



HIGHLIGHTS

Put California in your plans this summer! SRMS is gearing up for a full and exciting program at the **1997 Joint Statistical Meetings** -- see below for preliminary details on invited sessions for this year's convention.

The new **laptop presentation** on survey methods is a big hit! Learn more about it -- see below for the latest update.

SRMS compiles information on **software for survey statisticians** -- see page 3 for more information on our newest member service.



"Shaping Statistics for Success in the 21st Century"

**California
Here We
Come!**

If that logo looks familiar, it is because this year's Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM) will be held August 10-14, 1997, in Anaheim, CA. The deadline for abstracts has just passed, and we are pleased to say that SRMS has a very strong program in the works. Already set are the following invited sessions:

- ☐ Calibration Estimation with Many Benchmarks
- ☐ Quality of U.S. Business Establishment Frames
- ☐ Synthesis of CASM II: Current and Future Directions in Interdisciplinary Research on Cognitive Aspects of Survey Methods
- ☐ Preserving Privacy, Not Just Confidentiality
- ☐ Design of Satisfaction Surveys and
- ☐ Environmental Surveys: Theoretical Advances and Applied Issues.

Two other invited sessions of particular interest to Section members are a Statistical Society of Canada

session on *Longitudinal Survey Data Analysis* and a panel session organized by the International Association of Survey Statisticians on *What Role Should Methodologists Have in National Statistical Agencies?* The Program Committee is now busy organizing special contributed, regular contributed, and poster sessions and luncheon Round Tables, to fill out the SRMS Program. More details will be provided in the next newsletter.

Laptop Presentation Upstages Elmo



The Survey Research Methods Section's new laptop presentation seminars, based on the first four pamphlets in the Section's *What Is a Survey?* series, are "as popular as the Tickle Me Elmo doll," according to the ASA office! As noted in the December *Amstat News*, SRMS and the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, have joined forces to produce a computerized short course on survey literacy. The presentations are geared towards interested but uninformed users of surveys and survey data and provide
 (Continued on page 2.)

On the Ballot in 1997...

- Section Chair-Elect:** James Massey, Mathematica Policy Research, Inc.
Robert M. Groves, University of Michigan and the
Joint Program in Survey Research
- Program Chair-Elect:** John L. Eltinge, Texas A&M University
Nathaniel Schenker, University of California, Los Angeles
- Council of Sections
Representative:** Carol House, National Agricultural Statistics Service
Alan Zaslavsky, Harvard University



Laptop Upstages Elmo (cont'd)

basic information for those who are:

- ☐ just learning to do surveys;
- ☐ use survey data to draw conclusions;
- ☐ use survey results to make decisions;
- ☐ participate in surveys; or
- ☐ are curious about the quality of survey results.

It appears that the series is a winner! The seminars, available for a small fee, have generated a lot of interest -- with requests even coming in from as far away as France and Belgium. According to Jane Swartzloff, of the ASA office, over 150 copies have already been requested, many of them by large companies that use survey data.

And just what is this that is causing all the excitement? It is a laptop computer graphics package on 3.5" diskettes, which is divided into three seminars:

- ☐ Doing Surveys: An Overview -- drawn primarily from the

first brochure in the SRMS series, providing a short introduction to surveys in general and some of the basic survey methods and terminology;

- ☐ Judging the Quality of a Survey -- which uses information from the fourth pamphlet, by the same name, to provide insights on how to distinguish between good surveys and lesser ones and some information about how these differences can impact data analysis; and
- ☐ Planning a Survey -- based on material from the second and third brochures -- *How to Plan a Survey* and *How to Collect Survey Data* -- which presents a step-by-step approach to survey-taking.

Whether speaking to colleagues, school groups, or the media, these resources can be quite handy. To facilitate their use, two IBM-compatible versions of the laptop presentations are available: a MacroMedia Director package for 486 processors or greater, with at least 8 megabytes of RAM and a VGA 256 color monitor; and a Power Point 4.0 version for Windows. Copies of the software and accompanying brochures can be obtained for \$50 (prepaid) from the ASA

office; call (703) 684-1221 or e-mail asainfo@amstat.org.

