

Higher education

There is a considerable body of information available for colleges and universities in machine readable form. Data on plant and equipment (51-16, 51-20), enrollment (51-10, 51-11, 51-15), residence and migration of students (51-12), earned degrees (51-13), faculty (51-14, 51-34), and financial statistics (51-24), are available. The survey of scientific and technical personnel (41-B-49) made by the Bureau of the Census is pertinent here. All these bodies of information are important to research projects on the role and development of higher education in the Nation.

5. HEALTH

In view of the development of both private and public health plans, economic research on health has become very important. The Public Health Service has since 1959 provided a series of continuing surveys and a number of special purpose supplements, all aimed at establishing basic and comprehensive data for research in the health field.

Health interview survey

This survey (68-1) together with the personal health expenditure survey (68-9) should be made freely available to research workers with proper measures developed to safeguard the confidentiality of the original records.

6. CONSUMER BEHAVIOR

The field of consumer behavior has been intensively studied by economists for several decades. Consumer expenditure studies, analyses of purchasing intentions, and the financial characteristics of households are all important.

Consumer expenditure

The Bureau of Labor Statistics survey of urban consumers (44-B-6) and the Department of Agriculture survey of rural consumers (40-C-2) constitute the most recent basic data in this area. The committee has already indicated that these sets of data should be available for research purposes.

Purchasing intentions

The quarterly survey of the intentions of households collected by the Census Bureau (41-A-18) constitutes a body of information which is very useful in the study of consumer behavior.

Financial characteristics of households

The 1963 survey of financial characteristics (55-1) was made by the Bureau of the Census for the Federal Reserve Board. These data are valuable for research not only on consumer behavior, but also on the role of the household sector as a source of financing in the economy.

7. AGRICULTURE

Agricultural economic research has for many decades been a major concern of many colleges and universities in the United States. It is difficult at this juncture to specify just what categories of data would be of particular interest to the various research groups in these institutions. Nevertheless it is apparent that questions of land use, conservation, productivity, farm management, and many other topics are very important.

The inventory of machine-readable data in the Department of Agriculture covers six areas: (1) Forest Service, (2) Commodity Exchange Authority, (3) Statistical Reporting Service, (4) Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, (5) Agricultural Marketing Service, and (6) Economic Research Service. There are, of course, several classes of users for this information. On the one hand, there are research groups interested in the economic conditions in agriculture within specific regions of the country, and for these groups highly detailed information of a sample nature is often very useful. Other groups are more interested in the total national picture, and the functioning of agriculture as a sector in the economy. These groups want comprehensive tabulations, some of which are supplied by the Bureau of the Census.

Forest Service

The Forest Surveys are often based on a two-stage sampling scheme using aerial photographs. They are of interest primarily to those analyzing regional