

SRDG NEWSLETTER

The Southern Regional Demographic Group is a scientific and educational corporation operating under the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia. It is comprised of persons with professional interests in demography and population studies. The SRDG Newsletter is compiled and edited by Isaac W. Eberstein, Center for the Study of Population, Bellamy 659, Tallahassee, FL 32306-4063; (904) 644-1762.

SOUTHERN DEMOGRAPHIC ASSOCIATION

The results of the recent mail balloting are in. Secretary-Treasurer Ben Bradshaw reports that the name of our organization has been changed from Southern Regional Demographic Group to Southern Demographic Association. Two-thirds of the mailed ballots were returned to Ben by April 9, with 129 votes cast in favor of the name change and 22 votes against. The name change is the culmination of a process which began at the 1984 meetings in Orlando and is most immediately in response to the passage of a motion in this regard at the annual business meeting in Baltimore this past fall. An informal wake will be held for "SRDG" at the annual meeting this October, which will be followed by a "naming" for SDA.

WORKSHOP ON POLITICAL REDISTRICTING

SRDG's Applied Demography Committee has announced plans to sponsor a workshop on political redistricting during the 1987 annual meeting. Committee Chairperson Judith Waldrop and James Gundlach plan to co-organize the workshop. Interested persons are invited to contact Judith at Planning Department, City of Huntsville, PO Box 308, Huntsville, Alabama 35804, phone (205) 532-7353.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Ben Bradshaw reported on the financial health of the association during the Baltimore meeting. For those unable to attend, relevant excerpts follow:

Cash on Hand (9-30-85)	\$ 13247.84
Expenditures, total	3998.82
Income, total	5996.68
Cash on Hand (9-30-86)	15245.70
Budget Expenditures (1987)	5466.00
Budget Income	5250.00
Projected Cash (9-30-87)	15029.70
Dues Paying Members (10-1-86)	335

CALL FOR PAPERS FOR 1987 MEETING

Program Chair Omer Galle has announced a call for papers to be presented at the Annual Meeting of the Southern Demographic Association this fall. The meeting will be held October 14-16, 1987, at the Ramada Inn Central in Atlanta, GA. Ideas for sessions and other program suggestions are invited. Please send abstracts of contributed papers to Omer Galle, Population Research Center, 1800 Main Building, University of Texas, Austin, TX 78712. The DEADLINE for abstracts is July 1, 1987.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Academic Research Enhancement Awards. An RFA has been issued by the National Institutes of Health for the FY 1988 competition for AREA grants. This initiative is intended to strengthen the research milieu of non-research intensive, four-year colleges and universities; educational institutions that have not been traditional recipients of NIH research funds. The award is intended to support new research projects or expand ongoing research activities proposed by faculty members of these institutions in areas related to the health sciences. In FY 1986, 146 such grants were awarded amounting to \$9.57 million. Applicants may seek support for up to \$50,000 in direct costs for a period not to exceed 24 months. The deadline for applications is June 22, 1987. For information contact: AREA, Office of Grants Inquiries, Division of Research Grants, National Institutes of Health, Westwood Building - Room 449, Bethesda, Maryland, 20892, phone (301) 496-7441.

Fulbright Scholar Program, 1988-89. The Council for International Exchange of Scholars is currently accepting applications for 1988-89 awards, which will include more than 300 grants in research and 700 grants in university lecturing for periods ranging from three months to a full academic year. There are openings in over 100 countries and, in some instances, the opportunity for multi-country research is available. Awards are granted in virtually all social and behavioral science fields. All academic ranks are eligible to apply. Deadlines begin June 15, 1987 for awards to Australasia, India, and Latin America, with other areas later. For more information, contact CIES, 11 Dupont Circle, NW, Washington, DC 20036-1257, phone (202) 939-5401.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

W. Parker Frisbie
University of Texas at Austin

In this my first communication to the entire membership, I would indeed be remiss if I did not begin with a word of thanks. I am grateful and honored by the support given me as President of this fine association. Thanks also for your help in making local arrangements and in setting up the program for the 1985 Austin meeting and the 1986 Baltimore meeting. Finally, I want to add a special word of appreciation for the work of Jeff Evans and Ben Bradshaw. As President of SRDG, Jeff is quite a tough act to follow. The energy, enthusiasm, and dedication with which he approaches all aspects of his professional life have been integral to the continued success of SRDG. As Secretary-Treasurer, Ben Bradshaw has been untiring in his efforts in helping to organize previous meetings and has now graciously taken on the task of making local arrangements for the 1988 meetings in San Antonio. His stewardship has been such that, while many other professional associations are struggling financially, our resources have continued to grow, even as we have been able to hold dues at the same level.

