

US Regional Secretary Report

Year in review:

- One ICPSR Flanigan Award winner is a US IASSISTer
Daniel Tsang (UC Irvine)
<http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/content/membership/awards/tsang.html>
- US Government shutdown: A lapse in appropriations caused government statistical agencies to stop doing business from October 1 to October 16, 2013. The Data and Information Service Center at UW Madison provided a great summary of the statuses of various agencies ¹ and the IASSIST list was busy with traffic outlining alternative sources for information.
 - [Census Bureau](#) — **OFFLINE**. “Due to the lapse in government funding, census.gov sites, services, and all online survey collection requests will be unavailable until further notice.” This includes American Factfinder, FedStats, MapStats, Census FTP and much more.
 - [National Center for Education Statistics](#) — **OFFLINE**. “Due to a lapse of appropriations and the partial shutdown of the Federal Government, the systems that host *nces.ed.gov* have been shut down.”
 - [Bureau of Economic Analysis](#) – **OFFLINE**. “Due to the lapse in government funding, www.bea.gov will be unavailable until further notice. This includes access to all data and the e--File system.”
 - [Department of Agriculture](#)– **OFFLINE**. “Due to the lapse in federal government funding, this website is not available.” This includes the National Agricultural Statistics Service and Economic Research Service.
 - [Data.gov](#) & [Geo.data.gov](#) — **OFFLINE**. “Due to the lapse in federal government funding, this website is not available.”
 - [Bureau of Justice Statistics](#) – **OFFLINE**. “Due to the lapse in federal funding, this Office of Justice Programs website is unavailable.”
 - [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#) — the site is running, but, “This website is currently not being updated due to the suspension of Federal government services. The last update to the site was Monday, September 30. During the shutdown period BLS will not collect data, issue reports, or respond to public inquiries.”
 - [National Center for Health Statistics](#) and [HealthData.gov](#)– the sites are running, but “Due to the lapse in government funding, only web sites supporting excepted functions will be updated unless otherwise funded. As a result, the information on this website may not be up to date, the transactions submitted via the website may not be processed, and the agency may not be able to respond to inquiries until appropriations are enacted.”
 - [AgingStats.gov](#) — the site is running, but “Due to the absence of either a fiscal year 2014 appropriation, or a continuing resolution for HHS, the regular operations of the

¹Synopsis from <http://www.disc.wisc.edu/discnews/index.php/archives/296> updated on October 8, 2013 and accessed May 30, 2014.

Administration for Community Living have been suspended. As such, content on this website is not being regularly updated.”

- [Bureau of Transportation Statistics](#) — the site is running, but “During the government shutdown, press releases and web updates for airline data and North American freight data will not take place as scheduled.”

Cool conferences:

- Data Seal of Approval Conference, University of Michigan, October 8, 2013²

By all accounts, the conference was a success, with nearly 70 registrations and nearly 80 remote participants connecting via live-streaming throughout the day

Those attending represented a wide spectrum of institutions, including:

- Domain repositories/Archives
- Libraries
- Research institutions
- Infrastructure providers
- Data centers
- Publishers

Participants were a diverse group, with titles ranging from data librarians to data curators to data analysts.

The bulk of the conference focused on the basic certification mechanism provided by the Data Seal of Approval. Participants learned about the 16 requirements that a repository must comply with as well as how repositories are reviewed for conformance with the requirements. In addition, case studies were presented to demonstrate repositories' experiences in applying for and being awarded the DSA.

- Government Information in the Age of Big Data, University of Chicago, April 24---25, 2014.

The Center for Research Libraries (CRL) held a forum where speakers included scholars (Thomas S. Blanton from the National Security Archive at George Washington University and Matthew J. Connolly an historian from Columbia University), representatives of U.S. and Canadian governments (R. Eric Petersen from the U.S. Congressional Research Service; Paul Wester Jr, and William A. Mayer from the U.S. National Archives Records Administration; Cecilia Muir and Paul

²Synopsis from [http://datasealofapproval.org/en/news---and---events/news/2013/10/15/dsa---conference---2013--- great---succes/](http://datasealofapproval.org/en/news---and---events/news/2013/10/15/dsa---conference---2013---great---succes/), accessed on May 30, 2014.

Wagner from Library and Archives Canada), as well as speakers from the private sector (ProQuest, East View Information Service, voxgov) and librarians (Mary Case, Ingrid Parent, Brent Roe) and more. Sessions raised concerns about the long-term integrity of government electronic records, publications, and data, the roles of libraries in preservation and access, and new methods of identifying, categorizing, and using digital information. Long time IASSIST member James A. Jacobs presented a paper on "Born-Digital U.S. Federal Government Information: Preservation and Access" <http://3stages.org/crl/>

CRL provides links to slides and audio recordings of the sessions <http://www.crl.edu/leviathan> and a list of background readings <http://www.crl.edu/node/10225>

Things to look forward to or explore:

- Colgate University Libraries' first Library Summer Research Fellowship was awarded to Jeremy Bayer, a rising senior in the Department of Geography. Jeremy will work with IASSIST member **Peter Rogers**, the Information Literacy and Social Science Librarian, on an overhaul of the libraries' research data resources and the writing of Research Data Services policy for the libraries.
- **Julia Bauder**, Social Studies and Data Services Librarian at Grinnell College, has a data related book coming out this summer: *The Reference Guide to Data Sources* (<http://www.alastore.ala.org/detail.aspx?ID=10976>)
- Open Metadata releases Sledgehammer, a tool contributing to open data and DDI: <http://www.openmetadata.org/site/?p=1559>
<http://www.openmetadata.org/sledgehammer>
- The Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics (COPAFS – of which IASSIST is an affiliate member) is recommending the submission of comments on Proposed Statistical Policy Directive. It would essentially codify the National Academy of Sciences Committee on National Statistics' *Principles and Practices for a Federal Statistical Agency* (http://sites.nationalacademies.org/dbasse/cnstat/principles_and_practices_for_a_federal_statistical_agency/index.htm). COPAFS will prepare a supportive comment on this proposal before the comment period deadline of July 21 and will reference it on their Website.
- The Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology Policy Conference will be held at the Washington D.C Convention Center December 15-16, 2014

Transitions:

- Joanne Juhnke moved from her role as Senior Special Librarian at Data & Information Services Center at UW Madison to a new position as Policy Director for Wisconsin Family Ties, a statewide, nonprofit organization run by families for families that include children and adolescents with social, emotional, or behavioral challenges.