Please note that, like the brochures themselves, the software packages are a work in progress. We welcome comments and suggestions to make them more useful and suitable for your survey literacy presentations. Comments should be directed to Bill Kalsbeek at bill_kalsbeek@unc.edu.

Special Survey Literacy Session

This year ASA has introduced an invited poster session for Sunday, August 10, from 4:00 - 7:00 PM. In keeping with the theme of the meetings -- Shaping Statistics for Success in the 21st Century -- SRMS will sponsor an invited poster session on *Survey Literacy in the 21st Century*. The presentation will feature the *What Is a Survey?* brochures, the laptop presentations based on the brochure series, and information on the Joint Program in Survey Methodology, University of Maryland. If you are in Anaheim for the Joint Statistical Meetings, plan to stop on by!

New Addition to the SRMS Web Page!



Question: What is the Frequently Asked Question that is not asked frequently enough?

Answer: What software can I use to analyze my survey data?

This question comes up often enough on the statistics news groups and in conversation among statisticians to qualify it as a Frequently Asked Question. But how many times is it not asked when it should be?

Every time somebody analyzes data from a survey without regard to the complexities of the survey design, the validity of the results is questionable. In practice, few data analysts will apply a procedure which has not been embodied in available and usable software. Fortunately, there are a number of excellent software packages available that use appropriate methods for calculation of survey-based point estimates and variance estimates. These run on a variety of computing platforms, have several different styles of interface, include both free and commercial packages, and use several different theoretical approaches to variance estimation. In many cases they have been developed by, or with input from, leading researchers in this field.

As a service to the Section and to the broader statistical community, a new page at the SRMS Web site has been created, containing

comparative information on software for the analysis of survey data. This page has two purposes:

- to provide statisticians engaged in the analysis of surveys with a continuously-updated source of information about available software, including comparative information that will be useful in selecting software for specific analytic and teaching applications, and
- to serve as a ready reference for data analysts who work with survey data but might not be aware of the reasons why special software is required to obtain a proper analysis, in order to encourage them to use appropriate methods.

The page can be reached off the Section's homepage or, directly, at the following URL: <http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~stats/survey-soft/survey-soft.html>.

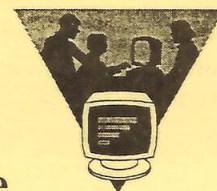
At this writing, the site includes information on ten software packages, provided by the developers or vendors of the software -- and the number keeps growing! There is also a link to the full text of a review article by Jim Lepkowski and Judy Bowles, which appears in the current issue of *The Survey Statistician* (reprinted with the kind permission of the authors and editor Mike Brick), and a short bibliography of other software reviews.

Although the information has been structured to facilitate comparisons, the most important competition is not between these packages but between good practice -- that takes account of the survey structure

to obtain proper point and variance estimates -- and bad practice -- that ignores the special features of survey data collection.

We welcome your feedback on the layout and content of this site. If you can provide references for other reviews, or if you are the developer of such software and would like to answer a questionnaire to have your package included, please write to zaslavsk@hcp.med.harvard.edu.

Data Editing Report Available



The *Proceedings* of the Data Editing Workshop and Exposition, held in Washington, DC last March, are now available. The 349-page report, published by the Office of Management and Budget's Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology, as *Statistical Policy Working Paper 25: Data Editing Workshop and Exposition*, contains about 30 papers on topics ranging from systems descriptions and statistical techniques to applications case studies in the U.S. and abroad. The volume will soon be available from the National Technical Information Service, 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, VA 22161; phone: (703) 487-4650. Along with other reports in the series, it may also be accessed electronically through the Bureau of Transportation Statistics' Web page at <http://www.bts.gov/fcsm/methodology>.

InterCASIC '96 Draws a Crowd



SAN ANTONIO

SOMETHING TO REMEMBER!

