

Annual Report
2006-2007
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Institute of Behavioral Science
Computing and Research Services

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Computing and Research Services (CRS) plays an important role in making IBS a vibrant and productive research institute. CRS exists to enhance research activity by providing state-of-the-art support services to IBS programs and centers. Strategies for fulfilling this mission are steadily changing in response to new IBS directives and advances in research technology. The 2006-2007 academic year was no exception. Dramatic changes occurred, especially in web and computer technologies.

This report describes CRS activities (with an emphasis on new services), staff allocations, sources of revenue, and changes to the IBS IT infrastructure in the past year. It is organized into four sections. The first is a description of CRS computer support services and the relevant equipment upgrades. The second section describes web services, and the third section covers other areas of research support, which include statistical consultation, training workshops, mapping, and library services. In each of these three sections the newest services, or those that have expanded most dramatically, are described first. Then the core services that have remained fairly stable are described. The final section outlines the civic and scholarly work done by CRS personnel.

1. Computer and Equipment Services

In his capacity as systems administrator, [Gabe Westmaas](#) manages computer and equipment services for CRS. He purchases computers, servers, and peripheral devices for all of IBS. He arranges the acquisition of new equipment and does the setup and maintenance. He makes recommendations about antivirus protection for IBS users, and offers “best practices” guidelines for backup procedures and for using the file server. He is the administrator of a configuration of servers. In addition, he does a large amount of personal computer support. He supervises a part-time student assistant, who is typically an undergraduate student with expertise in personal computer and server support. [James Hammond](#) currently holds this position.

a. IBS #11 Move to Randolph Building

During the summer of 2006, IBS #11 (a large portion of the Problem Behavior Program and the Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence) moved into new offices in the Randolph Building in downtown Boulder. Gabe Westmaas helped Pamela Porter, computer support coordinator for IBS#11, to get appropriate data transfer wiring installed and to get all personal computers, servers, and printers setup in the new building. Over the last year, Jani Little worked with Pamela Porter and Jane Grady to design an effective approach for providing computer support for IBS#11. Currently, James Hammond maintains regular hours at IBS#11 on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 2:00pm to 4:30pm. When necessary, Gabe Westmaas goes to IBS#11 to handle urgent situations or problems beyond James' expertise.

b. Video Conferencing Equipment

In the spring of 2007, Gabe Westmaas purchased and helped to set up new videoconferencing equipment for IBS. The equipment was purchased with a grant to the African Population Studies Research and Training Program (APS) from the Hewlett Foundation. The videoconferencing equipment was purchase to facilitate APS conferences between US and African sites and to reduce the need for travel. The equipment includes a camera and large widescreen display, and can be used to communicate with any standard videoconferencing equipment. It is stored in IBS#3.

c. Centralized Access to [AddHealth](#) Data

Efforts to centralize access to the AddHealth data were underway for almost two years before it became a reality in the spring of 2007 with Jason Boardman acting as the principal investigator and Jani Little as the project administrator. Jani Little coordinated the campaign for funds, and she received contributions from IBS programs, the CU Population Center, and the Departments of Economics and Sociology. [Nancy Thorwardson](#) set up a web page for accessing the [Public Use AddHealth data](#), and Gabe Westmaas set up a server for remote access of the secure data in accordance with AddHealth security standards. The system has worked very successfully, and it allows for multiple and simultaneous users. There are currently three faculty users and eight graduate student users.

d. CRS Lab Upgrade

The physical facilities at CRS include a computer lab which is used for workshops and is available to all IBS personnel for their research use. Every year when student computer laboratories on campus are upgraded, ITS gives away the old computers. Periodically, CRS receives some of the "giveaways." In the fall of 2006, the old computers in the CRS computer lab were replaced by giveaways. During the year other equipment purchased for the CRS lab included a new high resolution color printer and a new text scanner. Now the computer lab has eight Windows computers equipped with the suite of Microsoft Office products (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access), all of the major statistical packages (SPSS, Intercooled Stata, Stata SE,

SAS, StatTransfer), and GIS software that includes ArcGIS Desktop 9.1 with the full ArcInfo license. Other more specialized software is also available such as Geoda and GWR for geographically weighted regression.

