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DPLS News contains articles about local, national and international data issues. It is published twice a semester by the library staff and sent to faculty, graduate students, and librarians, with a focus on the Social Science departments.

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This issue of DPLS News is online at:  
<http://dpls.dacc.wisc.edu/pubs/Newsletters/nov05news.html>

DPLS will be closed the following days for the upcoming holidays:  
Thursday November 24, 2005  
Friday November 25, 2005  
Monday December 26, 2005  
Monday January 2, 2006

**DATA IN THE WAKE OF THE HURRICANE**

*by Joanne Juhnke*

The photos and personal stories conveyed the initial impact of the devastation, as hurricane after hurricane battered the southeastern United States this fall. For a more wide-ranging assessment, however, personal accounts give way to data, for implementing relief efforts and building the groundwork for ongoing recovery.

U.S. Census data about New Orleans and the surrounding areas has been in heavy demand since Hurricane Katrina hit. A prominent new page on the Census Bureau web site, at <http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/2005/katrina.htm>, links to data on economy, housing, population, and transportation for areas affected by major hurricanes of 2005. The

**U.S. Census data about New Orleans and the surrounding areas has been in heavy demand.**

American Community Survey in 2004 had covered the New Orleans metropolitan area, as well as Mobile County, AL and the Biloxi/Gulfport/Pascagoula, MS metropolitan area. The Bureau also managed a three-week-early release of the September 2005 export and import data for districts in the hurricane-affected region.

The demand for hurricane-related data has boosted the Census Bureau during a round of threatened budget cuts. In June the Senate Appropriations Committee had approved a budget proposal \$150 million below the Bush Administration's request for the Census Bureau. Prominent among the arguments for restoring the funding was the importance of Census data, particularly the American Community Survey, for disaster recovery efforts. As of this writing, the House and Senate have agreed on a much smaller cut.

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Post-hurricane opinion polls have flourished in the past months, becoming available through the Roper Center and other sources (see also the article on *RoperExpress*, p. 2). One survey of particular interest at Roper, conducted by the Gallup organization from late September to early October, polled Hurricane Katrina survivors about their experiences and opinions in the wake of the disaster.

Post-hurricane efforts have also relied heavily on Geographic Information Systems (GIS) data. The September and October issues of the GIS Monitor newsletter, at <http://www.gismonitor.com/news/newsletter/archive/index.php>, carried an ongoing series on GIS collaborations in the days and weeks after Katrina. Geospatial responses to the hurricane included

*Continued on p.3*

## ALL ABOARD THE ROPER EXPRESS!

by Cindy Severt

DPLS is pleased to announce that our subscription to the Roper Center for Public Opinion Research now includes RoperExpress. Similar to ICPSR Direct, RoperExpress allows for unlimited direct downloads of Roper data from any UW-Madison workstation. Access is controlled by IP authentication which does not require a password, only an initial email registration. Off-campus logins via proxy server will be available soon.

Currently 75% of Roper's U.S. studies are available via RoperExpress, along with many studies conducted outside the U.S. As with Roper's collection in general, RoperExpress studies may be found through iPOLL or the Roper Center's Catalog of Holdings. The catalog even offers the option to limit searches to RoperExpress studies only. Studies available for RoperExpress download are identified with the following icon: 

The Roper Center catalog, iPOLL and many other online sources can be linked to from DPLS' page of Data Quick Picks, <http://dpls.dacc.wisc.edu/bigsources.html>. It is now possible to move directly from a question in iPOLL into Roper's catalog to acquire the codebook and data without having to contact DPLS to make a request, except for those studies not yet available via RoperExpress. If a dataset is not available for direct download, DPLS staff will be happy to help.

*Continued -- see next column*

## NEW FROM ICPSR

by Joanne Juhnke

The Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR), with its immense archive of social science data for research and instruction, has recently announced several new services.

