Research Guide on Statistical Sources

Introduction

This guide was created to help UDC law students and faculty locate statistical sources. It provides information on the premier subscription statistical databases available in the Mason Law Library, as well as non-subscription resources available online. There are also helpful annotations to some of the resources, and links to call numbers in our catalog.

We have also included a section on finding state and county statistics, and the guide also highlights other research guides on statistical sources. Maps and geospatial information, journals and blogs are also discussed. Toward the end of the guide, a section on locating regional and international statistics is also included.

If you have further questions, please email lawlibraryhelp@udc.edu, and our team of helpful librarians will be happy to assist you.

What Are Statistics?

The American Statistical Association (ASA) defines statistics as "the science of learning from data, and of measuring, controlling and communicating uncertainty". (ASA website, accessed December 3, 2018).

Statistics therefore analyze, interpret and summarize raw data. Statistics help to determine trends and provide information useful to planning and policy making. Various sectors and agencies collect and provide statistics unique to their field and mandate.

When trying to locate statistics, it is important to keep in mind that agencies have varying schedules for collecting and disseminating statistics. There may be lag times in when the information is reported, and statistics may not always be available for the current year.

Locating Statistics

The best place to start your search is in the Mason Law Library catalog, which is the gateway to our print and electronic resources. From the catalog, you will be able to conduct title, subject or keyword searches. Helpful search terms are: statistics, plus the sector you are interested in. Example "tax statistics", "energy statistics" "crime statistics".

In the following sections of the guide, we have provided links to the print resources in our collection, as well as the collection of our main campus library, Learning Resources Division. We have included the relevant call numbers to provide easy access to the items.

We have also provided links to statistical sources, by sector. If you are looking specifically for state and county statistics, you will find that section of the guide helpful.

Print Sources

Listed below are some of the print materials on statistics currently available in our collection.


\section*{Electronic Sources}

In this section, there are links to our premier subscription databases, followed by statistical sources by sector:

- \textbf{Proquest Multiple Database Search}
- \textbf{Proquest Research Library}

\textbf{Demographics:}
- \textit{Data.gov}
- \textit{U.S. Census Data and Statistics}
- \textit{D.C. Department of Corrections (Inmate Statistics)}
- \textit{D.C. Office of Planning}

\textbf{Economics, Finance and Labor:}
- \textit{Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA)}
- \textit{Bureau of Labor}
- \textit{Economic Census - US Census Bureau}
- \textit{FedScope - Office of Personnel Management}

\textbf{Education, Health, Agriculture and Science:}
- \textit{National Agricultural Statistics Service (USDA)}
- \textit{National Center for Education Statistics}
- \textit{National Center for Health Statistics (CDC)}
- \textit{National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics}
Finding State and County Statistics

The websites of state and local government agencies and departments are useful places to begin a search for statistics at the county or state level. If you are looking for statistics for a specific industry, the local or national regulating body usually provides statistics on that industry.

Below are some authoritative and current sources for finding county and state statistics in a variety of sectors:

- American Fact Finder
- Annual Survey of State and Local Government Finances
- Census Flows Mapper This interactive map includes tracking of county to county migrations. It is also cited in the section of this guide which deals with finding geospatial data.
- County Health Rankings
- Federal, State, and Local Government (US Census)
- National Association of Counties
- National Association of State Budget Officers
- State Health Facts Online

The library also has the following print sources on state and county statistics:

- State and Metropolitan Area Data Book. U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census. HA 202.S84. Also available online through the U.S. Census Bureau (Updates as of February 4, 2009).

Other General Sources for Statistical Data

- CIA World Factbook
- Google Public Data Explorer

Regional and International Organizations

- Economic Commission for Latin American and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
- Eurostat
- International Labor Organization
- International Statistical Institute
- Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)
- UN Data
- United Nations Demographic Yearbook
- United Nations Human Development Reports

The United Nations Development Program published its first Human Development Report in 1990, in which it highlighted the Human Development Index (HDI). This annual report is rich with statistics which analyze the state of human development across the globe. The 2018 report is available at the link above.

- United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

UNFPA provides statistics related to population, fertility, sexuality and reproductive health, and HIV/AIDS.

- United Nations Statistics Division
- World Bank
- World Bank Data Catalog
- World Development Report Online This is an annual publication of the World Bank.
- World Health Organization (WHO)

Locating Geospatial Statistics

- Census Flows Mapper This interactive map includes tracking of county to county migrations.
- Dag Hammarskjold Library, United Nations
- Dartmouth This library's research guide on locating geospatial data is very comprehensive.
- Gap Minder
- GeoRef
- Historical Maps Online (This resource charts historical development in Illinois and the Northwest Territories over the last 400 years).
This resource allows for comparisons between countries and provides access to maps.

The National Map (United States Geological Survey)

World Digital Library

World Map Collections

In addition to the above online resources, the library also has the following print resource:


A Selection of Research Guides

Below is a selection of some of the most comprehensive research guides on statistical sources:

George Washington University (This guide has links to free online modules on learning statistics).

Georgetown Law Library

Loyola University Chicago

Michigan State University

New York University

U.C. Berkeley

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Statistics Journals

Journals on statistics can be located by searching the following:

Washington Research Libary Consortium (WRLC) catalog

Proquest Multiple Database Search

Google Scholar

Below is a sampling of some of the highest ranked journals on statistics:

Annals of Probability

Annals of Statistics

Annual Review of Statistics and Its Application

Journal of Business and Economic Statistics

Journal of Computational and Graphical Statistics

Journal of Statistical Software

Journal of Survey Statistics and Methodology

Journal of the American Statistical Association

Journal of the Royal Statistical Society

Statistics and Computing
Blogs Focusing on Statistics

Below is a selection of blogs that focus on statistics:

Blog About Stats
Empirical Legal Studies
Error Statistics
Flowing Data
Probability and Statistics
Statistical Modeling, Causal Inference and Social Science

Acknowledgements

The compilation of this research guide was facilitated by the Information adapted from the American Statistical Association (ASA) and some of the research guides cited in this project. Many other city, state and federal websites, as well as those of regional and international organizations provided invaluable information. We are grateful for these very useful sources.