWise 4.1

Date: Thu, 25 Sep 1997 08:30:30 -0400

From: Kara L Douma <KDOUMA@pscinc.com>

To: aapornet@usc.edu

Subject: Re: TextSmart (TM) Software

Mime-Version: 1.0

Content-Type: text/plain

Content-Disposition: inline

You may order the program for a 30-day free trial. My firm did this, and we

received it yesterday. We are going to be using some old data sets that

have both the verbatim responses to open-ended questions and the coded

responses to these open-ended questions to see how the program does. I can

let you know what we think in about a month.

>From slosh@garnet.acns.fsu.edu Thu Sep 25 10:55:27 1997

Received: from mailer.fsu.edu (mailer.fsu.edu [128.186.6.122])

by usc.edu (8.8.4/8.7.2/usc) with ESMTP

id KAA12470 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Thu, 25 Sep 1997 10:55:23 -0700

(PDT)

I'd like to think all the AAPOR people for their suggestions and support

through a trying IRB experience. I added the phrase to the introduction

"Your entire participation in this survey is voluntary and you only have to

answer the questions you want" (PAUSE) and received approval this morning.

No invitations to hang up. Not even "you have a right to discontinue this

survey at any time" (one IRB suggestion that seemed to me to have Miranda

overtones).

I'm sure this has been quite an education for our committee. Copies of

AAPOR's "Best Practices" and "Code of Ethics" as well as NCPP "20 Questions"

have received wide circulation.

Thanks again!

Susan Losh

If time were money I'd be in debtor's prison.

Susan Losh

Department of Sociology

Florida State University

Tallahassee FL 32306-2270

(850) 644-1753

FAX (850) 644-6208

>From beniger@rcf.usc.edu Thu Sep 25 11:39:51 1997

Received: from almaak.usc.edu (almaak.usc.edu [128.125.19.166])

    by usc.edu (8.8.4/8.7.2/usc) with ESMTP

    id LAA00307 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Thu, 25 Sep 1997 11:39:48 -0700

(PDT)

Received: from localhost (beniger@localhost)

    by almaak.usc.edu (8.8.4/8.8.4/usc) with SMTP

Anyone who might think that questionnaire construction is anything but

glamorous need only look at next month's issue of--of course-- "Glamour"

Magazine, as abstracted below:

_____

A glance at the October issue of "Glamour":

The top 10 college women

The winners of the magazine's annual competition for the top

college women -- 10 seniors -- "have the muscle and brains to

change the country," according to the editors. Among the winners

are women who have taught kindergarten in South Africa, DEVISED

A QUESTIONNAIRE for a long-term study of anorexic women, and established a

child-care program for students who are parents.

One winner has even collected ice-core samples from an Antarctic

glacier and helped find drums of toxic waste buried in New

Mexico. Their career goals range from two students who want to

run for public office to one who wants to be a college provost.

The institutions the women attend are the California Institute

of Technology; Dartmouth College; Cornell, Temple, Tufts, and

Yale Universities; and the Universities of California at Los

Angeles, Chicago, Maryland at College Park, and Michigan.

(The magazine's World-Wide Web address is

http://www.swoon.com/mag_rack/glamour.html)

_____

Fellow aapor members,

if you have a few minutes, please check out a new Online Survey Experiment

about Advertising on the Web at:

http://aptiva.cba.uri.edu

It is unique in that it uses random allocation of subjects to different

stimulus conditions in a true factorial design. This is part of my

dissertation research. Feel free to distribute to anyone who might be

interested. We offer five $50 cash prizes as incentives. I will respond to

anyone who wants further info on the methodology or how I constructed the

whole thing.

Thanks for helping out. I will post top line results if there is interest

from the list.

