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Volume XIX

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

Derek L. Bosworth

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VOLUME XIX

INTELLECTUAL
PROPERTY RIGHTS

by

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FOREWORD

The Sources and Nature of the Statistics of the United Kingdom, produced under the auspices of the Royal Statistical Society and edited by Maurice Kendall, filled a notable gap on the library shelves when it made its appearance in the early post-war years. Through a series of critical reviews by many of the foremost national experts, it constituted a valuable contemporary guide to statisticians working in many fields as well as a bench-mark to which historians of the development of Statistics in this country are likely to return again and again. The Social Science Research Council* and the Society were both delighted when Professor Maunder came forward with the proposal that a revised version should be produced, indicating as well his willingness to take on the onerous task of editor. The two bodies were more than happy to act as co-sponsors of the project and to help in its planning through a joint steering committee. The result, we are confident, will be judged a worthy successor to the previous volumes by the very much larger "statistics public" that has come into being in the intervening years.

Mrs SUZANNE REEVE
Secretary
Economic and Social Research Council

Mrs E.J.SNELL
Honorary Secretary
Royal Statistical Society

January 1986

January 1986

* SSRC is now the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC).

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INTRODUCTION TO VOLUME XIX

As in the case of the previous volume (XVII: Posts and Telecommunications), it is the unfortunate situation that the review presented here is without its intended bedfellow. Its subject matter is the sources of statistics on the output of research and development activities and it is therefore the natural complement to sources of actual R & D data as the measurement of inputs; it was this latter field with which the missing review was intended to deal. This does not result in quite the classic case of putting the cart before the horse that might appear since there will be many users interested in output statistics without the need for input data. In these circumstances, it seemed that the critical point had been reached where the expectation of the delivery of the companion review had become so small that there could be no advantage in holding up the completed work any further. Derek Bosworth has in fact waited patiently for his companion author for far longer than he ought to have been imposed on, such was the importance attached to a joint presentation of the two topics, and has been faced with a massive job of updating as a consequence. It is nonetheless a sad disappointment that the original plan could not be achieved.

Moreover, in present circumstances the replacement of this contribution is a matter of some doubt as the ESRC which has so faithfully supported the series over a long period has indicated that a term must be fixed to its commitment. Hence, unless some other sponsor comes forward to assume the role, the series must end when the present contents of the pipeline are exhausted. Although reviews in progress still represent a substantial programme, it means inevitably that the project will have failed to achieve the aim with which it started of providing a complete coverage of sources in the whole economic and social field. Not only have several other reviews fallen by the wayside (which is scarcely surprising in that the main incentive for contributors is the warm glow of satisfaction that comes from the fulfillment of such a necessary professional task) but topics in other areas have not yet been commissioned while several already published now require updating. The project has accumulated a wealth of experience in its task and while it is a going concern it would need only a relatively modest grant to keep it in business but to start *de novo* or even to revive it after a lapse would be both more difficult and more expensive.

The primary aim of this series is to act as a work of reference to the sources of statistical material of all kinds, both official and unofficial. It seeks to enable the user to discover what data are available on the subject in which he is interested, from where they may be obtained, and what the limitations are to their use. Data are regarded as available not only if published in the normal printed format but also if they are likely to be released to a *bona fide* enquirer in any other form, such as

duplicated documents, computer print-out or even magnetic tape. On the other hand, no reference is made to material which, even if it is known to exist, is not accessible to the general run of potential users. The distinction, of course, is not clear-cut and mention of a source is not to be regarded as a guarantee that data will be released; in particular cases it may very well be a matter for negotiation. The latter caution applies with particular force to the question of obtaining computer print-outs of custom specified tabulations. Where original records are held on magnetic tape it might appear that there should be no insuperable problem, apart from confidentiality, in obtaining any feasible analysis at a cost; in practice, it may well turn out that there are capacity restraints which override any simple cost calculation. Thus, what is requested might make demands on computer and programming resources to such an extent that the routine work of the agency concerned would be intolerably affected.

The intention is that the source for each topic should be reviewed in detail, and the brief supplied to authors has called for comprehensive coverage at the level of 'national interest'. This term does not denote any necessary restriction to statistics collected on a national basis (still less, of course, to national aggregates) but it means that sources of a purely local character, without wider interest in either content or methodology, are excluded. Indeed, the mere task of identifying all material of this latter kind is an impossibility. The interpretation of the brief has obviously involved discretion and it is up to the users of these reviews to say what unreasonable gaps become apparent to them. They are cordially invited to do so by communicating with me.

