

Census Metadata Inventory Project: Secure Access to Government Data

Background

- The Foundations for Evidence Based Policymaking Act of 2018 requires establishing a common application portal for statistical agencies.
- The Evidence Act also requires creating a comprehensive data inventory. Metadata is the foundation of these Evidence Act activities.
- In 2019-20 the Census Bureau Federal Statistical Research Data Centers (FSRDC) partnered with ICPSR at the University of Michigan to pilot a preliminary application and metadata portal, ResearchDataGov.

Metadata Challenges

- Census partnered with the MITRE corporation to evaluate current available sources and create a metadata model.
- Analysis of current inventory and comparison of fields based on analysis of industry standards (DDI).
- Preliminary interviews and fact finding with subject matter experts and data users.
- Created metadata for 30 high value datasets so far.

Next Steps: Data Curation

- Continued curation of robust metadata for 200+ datasets, gathering information from existing sources and data owners.
- The inventory will be the first **comprehensive** collection of metadata for Census Bureau and administrative datasets.
- Clearance of supporting documentation.
- New Standard Application Portal will be live in 2022. Researchers will be able to view datasets and request access for projects.

Find your local FSRDC:
<https://www.census.gov/about/adrm/fsrdc/locations.html>

Pilot Metadata Portal:
<https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/web/pages/appfed/index.html>

Evidence Act Updates:
<https://www.census.gov/about/what/evidence-act.html>



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