It looks like SRMS has another success on its hands! According to official counts, 374 people registered for InterCASIC '96 -- the International Conference on Computer-Assisted Survey Information Collection. The meeting, held in San Antonio, Texas, December 11-14, 1996, drew attendees from far and wide -- representing 20 countries, including the U.S.; about 23 percent were from outside the United States. This was the 6th in the series of conferences on survey methodology sponsored by the ASA Section on Survey Research Methods. It was co-sponsored by the American Association of Public Opinion Research and the International Association of Survey Statisticians. For purposes of this symposium, CASIC was defined broadly to include the general application of computer technology to the entire process of collection, capture, and preparation of survey data. Congratulations go out to the Organizing Committee of international representatives from academia, governmental organizations, and the private sector, chaired by Mick P. Couper, of the Survey Research Center of the University of Michigan and Joint Program in Survey Methodology!

The conference began with two very popular workshops: one on *Total Survey Error Considerations in CASIC*, given by Paul J. Lavrakas, of Ohio State University; and a second on *A Practical Approach to Usability Testing*, by Janice C. Redish, of Redish & Associates. More than a fourth of the conference attendees elected to enroll in at least one of these supplementary workshops -- with a total of 152 workshop tickets sold, in all. The keynote address on *User Interfaces for Survey Data Collection* was given by Ben Shneiderman, University of Maryland. There were also 48 concurrent sessions covering such topics as the history and development of CASIC, the transition from paper-and-pencil to CASIC, CASIC instrument design, issues in CASIC survey design, case management for CASIC, interviewers as users of CASIC, self-administered CASIC surveys, and emerging CASIC technologies. In total, 31 invited paper, 78 contributed papers, 12 classroom demonstrations, and 2 panel discussions were presented. In addition, an exhibit hall for new CASIC hardware and software and for institutional exhibits was provided for two days. The invited papers, which were chosen to provide a broad coverage of the field, are being prepared for a conference monograph, to be published by John Wiley and Sons in 1998. The authors of the contributed papers were encouraged to submit their manuscripts to professional journals.

CASS Question Bank



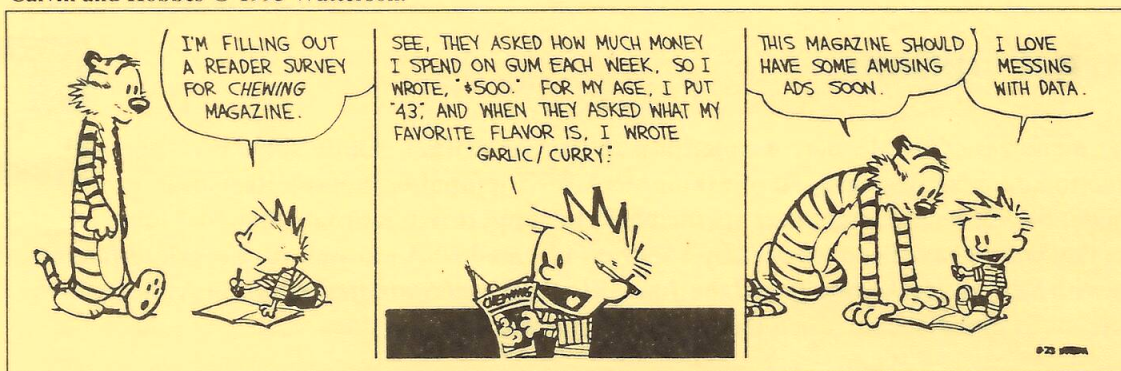
The Centre for Applied Social Surveys (CASS) announced that they have set up a Question Bank, to serve as a reference source for question formats and wordings used on major social surveys. It provides supporting material on concepts and methodology, by source and topic, and aims to disseminate knowledge about survey data collection methods to achieve comparability of results. The Question Bank is geared to be useful to social survey designers, survey users, and secondary analysts of data in academic social science and social research and in professional social research in government and independent charitable and commercial sectors.

CASS is an ESRC Resource Centre hosted by SCPR and the University of Southampton, with the University of Surrey. For more information, access the CASS Question Bank at its Web site at <http://www.scpr.ac.uk/cass>.

