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**A STATISTICAL METADATA REPOSITORY
AT THE U.S. BUREAU OF THE CENSUS**

Submitted by the Bureau of the Census, United States of America¹

SUMMARY

1. The paper describes the statistical metadata repository (MDR) that is being developed and implemented at the U.S. Bureau of the Census (BOC). The BOC's vision for metadata management is to build and maintain a logically central corporate metadata repository (MDR). The MDR will be used as a library of information about surveys, products, datasets, and variables. It will contain pointers to survey data and the documents that describe survey designs, processing, analysis, and data sets. Tools for updating, querying, managing, and registering metadata in the MDR will be available. The MDR will function as the library of information for electronic data dissemination and automated survey processing/design systems. Access to the MDR will be through the Internet/Intranet.

2. To bring this vision into reality, a multidimensional research effort was launched. The major parts of this effort include the development of detailed models for describing the content and organization of the MDR; defining an agency standard for statistical metadata content; development of tools for the collection, registration, and query of metadata; and the integration of the MDR into other statistical information systems.

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