DEVELOPMENT OF DATA ARCHIVING FOR PUBLIC USE

The goal of this SBIR project was to adapt and enhance archiving technology, moving it from the domain of the archiving specialist into the control of the end user — the researcher. A prototype software suite was developed for to social and behavioral researchers to archive a data set, perform automated data integrity checks, produce new raw data and statistical syntax files, and generate machine-readable files that meet the latest data archiving standards for content, presentation, and preservation of social science data. Archiving products and services described in this proposal build on and augment Sociometrics' well-established, standardized archiving methodology. In addition, new procedures and tools that automate archiving tasks such as data integrity checks, assurance of respondent confidentiality, and data conversion operations were developed based on user need as determined through Phase I needs assessment research. These products and services are intended for all potential data depositors or archivists, including the individual investigator who wants to make his or her data set available to the public or to a private network of colleagues. The archiving system was designed to reduce the barriers to data archiving that currently exist because of the time, difficulty, and expense of archiving. The end result is greater preservation of valuable social science data and more extensive accessibility, sharing, and use of the data.

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