

2019 IASSIST US Regional Secretary Report

Awards for members and affiliated organizations

Todd Hines – BRASS Excellence in Business Librarianship Award recipient

Lynda Kellam – Marta Lange/Sage CQ Press Award recipient

ICPSR – one of ten recipients of the 2019 National Medal for Museum & Library Service by the Institute of Museum & Library Services (IMLS)

Issues of interest for US membership

Proposed citizenship questions for the 2020 Decennial Census.

Contentious for many reasons, since the question is likely to affect the Census's ability to do a full data collection. In particular, if a large number of immigrants do not respond to do not respond accurately, the results will be inaccurate and as a result, areas of the country could lose funding or political representation with areas with large immigrant populations like Texas and California likely to take the biggest hit.

This issue sits with the Supreme Court, where they have heard arguments on the case.

American Community Survey changes

IPUMS wrote an open letter to the Census regarding the American Community Survey's proposed use of noise-infusion techniques to support confidentiality, which could affect the usability of the ACS public-use files. IPUMS specifically requested the Census Bureau: "(1) clarify the timeline for changes to the American Community Survey (ACS) public use data files, (2) engage the research community in advance of these changes, and (3) enable empirical assessment of the impact of any new confidentiality measures on research applications using ACS summary files and microdata."

US Government Shutdown

There was a partial shutdown of the US government from December 22, 2018 – January 25, 2019, which affected the production and availability of government data. The partial shutdown left forecasters, investors, and policy makers without much of the data they rely on, at a time when concerns were raised that the US economic expansion was nearing its end.

In particular, this had an impact on the Federal Reserve's January FOMC meeting, which was after the Federal Reserve System had communicated to the public that policy has become "data dependent".

The Bureau of Economic Analysis and the Census were part of the furlough, so GDP was not released and its release was impacted even after the government returned. The Labor Department was not impacted, so inflation/unemployment/hiring estimates were available.

California privacy laws and impacts of GDPR

The California Consumer Privacy Act (CCPA) is working its way through California legislature. The intention behind this Act is to provide California residents with the right to know what personal data are

being collected about them, whether and to whom it is sold or disclosed, reject sales of personal data, access their own personal data, request businesses delete their personal data, and not be discriminated against for exercising their privacy rights.

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) is a European Union law that was implemented in May 2018, and requires organizations to safeguard personal data and uphold the privacy rights of anyone in EU territory. This regulation includes seven principles of data protection that must be implemented and eight privacy rights that must be facilitated.

These data privacy laws have potentially long reaching impacts on everything from data available to researchers to the way that IASSIST collects, stores, and disseminates data on our members.