SRM to Join the Information Highway!

You asked for it; you'll get it! The Section is planning to start an electronic news group which can be accessed by all of you with electronic mail. Interested subscribers would receive all messages posted to the news group. We hope this will greatly expand communication among Section members and between the Executive Committee and the membership.

To do this, we need your help! A volunteer is needed to set up and administer this mailing list. If you are willing to help us get this effort off the ground, please contact Elizabeth Stasny at EAS@MPS.OHIO-STATE.EDU.

Stay tuned to the Section's column in the *Amstat News* for more details...

Exciting Program for Toronto!

Get your suitcases ready! Toronto, here we come! The Section on Survey Research Methods has put together a very full program for the 1994 Joint Statistical Meetings in Toronto, August 14-18! Over 200 papers have been organized into 46 sessions -- 6 invited, 14 special contributed, 24 regular contributed, 10 posters and 5 luncheon roundtables. For highlights see page 2.

Workshop on Questionnaire Design

Sign up early for the Section's latest short course! At the 1994 Joint Statistical Meetings, SRM will sponsor a Workshop on Writing Questions for Standardized Survey Interviews -- to be taught by Nora Cate Schaeffer, Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

The Workshop will examine decisions made in writing questions of different types for surveys of individuals, provide a method for analyzing the issues that arise, and draw on research to suggest solutions to common problems. The focus is on paper instruments to be administered by an interviewer, rather than on computer-assisted survey information collection or on self-administered questionnaires, but most of the material covered is also relevant to other modes of data collection. This Workshop should be useful to those who have written questionnaires but are not familiar with research on question design, as well as to those without prior experience in writing survey questions.
Highlights of the 1994 SRM Program

The 1994 program for the Joint Statistical Meetings will be out soon. Be sure to look for these SRM sessions:

- **Census-oriented sessions.**--Several sessions have been planned that focus on activities of the decennial censuses, including an invited session on Alternative Methods for the 2000 Census (Tues., Aug. 16, 2:00 PM); a special contributed session on Exploring Fundamental Change: the 1995 Census Test (Wed., Aug. 17, 8:30 AM); and a strong contributed session on Issues in Census Coverage and Estimation (Mon., Aug. 15, 8:30 AM).

- **Establishment surveys.**--Thursday is the day for those interested in establishment surveys: the morning begins with special contributed sessions on occupational compensation and schools (Thurs., Aug. 18, 8:30 AM), followed by an invited session on Establishment Surveys: Where Are We Now -- Where We Should Be Going (Thurs., Aug. 18, 10:30 AM).

- **Other invited sessions.**--SRM is also sponsoring the following: New Research in Random-Digit Dialing Technology (Mon., Aug. 15, 8:30 AM); The Consumer Expenditure Survey: Income Reporting -- Problems and Options (Wed., Aug. 17, 10:30 AM); Measurement of Sensitive Issues in Surveys: Experiments for the National Survey of Family Growth (Tues., Aug. 16, 10:30 AM); and Analyzing Survey Data: Combining Model-Based Theory with Design-Based Practice (Wed., Aug. 17, 2:00 PM).

Also look for the usually spirited SRM sessions on weighting (Tuesday at 8:30 AM and 4:00 PM and on Wednesday at 10:30 AM); imputation (Monday at 2:00 PM and Wednesday at 8:30 AM and 2:00 PM); and small-area estimation (Thursday at 8:30 AM). The posters are scheduled for Wednesday (Aug. 17, 12:30-2:00 PM) and the luncheon roundtables will be held on Monday (Aug. 15, 12:30-2:00 PM). In addition, the Section is co-sponsoring sessions containing about 100 papers of interest to our members. Check, in particular, the Social Statistics Section and Government Statistics Section programs for these jointly-sponsored sessions.

A special thanks to all those who helped organize an outstanding program!

