

Andrea Berg
February 9, 2023
LIS 545B
Term Project: Repository Profile

Repository Profile: Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR)

I chose the [Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research \(ICPSR\)](https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/web/ICPSR) as the best repository to host the dataset on Starbucks unionizing campaigns. I felt that the data was most useful in a context where researchers would already be looking for information on labor union data. Therefore, I knew I wanted to find a disciplinary repository focused on social sciences and, ideally, specifically focused on labor or union data. In re3data, I was surprised at the lack of labor-focused repositories (a search for “labor union” returned 0 results, while “labor” returned only 8). I widened my focus to social and political science, and found ICPSR which “advances and expands social and behavioral research, acting as a global leader in data stewardship.”¹ Within ICPSR, a search for “labor union” returned over 1,300 results, suggesting that it is an appropriate home for the Starbucks union data. ICPSR is also a long-standing and trusted repository with CoreTrustSeal certification and a recent National Medal for Museum and Library Services.²

The ICPSR is open for data submissions and encourages anyone to deposit digital data, providing accessible guidelines in both text and video format with a user-friendly web interface. While ICPSR encourages depositors to use SAS, SPSS, Stata or ASCII files when depositing quantitative data, they also accept data in other formats and do not list any explicit format

¹ “About ICPSR,” ICPSR, University of Michigan, Accessed 2/8/2023, <https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/web/pages/about/>

² “How do I know I can trust ICPSR with my data?,” ICPSR, University of Michigan, Accessed 2/8/2023, <https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/web/ICPSR/cms/3963>

exclusions.³ They also accept qualitative data and will accept data with Personally Identifiable Information, although they encourage the de-identification of data before it is deposited.⁴ ICPSR includes several topical archives that focus on a specific domain, such as the Archive of Data on Disability to Enable Policy and Research, which will decide to accept data depending on funder restrictions and mission alignment.⁵ However, depositors can deposit any data in the ICPSR General archive or openICPSR as long as they fall within the bounds of the social and behavioral sciences.⁶ They do impose a size limit of 30GB and 1,000 files, and their Collection Development Policy lists the following restrictions: non-social and behavioral sciences data, data that must be purchased, data with limitations on access, data that are available elsewhere, and data that grants copyright privileges to ICPSR, as well as a general caveat for data that exceeds their technological capacity.⁷ But for data that aligns with ICPSR's mission, there are very few technical barriers to depositing.

ICPSR has loose guidelines for what information must be included in the Submission Information Package (SIP). Deposits must include the data files themselves (in any format), documentation (examples are given but nothing specific is required), and a description of the study by which the data was collected.⁸ I believe these SIP requirements are broad because ICPSR offers fee-based data curation services, while non-curated data is only made available as-

³ "Start Deposit," ICPSR, University of Michigan, Accessed 2/8/2023, <https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/web/pages/deposit/index.html>

⁴ "Share Qualitative Data," ICPSR, University of Michigan, Accessed 2/8/2023, <https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/web/pages/deposit/qualitative-data.html>

⁵ "Can I deposit my data into a topical archive?," ICPSR, University of Michigan, Accessed 2/8/2023, <https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/web/ICPSR/cms/3949>

⁶ Ibid

⁷ "ICPSR Collection Development Policy," ICPSR, University of Michigan, Accessed 2/8/2023, <https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/web/pages/datamanagement/policies/colldev.html>

⁸ "What should my deposit include?," ICPSR, University of Michigan, Accessed 2/8/2023, <https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/web/ICPSR/cms/3941>

is.⁹ ICPSR's curation services include the creation of multiple file formats appropriate for both preservation and dissemination, creation of a metadata record, assignment of a DOI, and other services to enhance the usability of the data, while non-curated data are simply made available as submitted and therefore do not require specific formats or documentation.¹⁰ ICPSR does not require that metadata be submitted according to any particular standard, but the metadata records created through their curation services are DDI compliant XML records, MARC records, Dublin Core records, and JSON-LD records.¹¹ Depositors receive human support from ICPSR throughout the data deposit process, including a pre-deposit consultation, duration review, post-deposit consultation, and on-call data deposit assistance as well as ongoing curation and preservation consultations.¹² Two of ICPSR's major strengths are an accessible data deposit process and high quality curation services, each of which complement the other.