ICPSR's searchable Bibliography of Data-Related Literature, at <http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/citations/>, has for several years provided a large database of citations to literature resulting from the analysis of ICPSR data. Now a new service creates the link between the citation and the full text of the article, for journals to which UW-Madison subscribes online. Below each article citation, a "Check full-text availability" link appears. Clicking the link will lead to the UW-Madison FindIt service, which in turn provides links to the full text of the article if it is available online at UW-Madison, as well as a link to search for the journal in the MadCat online library catalog.

In October, ICPSR announced a new update notification service for those who download ICPSR data. Users who enroll in this notification service will automatically receive e-mail notices when a study that they previously downloaded is substantively updated. To sign up for update notification, log in to your MyData account at the ICPSR web site (<http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/>), and choose the Notification Services link. You can use the same link to reset your account if you choose to stop receiving the notifications.

Also announced this fall: the ICPSR-hosted web site for SETUPS (Supplementary Empirical Teaching Units in Political Science), at <http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/SETUPS/>. Sponsored jointly by ICPSR and the American Political Science Association (APSA), the SETUPS site features *Voting Behavior: The 2004 Election*, an instructional module created by Charles Prysby and Carmine Scavo. The module offers students the opportunity to analyze an accessible dataset drawn from the 2004 National Election Study (NES). The site also carries a discussion of voting behavior and the background to the 2004 election, along with exercises explaining how to analyze the data and understand the results.

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## ALL ABOARD THE ROPER EXPRESS!

*Continued from previous column*

DPLS staff would also like to remind users that the usual conditions for Roper data use still apply. By downloading data, you signify that you agree not to redistribute data to other individuals, institutions, or organizations. Publications based on Roper Center data should acknowledge the data sources by means of standard bibliographic citations.

## DATA IN THE WAKE OF THE HURRICANE

*Continued from p.1*

government agencies (such as NOAA, the U.S. Geological Survey, and NASA); academic institutions (such as San Diego State University and Louisiana State University), and commercial organizations (such as ESRI and GeoFusion). Some of the freely-available online results of those efforts include:

- Katrina Image Warehouse, a clearinghouse for GIS imagery related to the Katrina disaster, at <http://katrina.telascience.org/>
- Hurricane Disaster Viewer, at [http://arcweb.esri.com/sc/hurricane\\_viewer/index.html](http://arcweb.esri.com/sc/hurricane_viewer/index.html)
- Red Cross Disaster Area Shelter Locator, at <http://arcweb.esri.com/redcross/index.html>.

## UNITED NATIONS COMTRADE DATABASE

*by Lu Chou*

UW-Madison has subscribed to UN Comtrade, an international commodities trade database at <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/comtrade/>. Every year approximately 130 countries or areas report their merchandise trade statistics to the United Nations. The market share of these reporting countries together covers from 90% to 95% of world trade. Each country reports by commodity and trading partner. Five key variables in this database are Reporter, Commodity, Partner, Year and Trade Flow (imports, exports or re-exports). Comtrade has all reported data in their original classification as well as converting data to all possible UN classifications: Broad Economic Categories (BEC), the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC) and the Harmonized System (HS).

## WEBSURVEY@UW

*by Cindy Severt*

As the name implies, WebSurvey@UW is a new service offered by DoIT that allows faculty and staff with an active NetID to conduct online surveys of the UW constituency. Surveys can be created from scratch or copied from an existing survey. WebSurvey@UW offers up to 21 question types as well as options for logos, colors, and other customized features. Surveys can be posted on a website or sent via email. Results are automatically generated in a report format, but can also be further analyzed in Excel or SPSS. Pricing runs from \$50 per year for one survey with up to 5,000 respondents; to \$300 per year for multiple surveys with up to 10,000 respondents.

Note that WebSurvey@UW is one of several survey services on campus including the UW Survey Center, the Office of Testing and Evaluation Services, and the LEAD Center. For more information, go to <http://www.doit.wisc.edu/websurvey/>.

