

The Future of the Federal Statistical System in an Era of Open Government Data

Association of Public Data Users Annual Conference

September 12-13, 2012

George Washington University | 800 21st St., NW. Continental Ballroom, 3rd floor | Washington, DC

Open Data includes operational and administrative data used by public agencies for statistical purposes. It's changing the world of data users and producers alike. This conference focuses on understanding this phenomenon and how it will impact data programs and uses.

AGENDA

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

8:00 AM - 8:45 AM **Continental Breakfast**

8:45 AM - 9:00 AM **Welcome Speakers**

Speakers:

Bob Scardamalia, CEO, RLS Demographics, Inc., **President, APDU**

Garry Young, Interim Director, George Washington Institute of Public Policy

9:00 AM - 10:15 AM **An Evolving Federal Statistical System: Preparing For the Future by Learning from the Past**

This session provides an overview of the major pieces of the federal statistical system and its evolution from our basic civic principles. What does the system tell us about ourselves? How are these data critical for job creation, poverty alleviation, and policy making?

Moderator:

Robert Litan, Director of Research, Bloomberg Government

Speakers:

Connie Citro, Director of the Committee on National Statistics, National Academies of Science

Robert Groves, Director, US Census Bureau

Shirin A. Ahmed, Assistant Director for Economic Programs, US Census Bureau

10:15 AM - 10:45 AM **Networking Break**

10:45 AM - 12:00 PM **Open Data: Basic Principles for Federal Data Users**

This session will provide an overview of new developments in the federal government's commitment to "open data" - what is open data, how is it being released, and why? What are the goals for federal open data and its platforms?

Moderator:

Virginia Carlson, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Department of Urban Planning

Speakers:

Tom Lee, Director, Sunlight Labs

Alex Howard, Open Gov Blogger, O'Reilly

Bryan Sivak, Chief Technology Officer, US Department of Health & Human Services

Jeanne Holm, Evangelist, Data.gov

12:00 PM - 12:45 PM **Networking Lunch**

12:45 PM - 1:30 PM ***Haven't We Been Here Before?***

How is our situation now different? Or, is it? The federal statistical system has periodically attempted to integrate administrative and operational records into the statistical system. How are open data proposals before us now different from the past?

Keynote Presenter:

Margo Anderson, *Census Historian; Co-author of Encyclopedia of the US Census*

Moderator:

Bob Scardamalia, *CEO, RLS Demographics, Inc., President, APDU*

1:30 PM - 2:45 PM ***Statistical Data vs. Open Government Data: Issues***

This session will cover salient issues in thinking about the nature of statistical data vs. open data sources. We'll examine topics such as statistical rigor, issues of confidentiality, democratic access, and commercialization.

Moderator:

Cavan Capps, *Senior IT Technical Advisor to the Research and Methodology Directorate, US Census Bureau*

Speakers:

Jules Polonetsky, *Director, Future of Privacy Forum*

Meta Brown, *General Manager - Analytics Division, LinguaSys*

Becky Sweger, *Data Scientist and Software Developer, National Priorities Project*

2:45 PM - 3:15 PM **Networking Break**

3:15 PM - 4:45 PM ***New Data in an Open Data World***

In this session, we will talk nuts and bolts about new data sources, including new open data (usaspending.gov), new longitudinal data (the Student Longitudinal Data Series), and data being created from the newly formed Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. What new information do they offer? What are we learning from the effort to create the new data from alternative sources?

Moderator:

Warren Brown, *Senior Research Associate, Cornell Institute for Social and Economic Research (CISER)*

Speakers:

Ron Borzekowski, *Section Chief in the Office of Research at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau*

Roberto Rigobon, *Billion Prices Project, MIT*

Mike Horrigan, *Associate Commissioner for Prices and Living Conditions*

5:00 PM - 6:30 PM **Networking Happy Hour:**
Tonic, 2036 G Street, NW Washington, DC

Thursday, September 13, 2012

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM **Continental Breakfast**

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM **Plenary Presentation: Federal Data from the Ground Up: Cities.data.gov**

Smaller units of government are also beginning to publish open data. The federal government is investing in a platform to enable these data to be normalized and standardized across jurisdictions. Will the future of micro-geographic data look like this? What implications does this have for the American Community Survey and other data sets?

Moderator:

Joan Naymark, CEO, JG Naymark Demographics

Speakers:

Chris Vein, Deputy United States Chief Technology Officer for Government Innovation, Executive Office of the President

10:00 AM - 10:30 AM **Networking Break**

10:30 AM - 11:45 AM **Gaining a Better Understanding of this Rocky Recovery**

Job creation is at the top of every political candidate's agenda in 2012. Increasingly, political concerns are being raised about the quality of data that are available and whether the data are truly reflective of economic trends. What emerging new data sets offer the greatest promise of helping us to better understand employment, productivity, innovation, and growth trends at the national, state, and local level?

Moderator:

Brian Maisano, Economist, US Bureau of Economic Analysis

Speakers:

Sharon Boivin, Acting Associate Commissioner, Postsecondary, Adult, and Career Education Division, National Center for Education Statistics

Dixie Sommers, Assistant Commissioner for Occupational Statistics and Employment Projections, US Bureau of Labor Statistics

Javier Miranda, Principal Economist, Business Dynamics Statistics Program, Center for Economic Studies, US Census Bureau

11:45 AM - 1:00 PM **Networking Lunch**

1:00 PM - 2:15 PM **Health Care Data in a Whole New World**

As the health care industry adapts in light of the Supreme Court ruling, how will continued improvement in electronic health information transform the data available about individuals and communities? What new datasets are available? How do they relate to other policy areas such as economic growth, development, and education? What initiatives are underway to expand use of health statistics to influence state and federal policies as well as health care industry practices?

Moderator:

Susan Ockert, Consultant, SO Consulting

Speakers:

Rachel Licata, Senior Policy Analyst, Kaiser Family Foundation

Bill Wiatrowski, Associate Commissioner Compensation and Working Conditions, US Bureau of Labor Statistics

2:15 PM - 2:45 PM ***Networking Break***

2:45 PM - 4:00 PM ***An Uncertain Future for the American Community Survey***

The Census Bureau has been caught in the cross-fire of a fundamental political rift in Washington. Data advocates have expressed concern about Congressional proposals to eliminate the ACS or to make the survey voluntary. What will these proposals mean for the ACS and what might data users do if the ACS were not available?

Moderator:

Ken Hodges, Chief Demographer, Nielsen Claritas

Speakers:

James Treat, Chief, American Community Survey Office, US Census Bureau

Rachel Kelley, International Council of Shopping Centers

Andrew Reamer, Research Professor, George Washington Institute of Public Policy, George Washington University

Katherine Smith, Vice President and Chief Economist, American Farmland Trust

4:00 PM ***Conference Adjourns***