Get Help!

25 in 2 years!
Come to Your Census:
the development of the U.S. Census from its inception to the present

North Carolina Library Association Government Resources Section

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Joyner Library, ECU
What is a census?

• A count of the population of a country as of a fixed date

• Is population growing, stable, declining?

• Population characteristics
The LORD spoke to Moses ... in the Desert of Sinai on the first day of the second month of the second year after the Israelites came out of Egypt. He said: 2 “Take a census of the whole Israelite community by their clans and families, listing every man by name, one by one. 3 You and Aaron are to count ... all the men in Israel who are twenty years old or more and able to serve in the army.”
‘Name’ Census and ‘Data’ Census

Name Census

Census Data
The First Census (1790)

FIRST CONGRESS. Sess. II. Ch. 2. 1790.

Frederick Augustus Muhlenberg, Speaker of the House of Representatives.
John Adams, Vice President of the United States, and President of the Senate.

Approved March the first 1790.

Washington, President of the United States.
The First Census (1790)

Pop. 3,929,625
The 2nd Census (1800)

Pop. 5,308,483

• Election of 1800
The 3rd Census (1810)

Pop. 7,239,881

• Cost of taking the 1810 census
• $178,444.67
The 4th Census (1820)

Pop. 9,638,453

For the 1st time principal activities were recorded:

• Agriculture
• Manufacturing
• Commerce
The 5th Census (1830)

Pop. 12,866,020

Data gathered on the numbers of deaf, dumb, and blind, sorted by race
The 6th Census (1840)

Pop. 17,069,453

- A new inquiry added:
  Number of “insane and idiots”
The 7th Census (1850)

Pop. 23,191,876

For the first time:

Schedules listed the names of every person in a household
Taking the Census, 1854. Francis William Edmonds (American, 1806–1863)

Metropolitan Museum of Art, NYC
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Names of Slave Owners</th>
<th>Number of Slaves</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Color</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>B</td>
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</table>

Owner: Philips

Age, Sex, Color
The 8th Census (1860)

Pop. 31,443,321

Population of enslaved individuals: 3,953,760
Some of the questions asked about sensitive topics such as ages, family wealth, or deaf, dumb, blind, idiotic, insane, or convicts in the family.

_Saturday Evening Post, 1860_
The 9th Census (1870)

Pop. 38,558,371

- Complete information recorded for newly freed blacks
The 10th Census (1880)

Important administrative changes

“Defective, Dependent, Delinquent Classes” (1880 only)
The 11\textsuperscript{th} Census (1890)

Herman Hollerith’s Tabulating Machine
The 11th Census (1890)

Pop. 62,947,714

- Fire destroyed 25% of the 1890 Census
- Government ineptitude destroyed the rest
The 12th Census (1900)

Pop. 75,994,575

New questions:

• Date of birth
• Number of years married
• Year of immigration to the U.S.
The 13th Census (1910)
Pop. 91,972,266

<table>
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<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>RELATION</th>
<th>PERSONAL DESCRIPTION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mary S. Langston</td>
<td>Head</td>
<td>55 yrs, 73 yrs Old, Female, North Carolina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hugh Lee Langston</td>
<td>Husband</td>
<td>52 yrs, 73 yrs Old, Male, Missouri</td>
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</table>
The 14th Census (1920)
Pop. 105,710,620

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Institution</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Race</th>
<th>Color</th>
<th>Education</th>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Religion</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>de Roulet</td>
<td>Daughter</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>W</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Daughter</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>W</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bride</td>
<td>Mother</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>W</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Second daughter</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>W</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virginia L</td>
<td>Second daughter</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>W</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chaplin Charles C.</td>
<td>Head</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>W</td>
<td></td>
<td>1928</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mildred</td>
<td>Wife</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>W</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The 15th Census (1930)

Pop. 122,775,046

Included Guam, Hawaii, the Panama Canal Zone, Puerto Rico, Samoa, Virgin Islands

• New questions: Homemaker status and television sets
The 16th Census (1940) Pop. 131,669,275

- Entering the war years: Enumerating military and their families
The 17th Census (1950)

- Pop. 150,697,361
- 48 States and the District of Columbia
- Greater urbanization of population
- “Sub”-urbia
The 18th Census (1960)

Pop. 179,323,175
The 19th Census (1970)

Pop. 203,302,031

- First mail back census
- Summary tape files
The 1980 Census

Pop. 226,545,805

PL 94-171

• Mandates provision of data at census block level; census block numbering becomes universal
1990 Census: a technological triumph

Pop. 249,632,692

- Computerized mapping system (TIGER)
- TIGER became the basis for GIS
- Data available on CD-ROM ("democratized" data)
The 2000 Census

• Pop. 281,421,906

• Addition of the multiple race option

• Major, paid advertising campaign instituted
2010 Census

Pop. 308,745,538

The challenge going forward.....
Bibliography


• Blake, Kellee. “First in the Path of the Firemen: The Fate of the 1890 Population Census,” Prologue (National Archives) Spring 1996, Vol. 28, No. 1

Bibliography, cont.


THE END!
Session Evaluation

http://tinyurl.com/nclagrs25

Please fill out our survey and let us know what you think!
Upcoming Accidental Librarian Webinars

- May 14: “Legal Research...Without the Law Library”
  (Jennifer Behrens)
- June 12: Census and AFF (Katharin Peter)
- Coming soon: Congressional research basics, another patent session!

- Brought to you by the North Carolina Library Association’s Government Resources Section. Join us! http://www.nclaonline.org/government-resources