

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CD-ROM DATABASES

by Stephen K. Fisher
Indiana State Data Center Librarian
Indianapolis, IN

The federal government has taken advantage of the tremendous storage and retrieval capabilities inherent in compact disk (read only memory) technology by issuing most statistical databases in this format.

This article will list some of the currently¹ available compact disk databases and the software needed to access them. In some cases, commercially-produced software must be purchased in order to work with the data on disk. In other cases, software is resident on the CD-ROM disk itself. Some databases use public-domain software in addition to the program on the disk.

CENSUS BUREAU

<u>Database</u>	<u>Geographic Coverage</u>	<u>Retrieval Software</u>
<u>1987 Economic Census 1B</u> (primarily retail, wholesale, service industries)	U.S., States, Counties, Cities	Extract (public domain) Dbase III+
<u>1987 Economic Census 1C</u>	U.S., States, Counties, Cities	Extract Dbase III+
<u>1987 Economic Census 1D</u> Includes Manufactures	U.S., States, Counties, Cities	Extract Dbase III+

<u>1987 Economic Census 2A</u>	U.S. by Zip Code	Extract Dbase III+
<u>1987 Economic Census 2B</u>	U.S. by Zip Code	Extract Dbase III+
Includes Manufactures & Agriculture		

1990 CENSUS OF POPULATION AND HOUSING

<u>Public Law 94-171</u> (redistricting information - population by race and hispanic origin plus breakdowns of persons 18 and over by race and hispanic origin. Also total number of housing units)	U.S., States, Counties, Cities, Townships, Voting Districts, Tracts/ BNA, Block Groups, Blocks	CD-ROM resident Dbase III+ Extract, with auxiliary files
---	---	---

<u>Summary Tape File 1A</u> (population breakdowns by race, age, sex, and hispanic origin. Also, total households by type, group quarters, housing units by status, value of owner- occupied housing, rental cost of renter- occupied housing, race of the householder. Plus area of land and water)	States, Counties, Cities, Townships, Tracts/BNA, Block Groups	CD-ROM resident Dbase III+ Extract, with auxiliary files
--	--	---

<u>Summary Tape File 1B</u> (Also based on the 100% or short-form data-see 1A, but contains extracts only.)	Blocks	CD-ROM resident Dbase III+ Extract, with auxiliary files
<u>Summary Tape File 1C</u> (Also based on the 100% or short-form data-same data as 1A.)	U.S., States Counties, MSA's Cities of 10,000+, Indian Reservations Townships of 10,000+	CD-ROM resident Dbase III+ Extract, with auxiliary files
<u>Summary Tape File 3A</u> (Based on sample or long-form data.)	States, County, City, Township, Tract/BNA, Block Group	CD-ROM resident Dbase III+ Extract, with auxiliary files
<u>County Business Patterns</u> 1986-87, 1987-88 1988-89 Establishments, employees, establishments by employee size class. By county and SIC (Standard Industrial Classification)	U.S., States, Counties	CD-ROM resident Extract, with auxiliary files Dbase III+
<u>American Housing Survey</u> (A potpourri of housing information)	U.S., MSA	CD-ROM resident Dbase III+
<u>U.S. Imports of Merchandise</u> (By specific product type)	All Countries	CD-ROM resident Extract, with auxiliary files Dbase III+
<u>U.S. Exports of Merchandise</u> (By specific product type)	All Countries	CD-ROM resident Extract, with auxiliary files Dbase III+

<u>Tiger/Line Files</u> (Mapping coordinates)	All States	Various commercial software packages. List available at State Data Center
<u>County & City Data Book</u>	United States, etc.	Extract, with auxiliary files "Go" program (not CD- ROM resident) Dbase III+
<u>USA Counties</u> (a <u>Statistical</u> <u>Abstract Supplement</u>)	U.S., States, Counties	CD-ROM resident Dbase III+
<u>1987 Census of Agriculture</u>	U.S., States, Counties	CD-ROM resident Dbase III+
<u>Current Population Survey</u>	United States, etc.	SASS (mainframe or PC version)
<u>U.S. Exports Commodity Classification</u> (International Harmonized System, Schedule B)		CD-ROM

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

<u>Toxic Release Inventory</u> (two basic types of files: information about toxic chemicals themselves and information about companies which release them)	United States	CD-ROM resident
--	---------------	-----------------

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

<u>National Trade Data Bank</u> (a veritable buffet of trade information)	All Countries	CD-ROM resident
---	---------------	-----------------

National Economic, Social
and Environmental Data Bank
(a smorgasbord of
domestic information)

CD-ROM resident

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

DoD Hazardous Materials
Information System
(A companion to Toxic
Release Inventory)

United States

CD-ROM resident

NATIONAL CENTER FOR HEALTH STATISTICS

1987 National Health
Interview Surve
(5 core files:
Household, Person,
Condition, Doctor
Visit, Hospital)

United States

CD-ROM resident
(requires 5 Mb of
hard disk space to
load search software)

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL

CDP File
(Health Promotion &
Education, AIDS
School Health Education,
Cancer Prevention and
Control, Chronic Disease
Prevention Directory)

United States

CD-ROM resident
(requires 1.2 Mb of
hard disk space to
load search software)

GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

Congressional Record, 1985
(index and full- text
source)

United States

CD-ROM resident

GOVERNMENT SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

GSA Regulations and
Publications

CD-ROM resident

CONCLUSION

CD-ROM technology will play a major role in the federal government's publishing efforts for the foreseeable future. Does this represent the most efficient storage and retrieval tool available? Are government documents made more or less accessible to the general public because they are presented in compact disk format? Should compact disk be the only form for documents, or should most continue to be issued in paper or micro format as well?

Documents librarians, librarians who use documents, and the general public must let the federal government know if its publishing efforts are on track. Certainly, the CD-ROM format presents new opportunities. We also must be aware of its shortcomings.

This is not an exhaustive list, by any means. More and more documents are being placed on compact disks. In some cases, resident software has been developed; in others, commercial software must be utilized. This creates a tremendous strain on depositories and libraries. In many cases, this renders government data inaccessible to the public.

This is a time of tight budgets. That is true for everyone, whether it is the federal government, the depository libraries, or businesses. Nevertheless, the goal of making federal government documents truly accessible to the public should be strongly upheld by us all.

REFERENCES

1. Information is current as of October 1991.

#