2024 IASSIST US Regional Secretary Report

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Regional Secretary

Membership updates

US membership has remained steady over the last couple of years, 279 members currently (compared to 283 in 2019, 262 in 2020, 275 in 2021, 271 in 2022, and 262 in 2023).

Issues of interest

Proposed Expanded Collection of Statistics on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity by the Federal Government

The U.S. Census Bureau has proposed a test of questions about sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) as possible additions to the American Community Survey (ACS).

On September 19, 2023, the Census Bureau announced a proposal to begin testing SOGI questions on the ACS. Known as the 2024 ACS SOGI Test, the test is intended to build on existing research, including work done by the Federal Interagency Working Group on Measuring SOGI; the Federal Committee on Statistical Methodologies' Measuring SOGI Research Group; and the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM).

The 2024 ACS SOGI Test would include different treatments of some questions to be asked to assess best practices. Public comments for the proposal were open until November 20, 2023. The potential timeline for testing these potential questions and OMB's response to the proposal is not yet determined, but the process of adding ACS questions can typically last up to five years.

Excerpted from [IN12342 (congress.gov)](congress.gov)

Data brokerage EO

The Biden Administration issued Executive Order (E.O.) [14117 Preventing Access to Americans' Bulk Sensitive Personal Data and United States Government-Related Data by Countries of Concern](#)

This EO says in part, "Access to Americans' bulk sensitive personal data or United States Government-related data increases the ability of countries of concern to engage in a wide range of malicious activities. Countries of concern can rely on advanced technologies, including artificial intelligence (AI), to analyze and manipulate bulk sensitive personal data to engage in espionage, influence, kinetic, or cyber operations or to identify other potential strategic advantages over the United States. Countries of concern can also use access to bulk data sets to fuel the creation and refinement of AI and other advanced technologies, thereby improving their ability to exploit the underlying data and exacerbating the national security and foreign policy threats."

Implications of the order are yet to be seen, but the EO specifically mentions concerns about the data broker industry, which aggregates, discloses, and sells billions of data elements on individuals. This could have an impact on the use of applications that collect personal data, and products sold that are built on personal data, like Safegraph, available from Dewey.

2023 NIH Data Management and Sharing Policy

A group of data librarians published an open letter (doi: 10.1126/science.adn5594) to the NIH about the 2023 Data Management and Sharing Policy in Science. In it, they call for:

- Increased transparency about awarded DMS Plans
- Increased training and resources
- Increased support for repositories

In addition to the version published in Science, the authors have made a longer version of the open letter available on OSF. Authors are asking for colleagues to add their signature to their open letter.

US Copyright law and AI

The US Copyright Office will issue a report, published in several sections, analyzing the impact of AI on copyright and making recommendations about any legislative or regulatory action in 2024.

Announcements about this work, and publications will be posted to [Copyright and Artificial Intelligence | U.S. Copyright Office](#).

Remote access to restricted-use data

Federal Statistical Research Data Center (FSRDC) program managed by the U.S. Census Bureau provides a secure research environment to projects using restricted-use microdata. Researchers can now gain access to these data for a statistical purpose through one of the more than 30 secure physical enclaves located throughout the country. To facilitate secure access to restricted-use data for qualified researchers, the FSRDCs make a selected catalogue of data available for access remotely in cases where all eligibility conditions are met.

Additional information, including project requirements and the current list of datasets available for remote access is available for download on the page below.

Excerpted from: [Secure Remote Research Environment to Access Restricted-Use Data (census.gov)](#)