--

David R. Fortin

PhD Program

University of Rhode Island, USA

mailto:dfor8320@uriacc.uri.edu

http://ritim.cba.uri.edu/david

>From sparker@garnet.acns.fsu.edu Fri Sep 26 10:53:11 1997

Received: from mailer.fsu.edu (mailer.fsu.edu [128.186.6.122])

    by usc.edu (8.8.4/8.8.4/usc) with ESMTP

    id KAA05443 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Fri, 26 Sep 1997 10:52:58 -0700

(PDT)

Received: from garnet.acns.fsu.edu (gmhub.acns.fsu.edu [128.186.195.10]) by

mailer.fsu.edu (8.8.5/8.7.3) with ESMTP id NAA21264 for <aapornet@usc.edu>;

At 03:47 PM 9/16/97 -0400, you wrote:

>First, thank you to everyone who replied to my request for information

>on Sept 10 and to the survey directors with whom I spoke. My inquiry

>was about Human Subjects Committees and a staff member who refused to

>send out an innocuous survey for Human Subjects Committee *review*

>until I added "you can hang up at any time" in the survey introduction.

>I was told that this was required by federal guidelines.

>

>(1) No one is aware of any research that directly assesses whether a

>statement such as "you can hang up at any time" has any *comparative*

>impact on response rates or other data quality, although one

>then-doctoral candidate who did add this to his survey through Florida

>State University felt his response rates were still OK. Clearly this is

>one step past Eleanor Singer's work on confidentiality, anonymity etc!

>

>(2) More importantly no one could find a Federal Guideline that

>requires those doing RDD surveys of adults to make such a direct

>invitation to hang up in the preamble. Our IRB may be confusing RDD

>surveys with telephone solicitations. I am now trying to obtain a

>direct copy of the Federal Guidelines. I have a set of "Tips" put

>together by the IRB that stresses the voluntary nature of participation

>but have no "hang up" requirement in them either. Clearly these "Tips"

>are insufficient under the circumstances.

>

>(3) AAPOR does not really address this issue readily, directly, or

>easily either although some folks thought that we did. I called AAPOR

>and was directed to our WEB site and explored everything on it,

>including our code of ethics. I couldn't find anything directly related

>to the "hang up" on it.

>

>(4) I did send over to the IRB office a slightly reworked phrase about

>total participation "Your participation in the survey is totally

>voluntary..." which was suggested by some responses. Thanks

>

>(5) Thanks in part to AAPOR support, we were able to move review of the

>project past office staff out to a subcommittee which does "expedited

>review" of surveys. I was part of a Faculty Senate subcommittee last

>year that recommended such a two-tier process which is apparently is

>now in place. However, I am informed by the HSC head that I must now

>show I can be "waived" or "exempt" from Federal Guidelines...when I

>have complied and have not violated any of them in the first place

>which I find very strange. I will keep you folks posted on our

>progress. I am not very sanguine about it.

>

>(6) Given my experience, that of several people who contacted me, and

>other FSU faculty, students and staff (I think my favorite is the IRB

>member at "Unnamed U" who felt telephone surveys shouldn't be done

>because someone might have a psychotic episode if the phone rang),

>"human subjects protection" needs to be thoroughly reworked. So far I

>have not encountered a shred of concern for protecting human subjects.

>Instead, I find extreme fear that the University will be sued at the

>slightest provocation and that

>*everything* must be centered around doing so, even if the solutions

>endanger academic freedom or the research enterprise itself. What is

>happening is that instead (a) some researchers just ignore IRBs which is

>harder to do with funded research but seems to happen anyway because (b) so

>many people are getting fed up with these kinds of experiences that no one

>will turn in people who don't go through them. I find this social process

>truly dangerous to human subject protection and setting the stage for

>tremendous problems. Second is that several of the inputs I got from

>non-professional staff were, in fact, detrimental to informed consent.
Worse

>yet, there are NO SOCIAL SCIENTISTS ON OUR HUMAN SUBJECTS COMMITTEE. I

>cannot imagine how such a situation has come to pass.

>

>Thanks again for all the support.

>

>Sue

>

>

>

>

>If time were money I'd be in debtor's prison.

