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Common Focus, Different Perspectives

- NARA preserves and makes accessible US federal government records
- Roper Center preserves and provides access to public opinion surveys
Funding

• Data-PASS = Data Preservation Alliance for the Social Sciences
• Project supported by an award from the Library of Congress through its National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program (NDIIPP)
• Data-PASS funds partially cover costs of USIA project
USIA Survey Data Collection

• Estimate over 2,000 surveys conducted 1950s-1990s
• Survey results contributed to formulation of US foreign and defense policy
• Some represent the only opinion surveys available from specific countries
• Research reports (paper records) at NARA
USIA Survey Data Collection

• NARA has described 1,555 research reports from 1960 to 1982 in its Archival research Catalog.

• NARA also has 675 series of related USIA records.
Collection materials

• Electronic data files containing the coded responses of individuals to survey questions
• Questionnaires or codebooks that provide a type of ‘map’ to the data file contents
• Methodological reports
• Survey reports, summary tables, instructions and notes
• Correspondence
Comparison of Collections

![Comparison of Collections](image_url)
Basic Approach

1. Inventory & Comparison Of Catalog Records
2. Data Discovery
3. Evaluate Documentation
Digital Preservation

Minimalist approach

• Create electronic versions of documents required for data use

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Survey questionnaires</th>
<th>Coding supplements</th>
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<tr>
<td>Methodological Reports</td>
<td>Interviewer Instructions</td>
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• Point back to NARA for any additional (paper) resources researchers may need

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<tr>
<th>Survey reports</th>
<th>Tabulations</th>
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<tr>
<td>Correspondence</td>
<td>Contractual materials</td>
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Leveraging Relative Strengths

Roper Center provides:

• active migration and management of data
• more streamlined access to data-based materials
• access to related public opinion survey data from the private sector and non-federal public sector
Leveraging Relative Strengths

NARA provides:

- permanent storage and file-level access for all materials related to the collection
- access to additional USIA records, reports and related federal government records

Metadata are merged to provide linkages between data-based materials and more detailed supporting documents
User Access

- Enhanced and richer access to multiple dimensions of the collection is the main advantage of the collaboration.
- Users allowed easier access to electronic records in contemporary formats.
- Metadata links between websites to provide the user with source materials for further exploration.
Conclusions

• Coordinate re-processing and upgraded electronic versions
• Allow archives to focus on their mission and serving their constituent groups
• Improved user support
• Focused resources: archives’ particular strengths brought to bear on the collection
• Use coordinated set of finding aids to facilitate searching by researchers
• Access to funding sources that might not be available if pursued individually