ICPSR has several access levels for the data they store. ICPSR members pay monthly dues and can access all data stored in the repository as well as online analysis tools, and the same is true for researchers affiliated with an ICPSR member institution. Other users can create a free ICPSR account that allows them to download data that has been made available to the general public, but they cannot use the online tools. Even without an account, researchers can still browse ICPSR's holdings, use advanced search features, and see a snapshot of the data, but cannot download it.¹³ Data held in ICPSR is cataloged with ICPSR's Subject Thesaurus to

⁹ "Where should I deposit my data?," ICPSR, University of Michigan, Accessed 2/8/2023, <https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/web/deposit/survey>

¹⁰ "Data Enhancement," ICPSR, University of Michigan, Accessed 2/8/2023, <https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/web/pages/datamanagement/lifecycle/ingest/enhance.html>

¹¹ "Metadata Records," ICPSR, University of Michigan, Accessed 2/8/2023, <https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/web/pages/membership/or/metadata/index.html>

¹² "Data Start to Finish," ICPSR, University of Michigan, Accessed 2/8/2023, <https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/files/deposit/DataStartToFinish.pdf>

¹³ "Log into ICPSR," ICPSR, University of Michigan, Accessed 2/8/2023, <https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/rpxlogin>

increase findability, and data can also be filtered by geography, time, funder, and other metadata fields.¹⁴ When users search in ICPSR, they are taken to a landing page for each specific dataset, which in this case can be considered the Dissemination Information Product (DIP). The DIP includes a snapshot of the data with options to download data files and documentation files, definitions for variables, a link to publications that cite that data, and metadata (in Dublin Core, XML, JSON, or DCAT formats¹⁵). All of this information is available for download as separate files, but collected together on the landing page which functions as the DIP. Paying for curation through ICPSR would not only increase the visibility of the Starbucks union data by placing it alongside similar data, but also increase the usability of the data given the quality of ICPSR's DIP.

¹⁴ "How will people find my data?," ICPSR, University of Michigan, Accessed 2/8/2023, <https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/web/ICPSR/cms/3965>

¹⁵ "Metadata Records," ICPSR, University of Michigan, Accessed 2/8/2023, <https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/web/pages/membership/or/metadata/index.html>

Works Cited

- “About ICPSR.” ICPSR. University of Michigan. Accessed 2/8/2023, <https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/web/pages/about/>
- “Can I deposit my data into a topical archive?” ICPSR. University of Michigan. Accessed 2/8/2023, <https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/web/ICPSR/cms/3949>
- “Data Enhancement.” ICPSR. University of Michigan. Accessed 2/8/2023, <https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/web/pages/datamanagement/lifecycle/ingest/enhance.html>
- “Data Start to Finish.” ICPSR. University of Michigan. Accessed 2/8/2023, <https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/files/deposit/DataStartToFinish.pdf>
- “How do I know I can trust ICPSR with my data?” ICPSR. University of Michigan. Accessed 2/8/2023, <https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/web/ICPSR/cms/3963>
- “How will people find my data?” ICPSR. University of Michigan. Accessed 2/8/2023, <https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/web/ICPSR/cms/3965>
- “ICPSR Collection Development Policy.” ICPSR. University of Michigan. Accessed 2/8/2023, <https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/web/pages/datamanagement/policies/colldev.html>
- “Log into ICPSR.” ICPSR. University of Michigan. Accessed 2/8/2023, <https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/rpxlogin>
- “Metadata Records.” ICPSR. University of Michigan. Accessed 2/8/2023, <https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/web/pages/membership/or/metadata/index.html>
- “Share Qualitative Data.” ICPSR. University of Michigan. Accessed 2/8/2023, <https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/web/pages/deposit/qualitative-data.html>
- “Start Deposit.” ICPSR. University of Michigan. Accessed 2/8/2023, <https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/web/pages/deposit/index.html>
- “What should my deposit include?” ICPSR. University of Michigan. Accessed 2/8/2023, <https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/web/ICPSR/cms/3941>
- “Where should I deposit my data?” ICPSR. University of Michigan. Accessed 2/8/2023, <https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/web/deposit/survey>