

"The Data Quality Act"

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Section 515 of the Treasury and General Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2001

Appropriations for Treasury Department,
U.S. Postal Service, the Executive Office
of the President

OMB Requires Federal Agencies to ...

Issue guidelines ensuring and maximizing the

- quality
- objectivity
- utility
- integrity

of information (statistical information) disseminated

OMB Requires Federal Agencies to...

- Establish administrative mechanisms allowing affected persons to seek and obtain correction of information maintained and disseminated by the agency that does not comply with the guidelines
- Report periodically to the OMB Director on complaints regarding accuracy of information disseminated

Timeline for Implementation

2000 ➤ Appropriation Act

2001 ➤ OMB issue guidance to agencies

2002 ➤ Agency issue guidelines

2004 ➤ Agency 1st report on complaints

Washington Post



Other focuses on data quality

- Safe Drinking Water Act
- Paperwork Reduction Act
- OMB Circular A-130
- OMB-OIRA to President's Mmgt Council

Definition of Terms

Issue guidelines ensuring and maximizing the

- quality
- objectivity
- utility
- integrity

of information (statistical information) disseminated

Definitions

Information – any communication or representation of knowledge such as facts or data, in any medium or form, including textual, numerical, graphic, cartographic, narrative, or audiovisual form

Dissemination – agency initiated or sponsored distribution of information to the public

Definitions

Quality – an encompassing term comprising utility, objectivity, and integrity

Definitions

Utility - usefulness of the information to its intended users, including the public

Definitions

Objectivity

- accurate, clear, reliable, complete, and unbiased
- data and analysis using sound statistical and research methods
- “influential, scientific, financial, or statistical information”
- if subject to formal, independent external peer review, presumed meets objectivity standard
- presentation in the proper context

Definitions

Integrity

- refers to the security of information
- protection of the information from unauthorized access to ensure that it is not compromised through corruption or falsification

Implications of “The Data Quality Act”

- Agencies adopt basic standards of quality
 - take a closer look at information quality
 - includes data received from outside parties
- Mechanism for affected persons to seek correction
- Annual report to OMB Director

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