>

>Susan Losh

>Department of Sociology

>Florida State University

>Tallahassee FL 32306-2270

>(850) 644-1753

>FAX (850) 644-6208

>

>

>Dear Susan,

Haven't had the opportunity to call you about the resolution of the above

problem. From the message you left, it sounds like surveys are going to be

exempt in the future--or is this just wishful thinking? I will try to give

you a call this weekend to see what happened. Otherwise I will be in from

11:30-5:15 on Monday and I'll try to see if you are in.

Suzie Parker

>

>

>From tsilver@CapAccess.org Fri Sep 26 13:58:30 1997

Received: from cap1.CapAccess.org (tsilver@cap1.CapAccess.org

[207.91.115.50])

    by usc.edu (8.8.4/8.8.4/usc) with SMTP

I thought the following, from our Sept. 29 issue, might be of interest

to presidential poll-watchers.

Tom Silver, Editor

THE POLLING REPORT

PollingRpt@aol.com

_____

GOVERNOR BUSH

by T. Keating Holland

Director of Polling, CNN

Name recognition may be the reason why Texas Gov. George W. Bush is

beating other Republican presidential hopefuls in many recent polls. But are GOP voters under the impression that former President Bush is planning a comeback bid? CNN conducted an experiment recently to find out if rank-and-file Republicans have confused father and son.

   The CNN/USA Today/Gallup poll of Sept. 6-7 presented respondents with a GOP primary laundry list of 11 candidates, including "Texas Gov. George W. Bush." Three days later, CNN went in the field again, this time with Time magazine. The CNN/Time poll of Sept. 10-11 included the same list, but referred to Bush as "Texas Gov. George W. Bush, son of the former President."

   The results:

	CNN/ USA Today/ Gallup %	CNN/ Time %
Bush	21	19
Kemp	15	13
Quayle	10	8
Forbes	9	8
Whitman	9	5
Thompson	5	8
Gingrich	5	4
Buchanan	4	5
Alexander	3	4
Ashcroft	3	2
Smith	2	2

Conclusion: Bush may be benefitting from name recognition he inherited from his famous dad, but he is not leading the GOP field because rank-and-file Republicans think he is his famous dad.

Bush as Frontrunner: Hedge Your Bets

In the past three months surveys by five different organizations have shown George W. Bush leading the GOP field (as long as Colin Powell's name is not included on the list) with between 19% and 24% of the vote. Does this make Bush the GOP frontrunner?

The term frontrunner has been bandied about for years without any real precision. Safire's Political Dictionary simply defines a frontrunner as "the leading contender for a nomination." How early can a frontrunner be anointed? How much strength must a candidate command before he or she merits the title? The historical record is unclear.

The Frontrunner Rule

But pollsters know better. We can't say with statistical certainty that one candidate is winning if his or her lead is within the margin of error. And a "leading contender" logically cannot be a candidate who might actually be in second place. So here's a suggested rule to follow if you're using polling data to crown a frontrunner: A candidate cannot be a frontrunner if his or her lead is smaller than the sampling error.

On the Democratic side Al Gore is a frontrunner (at least for now). His lead in those same five polls ranges from 17 to 56 points, based on

samples with sampling errors of about 5 percentage points.

Bob Dole was a frontrunner in 1996. Just before the first primaries

he was posting leads of about 30 points in polls with similar sampling

errors. The same was true of frontrunner Bill Clinton in 1992.

But we cannot say with statistical certainty that George W. Bush is

the leading GOP contender. The margin of error in each of the five polls

is about 5.5 percentage points. That means Bush's lead in all of them

should be more than 11 points before we say absolutely, positively that

he leads the pack. In fact, his lead in those five polls is between

three and seven points. So the Texas Governor is not the GOP

frontrunner--at least not yet.

I disagree with Tom Silver when he said that Texas Gov. George W. Bush is

not the GOP frontrunner because his lead is smaller than the 11 percentage

points he claims is the margin of error on the difference. Tom also said

that in five polls Bush is in first place with 19% to 24% of the vote.

Gov. George W. Bush is the front runner at this time among Republicans.