I want to use the remainder of the space allotted to me to consider what it is that makes our organization so special. Is it the fact that SRDG is made up of persons whose goal it is to promote the highest standards of scholarship? I think this is true of our membership and a factor of crucial importance, but I think the same can be said of all, or most, of the professional associations to which we belong. Does the special nature of SRDG arise out of the variety of interests that characterize our membership? Certainly, one of the features of our association that I have most highly prized over the years is the participation by those engaged in applied demographic research and by those charged with making and implementing population policy at various levels, as well as by demographers from academic settings. But again, other organizations, including of course the PAA, may rightfully claim such a stimulating blend.

As important as each of the above attributes are, what I think makes our organization special is its spirit. From the date of its inception, SRDG has always been a meeting of friends, as well as colleagues. Obviously, we meet friends at other professional gatherings, but at SRDG the feeling of friendship is pervasive. I am explicitly not talking about a "good old boy" or "good old girl" club, for new members easily become part of this closely knit group. I am not speaking of simply an atmosphere of bonhomie, for one can experience that in one's own backyard. What I am talking about is a group of professionals who are interested not only in each other's work, but also in the professional and personal well-being of their fellow members. Differences of opinion may arise at various levels, but I have never seen this eventuate in acrimonious debates, backbiting, or even ill feelings. While it is high professional standards that make SRDG great, it is the spirit of friendship that makes it special.

CALL FOR PAPERS ON HOMELESSNESS

A forthcoming book to be published by Greenwood Press seeks chapter length manuscripts on socioeconomic, demographic, and family background characteristics of the homeless population in different states (or groups of states). Public policy papers on the national level are also encouraged. The emphasis of the book is to provide a national picture by analyzing and cumulating the homelessness problem in different states. Send articles, chapter outlines, or letters of inquiry regarding the states not commissioned as yet to Dr. J.A. Momeni, editor-in-chief, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Howard University, Washington, DC 20059, or call (202) 636-6840 or (703) 644-2874.

PERMANENT POSITIONS

Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, Planning and Development Department. Seeking qualified Sociologist/ Demographer to monitor and analyze socio-economic trends, population and labor force characteristics of metropolitan area and nation; including demographic and socio-economic impact profiles, population forecasts and evaluation of implications of trends for transportation, economic development and regional/ national economy. The candidate should possess a strong background in methodology and demography, knowledge of urban/ regional economics, demonstrated ability in socio-economic, demographic and local area analysis, excellent writing and communication skills, and familiarity with both mainframe and personal computers. A Master's degree in Sociology, Economics, or Urban Planning is required. Competitive salary and benefits. Send resume and writing sample to: Carol Shuchman, Port Authority of NY&NJ, One World Trade Center-54E, New York, NY 10048.

DEMOGRAPHIC TIDBITS

According to the Population Reference Bureau, the mid-1987 population of the world has surpassed the 5 billion mark.

Editor's Note: As a way to make the "SRDG Newsletter" more than simply ads and tidbits scrounged from "PAA Affairs" and the like, I intend to ask for contributed columns which might be of general interest. I see at least two such columns as "semi-regular." One of these is a "President's Column." A second would deal with "Demographic Computing." Parker Frisbie kindly agreed to contribute the first, and Walt Terrie has likewise produced the second. Both are contained in this issue. Likely there are other topics which would make good columns. My intent is to make space freely available for communications from and/or to SDA members. Any suggestions, "nominations," or volunteers for future columns, either semi-regular, "one-shot," or occasional, would be appreciated.

COMPUTING CORNER

E. Walter Terrie
Florida State University

CCDIS: Compressed Demographic Data Interchange Standard. The editor has asked me to contribute a column on computing topics. This is the first installment. I would appreciate your comments, suggestions and contributions. Send c/o Center for the Study of Population, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL 32306-4063.

