

Archiving and Publication

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Archive the verb means

- ‘to place or store in an *archive* the noun
- *Archive* the noun means ‘a repository for documents etc.; a data bank’
- ‘We need to have this information available for future reference, but we’re not actively using it right now, so we need to put it in a safe place, where it won’t be in the way’

Publish (a verb) means

- ‘to make generally known; declare or report openly; announce; disseminate’
- The growth of the web and of ‘digital publication’ in general has changed the means of publishing so much as to change the meaning of ‘publish’
- A consequence is that *lawyers* now become involved in defining what ‘publish’ means

Why We Archive

- For *organizational memory*, an essential element of planning and evaluation
- For purposes of *legal record*
- For *official reference*
- For *future use*, including future publication
- As a way of managing *uncertainty* about future information needs

Importance of the Distinction for Population Census Work

- The 2000 round census results will be in use until the 2010 round results become available, 15 years from now for most of us
- We are in a period of extremely change in information technology
- We want to *archive everything* of value from the 2000 round census so that we may *publish* usefully over the next decade

This is feasible because ..

- Information technology has already radically reduced the costs of organizing and storing vast quantities of information
- Despite the ‘high tech’, digital organization and storage is *vastly less expensive* than organization and storage of paper
- The complete *information record* of the census in a typical country fits on one PC

Developing Countries Benefit Most from these Developments

- Digital archiving enables **every country** to do what only **rich countries** could do in the past; *capture full value from census data*
- Developed countries can afford the costs of paper much more easily than developing countries; the poorer a country is, the more it has to gain from these developments

Applies to NSO Work Generally

- Our focus is on the census, but the point applies with equal force to *all* data collected by an NSO or other organization
- Think here in terms of data production issues generally; not just in terms of the population census

Review of Key Points

- What archiving means
- What publication means
- Why the distinction is important
- *Archive everything!*
- All NSO operations, not just census
- Differential benefit to developing countries

Questions?
Comments?
Discussion?