---

**Victor Cohn Receives ASA Fellowship**

SRM is pleased to hear that Victor Cohn, a nationally known science and health journalist, was selected by the ASA Board of Directors to become the first Office of Scientific and Public Affairs Fellow. Cohn will be writing two books on using statistics in reporting, in an effort to advance public understanding of sound statistical information. Because his activities are closely tied to the Section's interest in improving media survey literacy, SRM is helping to fund this Fellowship.
Coming Soon .... 1993 SRM Proceedings

The 1993 SRM Proceedings will soon be off the presses. This year, for the first time, the SRM Proceedings is a two-volume set. In addition to last year's ASA papers, the collection will include papers from the 1994 Winter Conference, which the Section co-sponsored, and selected papers of interest to Section members from the 1993 annual meeting of the American Association of Public Opinion Researchers (AAPOR). (The arrangement with AAPOR is being explored for three years on a trial basis, to see if it is of interest to members of both groups. After you receive your Proceedings, let us know what you think by contacting the Publications Officer listed on page 7 of this newsletter.)

If you did not receive an order form for the ASA Proceedings and would like to order one or more volumes, contact the ASA Offices at (703) 684-1221.

price is $40.00 for the 1,000-page volume.)

The edited monograph of invited ICES papers is being published by John Wiley & Sons and is due out this fall. Conference attendees will receive complimentary copies. Additional copies can be purchased from the publisher. (Thanks, again, to Brenda Cox for all of her work on this effort!)

Call for 1995 Invited Sessions

Here's a good way for you to get involved -- organize an invited paper session for the 1995 Joint Statistical Meetings, to be held in Orlando, Florida, August 13-17. The theme is "Statistics in Action."

Please send us your suggestions for topics, session organizers and potential speakers. The Section is allocated five invited paper sessions (based on prior-year allocation, Section activity, and participation and attendance at previous annual meetings), but can also compete for two more unallocated invited paper sessions. So, the stronger, more complete and more broadly appealing your session is, the better its chances. The final deadline for receipt of invited sessions is July 1, 1994. Send information to Nancy Mathiowetz at Agency for Health Care Policy and Research, 2101 East Jefferson Street, Suite 500, Rockville, MD 20852; phone: (301) 594-1406; fax: (301) 594-2166; or Internet: NMAHIOW@CGHSIR.AHCPR.GOV.

Don't Forget To Vote!

(See ASA Ballots.)

Chair-Elect:
David Binder, Statistics Canada

David Bellhouse, University of Western Ontario

Program Chair-Elect:
Cathryn Dippo, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Lynne Stokes, University of Texas, Austin

Secretary/Treasurer (1995-6):
Johnny Blair, University of Maryland

Theresa DeMaio,
U.S. Bureau of the Census

Publications Officer (1995-6):
William Kalsbeek,
University of North Carolina

Barbara Forsyth, Research Triangle Institute

Council of Sections Representative
(1995-7):
James Lepkowski,
University of Michigan

Michael Brick,
Westat, Inc.

Establishment Survey Conference

The Proceedings of the International Conference on Establishment Surveys (ICES) -- held in June 1993 in Buffalo, NY -- are now available. If you did not attend, you can obtain a copy by contacting the ASA Office. (List
Treasurer's Report

The SRM treasury is in healthy shape. As of December 31, 1993, we had cash on hand of $39,523, up by $10,373 from the end of 1992. Our total revenue, thus far (through February 14, 1994), this year is $20,415 and our expenses are $10,042. Our largest source of revenue is from the Proceedings ($14,345), and they also represent the largest portion of our expenses ($6,654). We also continue to receive a substantial amount of revenue from conferences co-sponsored by the Section. Meanwhile, our dues -- at $2.00 a year -- remain among the lowest available.

(Contact Lynne Stokes for more details.)

Newsletter Deadline...

Items for publication in the Fall 1994 SRM Newsletter should be submitted no later than September 12, 1994. Send items to Judith Lessler at Battelle, 100 Capitol Drive, Durham, NC 27713; phone: (919) 544-3742; fax: (919) 544-1062; Internet: LESSLERJ@BATTELLE.ORG.

Looking for Information on Survey Research?

In addition to the Joint Statistical Meetings (and our Proceedings) and the SRM Newsletter, the Section recommends the following as useful sources of information on the latest developments in survey research methodology and application:

- **Amstat News**.-- Survey Research Methods Section news appears in each issue of the Amstat News. Recently, we have run a special series of write-ups on lesser-known large-scale sample surveys and censuses. If you have an item of interest to the Section, forward a copy to Elizabeth Stasny at the Department of Statistics, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH 43210; e-mail: EAS@MPS.OHIO-STATE.EDU.