e. Server Administration

CRS administers several servers that provide 1) hosting for web applications; 2) centralized storage and sharing of files; 3) automated backups of files on the servers; and 4) the AddHealth server for remote access to secure data. This year the AddHealth server for remote access of secure data was added and many more users are now using the two domain-controlled file servers—one at CRS and one at IBS#11. Use of the domain-controlled file servers is encouraged because it limits the risk of viruses and other attacks, ensuring a more secure environment for IBS personal computers. In addition, files stored on these servers are automatically backed up.

f. Personalized Services

A mainstay of CRS is the personalized [computer support](#) offered to all IBS faculty, staff and students. This service is the envy of many departments and organizations throughout the University. CRS strives to provide responsive and thorough personal computer support. CRS often receives requests for recommendations on purchases, for help purchasing computers, and for setting up new computers. These requests frequently come from outside of IBS. We estimate that, in the past year, thirty new computers were ordered and set up for IBS faculty and staff, and another ten computers were recommended but never purchased.

Email problems, software installations and upgrades, or problems with printers or other peripherals are frequently encountered by the computer support team. To coordinate requests for computer support, a new email address was set up at ibssupport@colorado.edu. This allows [Gabe Westmaas](#) and his assistant, [James Hammond](#), to work together and to take care of requests in a timely fashion.

Email problems are always common, but in the spring of 2007 email services at the University migrated to a new server and the Webmail client was upgraded. For several weeks before and after the changes, CRS faced a wave of email questions and problems. The confusion would have been much worse, if it had not been for the information CRS sent out to IBS users preparing them for the changes.

In an effort to make sure all IBS computers have updated operating systems and active antivirus protection, John Forster, former student assistant, systematically went to all IBS offices and checked computers for antivirus software and operating systems upgrades. Where possible, he set up computers for automatic updates of operating systems and antivirus protection. At the same time, he set up computers for access to the domain-controlled file servers, and taught people how to use these servers for file sharing and for automatic backup.

g. Future Directions in Computer Support

In 2007-2008 we anticipate that all IBS buildings will be rewired with voice and data

wire, which will provide minimum transfer speeds of 100Mbps. This will improve internet access and the responsiveness of IBS servers. Another possible addition to IBS computer services is a centralized data processing server that will be dedicated to projects that have large data sets with multiple users or that have a need for intensive numerical analysis. Acquisition of a data processing server is in the planning stage and CRS is just beginning to discuss the possibilities with potential users. Finally, in 2006-2007 CRS set up a webpage to assist IBS users in renewing and purchasing SPSS licenses. This system worked well and it really helped to ensure that IBS users comply with the SPSS site license contract. CRS plans to develop a similar system for tracking Stata and SAS site license renewals and purchases.

2. Web Services

Web services continue to grow in importance for IBS. Dissemination of information via the Web has become central to virtually every research project at IBS. In many cases, it is used to publicize the accomplishments of a research project and the Institute as a whole. It has become the standard mode for intellectual correspondence, for distributing working papers, and for making linkages with collaborators, publishers, job applicants, and funding agencies. All CRS staff members work in this area. [Tom Dickinson](#) designs the templates for layout and navigation of IBS web pages. He is the lead person for implementing customized web-based surveys. [Nancy Thorwardson](#) builds web pages and maintains the IBS website. [Gabe Westmaas](#) directs the searchable database applications as well as the purchasing applications.

a. Online Surveys

CRS staff implemented a large online survey for the [School Safety Study](#) being done by the Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence (CSPV). The study is funded by the Department of Homeland Security. The pilot study began in the fall of 2006, and the data collection is now in full implementation. The survey assesses how elementary and middle schools and their school districts prepare for, and prevent, emergencies and crises. 2,800 schools are targeted. The School Safety Study has \$2000 allocated as payment to CRS for the work on this website.

CRS implemented another online survey of ski resorts' "green" practices. This was an undergraduate research project, and the purpose was to assess how residents in the wildland-urban interface respond to wildfire risk.

Both online surveys are hosted on the IBS web server.

b. Online Purchasing

Two online purchasing projects were completed in the 2006-2007 year--both for conferences. The first was implemented in early spring for the [Annual Hazards Research and Applications Workshop](#) that took place in July. Several features were added to the previous conference registration pages: 1) the ability to permit only invited people to register, but still allow newcomers to request an invitation; 2) the ability to import registrants into the existing

database; and 3) an easier method for printing invoices. These special features, in addition to the ability to accept credit cards, required a custom web application which was implemented in PHP and designed to match the existing Natural Hazards website in appearance. PayPal's payflowlink gateway service was used.

