

Verbal Shortcuts Used by ASARB Attendees

acronyms, shortened names, and specialized words often heard in our discussions

Shortcut:	Type:	Explanation:
AAG	group	Association of American Geographers: Professional group of geographers
ACL	data source	American Church Lists: Now InfoGroup
adherents	word	Neutral term used by RCMS to indicate the people associated with a local congregation. The word is less likely to have theological or quasi-legal connotations than "members," "communicants," or "baptized persons."
AG	denomination	Assemblies of God
ARDA	data source	Association of Religion Data Archives: The website (www.thearda.org) has a large amount of data used by religious researchers.
ASA	group	American Sociological Association: Professional group of sociologists
ASARB	group	Association of Statisticians of American Religious Bodies: Name of our organization
ASREC	group	Association for the Study of Religion, Economics, and Culture: A group related to SSSR/RRA but more specialized in its sociological studies
Baylor	data source	Baylor Institute: Research group centered in Baylor University
CARA	group	Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate: Catholic research group that conducts studies, based in Washington, DC
CCMUS	data source	Churches and Church Membership in the United States: 1990 short title for RCMS
CCSP	group	Cooperative Congregational Studies Project: Interdenominational group that produced FACT
CMS	data source	Church Membership Study: 1990 short title for RCMS
COGIC	denomination	Church of God in Christ
ELCA	denomination	Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
ESRI	company	Environmental Systems Research Institute: Producer of mapping software used by many ASARB member groups
FACT	data source	Faith Communities Today: Report based upon responses from over 14,000 congregations in 41 denominations and faith groups
GIS	computer term	Geographic Information System: Mapping program for computers
Glenmary	group	Glenmary Home Missioners: Catholic group focused on assisting Catholic work in the southeastern United States; their research center has served as publisher of four RCMS books, as well as the well-known wall map
GRC	group	Glenmary Research Center: see Glenmary
GSS	data source	General Social Survey: Periodic survey of American households, including religious questions along with other demographic insights
Hartford	group	Hartford Institute for Religion Research: Source of many religious studies
InfoGroup	data source	Provides church lists, including addresses, membership, and worship figures
ITC	group	Interdenominational Theological Center: Atlanta-based group assisting African American denominations to work together for common objectives
LCMS	denomination	Lutheran Church -- Missouri Synod
LDS	denomination	Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
Lilly	funding source	Lilly Foundation: Major source of funding for 1990 and 2000 RCMS projects
NAMB	group	North American Mission Board: Serves the Southern Baptist Convention
NCC	group	National Council of Churches (actually National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA): Interdenominational group known for ecumenical efforts
NORC	group	National Opinion Research Center: Produces GSS
PAA	group	Population Association of America: Group for those interested in population demographics
PC(USA)	denomination	Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Pluralism	group	Pluralism Project: Collects information on many religious groups, especially those not considered part of the Christian mainstream

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PUMS	data source	Public Use Microdata Sample: Data from the long-form census questionnaire, accessible for studies at such sites as www.ipums.org
RCMS	data source	Religious Congregations Membership Study: A generic name for the ASARB book project, the decennial count of congregations, members, attendees, and adherents by county
RCMUS	data source	Religious Congregations and Members in the United States: The short book title for the RCMS project in 2000 and 2010.
RRA	group	Religious Research Association: Professional association of sociologists, often emphasizing applied research
RRA/SSSR	group	Religious Research Association/Society for the Scientific Study of Religion: Two annual meetings of sociologists, held concurrently each fall (now includes ASREC as well)
RSS	group	Rural Sociological Society: Professional group of sociologists
SBC	denomination	Southern Baptist Convention
SDA	denomination	Seventh-day Adventist
SSSR	group	Society for the Scientific Study of Religion: Professional association for sociologists, often emphasizing theoretical research
SSSR/RRA	group	Society for the Scientific Study of Religion/Religious Research Association: Two annual meetings of sociologists, held concurrently each fall (now includes ASREC as well)
the ARDA	data source	Association of Religion Data Archives: The website (www.thearda.org) has a large amount of data used by religious researchers.
Triple-S R	group	Society for the Scientific Study of Religion: Professional association for sociologists, often emphasizing theoretical research
UCC	denomination	United Church of Christ
UMC	denomination	United Methodist Church
USCLS	data source	United States Congregational Life Survey: Report based upon responses from over 300,000 worshipers in over 2,000 congregations
Yearbook	data source	Yearbook of American and Canadian Churches: Published annually under the auspices of the NCC

If you have other terms to suggest, notify djones@nazarene.org.