## NEW STUDIES AT DPLS

- Badger Polls # 1 through #20, March 2002 to March 2005.
- Current Population Survey Annual Earning File: 1979-2004 extracts.
- Gallup/CNN/USA Today Polls #2004. (25 polls)
- General Social Surveys, 1972-2004 [cumulative file] and 2004 Individual Year Survey.
- NSF Poll # 2001-Science: Trend Dataset--Surveys of Public Understanding of Science and Technology, 1979-2001.
- National Longitudinal Survey of Youth, Main File and Event History File for Rounds 1-6: 1997-2002.
- National Longitudinal Survey of Youth, Main File for Rounds 1-7: 1997-2004.
- National Longitudinal Surveys of Labor Market Experience, Mature Women: 1967-2003.
- National Longitudinal Surveys of Labor Market Experience, Mature Women: 1989 Pension File.
- National Longitudinal Surveys of Labor Market Experience, Young Women: 1968-2003.
- National Longitudinal Surveys of Labor Market Experience, Youth Cohort: Children and Young Adults 1979-2002.
- Salary Characteristics, 2004: A Report From the National Association for Business Economics (NABE) Salary Survey.
- Survey of Program Dynamics (SPD), 1999 Minimally Edited Cross-Sectional Data File.

*Crossroads Corner highlights web sites recently added to the searchable Internet Crossroads in Social Science Data, available on the DPLS web site.*

*by Joanne Juhnke*

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### **Newspaper Audience Database (NADbase)**

In October 2005 the Newspaper Association of America launched a new initiative, the Newspaper Audience Database (NADbase) at <http://www.naa.org/nadbase/>. The database reports on readership, website statistics and demographic data for the largest 100-plus newspapers in the top 75 U.S. markets. Each newspaper's print readership numbers are broken down by gender, age group, household income level and total reach within their designated market areas. The numbers also include average weekday readership, cumulative weekday readership, Sunday readership and readership over four consecutive Sundays, in addition to newspapers' website "unique audience" and "pageviews" over a 30-day period as tracked by Nielsen/NetRatings. The semi-annual releases can be downloaded in either PDF or Excel.

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### **International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)**

IFPRI is a research center of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research. In support of its mission to provide policy solutions that cut hunger and malnutrition, IFPRI conducts research and secondary analysis in collaboration with other institutions worldwide. Many of the resulting datasets are freely available on the IFPRI web site at [http://www.ifpri.org/data/data\\_menu.asp](http://www.ifpri.org/data/data_menu.asp). After a required free registration, users receive a download link via e-mail. Data listed on the IFPRI site includes:

- Geospatial data, such as CIESIN's Global Rural-Urban Mapping Project (GRUMP) in Africa and Asia
- Household and community-level surveys, from 16 countries such as Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Nicaragua and the Philippines

- Institution-level surveys regarding wheat in Egypt and soil nutrient management in Uganda
- Regional data from China
- Social accounting matrices for 27 countries.

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### **American Customer Satisfaction Index (ACSI)**

The ACSI is an economic indicator measuring "household consumption experience" according to the web site at <http://www.theacsi.org/overview.htm>. Produced by the Ross School of Business at the University of Michigan and the American Society for Quality, the survey interviews 65,000 consumers annually and asks them to evaluate goods and services purchased. The responses are then used to produce the index at four levels: national, 10 economic sectors, 41 industries, and 200 companies. Scores for each of these levels, back to the baseline year of 1994, are available as HTML tables on the ACSI site.

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### **SchoolMatters**

The SchoolMatters web site, sponsored by Standard & Poor's, declares that its purpose is to "give policymakers, educators, and parents the tools they need to make better-informed decisions that improve student performance." To do this, the site at <http://www.schoolmatters.com/> provides a searchable database covering the United States at three levels: state, school district, and school. The content covers student performance; spending, revenue, and taxes; school environment; and community demographics. Data are compiled from various surveys from the National Center for Education Statistics; state departments of education; the U.S. Census Bureau; and college preparatory test vendors. A "Compare" tool allows users to create a downloadable side-by-side comparison of key performance information for up to 5 states, districts, or schools, while a "Create Your Own Table" tool allows users to create a customized table to download for up to 100 schools or school districts across a set of key indicators.