

RADSTAT READING LIST

I am preparing a short annotated reading list on themes of interest to Radstat members. I would appreciate it if anyone who has suggestions will send me the full bibliographic reference together with, if possible, a brief description of the major points which are likely to be of interest. The sort of themes I have in mind are the following:

official statistics, teaching, statistics in socialist countries, history, anything else anyone is interested in.

To start the ball rolling, and to give some idea of what I have in mind, here is an item I have just come across.

Townsend, Peter (1972) Politics and the statistics of poverty. Political Quarterly, January, pp. - . Reprinted at pp.306-318 of Peter Townsend (1975) Sociology and Social Policy, Allen Lane.

Discusses a report on two-parent families whose publication was delayed for political reasons, and whose content is flawed by the limitations of official statistics. The article starts with some general points on political factors at work. "When the functions of administration and intelligence are served by the same department, the latter will tend to be distorted by the former."

John Bibby