

SUMMARY

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The project involved collecting information and researching materials (raw, already collected, etc) for use in Professor Koppell's upcoming book "Global Governance Organizations (GGOs)" The Professor's last few years have involved collecting primary evidence and data to investigate trends on the functioning and working of various international organizations that he had short listed for having "global" purview. The book seeks to collect data on the adherence, enforcement mechanisms, decision-making rules, bylaws, efficiency, competition and collaborative activities of the 25 "GGOs" selected; this data is then used to formulate and investigate hypotheses about why these organizations function the way they do.

Professor Koppell had already collected most of the interview information; I came in at a stage when most of the manuscript was completed. However, before sending in for comments to the publishers (Cambridge and U. Chicago Press), there was a chapter of competition and collaboration to be written up. I helped Professor Koppell with the presentation of a lot of the raw data collected. I had also digitized the bibliography for all the research material that was used. In addition, I read the entire manuscript (as it was when I started summer) and submitted my copy to Prof. Koppell for my comments and remarks.

I learned the use of the statistical software Stata (v9). Prof. Koppell used it to quantify the recorded data and try and find correlations between the various types of organizations (government, non-governmental, aid, standards-setting, etc) that were used in the n=25 sample. I also learnt the significance and uses of Fisher's Exact test for statistical significance with small-n samples. In addition there was a wealth of qualitative knowledge to be gleaned from the manuscript and the two months in general – I explored each organization in great detail online and learnt about the internal workings of each one. There's also the (ongoing) review process of certain variables that need to be gone over with a fine-toothed comb, so as to ensure better accuracy of the results.

Overall, the entire project was a very enriching experience. At time the work demanded of me did get monotonous, but this is a given considering the nature and content of the subject in question. However, I did build upon my earlier interest in international organizations, and explore the matter in-depth, which was very interesting to do. It felt good to get away from other academic constraints and focus all my time on a single subject – this is the first time I've had such an experience. I'm very glad I chose to participate in this project, and believe it is a very relevant and valid experience for undergraduates at Yale.