

2022 IASSIST US Regional Secretary Report

Stephanie Tulley
Regional Secretary

Membership updates

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

Awards/Achievements

ICPSR celebrated 60 years of “groovy data” in support of political, social, and behavioral science research in 2022.

In Memoriam

Judith Rowe, founding IASSIST member and IASSIST President from 1985 – 1988, died in 2022. Judith was a pioneer in the field, and her many accomplishments and contributions to the profession were shared on the IASSIST website, please see the full In Memoriam:

<https://iassistdata.org/blog/2022/05/06/judith-s-rowe-in-memoriam/>

Full text:

By Bobray Borderlon | MAY 6, 2022

It is with great sadness that I report the death of Judith S. Rowe at the age of 91 on May 5, 2022. She was a founding member of IASSIST in 1974 and its president from 1985-1988. She received the IASSIST achievement award in 2000.

She was the founder of Data and Statistical Services at Princeton University in 1964 and headed the service until her retirement in 1998. She received many other awards during her career including the 1997 William H. Flanigan Award for Distinguished Service as an ICPSR Official Representative and in 1990 the American Library Association’s GODORT James Bennett Childs Award. She was the first non-faculty Official Representative elected to the ICPSR Council (served 1980-1984).

Judith was a prolific author. She was constantly lobbying for improved government statistical reporting and was considered a foremost expert on the USA census. She was a pioneer in the creation of the Census Bureau's State Data Center program in 1979. She also had elected positions in the Association of Public Data Users (1980-1982) and the Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics (1982-1983). She was one of the great pioneers of the social science data field.

In 1999, Judith reflected her life in data in “The Decades of My Life” (doi.org/10.29173/iq575). Judith’s beloved husband Peter preceded her in death, but she is survived by 3 children and grandchildren. Judith was a mentor to me and so many others internationally. She led a remarkable life, and we owe much of the foundations of our profession to her.

Issues of interest

American Community Survey (ACS)

The US Census Bureau released the standard, full suite of 2016-2020 ACS 5-year products—down to the block group level on March 17, 2022.

Data from the 2016-2020 ACS 5-year Variance Replicate Estimates and the Public Use Microdata Sample was released on March 31, 2022.

Census Disclosure Avoidance System (DAS)

The US Census Bureau is working to modernize the privacy protections for the 2020 Census, and aims to accomplish this by releasing only "differentially private" data from the 2020 Census. These data will have intentional errors added to nearly all statistics, including even the total populations of all geographic units below the state level.

A handbook published in November 2021 describes the Disclosure Avoidance System (DAS) in the context of the 2020 Census redistricting data because those are the first 2020 Census data that are protected using differential privacy, see:

<https://www2.census.gov/library/publications/decennial/2020/2020-census-disclosure-avoidance-handbook.pdf>

The Census Bureau has a site for DAS Demonstration data and metrics, here:

<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial-census/decade/2020/planning-management/process/disclosure-avoidance/2020-das-development.html>

The Census Bureau has a site for reporting developments (including technical issues in previously released products), newsletters, and a new webinar series, here: <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial-census/decade/2020/planning-management/process/disclosure-avoidance/2020-das-updates.html>

IPUMS has extensive coverage and information about these changes, here:

<https://www.ipums.org/changes-to-census-bureau-data-products> IPUMS

Privacy Legislation

California, Colorado, Utah, and Virginia have enacted comprehensive consumer data privacy laws:

- California Consumer Privacy Rights Act (CPRRA)
 - Effective January 1, 2023
- Colo. Rev. Stat. § 6-1-1301 et seq. (2021 S.B. 190)
 - Effective July 1, 2023
- Utah 2022 S.B. 227 (Utah Consumer Privacy Act)
 - Effective December 31, 2023
- Virginia 2021 H.B. 2307/2021 S.B. 1392 (Consumer Data Protection Act)
 - Effective January 1, 2023

While no federal privacy legislation exists, the Uniform Law Commission released a standardized data protection bill in July 2021, with the hopes of it being a model privacy bill for states to pick up, see: <https://aboutblaw.com/OTG>

Data vendor mergers and acquisitions

- S&P and IHS Markit merged, finalizing in 2022
- S&P sold CUSIP to Factset
- BlackKnight was acquired by ICE