- **Survey Methodology**.-- Published by Statistics Canada, this journal features articles on statistical development and application in surveys. Emphasis is on the development and evaluation of methodologies as applied to data collection or the data themselves. For more information, write to Publications Sales, Statistics Canada, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A OT6.

- **Survey Research**.-- This quarterly newsletter contains information about survey activities at research organizations. It also features special columns on issues relating to survey research and announcements about conferences, job openings, and methodological publications. For more information, write to Survey Research Laboratory, University of Illinois, 909 West Oregon Street, Suite 300, Urbana, IL 61801-3327.

(Note: Because of concern expressed by the SRM Executive Committee, the ASA Board reconsidered its decision to remove Survey Methodology and the Journal of Official Statistics subscriptions from the cafeteria membership plans for ASA members. Both journals can now be ordered, along with other ASA subscriptions, when you renew your membership.)
Upcoming Conferences

- **Statistics Canada Symposium 1994**, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, November 2-4, 1994. -- Statistics Canada's 11th symposium of invited papers on methodological issues will focus on Re-engineering for Statistical Agencies. Topics will include initiatives in marketing and in specific social and economic surveys, experience with the price index at the international level, and the human aspect of re-engineering. For more information, contact Francine Hardy at Statistics Canada -- phone: (613) 951-1709; fax: (613) 951-1462.

- **International Conference on Survey Measurement and Process Quality**, Bristol, England, April 1-4, 1995. -- The 5th in a series of conferences on survey methodology will be held outside the U. S. for the first time, in recognition of the international contribution to the field. This SRM co-sponsored meeting will focus on quality in survey data collection and subsequent processing, in an attempt to document the current state of the field and encourage inter-disciplinary and cross-cultural exchange. Monograph sessions are planned on Design and Specification, Data Collection, Post-Survey Processing and Operations, Quality Assessment and Control, and Error Effects on Estimation, Analysis, and Interpretation. Contributed papers are now being sought on each of those topics, as well. Abstracts and registration fees are due by September 15, 1994. For more information, contact Lee Decker at ASA, 1429 Duke St., Alexandria, VA 22314; phone: (703) 684-1221; fax: (703) 684-2036; e-mail: LEE@ASA.MHS.COMPUTERSE.COM.

- **Sixth Conference on Health Survey Research Methods**, Colorado or Utah, Summer 1995. -- Papers are being solicited in all areas of survey research methods as they relate to health, including but not limited to such areas as combined data from surveys and other sources; questionnaire design strategies and data collection methods, including cognitive approaches; computer-assisted survey information collection; evaluation of access and quality of health care; survey needs for emerging health care problems; and sampling strategies and statistical implications. Space is limited. Abstracts are due by August 1, 1994. For more information, contact Diane O'Rourke at the Survey Research Laboratory, 909 W. Oregon, Suite 300, Urbana, IL 61801; phone: (217) 333-4273; fax: (217) 244-4408.
Thanks for Your Feedback!

The last SRM Newsletter asked for your feedback on a number of current issues. We heard from about 1% of you. This is what we heard:

- **On the first issue of the Newsletter.**--Most respondents (89%) liked the idea of having a newsletter and felt 2-4 times a year was sufficient. We've decided to try it on a semi-annual basis for a while and see how that works out. We also received quite a few interesting suggestions on features to add, but many involved considerable effort on the part of the editor, so, for the time being, we will stick to a brief and newsy format. However, anyone who wants to volunteer to write a column is welcome to submit it!

- **On certification.**--Sentiment ran pretty strongly against certification (69% of those who offered an opinion), at least in the form proposed at the 1993 meetings. That input and the feedback received at the Business Meeting in San Francisco were passed along to the ASA Board. Subsequently, the ASA Board voted to bring this issue to the full membership -- be sure to complete your Survey of ASA Membership on Certification, which came in the ballot package.