SIPP Working Panel

The ASA/SRM Working Group on Technical Aspects of the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) has been providing guidance and assistance to the Census Bureau for the past 10 years. Because of the invaluable contributions they have made -- in such areas as identification and reduction of response error, data collection mode experiments, questionnaire design, longitudinal estimation, panel conditioning, and sample redesign -- the Bureau approached the Section about expanding responsibility of the Working Group to include the newly-funded Survey of Program Dynamics, which is a follow-on to the 1992 and 1993 SIPP panels. The Section has given continued support for this activity. For more information on the SIPP Working Group, contact SRMS representative Daniel Hill at dhill@umich.edu.

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Two New Brochures Completed



Speaking of *What Is a Survey?*... the latest two brochures in the SRMS' quantitative literacy series should be mailed to you very shortly.

- ❑ *Judging the Quality of a Survey* was completed last July, and some of you may have picked up a copy at the Joint Statistical Meetings in Chicago. It profiles many of the problems that may occur in a survey and suggests some of the popular remedies to those problems. By knowing what can go wrong in surveys -- and what can be done about it -- one can more effectively judge the quality of a survey and its findings.

- ❑ *How to Conduct Pretesting* is the latest release in the series. It looks at one of the most important steps in the survey planning process -- how to check out or "pretest" a questionnaire, prior to full survey implementation. While care at this point will not guarantee success, omitting pretests will almost always lead to extra costs and lost

opportunities to collect the required information.

Additional copies of these and earlier brochures in the series are available from the ASA office for \$.50 each -- call the main office at (703) 684-1221 or e-mail asainfo@amstat.org. You can also check the Internet for copies of the pamphlets; see the SRMS Web site at <http://www-bios.sph.unc.edu/~kalsbeek/asa/survpamphlet.html>.

Appreciation goes to Bill Kalsbeek and Theresa DeMaio, respectively, for their contributions to the two latest brochures. Several more issues are already in the works: *What Are Focus Groups?* is close to completion and should be out later this year. Other topics being explored are *More About Mail Surveys* and *What About Surveys in the Media?* Suggestions for other themes, contributing authors, and appropriate photos and cartoons are needed. The Section is also looking for corporate sponsors, who are willing to donate about \$2,000 per brochure to help defray publishing costs for the initial print runs; production expenses would still be paid by SRMS. Furthermore, since we view this effort as a "work in progress," any comments on improving current pamphlets are very welcome -- some of your suggestions have already been incorporated in subsequent editions of the earlier

issues in the series. Recommendations and feedback should be directed to Fritz Scheuren -- by phone at (703) 549-1120 or by e-mail at fritz.scheuren@ey.com.

Research Industry Coalition

The Research Industry Coalition (RIC) recently approved a formal ethics statement governing standards for marketing and opinion research. The organization draws together such disparate groups as ASA, the American Association for Public Opinion Research, the American Marketing Association, the Newspaper Association of America, the Society for Consumer Psychology, and the Travel and Tourism Research Association and, hence, adopted a very broadly-worded set of standards. To obtain a copy, contact Chuck Cowan (chuck_cowan@notes.pw.com) or Warren Mitofsky (mitofsky@aol.com), SRMS' representatives to the RIC. ASA also has a statement on ethical practices; that can be accessed through the SRMS Web page.

Journal Options



Newer members of SRMS may wonder how to get our journal. Quite some time ago, the Section decided that, instead of asking ASA for a journal on Survey Research Methods, SRMS would encourage its members to support two journals that covered a lot of the same topics that would have been covered by a Section-oriented ASA journal. As a result, arrangements were made with *Survey Methodology* and the *Journal of Official Statistics* to permit ASA members to order subscriptions at a discount when paying their ASA membership dues.

In case you are unfamiliar with these two journals, the following information may be of interest:

- ❑ *Survey Methodology (SM)* publishes articles dealing with various aspects of statistical development relevant to a statistical agency. In addition to general articles, *SM* contains special sections, which allow a more concentrated treatment of new techniques and experiences for selected topics. Special topics in recent issues have been: Randomized Response, Establishment Survey Methods, Small Area Estimation and Record Linkage. In December 1996 we featured Weighting and Estimation. In the future we plan to have special sections on Computer-Assisted Interviewing and Longitudinal Data Analysis.