The second purchasing project was for CSPV's [Blueprints Conference 2008](#). The requirements for connecting with an existing database did not apply in this case, so a more pre-packaged application was the most reasonable solution. CRS customized the Regonline Conference Registration with Authorize.Net's gateway service. Even with the relatively complex registration choices made available for the Blueprints Conference registration, Regonline was able to be customized satisfactorily.

c. [Online Searchable Bibliographic Databases](#)

There are two IBS bibliographic databases currently accessed online--CSPV's [Information House](#), which includes VioLit, VioPro, VioSource, and VioEval, and the Natural Hazards Center [Hazlit](#) database. In addition, there is an Endnote library being continually upgraded with all publications by IBS faculty. Although Information House and Hazlit were written by two different contractors the two databases suffer from the same problems: 1) slow interfaces for getting the data to the website; and 2) search capabilities which are severely limited (although the Information House database is much better than the Hazlit database). The new database of IBS publications does not have a web component yet, so that needs to be implemented.

Despite the apparent differences in databases, the applications are very comparable. The differences are primarily in the "look-and-feel" of each application. Gabe Westmaas is in the process of building common code that will allow all three databases to be efficiently and quickly searched. Ultimately, Westmaas will design a complete new web interface for entering data into the databases. Westmaas went to Washington D.C. in November, 2007 for training in [Spring Framework](#), the web and database application program interface he is using on this project. CSPV contributed \$1500 and the Natural Hazards Center donated \$400 for the training.

d. [The Contextual Data Portal Website](#)

In 2006-2007 Jani Little received a developmental grant for \$6290 from the Colorado Population Center (CUPC) to develop a website that promotes quick access to U.S. contextual data. This site is still being developed, but it will allow users to download data tables and associated geographic boundary files, suitable for use with most statistical packages or GIS software. All data are from public sources, but emphasis is placed on data that are not already available in an accessible form, e.g. school district, crime, religious affiliation, and land feature data. In addition, the site will point to external sources of data already in useable formats. There will be links as well as instructions for using geographic and contextual data on other websites. This website will be operational by early 2008.

e. Redesign of the Hazards Website

The [Natural Hazards Center](#) website was completely redesigned in the summer of 2006. CRS staff assisted the redesign by coordinating the process of uploading the new site and ensuring that all links worked and that the editors were able to access and edit the new pages. In addition, Tom Dickinson developed a web application to interface with the website's search engine that allows visitors to select sub-areas of the site to search. Other work done by Nancy Thorwardson included coding a new top page rotating photo and posting the 2007 workshop photos to the website.

e. Online Tools for Job Candidates and Hiring

CRS created a password-protected website where letters of application, resumes, and related materials could be conveniently stored in a secure and central location where they could be shared among the far-flung members of the interdisciplinary search committee. This website concept was first implemented in 2006 and then again in 2007 when IBS searched for candidates for a tenure-track assistant professor position in population studies, in collaboration with the Anthropology and Geography departments.

f. Personal Homepages

Gradually, CRS has created more and more individual websites for IBS faculty. Nancy Thorwardson created several more this past year. These were for [Tania Barham](#), [Jason Boardman](#), [Richard Jessor](#), [Stefanie Mollborn](#), [Terry Thornberry](#), [Ted Young](#) and [Fernando Riosmena](#). Once homepages for IBS faculty become operational, CRS maintains and updates them. Websites needing this service belong to [Lee Alston](#), [John O'Loughlin](#), [Andrei Rogers](#) and [Gilbert White](#).

g. New IBS websites

Several sites were added to the IBS website this year. Three of these require password protection. The first is the site for authorized use of the [Public-Use AddHealth data](#). Users need to sign a use contract and then they are given a password that enables them to access the site and download the data and documentation. The [School Safety Study](#) is another password-protected site created this passed year. Only authorized participants in the study are able to access the site beyond the front page. This site is described above under point 2a. Another password-protected site was set up for the summer course sponsored by [African Population Studies](#) entitled *Longitudinal Data Management & Analysis: Exploring Developing Countries' Rural Population and Health Issues*. It was offered for credit (Sociology 5161) in 2006 and 2007. Each year the course materials (lectures, data, and other reference materials) were posted for the students.

