

SOCIOMETRICS PROJECT No. 107

COMPLEMENTARY AND ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE DATA ARCHIVE (CAMDA) PHASE I

The goal of this Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Phase I project was to assess the feasibility of developing an international Complementary and Alternative Medicare Data Archive, which will facilitate access to, and statistical analysis of, the best scientific datasets and documentation on complementary and alternative medicine (CAM). The archive will comprise three kinds of machine-readable materials: (1) exemplary datasets, fully documented and made compatible with a variety of popular statistical software programs and operating systems; (2) the measurement instruments, questionnaires, and protocols (in machine-readable and searchable PDF format) that correspond to the datasets; and (3) Adobe-based search and retrieval software to identify those portions of the datasets and measurement instruments relevant to user-specified research questions and keywords. Each archived study will also include a standardized printed and machine-readable User's Guide describing the study, its contents, and important analysis notes. The archive will be easy to use, fast, and efficient. It will serve the widest possible user constituency—health researchers, social scientists, educators, students, and policy makers—and maximize its availability by offering all its products on CD-ROM (for the entire archive or several large datasets), PC or Macintosh diskettes (for individual studies of appropriate size), and as downloadable files on the Internet through Sociometrics' *Socionet* server.

Prospective users of a *Complementary and Alternative Medicine Data Archive* include researchers, health practitioners, policy-makers, educators, students, and other health and social science data consumers.

Phase II funding was subsequently awarded (see Project No. 137).

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