

Basic Library Web Tools: Compendia of Foreign Statistics

By: Andrea Singer

The U.S. was not alone in providing compendia of statistical print sources on an annual basis. The print *Statistical Abstract of the United States*, published since 1878, used to be the first place to check for official U.S. statistical tables on social and economic topics as well as a host of other subjects. It was a primary print reference source held in most Indiana libraries. Now published online by the U.S. Census Bureau, the public can access the current edition, www.census.gov/compendia/statab/, as a searchable database and PDF version, or access earlier editions in various formats (U.S. Census Bureau, 2010).

For countries other than the United States, Indiana University librarian Gloria Westfall described known statistical abstracts and yearbooks in a groundbreaking bibliography in the last quarter of the twentieth century (Westfall, 1986). In the late twentieth century and the beginning of the twenty-first, many government publishers increasingly provided online access to their statistical publications, including some yearbooks (Anzinger, 2002). This brief article will focus on two contemporary tools developed by staff at the Indiana University Libraries Bloomington for keeping track of both the print yearbooks, which are still being published in many cases, and a selection of foreign statistical websites, which are being systematically archived. A selection of authoritative national government statistical online resources and IU Libraries online tools, available at no fee, may be used by librarians and libraries for a variety of purposes, such as public access, reference, teaching, research, and library website and course guide improvements.

Statistical Yearbooks at IUB Wells Library

A perennial problem for users of print yearbooks and for library reference staff has been finding

particular yearbooks for any time period. A single title may have been published by several issuing bodies or different sovereign nations over time, and catalog records often present only a portion of a serial's 'genealogy.' To speed the search process, librarian Kate Schroeder, then an intern in the IU Libraries Government Information Department, designed a website for locating statistical yearbooks of sub-Saharan African countries in the Indiana University Bloomington collections (Indiana University Bloomington, 2009b). The information for each country included the name of the national body responsible for the publication, the issuing agency, title, publisher, years covered, holdings, format, location, and call number. See **Sample Country Page for the Statistical Yearbooks Website** (page 55) for a current (revised) example for Angola.

In 2009, Linda Kelsey of the Government Information, Microforms, and Kent Cooper Services Department (aided by her assistant, IU SLIS student Brian Heaton) expanded the country listing to include IU holdings for all regions of the world, and revised the previous effort. Since the scope of IU area collections is immense, and the range of years covered is impressive, onsite users, library staff, and interlibrary loan patrons from Indiana and beyond are all benefiting.

Foreign Statistical Websites through Archive-It

A second project to provide online access and indexing for statistical websites began in 2006 (Indiana University-Bloomington, 2009a). The opportunity to select particular websites for permanent archiving using the Internet Archive's Archive-It software was developed as a digital preservation project by archivists for the Indiana University Archives, and the IU librarians for State and Local Information (Lou Malcomb) and Foreign Government Information

(Andrea Singer). (A standard subscription to Archive-It includes three collections, and Singer selects the websites to be archived for the foreign statistical collection.)

Currently, approximately 150- 200 selected "seed" sites are harvested by an Archive-It Web crawler once annually. Content from the national sites may include PDFs of entire documents such as statistical yearbooks, videos, press releases, and other data and text. To focus resources Singer did not select sites which were being archived through national Web archiving projects such as those for the United Kingdom, Japan, France, Australia and Scandinavia.

The content of the annual search is stored permanently by the Internet Archive, which is responsible for the Wayback Machine (Internet Archive, n.d.). Like the Wayback Machine, which permits searching by URLs for earlier archived versions of a website, IU's specialized statistical website preserves digital content. It also permits keyword searching and other advanced searches. Since search parameters may change with each upgrade, detailed information will not be provided in this article. Consult National government statistical websites: <http://www.libraries.iub.edu/index.php?pageId=4981> or the following report for additional information: *Archiving foreign government statistical web sites for all at Indiana University Libraries* (Singer, 2008).

References

Anzinger, G. (2003). *Governments on the WWW: Institutions in the area "statistics."* Retrieved from www.gksoft.com/govt/en/statistics.html

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Westfall, G. (1986). *Bibliography of official statistical yearbooks and bulletins*. Alexandria, VA: Chadwyck-Healey.

About the Author

Andrea Singer has been a librarian for government information at the Indiana University Libraries (Bloomington) since the mid-1970s. She is currently responsible for collection development and specialized reference for foreign government information as well as India and Tibetan Studies. For many years she has served as the liaison to TSO (The Stationery Office) for the International Documents Task Force of the Government Documents Round Table of the American Library Association (ALA). Her publications are primarily in the areas of foreign government information and India Studies bibliography.

Statistical Yearbooks: Angola

BOOKMARK

National body	Agency	Title	Publisher	Years covered/published	Holdings	Format	Location	Call #
Republic of Angola	Instituto Nacional de Estatística	Informação estatística	Luanda: Instituto Nacional de Estatística	?-1980's?	none			
Angola (Colony)	O Direcção dos Serviços de Estatística	Anuário estatístico	Luanda: O Direcção dos Serviços de Estatística	1966-?	1966-1972	print	LC stacks	HA4710.A1 A68
	Repartição de Estatística Geral	Anuário estatístico	Luanda: Repartição de Estatística Geral	1956-1965	1958, 1961-1962, 1965	print	LC stacks	HA4710.A1 A68
	Provincia de Angola. O Direcção dos Serviços de Economia e Estatística Geral	Anuário estatístico	Luanda: Imprensa Nacional	1940's-?	1944-1964	microfiche	LC microfiche collection	HA4710.A1 A68
	Repartição Técnica de Estatística Geral	Anuário estatístico	Luanda: Imprensa Nacional	1933-1939	1933-1939	microfiche	LC microfiche collection	HA4710.A1 A68
Portugal	Instituto Nacional de Estatística	Anuário estatístico, Vol. 2: Territórios ultramarinos	Lisbon: Instituto Nacional de Estatística	1973	1973	print	Research Collection stacks	HA1571 .A285
	Instituto Nacional de Estatística	Anuário estatístico, Vol. 2: Províncias ultramarinas	Lisbon: Instituto Nacional de Estatística	1966-1972	1966-1972	print	Research Collection stacks	HA1571 .A285
	Instituto Nacional de Estatística	Anuário estatístico, Vol. 2: Ultramar	Lisbon: Instituto Nacional de Estatística	1961-1965	1961-1965	print	Research Collection stacks	HA1571 .A285
	Instituto Nacional de Estatística	Anuário estatístico	Lisbon: Impr. Nacional	1938-1960	1957	print	Research Collection stacks	HA1571 .A285
	Instituto Nacional de Estatística	Anuário estatístico	Lisbon: Impr. Nacional	1938-1960	1938-1960	microfiche	LC microfiche collection	HA1571 .A285
	Repartição de Estatística	Anuário estatístico de Portugal	Lisbon: Impr. Nacional	1884-1937	1884-1886, 1892, 1900-1910, 1921-1929, 1933, 1937	microfiche	LC microfiche collection	HA1571 .A285
	Repartição de Estatística	Anuário estatístico do Reino de Portugal	Lisbon: Impr. Nacional	1875	1875	microfiche	LC microfiche collection	HA1571 .A285

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