The Journal is published bi-annually in June and December. All articles are refereed and appear in both English and French. Authors are invited to submit papers in either language. Four copies should be sent to Dr. M.P. Singh, Editor, *Survey Methodology*, Methodology Branch, Statistics Canada, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0T6. Contributions on other aspects of statistical development and applications in surveys are, of course, always welcome.

- ❑ The *Journal of Official Statistics (JOS)* publishes articles on survey methodology and theory, with an emphasis on applications. Specifically of interest are articles on methodologies and policies for the collection, processing, analysis, presentation, and distribution of statistical data. Commentaries, announcements of upcoming events, and book reviews are also included. In addition to regular featured articles, *JOS* occasionally will dedicate a volume to one particular issue of broad interest to the statistical community. Such topics include questionnaire design, nonsampling errors, telephone surveys, government statistical policy issues, confidentiality and data access, and innovations in government surveys.

JOS is published quarterly in English by Statistics Sweden. All manuscripts are rigorously reviewed for accuracy of content, contribution to the science, and clarity and precision of writing. Inquiries and submissions should be directed to Lars Lyberg, Chairman of the Board, *Journal of Official Statistics*, Statistics Sweden, Box 24300 S-104 51 Stockholm, Sweden; phone: + 46 8 783 4300; fax: + 46 8 783 4288; e-mail: l.lyberg@sch.se.

Modeling Career...?

On a lighter note: one of our honorary Section family members, Donna Woodburn, was the ASA t-shirt person in the December and January issues of *Amstat News*! Some of you may know her mother, Louise, who has been a member of SRMS for somewhat longer than Donna... Thanks, Louise, for sharing the smiling face of your dependent variable!



Another Section Member Wins Herriot Award!



Congratulations go out to Monroe Sirken, who became the second recipient of the Roger Herriot Award for Innovation in Federal Statistics! The Award, sponsored by the Social Statistics Section, Government Statistics Section, and the Washington Statistical Society, recognized Sirken for his many contributions to statistical research and survey methods at the National Center for Health Statistics.

Nominations are now being sought for the 1997 Herriot Award. The award honors individuals who develop unique approaches to the solution of statistical problems in Federal data collection programs. It is intended to reflect the special characteristics of Roger Herriot's career --

- ☐ Dedication to the issues of measurement;
- ☐ Improvement in the efficiency of data collection programs; and
- ☐ Improvement and use of statistical data for policy analysis.

As such, individuals at all levels -- from entry to senior -- from the Federal government, private sector, or academic community may be nominated on the basis of the significance of a specific contribution. For nomination forms or information contact Daniel Kasprzyk -- phone: (202) 219-1588; fax: (202) 219-1728; or e-mail: daniel_kasprzyk@ed.gov. Completed nominations are due May 12, 1997.

SRMSNET

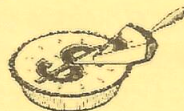


The *SRMSNET* continues to grow -- current reports show that we have 393 subscribers -- including an undetermined number of non-Section members -- from all over the world. In fact, we recently had our first Spanish inquiry! But, what is, perhaps, more exciting is the fact that the *SRMSNET* has become so much more active -- automatically forwarding 7-8 messages a week, on average. Submissions range from inquiries about references and methodological questions to postings of information on upcoming events, reports on research that may be of interest, and even job opportunities... Some of the postings have generated great flurries of exchanges, as experts from different areas respond with their input on the best citation, technique, or solution to a problem in survey research. Special thanks

go to Christie Nader, at the University of Maryland, who sees to it that all runs smoothly!

If you haven't signed on yet, join now... if you aren't on the list, you aren't in the know! To sign up, sent a message to listserv@umdd.umd.edu and, in the body of the message, type *subscribe SRMSNET John Doe* (substitute your own name for "John Doe"). Users, please remember that if you just click on "reply," your answer may well go out to everyone on the *SRMSNET* -- **be sure to direct personal replies to the sender's own e-mail address!**