First, when five polls all show Bush leading the sampling error across the

five polls is much smaller than for a single poll. The sampling error on the

difference for the five polls is certainly smaller than the 6 point lead

shown in the two CNN/* polls.

Second, the sampling error on the difference between Bush and Kemp for a

single poll is smaller than 11% Tom cites, probably more like 8%. The 11%

would be correct if the contest was a two candidated contest and there was

only one poll.

At 05:04 PM 9/26/97 -0400, you wrote:

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>to presidential poll-watchers.

>

>Tom Silver, Editor

>THE POLLING REPORT

>PollingRpt@aol.com

>_____

>

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>   CNN/

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>

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>

        Warren Mitofsky

MITOFSKY INTERNATIONAL

1 East 53rd Street -- 5th Floor

New York, NY 10022

Phone: 212 980-3031

FAX: 212 980-3107

E-mail: mitofsky@mindspring.com

>From jwerner@jwdp.com Sun Sep 28 17:24:11 1997

Received: from vgernet.net (qmailr@vgernet.net [205.219.186.1])

by usc.edu (8.8.4/8.8.4/usc) with SMTP

id RAA28034 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Sun, 28 Sep 1997 17:24:10 -0700

(PDT)

Received: (qmail 9080 invoked from network); 29 Sep 1997 00:24:11 -0000

Received: from plp7.vgernet.net (HELO jwdp.com) (205.219.186.107)

 by vgernet.net with SMTP; 29 Sep 1997 00:24:10 -0000

Message-ID: <342EF4ED.F99F6B24@jwdp.com>

Date: Sun, 28 Sep 1997 20:23:09 -0400

From: Jan Werner <jwerner@jwdp.com>

Reply-To: jwerner@jwdp.com

X-Mailer: Mozilla 4.03 [en] (Win95; U)

MIME-Version: 1.0

To: aapornet@usc.edu

Subject: Re: Presidential Polls

References: <Pine.SUN.3.91-FP.970926165708.1770A-100000@cap1.capaccess.org>

Content-Type: text/plain; charset=iso-8859-1

Content-Transfer-Encoding: 8bit

Like Humpty Dumpty in Lewis Carroll's "Through the Looking-Glass", Tom

Silver is perfectly free to assign any meaning he wants to the word "frontrunner". That doesn't mean that his definition has any statistical validity.

What Mr. Silver calls the "margin of error" is the so-called "sampling error" reported by polling organizations, which is usually computed as a 95% confidence level for a 50% two-way split of a simple random sample, using the formula $2*SQRT((p*q)/(n-1))$. For the surveys cited by Mr. Silver, this would indicate a sample size of around 400.

A 95% probability may be Mr. Silver's idea of "certainty", but the next time I board a plane I would prefer that the odds be somewhat better than 19 to 1 that I will land safely.

Even if we accept a 95% confidence level as adequate for opinion surveys, we should still be using the total error--which is generally unknown--for that purpose rather than the sampling error. So let's pretend that that there are no context or question order effects and generally no bias from interviewer interactions or any other sources.
Also that we have properly defined our sampling frame (do "rank and file Republicans" really select the nominee?) and can actually identify its members when conducting our survey.

Next, we face the problem that the completion rate for telephone surveys runs around 33% (according to SSI). Even applying the more lenient "cooperation rate" of 65% used by some, the error range for a 50% split should be properly stated as +/-17.5% for a sample of that size at a 95% probability level, according to Deming, Cochran and other authorities on sampling. So let's pretend that the minority who deign to answer our survey

are distributed exactly as the total population and that we can safely ignore any error from non-response.

Now we still have an error computation that is based on the normal approximation to the binomial distribution. This assumes an approximately normal distribution (hey, we're just pretending, so we can assume that too), but more importantly, that we are looking at the occurrence vs. the non-occurrence of a given event, rather than at interactions between multiple mutually exclusive, and therefore not independent, events.

Even In our make-believe world, this means that our stated sampling error only tells us about the probability that the proportion of the population selecting a candidate should be attributed to chance, not the differences between many candidates.