A website was created for the [Biodemography](#) summer short course sponsored by the [Population Center](#). This site is not password protected so the contents of the site can be viewed. The final new site created this year is the [Contextual Data Portal](#) website which is discussed

above under point 2d.

h. Maintenance of the IBS Website

The Web continues to be a fundamental mechanism for accessing information about the activities of the Institute. It is used by IBS faculty, staff and students to stay current with IBS news, colloquia, grant submissions, etc. Making website improvements and keeping information up to date is a critical concern for CRS. This is done primarily by Nancy Thorwardson. The major ongoing tasks include: 1) publications and working papers are entered into an Endnote library where they are converted into the correct citation format and then posted; 2) grant information including submissions, awards, and renewals is added to a database which is posted automatically; 3) IBS and IBS Program news items are posted and events are added to the calendar and, at the appropriate time, announced on the IBS front page; 4) profile photos for new employees and students are taken and added to the profile pages; and 5) all IBS Program and Center pages, as well as CRS pages, are updated as necessary.

3. *Other Research Services*

Historically, IBS has provided statistics, data support and library services for researchers. Recently, however, CRS has expanded to provide mapping services, support for GIS and spatial analysis, and training workshops. Each of these services is discussed in this section.

a. Maps for Publication

In 2006-2007, Tom Dickinson and Nancy Thorwardson produced publication quality maps, charts, and other graphics for two major projects. The first was [*New Geographies of the American West: Land Use and the Changing Patterns of Place*](#), Island Press, 2007, by Bill Travis. Dickinson and Thorwardson helped plan and design some fifty maps, figures, and photographs, and then they produced most of the graphics and created the original maps. A \$1000 payment was made to CRS for these services.

The second of these was [*Eurasian Geography and Economics Special Issue on the Caucasus: Political, Population, and Economic Geographies*](#), March, 2007, edited by John O'Loughlin. Dickinson and Thorwardson created land cover maps with shaded relief and acquired and edited GIS data needed for political maps. The special issue included a map supplement coauthored by Dickinson and Thorwardson. In addition, Thorwardson proofread and edited the articles in the special issue.

b. GIS and Spatial Data Analysis

During the past year, Tom Dickinson provided a range of geographic information systems (GIS) services, including setting up and configuring GIS software, acquiring spatial data for research, and advising IBS faculty and student researchers on the best strategies for implementing GIS-based projects.

For Lori Hunter's study on the impact of environmental factors on the spread of HIV/AIDS in Haiti, Dickinson acquired, preprocessed, and analyzed satellite remote-sensing data (Landsat TM and ETM) to show vegetation change during the decade of the 1990s.

Clionadh Raleigh received assistance in developing a gridded GIS dataset. This dataset was used in her dissertation analysis, which modeled location of armed conflicts in Africa as affected by environmental factors such as climate, resource distributions and transportation infrastructure.

Tania Barham received help importing spatial data on schools in Yemen and demographics in Nicaragua. Susie Strife was assisted with her projects, which investigated school proximity to EPA Superfund sites in Denver, Colorado. In addition, Dave Kritzberg and Jason Boardman received help with U.S demographic data.

c. Training Workshops

Each year CRS offers workshops that span a host of topics that include statistical techniques, new data sets, software usage, and computer best practices. The [workshop schedule from the spring of 2006](#) is a good example of this. In addition to the CRS sponsored workshops, in the summers of 2006 and 2007, Jani Little taught the statistics and data analysis portion of the African Population Studies workshop called *Longitudinal Data Management & Analysis: Exploring Developing Countries' Rural Population and Health Issues*. For this teaching, CRS was compensated 1/12 of Little's salary.

The CRS workshop and training series offered in 2006 was sparsely attended; therefore, a new strategy for the series will be implemented in the spring of 2008. To accommodate more hands-on learning and to reach a larger audience, 2008 workshops will be held in the large computer lab in Ketchum at lunch time. Workshops will be offered from January through March, and they will be open to students and faculty in the social science departments as well as IBS. The [workshop topics scheduled for spring 2008](#) are *Mapping Social Data with ArcGIS: An Introduction* (Nancy Thorwardson), *Sources of Geographic Data* (Jani Little); *Web-based Analysis of the General Social Survey* (Jani Little); *DataVerse: An Emerging Source of Data* (Elaine Fischer); *Beginning to be a Bayesian* (Ying Lu); *Introduction to R* (Ying Lu); *"Interplays between Formal Demography and Multivariate Statistics: A Few Applications"* (Fernando Riosmena); *Applying GIS and Spatial Statistics to Malaria Control* (Marcia Caldis)

d. [Statistics](#) and [Data](#) Services

The Help Desk is one avenue CRS offers for providing statistical and data consultation. The Help Desk is available to all IBS affiliates and others outside of IBS if time allows. Jarron Saint Onge worked the Help Desk from 2005 to 2007. Currently, [Justin Denney](#) is the Help Desk advisor. The Help Desk advisors have regular hours, and, in addition, they correspond with users via email when they are not on duty. Problems that come to the Help Desk include questions about: 1) how to choose statistical analysis strategies, appropriate statistical software, or appropriate data structure; 2) how to use statistical software; 3) how to interpret statistical findings; or 4) how to devise presentation and report findings. These kinds of services continue to be important in advancing IBS research initiatives.