One of the major problems confronting demographers is the size of the data bases we regularly work with. Our files often require five, ten even fifteen reels of magnetic tape at 6250 bpi density. One 2400 foot reel at 6250 can hold approximately 160 megabytes of information. There is almost a direct linear relationship between the time, cost and difficulties associated with processing a file and its' size. The profession would benefit from a widely accepted, hardware independent, compressed data interchange standard which would be used on both mainframe and micro computer systems.

Such an interchange standard could take advantage of the fact that most demographic data consists almost entirely of numeric characters with an occasional string of upper case letters. Files of this type can be easily represented in one-half the normal storage space. This is accomplished through representing each character by one or more "nibbles" (a nibble is 4 bits, a byte is 8 bits). The following illustrative scheme can represent 14 characters (0-9, space, minus, period and comma) with one nibble, an additional 29 characters (letters, plus, quote and carriage return) with one byte and any desired ASCII, EBCDIC or Binary representation with two bytes. It is presented for purposes of stimulating discussion only.

In the table below, Alt Conv 1 means the next nibble is defined in the alternate

conversion 1 table, while Alt Conv 2 refers to the other table. (CR) is an end of line representation. ASCII Conv means that the next 8 bits contain an ASCII character and EBCDIC Conv means that the following 8 bits are an EBCDIC character. Thus this compression scheme can represent 14 characters in compressed form, another 29 in normal length and every ASCII or EBCDIC or Binary value in 16 bits. Most demographic data bases would be one-half their regular size.

Machine language I/O drivers could be easily written to expand the compressed files as they were being read by the physical device. For example when mounting tapes the user must specify if the tape is ASCII encoded or EBCDIC or binary and the tape I/O drivers take care of the conversion from the binary representation on the tape to the internal character representation used by the host computer. Microcomputers normally use ASCII as an internal representation. IBM mainframes use EBCDIC and CDC computers use CDC Display Code. If a compression standard were adopted and implemented as part of the respective operating systems then a user would mount a tape and specify CDDIS as the conversion code just as they do ASCII or EBCDIC now. On PC compatible microcomputers an MS-DOS device driver could be written and included as part of the "config.sys" installed drivers. Alternately, CDDIS files could be read and written as binary and have the conversion performed by the application program. A prefix record to these files might be useful to identify them as CDDIS to the drivers thereby relieving the user from the necessity of knowing the way in which the files were stored internally.

A lot of cooperation and coordination among the suppliers of hardware, software and data would be necessary to implement a compression standard but the result would be of great value to demographic data users everywhere. I would appreciate word of any such standards which may be under development as well as comments and suggestions you might have on this topic.

Compressed Demographic Data Interchange Standard

Internal Bit Pattern Bina Hex Decimal	1st Nibble		2nd Nibble	
	Character	Alt Conv 1	Alt Conv 1 Character	Alt Conv 2 Character
0000	0	Alt Conv 1	ASCII Conv	Binary Conv
0001	1	0	A	O
0010	2	1	B	P
0011	3	2	C	Q
0100	4	3	D	R
0101	5	4	E	S
0110	6	5	F	T
0111	7	6	G	U
1000	8	7	H	V
1001	9	8	I	W
1010	A	9	J	X
1011	B	(minus) -	K	Y
1100	C	(period) .	L	Z
1101	D	(comma) ,	M	(plus) +
1110	E	space	N	(quote) '
1111	F	Alt Conv 2	(CR)	EBCDIC Conv



**ALWAYS
USE ZIP CODE**

EDITOR'S NOTE

Thanks to David McMillen and Marilyn McMillen for items included in this issue.

All news and announcements of interest to SRDG members will be published without charge, subject to space constraints. A special request is made for news about association members (new publications, grants, other awards, job changes, tenure/promotion, etc.). Please ask the person responsible for institutional publicity to include the SRDG Newsletter on standard mailing lists. Deadlines and publication dates for each issue are below:

Issue Date	Deadline	Publication
Fall	Sept. 15	Oct. 15
Winter	Dec. 15	Jan. 15
Spring	March 15	April 15
Summer	June 15	July 15

Please mail items for inclusion and/or suggestions to Isaac W. Eberstein, Center for the Study of Population, Bellamy 659, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL 32306-4063; (904) 644-1762.

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