And in the first place, the confidence interval is not linear. Assuming all of the above, for a 20% proportion, it is 4%, and at 15%, it is 3.5%, rather than the stated 5% at 50%.

So, if it pleases Mr. Silver to say that the leader in a poll is a "frontrunner" only if he leads by more than the stated "margin of error", or because his aunt Zelda read it in her tea leaves, or because space aliens told him so, that is his right. After all, anyone who cites William Safire as an authority can't be too picky.

Just don't pretend that there is a "scientific" basis to this definition.

As far as I am concerned, if one is willing to believe the results cited, George Bush is the frontrunner.

Jan Werner

jwerner@jwdp.com

_____

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>

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>

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> THE POLLING REPORT

> PollingRpt@aol.com

> _____

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>

> (c) 1997, The Polling Report, Inc.

>From yd17@cornell.edu Mon Sep 29 09:11:18 1997

Received: from postoffice2.mail.cornell.edu (POSTOFFICE2.MAIL.CORNELL.EDU

[132.236.56.10])

    by usc.edu (8.8.4/8.8.4/usc) with ESMTP

    id JAA22339 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Mon, 29 Sep 1997 09:11:11 -0700

(PDT)

Received: from postoffice4.mail.cornell.edu ([128.253.61.148])

    by postoffice2.mail.cornell.edu (8.8.5/8.8.5) with SMTP id MAA14466

    for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Mon, 29 Sep 1997 12:11:06 -0400 (EDT)

Message-Id: <3.0.2.16.19970929121204.3de75b5a@postoffice4.mail.cornell.edu>

X-Sender: yd17@postoffice4.mail.cornell.edu

X-Mailer: QUALCOMM Windows Eudora Pro Version 3.0.2 (16) -- [Cornell

Modified]

Date: Mon, 29 Sep 1997 12:12:04

To: aapornet@usc.edu

From: Yasamin DiCiccio <yd17@cornell.edu>

Subject: list vs unlisted HH

Mime-Version: 1.0

Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"

I am looking for references that compare the differences between listed and

unlisted households in general. Any articles that compare the demographic

characteristics would be very useful.

Thanks for any help you can provide.

Yasamin DiCiccio

Computer-Assisted Survey Team

Cornell University

Ithaca, NY 14853

(607) 255-0148

AAPOR Guidelines in the Media

AAPOR receives favorable coverage of our new guidelines for proper survey

practices on the front page of this morning's Los Angeles Times business

section. Also cited is AAPOR member Evans Witt.

The article, headlined "There's No Method to Opinion Poll Madness," constitutes a detailed criticism of pseudo-polling via the Internet--the World Wide Web in particular. It appears in the weekly "Innovation" column written by Jonathan Weber, editor of the Times's weekly Monday "The Cutting Edge" business section, which is devoted to high technology.

Reproduced below is the section most relevant to AAPOR. Those interested in reading the entire article can find it at The Los Angeles Times web site, www.latimes.com (search there for "Jonathan Weber").

****

Serious-minded pollsters, including those at major media organizations such as this one, have been battling the growth of "pseudo-polls" for years. The American Assn. for Public Opinion Research puts out a set of guidelines on proper polling practices, and they are elaborate: Producing meaningful results requires careful attention to sample selection, wording of questions, interviewing techniques and statistical analysis methods, among other things. Surveys relying on self-selection are considered worthless by definition.

While pseudo-polls often don't promise to be something they're not, it's asking a lot for people to think through the methodology, or lack thereof.

"If it's called a poll, folks are not going to look at

it very carefully" to determine if it's real, says Evans Witt,

executive director of the Voter News Service, an opinion

research consortium. "That confusion ultimately degrades real

survey research."

_____

Jonathan Weber (jonathan.weber@latimes.com) is editor of The

Cutting Edge, the Los Angeles Times weekly Monday business

section devoted to high tech.