To facilitate the use of the series as a work of reference, certain features have been incorporated which warrant a word or two of explanation. First, the text of each review is designed, in so far as varying subject matter permits, to follow a standard form of arrangement so that users may expect a similar pattern to be followed throughout the series. The starting point is a brief summary of the activity concerned and its organisation, in order to give a clear background understanding of how data are collected, what is being measured, the stage at which measurements are made, what the reporting units are, the channels through which returns are routed and where they are processed. As a further part of this introductory material, there is a discussion of the specific problems of definition and measurement to which the topic gives rise. The core sections on available sources which follow are arranged at the author's discretion - by origin, by subject subdivision, or by type of data; there is too much heterogeneity between topics to permit any imposition of complete uniformity on all authors. The final section is devoted to a discussion of general shortcomings and possibly desirable improvements. In case a contrary expectation should be aroused, it should be said that authors have not been asked to produce a comprehensive plan for the reform of statistical reporting in the whole of their field. However, a review of existing sources is a natural opportunity to make some suggestions for future policy on the collection and publication of statistics within the scope concerned and authors have been encouraged to take full advantage of it.

Secondly, detailed factual information about statistical series and other data is given in a Quick Reference List (QRL). The exact nature of the entries is best seen by glancing at the list and accordingly they are not described here. Again, the ordering is not prescribed except that entries are not classified by publication source

INTRODUCTION

since it is presumed that it is this which is unknown to the reader. In general, the routine type of information which is given in the QRL is not repeated verbally in the text; the former, however, serves as a search route to the latter in that a reference (by section number) is shown against a QRL entry when there is a related discussion in the text.

Third, a subject index to each review acts as a more or less conventional line of enquiry on textual references; it is a computerised system and, for an individual review, the only advantage is the possibility of easily permuting entries. The object at this level is merely to facilitate search by giving as many variants as possible. In addition, however, it also makes possible selective searches by keyword over any combination of reviews and a printout of the entries found may then be prepared.

Fourth, each review contains two listings of publications. The QRL Key gives full details of the publications shown as sources and text references to them are made in the form [QRL serial number]; this list is confined essentially to data publications. The other listing is a general bibliography of works discussing wider aspects; text references in this case are made in the form [B serial number].

Finally, an attempt is made to reproduce the more important returns or forms used in data collection so that it may be seen what tabulations it is possible to make as well as helping to clarify the basis of those actually available. Unfortunately, there are severe practical limitations on the number of such forms that it is possible to append to a review and authors perforce have to be highly selective.

If all or any of these features succeed in their intention of increasing the value of the series in its basic function as a work of reference it will be gratifying; the extent to which the purpose is achieved, however, will be difficult to assess without 'feedback' from the readership. Users, therefore, will be rendering an essential service if they will send me a note of specific instances where, in consulting a review, they have failed to find the information sought.

As editor, I must express my very grateful thanks to all the members of the Joint Steering Committee of the Royal Statistical Society and the Economic and Social Research Council. It would be unfair to saddle them with any responsibility for shortcomings in execution but they have directed the overall strategy with as admirable a mixture of guidance and forbearance as any editor of such a series could desire. Especial thanks are due to the Secretary of the Committee who is an unfailing source of help even when sorely pressed by the more urgent demands of his other offices.

The author joins me in thanking all those who gave up their time to attend the seminar held to discuss the first draft of his review and which contributed materially to improving the final version.

We are most grateful to Pergamon Press Ltd. for their continued support and in particular to the Production Department who put all the pieces together. The subject index entries have been compiled by Mrs. Marian Guest who has also acted as editorial assistant throughout. Special thanks are due to Mr. Ray Burnley who again has masterminded our use of the Lasercomp System at Oxford University Computer Service and to the latter for the use of this facility. Finally, we also wish to record our appreciation of the permission granted us to reproduce certain copyright material by the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

W.F. Maunder
February 1986

University of Exeter

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32: INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

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REFERENCE DATE OF SOURCES REVIEWED

The Review is believed to represent the situation at June 1985 – the bulk of the work being completed prior to that date. Amendments have been made up to the proof-reading stage of February 1986 to reflect recent changes.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

BIRPI	Bureaux Internationaux Reunis Pour la Protection de la Propriete Intellectuelle
CPI	Central Patents Index
CPC	Community Patent Convention
DAE	Department of Applied Economics
EEC	European Economic Community
EPC	European Patent Convention
EPO	European Patent Office
INID	International Agreed Numbers for the Identification of Bibliographic Data
IPC	International Patent Classification
MAFF	Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food
NRDC	National Research and Development Corporation
ND	No date given
NACE	Nomenclature General des Activites Economiques dan les Communautés Europeennes
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PCT	Patent Co-operation Treaty
PRB	Plant Royalties Bureau
PVRO	Plant Varieties Rights Office
R & D	Research and Development
SERC	Science and Engineering Research Council
SRC	Science Research Council
UPOV	Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants
UNCTAD	United Nations Committee on Trade and Development
WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organisation
WPI	World Patents Index

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Dedication: to Joany.

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