
REPORTS

ACTIVITIES OF THE WORKING COMMITTEE ON LATIN AMERICAN DATA ARCHIVES OF THE LATIN AMERICAN SOCIAL SCIENCE COUNCIL (CLACSO)

Jorge García-Bouza, Instituto Torcuato Di Tella, Buenos Aires

ON OCTOBER 14, 1967, THE CONSEJO LATINOAMERICANO DE CIENCIAS SOCIALES (CLACSO), which includes about forty of the most important social science research institutions in Latin America, was constituted in the city of Bogotá, Colombia.

The regulations of the Council provide for the creation of Working Committees devoted to specific tasks in the common interest of member institutions and of social science research in Latin America. Among the first Working Committees to be created was one devoted to the creation, development and modernization of Social Science Data Archives in the area.

As of October 1968, this committee had a membership of thirty-six researchers from twenty-eight institutions. A complete list of individuals and institutions is included as Appendix I to this report.

The committee acts through an Executive Subcommittee of eleven researchers from ten institutions.¹

In the first two years, the committee accomplished the following:

1. It secured small grants from UNESCO and The Rockefeller Foundation to compose a permanent inventory of archival data in two Latin American countries, plus a limited sum to pay for travel and expenses for a meeting of the Executive Subcommittee;
2. It canvassed a series of institutions, in several Latin American countries, as candidates to perform the initial tasks of the inventory. It was finally decided to work through the *Centro de Investigaciones Sociales* of the *Instituto Torcuato Di Tella* and the *Departamento de Sociología* of the *Fundación Bari-*

loche, both in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and through an *ad hoc* consortium of seven institutions in Chile.² In each case work is in progress.

3. A coding system for survey material, closely related to the Inventory of European Survey Data Available in Data Archives, which was sent to the coordinators by the Steinmetz Institute, Holland, has been accepted by all the institutions which will perform the inventory.
4. Codes for aggregate data and for historical data were prepared by Professors Cornblit and Malvina Segre, from the Torcuato Di Tella Institute, Buenos Aires.
5. In its second meeting (Lima, October, 1968), the Executive Subcommittee started work on a set of rules on (a) accessibility of data, (b) relationship with institutions and researchers from outside the area, and (c) interinstitutional relationships regarding the production, archiving and utilization of data sets. Officials from the Latin American Studies Association and the Working Committee have been working on a joint set of rules that will be a meaningful step toward the solution of these kinds of problems. In particular, an agreement is being sought by CLACSO and LASA on a minimum of rules to be respected by researchers and institutions working in the area.
6. The Working Committee is exploring the possibility of getting support for a series of concrete objectives, which include the following:
 - a. Support for projects in progress, or those which need only financial aid (for they already have institutional consensus, concrete plans, etc.).
 - b. Support for the initiation of specific projects not as developed as those described in 6a.
 - c. Creation of consensus and interest on archival activities, in order to incorporate new institutional, national and disciplinary areas. Indispensable expenses for travel and meetings should be included in this item.
 - d. Realization of periodical technical seminars, at a regional or continental level, with the participation of scholars from regional or foreign areas.
 - e. Continuation of the permanent inventory of archived data, already started in Chile and Argentina. Organization of a Subcommittee within the Working Committee on Social Science Data Archive, that will take care of these tasks with a high degree of autonomy.
 - f. Extension of this inventory to sets of *archivable* data.
 - g. Obtain support and provide protection for data in danger of destruction.
 - h. Creation of data archives in those countries, institutions and disciplines which lack them. Development and modernization of the existing ones.
 - i. Initial steps towards the formation of a Latin American Consortium on Data Archives, in which conditions must exist of (i) compatibility of methods and technical norms, (ii) wide mutual information, (iii) widest possible complete accessibility to data and (iv) other conditions (to be determined), indispensable to its better functioning. To this purpose, organization of one or more technical subcommittees which will be in charge

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of the formulation of technical norms, codes, multilateral contracts, etc., in those areas which cannot be subject to bilateral agreements.

- j. Development of permanent relations with similar institutions from other areas (Europe and the United States).
- k. Establishment of priorities among the above listed objectives.³
7. A meeting of the Executive Subcommittee took place in CENDES (Caracas) from April 7 to 9, 1969. Twelve researchers from ten institutions attended the meeting. The following list of priorities was agreed upon:
 - a. Progressive completion of inventories, country by country.
 - b. Reinforcement of the data archives which exist in a number of Latin American institutions (this should be coupled with a fellowship program for their personnel).
 - c. Support of research to obtain comparable series of data.
8. As one of the most important activities of the Working Committee, the present survey is being conducted among researchers in Sociology, Economics, Social History, Social Psychology, Cultural Anthropology, Urban and Regional Planning, etc., with working interest in Latin America, to determine priorities for the future activities of the Working Committee. This survey, under the direction of Professor Manuel Mora y Araujo (The Bariloche Foundation, Bariloche, Argentina), is being distributed to a large (snowball) sample of researchers. The International Data Library and Reference Service of the University of California, Berkeley, has agreed to distribute questionnaires to the researchers and institutions included in their mailing lists. The Soziologische Institut des Universität Zürich in Switzerland, has offered to collaborate with the survey, in the European countries. The questionnaire of the survey is enclosed in the present issue of the LARR and we would appreciate it if interested parties would complete and mail it to:

Fudación Bariloche
Casilla de Correo 138
San Carlos de Bariloche
Provincia de Río Nergo
Argentina

Any institution or individual interested in the activities of the Working Committee is invited to contact the coordinators, Professors Oscar Cornblit and Jorge García-Bouza, Center for Social Research, Torcuato Di Tella Institute, Virrey del Pino 3230, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

NOTES

1. The Executive Subcommittee has appointed two coordinators, Professors Oscar Cornblit and Jorge García-Bouza, both from the Instituto Torcuato Di Tella, Buenos Aires, Argentina. In the meeting of the Standing Committee on Social Science Data Archives of the

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ISSC in Paris, December 14, 1968, a Task Force for Archives Development in Latin America was created. Professor Jorge García Bouza was charged with its coordination.

2. The Interdisciplinary Committee for Urban and Regional Planning, Catholic University; The Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning; The Center for Economic Research, Catholic University; The Institute of Economy, University of Chile; The Center for Studies in Mathematical Statistics, University of Chile; The Center for Sociological Research, Catholic University; and The Center for Socio-Economic Studies, University of Chile.
3. See *Proyecto para la creación de un archivo de datos sobre América Latina* by Oscar Cornblit and Manuel Mora y Araujo, and *El futuro desarrollo de los archivos de datos en ciencias sociales en América Latina*, by Jorge García-Bouza, jointly published as Working Paper No. 41, 1967, Buenos Aires, Editorial del Instituto.