Lab11 – Explore a Large Dataset Objectives

Explore a sample dataset to view the power of Big Data.

Background / Scenario

Before data can become meaningful information, it needs to be processed.

Required Resources

- PC with access to the Internet

Step 1: Locate a large, free, searchable database.

a. Click here to access the United States Department of Agriculture Statistics Service database.

b. Select: Quick Stats (Searchable Database)
    Notice the status in the top right hand corner. How many records are currently in the database?

    _____

    Answers will vary but it should be a value greater 34.7 million

Step 2: Select Categories.

a) From the categories select:

    Program: Census
    Sector: Animals & Products
    Group: Poultry
    Commodity: Ducks
    Category: Inventory
    Data Item: Ducks – Inventory
    Geographic Level: State
    State: Alaska

    Next, select: Get Data

    What was the inventory of ducks in Alaska in 2012?

    _____

    226

b) Select the Back button and change the state to Hawaii. Ensure that the year is still 2012.
    What was the inventory of ducks in Hawaii in 2012?

    _____

    1,275

c) If you owned a company that required ducks, how would this database be of use to the company?

    _____

Answers will vary but the database might help to find new sources of ducks.