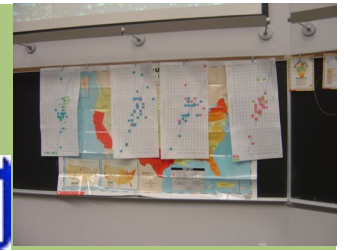


# ISLP Newsletter

August 2008, Volume 1.3



## In this issue

● Statistics in the News: a new resource from the BBC ● CensusAtSchool: 2nd International Workshop ● ISLP participation in ASA ● Portugal news

## Statistics in the News: a new resource from the BBC (UK)

Denise Lievesley

The BBC has started a weekly article series on common statistics in news articles, and the obvious vs. the correct way to interpret them.

The articles are essentially exposés of common ways of duping the layman. If you've got people not interested in learning statistics per se, this is excellent material for making them more savvy.

Here are some examples of the articles that have appeared:

### 1. Surveys

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/magazine/7542886.stm>

### 2. Estimates and Counting

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk\\_news/magazine/7554022.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/magazine/7554022.stm) Estimates and counting

### 3. Percentages

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/magazine/7568929.stm>

### 4. Averages

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/magazine/7581120.stm>

### 5. Correlation and Causality

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk\\_news/magazine/7592579.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/magazine/7592579.stm)

Installments appear every Tuesday on the BBC Magazine web page

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/magazine/default.stm>

The series is written by Michael Blastland, who with Andrew Dilnot wrote "The Tiger That Isn't"

[http://www.profilebooks.com/title.php?titleissue\\_id=453](http://www.profilebooks.com/title.php?titleissue_id=453)

Editor's note: This resource has been added to the ISLP web site. You may find updates on the tuesday articles at the corner of the site with this theme

<http://www.stat.auckland.ac.nz/~iase/islp/art>

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## CensusAtSchool: 2nd International Workshop done

CensusAtSchool is an international attempt to increase statistical literacy of children in schools. featured in the following page of the ISLP web site: <http://www.stat.auckland.ac.nz/~iase/islp/census> Visiting the web sites of the countries participating is relevant because they are full of statistical literacy activities for children in schools and for teachers. Why reinvent the wheel when the CensusAtSchool



of the hands on sessions of Pip Arnold featuring growing scatter plots and the US Bureau of the Census map with state population.

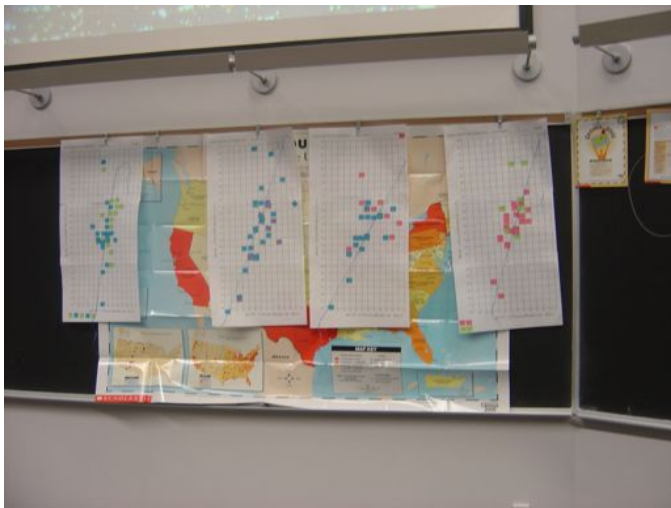
The workshop was hosted by the Department of Statistics at UCLA and organized by Juana Sanchez. You may see the presentations, additional photos and the program and other details at <http://censusatschool-california.stat.ucla.edu/index.html>

Information about the project in each of the countries is best obtained by contacting the project directors. Their addresses can be found at the web sites of the project.

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## ISLP at the American Statistical Association Annual Meeting

It has become a tradition, partly because the leadership of the ISLP has been in the hands of someone from the USA in the last years, to have a session organized by the ISLP at the ASA annual meeting (among other places in the world). This year was no exception. The theme was Statistical Literacy in Schools around the world. This invited session had as title “The State of Statistics Education in Schools Around the World.” ISLP board members Chris Wild (New Zealand), Mary Townsend (Canada) and Larry Weldon (British Columbia) spoke at this session. Mary Townsend represented the ISLP in the presentation of the ISLP book “National Statistical Offices and Statistical Literacy,” featured on the front page of the ISLP web site <http://www.stat.auckland.ac.nz/~iase/islp/> and in the last issue of this newsletter. We see Mary Townsend during her presentation (Figure 2). Chris Wild talked about the CensusAtSchool and Curriculum in New Zealand and Allan Rossman (for Larry Weldon) talked about activities of the IASE.



**Figure 1.- Above, some of the participants of the 2nd International CensusAtSchool Workshop. Below, Pip Arnold’s growing scatter activities done by participants. Photos courtesy of Neville Davies and Pip Arnold, respectively**

group have already created easy to use resources for teachers?

The group is now meeting regularly on an annual basis, with the second meeting having taken place in the United States July 28-31. If you are interested in participating in the third Workshop, please contact Neville Davies ( [neville.davies@ntu.ac.uk](mailto:neville.davies@ntu.ac.uk) )

In the photos, you can see some of the participants and invited speakers that attended or run the hand on session with technology , and the outcome of one



Figure 2. Mary Townsend during her presentation.

Editor: Juana Sanchez, ISLP Director

Contributors in this issue: Pedro Campos, Denise Lievesley.

Please, submit your resources, and articles to [jsanchez@stat.ucla.edu](mailto:jsanchez@stat.ucla.edu) Keep the ISLP informed.

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## News from Portugal

Pedro Campos

- PROFMAT, September 2008 <http://www.apm.pt/encontro/encontro.php> is the National Conference of Portuguese Mathematics School Teachers. The ALEA group of Statistics Portugal (<http://www.alea.pt>) has presented a paper entitled: "Thinking with data: the role of ALEA"
- 2nd Forum ALEA will take place in Lisbon, with probable date November 2008. It will have a format which is similar to the 1st Forum in Porto (2006) this Forum aims at aggregating the users of ALEA in a one-day meeting. Plenary sessions with specialists and workshops are planned for this meeting.

*Editor's note: ALEA won the First International Statistical Literacy Cooperative Award given by ISLP in the ISI meeting in Lisbon, 2007.*

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## 2009 Award for Best-Cooperative-Project in Statistical Literacy: Deadline is February 28th, 2009

The International Statistical Literacy Project of the International Association for Statistics Education (ISLP/IASE), a section of ISI, reminds you that the deadline to submit nominations for the 2009 Best Cooperative Project Award in Statistical Literacy is February 28th, 2009.

This award is given every two years in recognition of outstanding, innovative, and influential statistical literacy projects that affect a broad segment of the general public and are fruit of the cooperation of different types of institutions (national statistical office and schools, schools and statistical societies, statistical societies and statistical offices, statistical societies, college, schools, etc.). A project making a good candidate for this award should have the characteristics described in the ISLP web site

<http://www.stat.auckland.ac.nz/~iase/islp/bestproject>

To nominate a project, interested parties must submit a nomination letter and/or questions to Juana Sanchez, Director of the ISLP ([islpmail@gmail.com](mailto:islpmail@gmail.com)), no later than February 28th, 2009. In your letter, please explain how the project nominated satisfies all the characteristics described above. If the project does not have a web page, the ISLP reserves the right to request additional information. Projects will be evaluated by a panel of international statistical literacy experts selected by the ISLP during the Spring of 2009. The winner and finalists will be announced during the ISLP open meeting at the ISI Meeting in Durban, South Africa, August 2009.