Statistical Community of Practice and Engagement (SCOPE)

March 23, 2011

Fed CASIC

How Did SCOPE Come About?

- **Spring 2009, initial work emerged from OMB/FCSM subcommittee on Privacy**

  – Shared concerns over data access and data protection

- **Summer 2009, the ICSP developed a proposal for the Federal Statistical System 2.0**

  – Shared vision for improvement through increased collaboration

How Did SCOPE Come About?

- **Federal Statistical System 2.0**
    - Increase the capacity "to meet data needs more efficiently, completely, and seamlessly"
    - Reduce redundant investments for similar data collections, analysis capabilities, and data dissemination tools
    - Improve user access to data through increased sharing of statistical protocols and tools

What is SCOPE?

- **The SCOPE Vision Statement:**

  – *Provide a collaborative community for statistical agencies to produce relevant, accurate, timely, cost-effective data and insightful research disseminated through shared state-of-the-art best practices to support data-driven decisions throughout the Nation*

What is SCOPE?

SCOPE provides:

- A collaborative structure for agencies to develop and share best practices;

- Identify solutions across the life-cycle of the data, from collection through dissemination;

- Address the challenge of safeguarding confidentiality in the age of open government.

SCOPE: Overarching Themes

- **Concept of Operations supports improvements in:**

    - Data quality and interoperability of federal data collections

    - Data dissemination tools and user access

    - Information security

How Does SCOPE Work?

- **Voluntary Agency Participation**
  - ICSP is the Governing Committee
  - Membership Working Group makes recommendations for SCOPE priorities
  - Topical Working Groups
- **Project Management Office**
  - Supports and coordinates projects

Current SCOPE Projects

- **FEDSTATS, the current one-stop source of Federal statistical data, will be**
  - Relocated to a cloud environment,
  - Modernized,
  - Serve as a dissemination platform for SCOPE

Current SCOPE Projects

- **Visualization and Section 508 Compatibility**
  - Multiple agency support for a task order for a review of current practices and tools used to meet section 508 requirements
  - Evaluate additional need for tools
  - Develop tools/plug-ins that can be shared across agencies to make visualizations Section 508 compliant

Current SCOPE Projects

- **Joint response to Executive Order 13556 on Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI)**

  – NARA Executive Agent is tasked with responsibility to consolidate and standardize CUI terms across government

  – 16 statistical agencies and units are collaborating to develop draft recommendations for ICSP and NARA

Current SCOPE Projects

- **Firm Fixed Price Contracts Strategy**

  - The increased use of fixed price contracts presents opportunities and challenges

  - Share best practices and lessons learned in using firm fixed price contracts

  - Develop a repository of sample SOWs and model requirements documents for sharing among SCOPE member agencies

Emerging SCOPE Projects

- **SCOPE Concept of Operations includes**

  – Developing standardized models for metadata;

  – Harmonizing definitions, coding structures, business registers IDs, and target populations across data collections (also in Federal Statistics 2.0)

Emerging SCOPE Projects

- **Metadata: Interoperability and Common Usage Definitions**
  - Building on existing international and national efforts
    - Metadata are data that describe some other thing, including processes
    - Interoperability is achieved by compliance with common standards

Emerging SCOPE Projects: Metadata

- **Build a framework/model for comparability and interoperability for the US Federal statistical community using existing statistical metadata standards**

    - Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange (SDMX)

    - Data Documentation Initiative (DDI)

    - Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM)

Emerging SCOPE Projects: Metadata

- **How do we get there? First steps**:
  - Recruit agency representatives
  - Develop a common understanding of basic concepts (metadata, paradata, interoperability)
  - Identify components of metadata model and terminology
    - To support interoperability in statistical data production and dissemination

Emerging SCOPE Projects: Metadata

- **How do we get there? Next steps, Part 1:**
  - Inventory agency metadata
    - Capture terms and definitions
  - Populate the management system for the metadata model and related terminology
    - Incorporate linkages between metadata and terminology
  - Refine metadata model

Emerging SCOPE Projects: Metadata

- **How do we get there? Next steps, Part 2**
  - Harmonizing definitions and coding structures

  - Develop rules and procedures based on the terminology management system

  - Identify and prioritize specific subsets of definitions

  - Look to work of the Open Government Vocabularies Working Group for input

Emerging SCOPE Projects: Metadata

- **Tentative schedule**
  - **Year One:**
    - Build metadata and terminology models
    - Inventory existing agency metadata
    - Start work on metadata management system to support data integration
    - Start work of terminology management system to standardize definitions and concepts and enhance interoperability

Emerging SCOPE Projects: Metadata

- **Tentative schedule**
  - **Year Two:**
    - Finalize first version of metadata and terminology models
    - Identify early adopter surveys for the systems
    - Establish framework for scaling up the systems
    - Continue work on standardized data definitions and concepts

Emerging SCOPE Projects: Metadata

- **Tentative schedule**
  - **Year Three:**
    - Expand the scope to include more surveys
    - Test scalability assumptions
    - Continue work on standardized data definitions and concepts
    - Start development of data visualization and harmonization tools
    - Develop strategies for continuing systems into the future

Emerging SCOPE Projects: Metadata

- **Tentative schedule**
  - **Years Four and Beyond:**
    - Expand the system to a cross agency repository for statistical metadata
    - Add capabilities for supporting the statistical production function
      - Incorporate standard tools for editing, coding, and other production functions
    - Continuous improvement of all aspects

Summary

Inter-agency collaboration and cooperation will benefit the data user community through:

- Increased efficiency of statistical agency operations and use of resources
- Enhanced development and adoption of best practices
- Harmonization of definitions, metadata, dissemination, and data visualization mechanisms
- Continued protection of confidential data

SCOPE Projects

- **If you are interested in learning more about SCOPE projects, please contact:**

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SCOPE Priorities for Procurement

- Explore use of GSA contracts to:

  - coordinate procurement of unique data analysis software needs of Federal statistical agencies

  - decrease software procurement and management costs through aggregation of requirements analysis across agencies

SCOPE Priorities for Confidentiality

- Shared need to maintain control of confidential statistical data to ensure compliance with CIPSEA, other statutory requirements, by identifying impediments and potential solutions:

    - horizontal integration of IT resources across statistical agencies

    - develop data access control policies that offer required protections, and be more likely to outlast the next wave of consolidation