****

>From lavrakas.1@osu.edu Mon Sep 29 12:29:57 1997

Received: from mail3.uts.ohio-state.edu (root@mail3.uts.ohio-state.edu

[128.146.214.32])

    by usc.edu (8.8.4/8.8.4/usc) with ESMTP

    id MAA05553 for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Mon, 29 Sep 1997 12:29:52 -0700

(PDT)

Received: from lavrakas.1.acs.ohio-state.edu ([128.146.93.45] (may be

forged))

    by mail3.uts.ohio-state.edu (8.8.6/8.8.6) with SMTP id NAA29804

    for <aapornet@usc.edu>; Mon, 29 Sep 1997 13:38:32 -0400 (EDT)

Message-Id: <2.2.32.19970929174436.008432c4@pop.service.ohio-state.edu>

X-Sender: lavrakas.1@pop.service.ohio-state.edu

X-Mailer: Windows Eudora Pro Version 2.2 (32)

Mime-Version: 1.0

Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"

Date: Mon, 29 Sep 1997 13:44:36 -0400

To: aapornet@usc.edu

From: "Paul J. Lavrakas, Ph.D." <lavrakas.1@osu.edu>

Subject: Re: list vs unlisted HH

See TELEPHONE SURVEY METHODS (Lavrakas: Sage Pub., 1993; pp. 33-35)

At 12:12 PM 9/29/97 +0000, you wrote:

>I am looking for references that compare the differences between listed

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>demographic characteristics would be very useful.

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>Computer-Assisted Survey Team

>Cornell University

>Ithaca, NY 14853

>

>(607) 255-0148

>

>

>

* *

*   Paul J. Lavrakas, Ph.D.   *

*   Professor of Communication & Journalism   *

*   Professor of Public Policy & Management   *

*   Director, Survey Research Unit   *

>From binddav@statcan.ca Mon Sep 29 13:04:58 1997

Received: from stcgate.statcan.ca (stcgate.statcan.ca [142.206.192.1])

    by usc.edu (8.8.4/8.8.4/usc) with SMTP

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(PDT)

Received: (from root@localhost) by stcgate.statcan.ca (8.6.11/8.6.9) id

QAA25273; Mon, 29 Sep 1997 16:07:06 -0400

Received: from stcinet.statcan.ca(142.206.128.146) by stcgate via smap

(V1.3)

    id sma025187; Mon Sep 29 20:06:33 1997

Received: from statcan.ca by statcan.ca (SMI-8.6/SMI-SVR4)

    id QAA15284; Mon, 29 Sep 1997 16:05:44 -0400

Message-Id: <3.0.1.16.19970929160135.1ad70f38@142.206.128.146>

X-Sender: binddav@142.206.128.146 (Unverified)

X-Mailer: Windows Eudora Pro Version 3.0.1 (16)

Date: Mon, 29 Sep 1997 16:01:35

To: "AAPORNET" <AAPORNET@usc.edu>, "SRMSNet" <SRMSNET@UMDD.UMD.EDU>

From: "David A. Binder" <binddav@statcan.ca>

Subject: CONFERENCE and WORKSHOP: STATISTICS CANADA SYMPOSIUM 98 ON

 LONGITUDINAL ANALYSIS FOR COMPLEX SURVEYS

Mime-Version: 1.0

Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"

STATISTICS CANADA SYMPOSIUM 98

LONGITUDINAL ANALYSIS FOR COMPLEX SURVEYS

Ottawa, Canada

May 19-22,1998

CALL FOR PAPERS

Statistics Canada's fifteenth annual international methodology symposium will be on the topic of longitudinal analysis for complex surveys. In conjunction with this symposium, Statistics Canada and the Centre de recherches mathematiques (CRM), Universite de Montreal, are sponsoring a workshop on this same topic. This workshop is one of the many events taking place during the CRM's theme year in statistics.

The focus of Symposium 98 is on recently developed methods in longitudinal data analysis. Emphasis will be given to the theory and application of longitudinal methods for data from complex surveys. The symposium will give participants an opportunity to meet colleagues who are involved in solving problems unique to the analysis of survey data, including David Binder, Wayne Fuller, Harvey Goldstein, Lisa Lavange, Jerry Lawless, Danny Pfeffermann, and J.N.K. Rao.