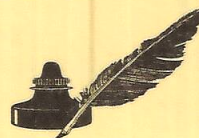
Treasurer's Report



In his annual report, David Binder mentions that the Section ran a deficit of about \$10,000. Have no fear! We are not going hog-wild; we are just spending down some of our extra cash on-hand, in

accordance with ASA guidelines for the Section budgets. As of September 1996, we had cash on-hand of \$23,277. Our largest source of revenue is from the *Proceedings*, as is the largest portion of our expenses. We have set aside monies to cover publication of one more pamphlet in the *What Is A Survey?* series, and to support development of a laptop computer presentation based on the brochures. (The total number of brochures funded by SRMS is five; other funding sources are being investigated for future pamphlets -- volunteers are welcome!) We have also contributed seed money for the Nonresponse conference, which is currently being planned for 1999. Meanwhile, we continue to receive revenue from past conferences sponsored by the Section. Our dues -- at \$2.00 a year -- remain among the lowest available. Membership figures for the Section were 1,393, as of September 30, 1996, about a 2 percent decline since the same time the year before.

Section Chair's Annual Report



This report summarizes the activities, accomplishments, and concerns of the Survey Research Methods Section during the 1996 calendar year. Many of the items mentioned here are discussed in more detail elsewhere in this newsletter.

Accomplishments

The Section is producing a series of pamphlets called *What Is a Survey?* that describes various aspects of surveys. Four pamphlets have been produced and two more are in preparation. In collaboration with University of North Carolina, the series is being adapted as a laptop computer presentation. A set of WWW pages has been developed. *SRMSNET*, a listserver based at University of Maryland, is now up and running. Subscription to this discussion group is open to anyone. A Section logo was developed. The Section charter was changed to reflect the fact that the Secretary/Treasurer is one position. Two *SRMS Newsletters* were produced during the year and a third is in preparation. Six of our members became ASA Fellows this year. Some initial contacts have been made with the International Association of Survey Statisticians and the Survey Methods Section of the Statistical Society of Canada to establish better liaison with these societies. The Section has published *Proceedings of the Survey Process and Measurement Quality Conference*, held in Bristol in 1995. A successful conference on InterCASIC '96 was held in December in San Antonio. Plans are underway to hold a conference on Nonresponse, probably in 1999.

Highlights

A special award for outstanding service was given to Bill Kalsbeek, for his exceptional contributions as Publications Officer. Honorable mention was also given to Fritz Scheuren, Wendy Alvey, and Cathy Dippo. At the Joint Statistical Meetings there was a total of 35 sessions where the Section was the primary sponsor. This included about 130 contributed papers. As well, five Round Table luncheons were held. A short course on List-Assisted Telephone Surveys was given. The *Proceedings* include approximately 40 papers presented at the AAPOR meetings.

Issues of Concern

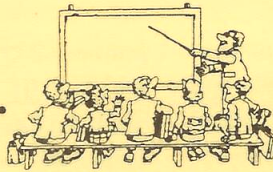
The Section expressed concern about the ceiling on the number of invited paper sessions for the Joint Statistical Meetings. For 1997, the SRMS allotment of invited sessions was decreased by one, to permit new Sections to have invited sessions. The Section also passed along its assessment that the set-up for the Round Table luncheons in Chicago was inadequate -- too crowded, too noisy, and very unattractive.

Other Developments

The Section provided a monetary contribution to support Victor Cohn in his fellowship under the Office of Scientific and Public Affairs. A new working group was established on the Behavioral Risk Factors Surveillance System for the Centers for Disease Control. The Working Group on the Survey of Income and Program Participation for the Census Bureau has continued with an expanded mandate. The Section also has a representative on the ENAR Program Committee and is organizing one of the sessions. A contribution was made to preserve the videotapes on Morris Hansen. This year the Section ran a deficit of about \$10,000.

David Binder, December 1996

Upcoming Conferences...



1997 Federal CASIC Workshops.--

The Bureau of the Census and the Bureau of Labor Statistics will hold informal, three-day meetings March 11-13, 1997, at the BLS Conference Center, 2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE, Washington, DC. The purpose is to share current progress, recent developments, and new ideas in the use of Computer-Assisted Survey Information Collection (CASIC) methods for Federal data collection. The workshops will include topics from the broad field of CASIC -- CATI, CSAQ, CAI, CAPI, Internet surveys, etc. Space is limited. For more information, contact David Uglow by fax: (202) 606-7007 or e-mail: uglowd@dcgate.bls.gov.