- **On member services.**--Ideas proposed ranged from broadening our focus to the international community and to biological populations, to sponsorship of more conferences, availability of more information on jobs, new methods and software, and use of real data sets of interest to survey researchers. The electronic news group is one effort to respond to those suggestions. The Section is also co-sponsoring the International Conference on Survey Measurement and Process Quality in April 1995 and is in the beginning stages of planning a conference on Computer-Assisted Survey Information Collection for 1996.

We really appreciate your input! A list of the Executive Committee members is provided at the end of each newsletter -- feel free to contact us with your comments, suggestions and recommendations. And remember -- we are always on the lookout for energetic and enthusiastic volunteers!

---

**New CNSTAT Reports Available**

The Committee on National Statistics (CNSTAT), National Research Council, recently released two reports of particular interest to survey researchers:

- **A Census That Mirrors America.**--This interim report of the Panel to Evaluate Alternative Census Methods focuses on how the Census 2000 should be taken. It presents initial findings and conclusions of the Panel, with comments on design selection and recommendations for consideration of further use of administrative records in future U.S. censuses. Many of the findings and conclusions relate to plans for the 1995 census pre-test. A final report is due out later this year.

- **Private Lives and Public Policies.**--This final report of the Panel on Confidentiality and Data Access features a review of confidentiality and accessibility of U.S. government statistics and makes recommendations to "aid federal statistical agencies in their stewardship of data for policy decisions and research." The focus of the Panel was threefold: to ensure privacy and confidentiality of data subjects, to enhance public confidence in the use of statistical data, and to facilitate dissemination of data for statistical research.

Both of these volumes are available through National Academy Press, 2101 Constitution Ave., NW, Box 285, Washington, DC 20055.
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chair (1994)
Judith T. Lessler
Phone: (919) 544-3742
FAX: (919) 544-1062
Internet: LESSLERJ@BATTLE.ORG

Publications Officer (1993-94)
Elizabeth Stasny
Phone: (614) 292-0784
FAX: (614) 292-2096
Internet: EAS@MPS.OHIO-STATE.EDU

Chair-Elect (1995)
Seymour Sudman
Phone: (217) 333-4276
FAX: (217) 244-4408
Internet: SEYMOUR@VMD.CSO.UIUC.EDU

Secretary/Treasurer (1993-94)
Lynne Stokes
Phone: (512) 471-5216
FAX: (512) 471-0587
Internet: SARA@UTXVM.CC.UTEXAS.EDU

Past-Chair (1993)
Fritz Scheuren
Phone: (703) 549-1120
FAX: (703) 549-8888

Council of Sections Representative (1994-1996)
Susan Ahmed
Phone: (202) 219-1781
FAX: (202) 219-2061

Program Chair (1994)
Ronald S. Fesco
Phone: (202) 720-2485
FAX: (202) 720-8738

Council of Sections Representative (1993-1994)
David Binder
Phone: (613) 951-0980
FAX: (613) 951-1462
Internet: BINDDAV@STATCAN.CA

Program Chair-Elect (1995)
Nancy A. Mathiowetz
Phone: (301) 594-1406
FAX: (301) 594-2166
Internet: NMATHIOW@CGHSIR.AHCPR.GOV

Ex-Officio Member
Barbara Bailar
Phone: (703) 684-1221
FAX: (703) 684-2037
Internet: BARBARAB@ASA.MHS.COMPUServe.COM

STANDING COMMITTEES

Tutorial Committee Chair (1994)
Mick Couper
Phone: (301) 763-3846
FAX: (301) 763-7303

Research Industry Council Representatives
Warren Mitofsky
Phone: (212) 975-5405
FAX: (212) 975-1794

Committee on Fellows, Chair (1994)
Cathryn Dippo
Phone: (202) 606-7372
FAX: (202) 606-7421

Innis G. Sande
Phone: (908) 758-5129
FAX: (908) 758-4308

SIPP Working Group
Vicki Huggins
Phone: (301) 763-7944
FAX: (301) 763-5129

Newsletter Editors
Wendy Alvey/Bettye Jamerson
Phone: (202) 874-0455
FAX: (202) 874-0922
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.