We invite abstracts for papers related to the theme of Symposium 98. A non-exhaustive list of topics is included with this invitation. Papers concerning new or previously undocumented approaches, methodologies and applications are especially welcome. Academic researchers and practitioners from both the private and public sectors are encouraged to submit.

Abstracts of 200-300 words, in English or French, along with the presenter's name, affiliation, complete address, telephone and fax numbers and email address, should be sent to the address below. The deadline for abstracts is October 31, 1997. The final selection of papers will be announced by December 31, 1997.

Submit abstracts to:

Michael Hidiroglou

Statistics Canada

11th floor, R.H. Coats Building

Ottawa, Ontario

Canada K1A 0T6

Telephone: (613)951-4767

Fax: (613)951-1462

email: symposium98@statcan.ca

Presenters must submit a draft paper, in English or French, by April 17, 1998, for the purposes of official simultaneous translation. The final version of a paper must be provided by June 30, 1998, in order to appear in the symposium proceedings.

NON-EXHAUSTIVE LIST OF TOPICS:

Preparing/storing survey data for longitudinal analysis.

Imputing for longitudinal data analysis.

Weighting issues with longitudinal surveys.

Gross flows - Methods of estimation and applications.

Multi-level modelling techniques and applications to longitudinal survey data (including random effects models).

Event history techniques and applications with survey data.

Marginal modelling and applications with survey data.

Software for applying longitudinal techniques to survey data.

Causal analysis of panel data.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, please visit our web site:

www.statcan.ca/english/conferences/symposium98/index.htm

_____

David A. Binder |binddav@statcan.ca

Director |az004@freenet.carleton.ca

Business Survey Methods Division |TEL: (613) 951-0980 (Office)

11-A R.H. Coats Building |(613) 226-7292 (Home)

Statistics Canada |FAX: (613) 951-1462

Ottawa, Ontario, CANADA K1A 0T6 |

On Friday, 9/26, I posted an article ("Governor Bush") to AAPORnet that

had originally been published in The Polling Report. I'm happy to see

that it stimulated a discussion of the issues it raised about the

interpretation of presidential horserace polls.

The first response, however, mistakenly referred to me as the author --

an error that has been carried forward in the thread on this topic. As

the byline at the top of the article stated, it was written by T.

Keating Holland, Director of Polling at CNN.

Tom Silver, Editor

THE POLLING REPORT

P.O. Box 42580

Washington, DC 20015

202 237-2000

202 237-2001 fax

PollingRpt@aol.com

>From caspar@rti.org Tue Sep 30 10:51:19 1997

Received: from cscnts3.rti.org (cscnts3.rti.org [152.5.128.49])

    by usc.edu (8.8.4/8.8.4/usc) with ESMTP

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(PDT)

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    id <TR53FZ8K>; Tue, 30 Sep 1997 13:50:22 -0400

Message-ID: <F7688A451B58CF11B8DA08002BE5A6C702577122@cscnts3.rti.org>

From: "Caspar, Rachel A." <caspar@rti.org>

To: "'aapornet@usc.edu'" <aapornet@usc.edu>

Cc: "Caspar, Rachel A." <caspar@rti.org>, "Pate, D. Kirk" <dkp@rti.org>

Subject: Job openings at RTI

Date: Tue, 30 Sep 1997 13:50:20 -0400

X-Priority: 3

MIME-Version: 1.0

X-Mailer: Internet Mail Service (5.0.1458.49)

Content-Type: text/plain

 SURVEY DIRECTORS

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MR. KIRK PATE

SENIOR SURVEY DIRECTOR

RESEARCH TRIANGLE INSTITUTE

P.O. BOX 12194

RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK, NC 27709-2194

(E-MAIL: DKP@RTI.ORG; FAX: 919-541-1261)

To learn more about RTI, please visit our Web Site at www.rti.org.

