The Howard W. Odum Institute for Research in Social Science is the oldest facility of its kind in the US, and one of the oldest in the world. Founded in 1924, the Odum Institute supports the social science teaching and research mission at UNC by providing a range of consulting services on quantitative and qualitative methods, GIS and spatial analysis, survey research, and data management. The Institute offers more than 100 workshops every year, a graduate certificate program in Survey Research Methods, and a number of summer courses through the Interuniversity Consortium for Political and Social Research and for graduate students from underrepresented groups through the National Science Foundation’s Alliances for Graduate Education and the Professoriate (AGEP) program. The Odum Institute operates a world-renowned data archive that continues to be a leader in archive tool and support development. Their staff members help researchers develop grant proposals, provide full pre- and post-award support, and work aggressively to help bring teams of scholars together in part through an annual interdisciplinary seed grant competition. The Institute also partners with other scholars, research teams, Centers, and Institutes to pursue research grants consistent with its mission. On an annual basis, the Odum Institute serves more than 2000 users in their computer labs, logs more than 3200 individual consultations, and offers more than 3600 seat hours of instruction through its 100+ workshops. Services offered by the Odum Institute include the following:

Data Archives

The Institute maintains the country’s third-largest archive of computer-readable social science data. Holdings include national and international economic, electoral, demographic, financial, health, public opinion, and other types of data to meet a variety of research and teaching needs.

Grant Services

The Institute’s grant services include assistance with the development and submission of research proposals and the administration of grants for social science faculty and graduate student researchers.

Survey Methodology

The Institute provides consultation in survey methodology, construction of measurement instruments, sample design, and selection of appropriate data collection methods, especially the use of personal, telephone, and mail surveys.

Statistical and Computing Services

The Institute’s statistical and computing services include short courses and individual consultation in data analysis, data management, programming, and use of hardware. The Odum Institute’s Computer Laboratory provides access to computing software, hardware, and expertise in data analysis.

Other Services

The Institute sponsors interdisciplinary faculty working groups; provides faculty research awards; offers short courses in data access, grants, statistical computing, survey research, and text analysis; and occasionally sponsors faculty colloquia.

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