

SOCIOMETRICS PROJECT No. 42

ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INSTRUMENT ARCHIVE OF SOCIAL RESEARCH ON AGING PHASE I

This Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Phase I project investigated the feasibility of producing a CD-ROM containing:

- data collection instruments (self-administered questionnaires, interview protocols, protocols used to abstract medical/clinical records, etc.) used by leading studies in the field of social research on aging; and
- scales or measures which had been shown to be reliable and valid measures of social and familial relationships in gerontological research on psychological well-being; health, effective functioning, and long term care; and cognitive functioning in older Americans.

The instruments and scales that would comprise the CD-ROM would represent the 'best of the field' and would be chosen with guidance from a National Advisory Panel of experts in gerontology. To facilitate use of the CD-ROM, the disk would also include:

- several related databases that provide technical information about the instruments, the scales, and the studies that produced them; and
- search and retrieval software to help a user find those portions of the instruments and scales that might be used to measure a given research construct of current interest.

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