Record Linkage Workshop.-- The Committee on Applied and Theoretical Statistics, of the National Academy of Sciences, the Washington Statistical Society, the Bureau of the Census, the National Agricultural Statistics Service, the National Center for Health Statistics, the National Science Foundation, the Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology, and The George Washington University are sponsoring or providing support for a two-day Workshop on Record Linkage in Washington, DC, March 20-21, 1997. The conference, to be held at the DoubleTree Hotel, in Arlington, VA, will focus on recent developments in record linkage application, methods, and technology since the last major U.S. Record Linkage Workshop, in 1985. The meeting will feature a tutorial on record linkage; invited sessions on applications for epidemiologic research, methodology, business and other record linkage ap-

plications, and confidentiality issues; and concurrent contributed sessions and software demonstrations. For more information, see the

Record Linkage Workshop's homepage on the Web at <http://www.census.gov/srd/www/reclink> or contact Bill Winkler -- phone: (301) 457-4729; fax: (301) 457-2299; or e-mail: bwinkler@census.gov.

Survey Research, Democracy and Democratization.--

The University of Nebraska, Lincoln-Gallup Research Center, in conjunction with the World Association for Public Opinion Research, will present a symposium on Survey Research, Democracy and Democratization on April 24-26, 1997, in Lincoln, NE. Leading researchers from the Americas, Europe, and Asia will discuss the role of surveys and public opinion polling for emerging and mature democracies. For more information, contact Allan McCutcheon -- phone: (402) 486-6571; fax: (402) 477-3983; e-mail: amccutch@unlinfo.unl.edu -- or see the conference Web site at <http://www.unl.edu/unl-grc>.

Design and Analysis of Complex Sample Surveys.--

The Royal Statis-

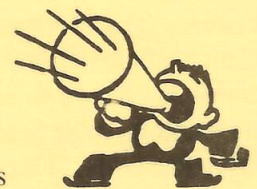
tical Society (RSS) will hold a half-day meeting on design and analysis of complex sample surveys on Wednesday, May 14, 1997 (at a time to be announced later) at the RSS headquarters, 12 Errol Street, London EC1Y 8LX -- voice: +44-171-638-8998; fax: +44-171-256-7598; e-mail: rss@rss.org.uk. Papers from three or four leading international teams of researchers in survey sampling will be read, followed by invited and contributed discussion and rejoinders. The Proceedings of the meeting will be published in the *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society Series B* in late 1997 or early 1998. The program of speakers and topics will be announced on or shortly after Wednesday, March 19, 1997, on several e-mail usergroups (including *allstat* and *bayes-news*) and the Web. For more details, contact David Draper, Statistics Group, School of Mathematical Sciences, University of Bath, Claverton Down, Bath BA2 7AY England; voice: +44-1225-826222; fax: +44-1225-826492; e-mail: d.draper@maths.bath.ac.uk, or see <http://www.bath.ac.uk/~masdd/rss-surveys.html>.

(Continued on page 10.)

Call for Papers

Symposium '97: New Directions in Surveys and Censuses.--

Statistics Canada will sponsor its XIV annual international methodology symposium on November 5-7, 1997, in Ottawa, Ontario. The focus will be on the use of new techniques and technologies in designing and conducting surveys and censuses, in processing and analyzing collected data, and in disseminating results. Papers concerning new or previously undocumented approaches -- especially if they reduce cost while maintaining high quality standards -- are especially welcome. For more information, contact Jack Gambino -- phone: (613) 951-0334; fax: (613) 951-3100; or e-mail: sympos97@statcan.ca. Abstracts are due March 31, 1997.



Upcoming Conferences... (cont'd)

52nd Annual Conference of AAPOR.--The American Association of Public Opinion Research will hold its 52nd annual meeting at the Norfolk Waterside Marriott, in Norfolk, VA, May 15-18, 1997.

