Data Preservation Alliance for the Social Sciences: A Model for Collaboration

Authors (listed alphabetically):

Micah Altman
Institute for Quantitative Social Science
1737 Cambridge Street
Harvard University
Cambridge, MA 02138
Micah_Altman@harvard.edu

Jonathan Crabtree
Odum Institute
Manning Hall, CB #3355
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Chapel Hill, NC 27599

Darrell Donakowski
Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Science
University of Michigan
P.O. Box 1248
Ann Arbor, MI 48106-1248

Marc Maynard
Institute for Social Inquiry/The Roper Center
341 Mansfield Road, Unit 1164
University of Connecticut
Storrs, CT 06269-1164
marc.maynard@uconn.edu

Abstract

The Data Preservation Alliance for the Social Sciences (Data-PASS) is a partnership of six major U.S. institutions with a strong focus on archiving social science research. The partnership is supported by an award from the Library of Congress through its National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program (NDIIPP). The goal of Data-PASS is to acquire and preserve data at-risk of being lost to the research community, from opinion polls, voting records, large-scale surveys, and other social science studies. This paper will discuss three of the significant products that have emerged from this partnership: (1) procedures for identifying and selecting “at risk” digital materials identified by the Partnership (2) the identification of “at-risk” social science data collections from individual researchers, as well as private research organizations, (3) the design and implementation of a shared catalog describing the data holdings of all partners. We conclude with some brief comments on the partners’ future plans to develop an inter-archival syndicated storage service.