

SSDA | Social Science Data Archive

The Data Archive is a unit within the **Institute for Social Science Research**.
<http://www.sscnet.ucla.edu/issr/index.html>

Room: 4317 Public Policy Building (This is the current location, but we are moving so call first.)

Phone: 310-825-0716

Hours: M-F 8-6

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Tips for using the SSDA web resources: <http://www.sscnet.ucla.edu/issr/da>

On the home page there are four sections you can use.

Catalog will take you to our holdings where you can perform searches by **index** terms, study **titles**, key words (**search**), or by checking the list of new and **updated** studies.

Help provides some general information about data **availability**, **accessing** files, and where to get **assistance** to use the files.

Resource provides links to materials of special interest including census data, data portals, and data suppliers.

Tutorial provides you with information on **searching** for data, using **social science data** in research, making **bibliographic citations** for data files, and how to use **codebooks**.

Search tips

The Archive staff will help you with searching for data if you call or send e-mail. Appointments for in-person consulting are also available. When performing a **search** use broad subject headings. The search engine will search for your terms in all fields, including, title, principal investigator, year, subject headings, and study description. If you want to search on your own, keep in mind the following concepts when thinking about your research topic and how to find data on this topic:

Geography-- what geographic areas are associated with this topic?

- **Physical Areas:** Fault zones, mountain regions, water areas, etc.
- **Governmental Units:** Cities, counties, states, countries
- **Political Boundaries:** Congressional districts
- **Other Units:** School districts, hospital or fire zones, telephone service areas, water districts

Note: The Archive has reference sources to use in understanding geographic units and boundaries.

Time-- consider whether your research area covers recent events, or is historical or look at changes over a specified range of time.

●**Current:** Many data files are about a year old before they are released to the public. If you need very recent information, you will need to use other sources, such as newspapers and journal articles with tables or other quantitative information. These will often be in print form and can best be found in the campus [library](#).

●**Historical:** Computers have been popularly used in survey research since the 1960's. If you need data for earlier time periods it may be more difficult to locate in a machine-readable format.

Population-- think about the population or case group you wish to study. This can refer to a group or groups of people, particular events, official records, etc. In addition you should consider whether you will look at a specific sample or subset of people, events, records, etc.

Tips for downloading files:

All files on the archive web site are available to UCLA faculty, staff and students, except where indicated. In such cases there is likely a user registration or other use agreement required. You may download any files to your own machine or department server. You must have a **Bruin Online ID** in order to download files. If you need to set up a BOL ID you can do so here: <https://logon.ucla.edu/>. The Archive staff will assist in downloads to CD or other media and with storage of files onto departmental servers.

Statistical and Technical Assistance:

The Archive staff can provide basic statistical assistance and technical assistance in managing, downloading and access data files. You can get more in depth statistical consulting in DCP/Stat Lab, 4919 Math Sciences (see #5 at <http://www.computerlabs.ucla.edu/Map.asp>)

Detailed Consulting Schedule (Summer 2007)

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Morning	10-12	10-12	10-12	10-12	10-12
Consultant	Phil Rose Xiao	Rose Xiao Christine	No Consulting	Rose Xiao Phil	No Consulting
Afternoon	2-4	2-4	2-4	2-4	2-4
Consultant	Christine Phil Rose	Christine Rose Phil	Xiao Phil Christine	Phil Christine Xiao	No Consulting

Statistical tools and resources are also available at:

<http://www.ats.ucla.edu/stat/default.htm>

Here you can find samples, online courses, and statistics books available for loan.