IBS personnel who regularly use the Help Desk services are Joanne Belknap, Fred

Pampel, Mark Turbin, Jim Scarritt, and Clionadh Raleigh. Regular users from outside of IBS are Kevin Durand (UCHSC), Bella Mody and Michael McDevitt (School of Journalism), and Claire Simon (Geography).

In addition to the assistance provided by the Help Desk advisor, Jani Little provides statistical advice and collaboration. She worked closely with Lori Hunter designing and writing the methods section of a grant proposal. Little worked with Laura Patterson, Joanne Belknap, and Andrei Rogers to resolve statistical and data issues that were encountered in the process of preparing journal articles. Little provided regular consultation on statistical and GIS techniques for graduate students, and she served on the dissertation committees of Frank Witmer, Clionadh Raleigh, and Jarron Saint Onge and the Masters committee for Kiyoshi Yamashita.

Others from IBS who received statistical and data consultation were Dan Post and Sabrina Arredondo, Ann Weiher, Rebecca Theobald, Jill Williams, Jason Boardman, Stefanie Mollborne, Terry McCabe, and Jessica Lee. Those outside of IBS who received assistance were Scott Minkoff, Aysegul Aydin (Political Science), Mike Greenwood (Economics), Rebecca Theobald (Geography) and Michael McDevitt (School of Journalism). McDevitt as budgeted \$1000 for CRS as compensation for assistance received from Tom Dickinson and Jani Little.

Data acquisition services are provided primarily through Jani Little. She stays aware of data sets that are publicly available, especially those held in the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) archive and the Integrated Public Use Microdata Series (IPUMS) archives. She is especially knowledgeable about U.S. Census data products and frequently assists people who want to access or analyze these data.

e. Library Services

IBS library and bibliographic services are provided by [Lindy Shultz](#), who routinely searches, retrieves, and returns books, videos, and other library materials for IBS professional staff. In response to requests, she searches for articles and efficiently obtains them in either paper or electronic form.

To assist researchers in keeping current with the literature relevant to their research topics, Shultz customizes searches of the Web of Science bibliographic database by topics, authors, or keywords. These searches are designed with the researcher, and they are conducted automatically every four weeks or more frequently at the client's request. The resulting references and abstracts are then emailed to the client. Many people are using this service or used it during 2006 and 2007. These include Joanne Belknap, Jason Boardman, David Brown, Frank Dunford, Delbert Elliott, Jennifer Grotmeter, David Huizinga, Richard Jessor, Randall Kuhn, Ying Lu, Tom Mayer, Robert McNown, Scott Menard, Sharon Mihalic, Stefanie Mollborn, Fred Pampel, Fernando Riosmena, James Scarritt, Lynn Staeheli, Mark Turbin, and Anne Weiher. Shultz conducts customized searches of other library databases, such as WorldCat, New York Times, ArticleFirst, MEDLINE, and Legaltrac.

In addition, Shultz builds and maintains Endnote libraries as requested by IBS researchers. These libraries may contain references on a substantive topic or they may contain references used in writing an article or a book. Additionally, Shultz will establish an Endnote library that contains all of the articles she retrieves for a client or all of the articles that resulted from the online searches. Currently, Joanne Belknap, Stefanie Mollborn and Fernando Riosmena use this service.

The IBS Publications library is another EndNote library that receives continual updates. It contains the references for all publications by IBS professional staff, and it is maintained by Nancy Thorwardson and Lindy Shultz.