3rd IMS North American New Researchers' Meeting.-- The IMS New Researchers' Committee is organizing a North American New Researchers' Meeting for recent PhD recipients in Statistics and Probability, at the University of Wyoming, Laramie, WY, July 23-26, 1997, just prior to the IMS Annual Meeting in Park City, UT. The purpose of the conference is to meet and share research ideas. Persons who received doctorate degrees since 1992 or expect to receive one by 1998 are eligible to attend; priority, though, will be given to first-time attendees. Registration is due April 30, 1997. For more information, see the Web site -- <http://www.math.unm.edu/NR97.html> or contact S. Huzurbazar -- fax: (307) 766-3927; e-mail: lata@uwoyo.edu.

1997 Joint Meeting of the Public Health Conference on Records and Statistics and the Data Users Conference.-- The National Center for Health Statistics, Centers for Disease Control, is pleased to announce this joint meeting, to be held July 28-31, 1997, at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, DC. The theme of the meeting is *Partnerships, Technologies, and Communities: Evolving Roles for Health Data*, and it will feature sessions on health information partnerships on the national, state, and local levels; information technology and informatics; and communities at risk. The conference will provide

a national forum for the discussion about uses of data and data needs and present the latest information about NCHS programs and statistical resources and opportunities to work in partnership with NCHS to meet data needs. For more information, see the NCHS Web page at <http://www.cdc.gov/nchswwww/nchshome.htm>.

9th International Conference on Scientific and Statistical Database Management.-- The SSDBM Conference will be held at the Evergreen State College campus, Olympia, WA, August 13-15, 1997. It brings together database researchers, practitioners, and developers, as well as domain scientists from multiple scientific disciplines to explore new concepts, tools, and techniques for scientific and statistical database applications. Both research and experience/challenge papers will be presented. For more information, see <http://www.cs.wisc.edu/~yannis/ssdbm.html>.

IASS/IAOS Satellite Meeting on Longitudinal Studies.-- The International Association of Survey Statisticians, the International Association of Official Statistics, the Israel Central Bureau of Statistics, the Israel Statistical Association, and the Department of Statistics at Hebrew University are co-sponsoring a conference on Longitudinal Studies, August 27-31, 1997, in Jerusalem, Israel. The focus will be on design and analysis of sample surveys -- both prospective and retrospective -- in which the same units are investigated with respect to several points of time or over periods of time. Fixed and rotating panel surveys and longitudinal studies based on administrative data or on censuses will be included. For more information on the meeting, to be held directly following the 1997 biennial meeting of ISI, contact Gad Nathan --

phone: +972 2 6553-371; fax: +972 2 6522-319; e-mail: gad@olive.mssc.huji.ac.il or see the Web site at <http://pluto.mssc.huji.ac.il/~gad/smls.html>.

Cooperative Efforts

SRMS had recently taken a more pro-active role in reaching out to some related organizations that may share similar interests with us. We have organized a session for the upcoming ENAR program and have agreed to co-sponsor a session by the International Association of Survey Statisticians (IASS) for the 1997 JSM. We are also in contact with the Statistical Society of Canada (SSC), about their activities, and discussions are underway for linked Web pages and shared newsletters with both SSC and IASS. A joint award for best journal paper is also being considered. In addition, once again, we will be including papers from the last meeting of the American Association of Public Opinion Research in the next *Proceedings*.

New Editor Needed



The co-editors of the *SRMS Newsletter* will be stepping down to pursue other activities. Anyone interested in serving as editor for the Section's biannual newsletter should contact Chuck Proctor at proctor@stat.ncsu.edu as soon as possible.

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Mission Statement

The mission of the Section on Survey Research Methods is to promote the improvement of survey practice and the understanding of survey methods by encouraging both theoretical and applied research on survey-related topics and by disseminating information on survey methods.

Areas of interest for the Section include all that employ survey methodology as a focus or as a prime tool of investigation. Of special interest are:

- Theoretical foundations of sampling;
- Sample design and estimation;
- Nonsampling errors and data collection methods;
- Analysis and presentation of survey data;
- Education of the public and students on the importance of scientific survey research;
- Publication and dissemination of survey research findings; and
- Ethics relating to survey conduct and standards for survey practice.



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