



Enumeration Nation

How the Census Bureau Adopted Self-Enumeration in 1970

By Joseph Ballegeer

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Examines how cultural factors shape Census data by analyzing the 1970 shift to self-enumeration, highlighting the need for rigor in data collection to avoid flawed policy decisions.

Enumeration Nation confronts the importance of data provenance by investigating the Census Bureau's 1970 transition to self-enumeration. Joseph Ballegeer follows the participants in the census—Bureau statisticians, survey instrument, and the people being counted—to demonstrate how culture is part and parcel of data generation.

Readership

This book will find a professional audience of academic scholars, government statisticians, and private-sector data analysts. A popular audience will be interested in the historical narrative that explains where data became a pervasive resource in our society.

Key selling points

Appeals to historians, social scientists, and data analysts covering a broad interdisciplinary audience.

Illustrates to popular audiences that the data generation process should inform the recent adoption of AI technology.

Author's experience with generating and analyzing Census Bureau data substantiates arguments.

Explains America's cultural upheaval during the 1960s echoes into the present.

About the Author(s) / Editor(s)

Joseph Ballegeer is a survey statistician from Philadelphia, PA. He engages in research using empirical and historical methodologies.

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