



Data First

DATAFIRST

2005 saw the successful implementation of Data First's online data analysis and dissemination service as well as continued growth in our collection of survey data and publications.

Online data dissemination

After successfully completing trials of new software designed to facilitate the easy dissemination of survey data via the web, Data First officially launched the new data dissemination site on 11 March 2005. The first set of data to be made available on this system was data from a local survey, the Cape Area Panel Study. We have since prepared and released the data from the Khayelitsha\Mitchell's Plain Survey on the same system.

The new system, using software provided by Nesstar and customised by Data First, allows researchers to download data from the web in all of the commonly used statistical packages as well as do basic online analysis independent of any statistical package. We believe that this system will allow us to broaden access for researchers and we are therefore committed to preparing and making available more of our key survey data via this method in 2006.

Researchers can access the data dissemination pages from our web site at:
<http://www.datafirst.uct.ac.za>.

The Resource Centre

Our ongoing collection of survey results now numbers 131 datasets. These include recently-acquired international education and health related datasets, as well as political opinion survey data and the bi-annual labour force surveys produced by Statistics South Africa.

We also continued the sourcing of survey publications to build what is

becoming the most comprehensive collection of monographs on survey design, implementation and analysis in the country.

Interns

We continue to run our training program for Student Interns in survey analysis skills for client support:

Data First employed four student interns in 2005:

Nicola Branson (Honours degree in Statistics). She assisted UCT staff and students with their survey research. She also assisted on a project in the Economics Department which involved the analysis of the Labour Force Surveys.

Patience Kikoni (Economics Honours). She assisted clients and the African Legislature Project, part of the Democracy in African Research Unit, to produce a dataset of all African constitutions.

Atusaye Mughogho (Masters Degree in Business Science). He worked with the Resource Centre Manager to update the holdings of African Demographic and Health Surveys in the collection.

Madalet van Graan (Economics Honours). She was involved in a project to make the Labour Force Survey datasets in the collection more user-friendly, a vital part of Data First's work. Madalet was also responsible for creating a digital version of the questionnaire for the 1995 Income and Expenditure Survey, previously only available in hard copy.

We look forward to expanding our data dissemination and training functions in 2006 as well as broadening our collaboration in projects with researchers at the University involved in survey research and training. ■



Matthew Welch and David Lam at the Nesstar Launch and Demonstration.



Our website can be accessed at <http://www.datafirst.uct.ac.za>

People @ Data First

Matthew Welch
Lynn Woolfrey
Alison Siljeur

Interns
Nicola Branson
Patience Kikoni
Atusaye Mughogho
Madelet van Graan