

SOCIOMETRICS PROJECT No. 30

MICROCOMPUTER DATA ARCHIVE OF SOCIAL RESEARCH ON AGING PHASE II

This Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Phase II project, a follow-on to Project 24, made available a collection of machine-readable data from three outstanding longitudinal studies dealing with social research on aging — (1) the Longitudinal Study on Aging, (2) the Longitudinal Retirement History Study, and (3) the National Long-Term Care Survey, using data archiving techniques and standards successfully developed by Sociometrics Corporation for prior social science archives. For each study, three machine-readable files were disseminated: the raw data, SPSS program statements to transform the raw data to an SPSS analysis file, and SAS program statements to transform the raw data to a SAS analysis file. To reach the largest possible user constituency, all machine-readable files were made available in a variety of media: CD-ROM, floppy diskette, and mainframe tape; for a variety of platforms: IBM-PC microcomputer, Apple Macintosh microcomputer, SUN UNIX workstation, and mainframe computer. Accompanying each data set was a variety of related products aimed at facilitating access and use: (1) a User's Guide that gave the purpose; sampling, data collection, and instrumentation procedures; and variables included in the data set; (2) a tutorial on how to access and use the data set; and (3) search and retrieval software capable of retrieving information both within and across data sets at both the individual-variable and study levels. Users were offered the option of purchasing the data sets singly, as a set, and with or without a hardware package optimized for data analysis.

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