4. Civic and Scholarly Activities

Since its founding, IBS has provided computer and library services. For many years, IBS had the only unit on campus that provided statistical and computing support for social scientists. CRS staff continue to play a role in shaping IT policies and they continue to act as advocates for the social science computing on campus. On the other hand, CRS staff are encouraged to pay close attention to changes in the campus IT environment so that they are able to sufficiently inform IBS researchers and equipped them for changes. In addition, CRS staff place a high priority on being aware of national trends in computing services and in social science research practices in general. In this section, several kinds of CRS civic and scholarly activities are highlighted.

a. Research and publications

Jani Little maintains a commitment to making scholarly contributions in statistics and population geography. This past year she completed a 900 word essay entitled "Standard Error" for the Sage Encyclopedia of Survey Research Methods, Paul J. Lavrakas, Editor. This encyclopedia will be published in the spring of 2008.

Little continues to publish with Andrei Rogers on the field of indirect estimation of migration. In the last year, she published a paper with Andrei Rogers entitled "What can the age composition of a population tell us about the age composition of its out-migrants?" *Population, Space and Place* 13, no. 1 (2007): 23-39. At the Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers in San Francisco in March, 2007, Little presented the paper "Age-Specific Outmigration: Methods for Enhancing the American Community Survey." Little continues to prepare this paper for publication and to work on a book chapter in the same area of research.

b. Local Outreach

The Subcommittee for Institute IT Administrators was formed in the spring of 2006, and it met two times during the summer of 2006. The purpose of the subcommittee was to discuss the strategic plan for Information Technology Services (ITS), which will have a chapter devoted to research computing needs. At the request of Dennis Maloney and the Institute Directors, the representatives present at the meeting were gathered to provide feedback and guidance for this chapter. Jani Little represented IBS and was a member of the subcommittee. These are the salient suggestions made for the ITS strategic plan:

- Share knowledge about software and site licensing
- Manage firewall and security issues
- Recommend purchasing and pricing options

- Provide specific research institute information on the ITS website
- Pool research institute specific needs (i.e. poster printing)

The quality of campus-wide computer service support has been greatly enhanced by the [Tier-2](#) program implemented by ITS. This program connects IT support personnel from all campus organizations. Tier-2 educates and informs the representatives about issues in computer systems administration, as well as campus-wide hardware and software initiatives. Tier-2 representatives have free access to on-line training courses and are invited to regular campus meetings to be informed about developments. All CRS staff are Tier-2 representatives. The Tier-2 program has helped CRS to coordinate the effects of campus-wide initiatives on IBS. Examples of this are the campus wireless and rewire projects, the email upgrade to culink and webmail corporate edition, and campus changes in antivirus and security precautions as well as site licensing agreements.

c. National Outreach

In October, 2007, at the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) Biennial Meeting of Official Representatives in Ann Arbor, Michigan, Jani Little was an invited panelist for the session “Social Science Computing and Technology on Campus.”

For ten days in November, 2006, Jani Little was in Washington D.C. serving on the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Contract Review Committee for the project entitled "SAMHSA IDIQ." The committee reviewed proposals in nine domain areas including Pilot Studies and Evaluation; Statistical Studies, Program Related; Policy Formation and Analysis; Communications, Awareness and Education; Analytic Studies; Technical Assistance and Training; Data Strategies; Web and Extranet Sites; Planning and Implementation; and Support and Report Preparation. Winning contracts were awarded a total of \$132 million.

Jani Little attended the IPUMS Winter Workshop at the Minnesota Population Center, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis MN, Jan 10-12, 2007. The workshop provided in-depth exposure and training in the use of the products developed by the Minnesota Population Center. These include:

- The National Historic GIS portal to historical U.S. Census geographic data
- The Integrated Public Use Micro Surveys for the U.S, the Health Interview Series, the CPS, and the ACS
- The North Atlantic Population Project for electronic access to complete records for censuses prior to and including 1930
- The Integrated Public Use Micro Surveys for International Censuses

Jani Little attended the Computer Directors Meeting at the Annual Meeting of the Population Association of American in New York, March 29-31, 2007. The meeting focused on disaster recovery strategies, the optimum physical environments for servers, integrated web services software for facilitating collaboration between colleagues from different institutions,

optimizing email services for population centers, and securing sensitive data and enforcing sensitive data agreements.

In October, 2007, Jani Little attended the one-day workshop “Ensuring Access and Confidentiality Protection for Highly Sensitive Data.” The workshop was sponsored by the Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan. It brought together individuals from universities, research institutions, federal agencies, and population and aging centers who are interested in developing ways to increase access to highly sensitive data for scientific research. The primary goal of the workshop was to begin to develop consensus on best practices for protecting and providing access to highly sensitive data. The long run goal is to facility increased access to confidential data through the development of common standards of data access and protection.