EOE/AA M/F/D/V

Rachel A. Caspar

Survey Methodologist

Research Triangle Institute   Phone:

(919) 541-6376

P.O. Box 12194   Fax:

(919) 541-1261

Research Triangle Park, NC 27709-2194   Internet:

caspar@rti.org

Paul,

As you may know I am not an academic and I rarely publish my work. It is generally proprietary for clients. However, I do have these data which may interest you. I may be interested in publishing some of this if you think there is a vehicle.

Here is some of what I have:

Telephone Survey

Up to 5 attempts were made to contact individuals on this survey.

Contacts were made as follows:

One Attempt	Two Attempts	Three Attempts	Four Attempts
700	192	71	40

An initial list of 5,452 numbers were started to complete 1003 Telephone (Response Rate = 18%) Cost

Of these numbers:

1,332 were non-working

1,253 refused to participate

1,003 had completed interviews

376 were non-residential

491 were not called

299 had a fax or dataline

289 were disqualified due to quota or
other disqualification

198 reported that they conduct surveys
by mail only

89 had a language problem

67 terminated in mid-interview

39 were never available

16 were disqualified due to hearing or
other problem

A sample of individuals

A random sample of telephone numbers...

Internet: A population of individuals registered to be included
in an internet survey sample...

Mail: A random sample of names and addresses was
purchased from Donnelley Marketing.

Due to address availability the mail methodology was
biased towards males, older individuals, and the lowest economic status
groups.

Demographics

These data show that the telephone was a good method for

controlling the sample. Both the mail and Internet surveys produced samples

biased towards Males.

Comparison by Gender

	RDD		Listed	
U.S. Census	Internet	Telephone	Mail	
Male	49%	58%	50%	61%
Female	51%	42%	50%	39%

Similar to the results for gender, the internet and mail samples

appear to both provide biased samples on age. The internet sample was

biased towards age groups younger than 55. The mail sample was biased

towards individuals in older age groups. The mail sample resulted in so few

young individuals that no further analyses were conducted on the 13

individuals in the youngest age category.

Comparison by Age

		RDD		Listed
	U.S. Census	Internet	Telephone	Mail
18-24	13%	14%	11%	2%
25-34	21%	32%	19%	13%
35-44	22%	27%	24%	19%
45-54	16%	20%	18%	20%
55-64	11%	6%	11%	19%
65 +	17%	1%	18%	27%

100%   100%   100%

100%

These data indicate all methods resulted in undersampling the least wealthy income groups. The telephone was a fairly good method to control income demographics. Only a minor bias is noted in the telephone survey. The Internet resulted in the greatest bias. The internet had very few respondents in the lowest income groups and considerably excess respondents in the highest income groups. The mail survey had a bias toward the middle income groups and a slight bias toward the highest income groups.

Comparison by Income

	U.S. Census	Internet	RDD Telephone	Listed Mail
Under $14.9K	22.6%	5%	15%	10%
$15K - Under $25K	16.7%	8%	15%	15%
$25K - Under $35K	14.2%	15%	16%	15%
$35K - Under $45K	10.9%	16%	16%	15%
$45K - Under $55K	8.7%	16%	12%	13%
$55K - Under $65K	6.6%	9%	7%	

9%

Over $65 K   20.3%   30%   19%

22%

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Best regards,

Dan Lockhart   :-)

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> From: Paul J. Lavrakas, Ph.D.[SMTP:lavrakas.1@osu.edu]

> Sent: Monday, September 29, 1997 12:44 PM

> To: aapornet@usc.edu

> Subject: Re: list vs unlisted HH

>

> See TELEPHONE SURVEY METHODS (Lavrakas: Sage Pub., 1993; pp. 33-35)

>

>

> At 12:12 PM 9/29/97 +0000, you wrote:

> >I am looking for references that compare the differences between

> listed and

> >unlisted households in general. Any articles that compare the

> demographic

> >characteristics would be very useful.

> >

> >Thanks for any help you can provide.

> >

> >Yasamin DiCiccio

> >

> >Computer-Assisted Survey Team

> >Cornell University

> >Ithaca, NY 14853

> >

> >(607) 255-0148

> >

> >

> >

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