

# **Future of Demographic Data Archives: Cooperation, Specialization, and Change**

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# Agents of Change

## • Technology

Distributed computing

Internet

Computing technology [CPU, Storage]

Software

## • Funding Mechanisms

NICHD

<http://grants2.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-HD-00-011.html>

<http://www.nichd.nih.gov/about/cpr/dbs/pubs/report.pdf>



## Demographic Data Cooperative

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# Demographic Data Cooperative

The Demographic Data Cooperative is a collaboration of the **Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research** (ICPSR) and two leading demographic research centers: the **Minnesota Population Center** (MPC) and the University of Michigan **Population Studies Center** (PSC). Our goal is to increase the depth and breadth of demographic data available to researchers by pooling our archival holdings, taking advantage of complementary expertise at our centers, and exploiting new metadata standards and automatic data extraction software.

Funding provided by:





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### Goals and Work Plan

#### Schedule

We are now in the process of defining the scope and structure of the Demographic Data Cooperative by shaping the formal structure for cooperation among current and future partners and by developing a plan for archival development. In addition to planning, however, we want to make an immediate contribution to improving data access and encouraging collaboration among population researchers. Therefore, our first goals are to produce an integrated catalog of population center holdings and to design a website to allow seamless access to holdings across collaborating centers. During the coming year, we will begin work on the longer-term goals of the Cooperative: developing an on-line guide to demographic data, creating machine-understandable documentation, and developing metadata browsers and extraction tools.

Long-Term plans:

- Produce a comprehensive inventory of data resources at existing demographic data libraries
- Design a long-range plan for data acquisition and preservation
- Develop procedures for dissemination of restricted access files
- Conversion of paper documentation to electronic format
- Create machine-understandable (DDI compliant) metadata for key datasets
- Produce on-line guides to demographic data
- Make data and documentation freely available through direct download whenever possible
- Build metadata-driven extraction, tabulation, and browsing tools for demographic data

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# C E S S D A

## Integrated Data Catalogue

[Fields help](#) | 
 [Search help](#) | 
 [Status](#) | 
 [Mirrors](#) | 
 [CESSDA HomePage](#)

**Archives to search:**  
(Click archive names for local catalogues.)

- [BDSP, France](#)
- [DDA, Denmark](#)
- [DA, UK](#)
- [NSD, Norway](#)
- [SSD, Sweden](#)
- [SSDA, Israel](#)
- [Steinmetz, Netherlands](#)
- [TARKI, Hungary](#)
- [ZA, Germany](#)
- [ICPSR, USA](#)

**Query specification:**

Title:

Names:

Contents:

Start year:  End year:

Geographical focus:

?

?

?

?

?

**Query options:**

Connect fields with:  | 
 Verbose list:  | 
 Max. no. of hits:

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# **Challenges of All Centers Catalog**

- **Dissemination Restrictions**
- **Cataloging Rules**
- **Documenting Differences**
- **Transfers Updates**

# Specialization

- **Tradition role of demographic data archives**
- **Niches, expertise**
- **Ownership**

# Guides to Data

- **Few exist for demographic data**
- **Distributed expertise, niches**
- **Responsibility of data producer**
- **Need for balance, critiques**
- **Substantive and technical issues**
- **Template for guides**

# Future

- **Embrace change**

  - Partner, cooperate, continue to learn

- **Automation, technology will continue to impact access**

- **Confidentiality will be an issue for access**

  - Represent voice of users

  - Negotiate access conditions

# **Future (continued)**

- **With easier access, user support becomes more critical**
  - What do users need?
  - User education
- **Respond to [changing] needs of users**