

## **SOCIAL SCIENCE DATA ARCHIVES—EMERGENCE OF NEW INSTITUTIONS IN INDIA**

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LIKE several other developments in social sciences such as Social Indicators we have now the on going movement of Social Science Data Archives. These institutions combine the work of classical archives in a sense that they 'Store' data and those of Research Institutions in a sense that they 'Use' data. Their emergence as separate institutions is of a recent origin and can be traced in U.S.A. and the Continent simultaneously with the growth of computer era.

With the increasing turnover of research papers, books and survey reports there emerged certain institutions called differently as data banks or data repository or data archives. Originally they were not separate institutions but emerged as out-grown departments of commercial, governmental or academic institutions. Many of these institutions are nowadays finding it difficult to store adequately and scientifically vast amount of data collected under various research projects. It is not intended to describe these storehouses filled with mass of questionnaires, unserviceable punched cards and faded tabulated sheets. Social science data archives which are considered here are relatively new and came into being because of six developments :

1. Commercial market and survey research organisations.
2. Social research institutions.
3. Machine readable information — availabilities, and possibilities.
4. Increasing demand for these data for secondary analysis, comparative studies, and for research.
5. Use of these materials for teaching.
6. Development of computer techniques in social science data tabulation, preservation and retrieval.

Computer is really the crucial one in making the modern data archives of what they are. The computer played a key role in developing the machine readable data. This happened during the late 1950's and early 1960's. In as much as they depend on the computer the data archives have become complex organizations with staff that include

\* Views expressed here in this paper are author's own and not necessarily of the ICSSR Archive Committee.