

## CHAPTER VI: THEORY ARTICLES

### INTRODUCTION

Even though it is possible to give dates at which the different theory articles in this chapter were prepared, and to relate the theory articles to CORDS work that was going on, this would not give a true picture of why these theory articles were written. For example, it was quite by accident that Roy Wolfe provided a copy of his "inertia model for travel" to the author of the "Distance of the Function of Distance" paper. Wolfe's paper (1972), which eventually appeared in the *Journal of Leisure Research*, raised questions that had not been brought into as clear a focus by CORDS research underway in 1972. In CORDS, the distance functions that were being used were either the traditional distance to some exponent type of function or the kind used by Cheung in TN 1 (which was selected because it gave a better fit to available data than traditional distance functions).

Neither the choice of a function because it gives a good  $R^2$  in a particular regression, or the choice of a function because other people have used it, is particularly satisfying to some researchers. In his paper, Wolfe was making the clear suggestion that behaviour should play a more important role in the choice of the functions used in gravity models. He presented certain plausible ideas, but it is these very ideas and disagreement with the way they were followed through logically that prompted the preparation of TN 14.

TN 32 and 37 are closely related to each other and should be considered in conjunction with TN 10, which presents the applied work that shows the practical relevance of pursuing the clustering ideas discussed in the other two papers. It was informal discussion of the ideas presented in TN 32 (carried out long before the note was prepared) that prompted the quantitative work reported on in TN 10. When quantitative results became available on how the Canadian population would be classified into clusters based on the activities they participate in, it was very clear that the original ideas that had prompted the empirical work should be documented. So, this was done in order that the broad implication of the empirical work would become clear from a theoretical perspective.

A meeting of CORDS researchers and a meeting of the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association provided the final stimulus necessary to prepare TN 32 when it was recognized that there was a need to clarify to recreators and professionals in the field of recreation the fact that people did not participate in one activity independently of another.

Actually, the first version of TN 32 contained much of what was ultimately included in TN 37. The author of the latter had long been involved in considering how one should model people's behaviour when participation in a number of activities at a number of facilities was involved. So, when the clustering approach was being described in early drafts of TN 32 a number of the issues were woven into his own paper. However, the appearance of the Hendee and Burdge (1974) article on substitutability and its practical applications in the *Journal of Leisure Research* prompted a sorting out of ideas. A number of considerations that would stand on their own were placed in a review of the Hendee and Burdge article. This left a fairly pure discussion of clustering and its practical implications (from a theoretical perspective) in TN 32.