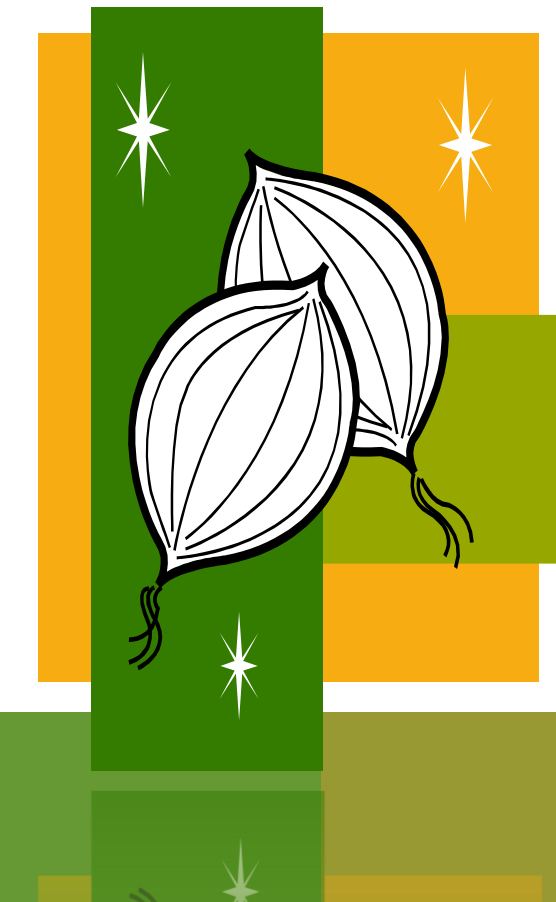


Like Peeling an Onion: Adding Small Data Sets to Library Collections



What Are Small Data?

Small datasets are relatively inexpensive, reside in small files, and are available from commercial vendors.

Why Buy Small Data?

Meet faculty and student needs for data



Promote library as a place to get help with data



Build relationships with researchers



Explore new roles for library subject specialists



Establish best practices for acquiring and providing access to commercial datasets

How Do We Buy Small Data?

- ❖ Researchers apply to library for needed data
- ❖ Data Services Committee evaluates applications, with input from subject specialists
- ❖ Librarians talk to vendors about cost, campus access, and license terms
- ❖ Researchers notified if vendor conversations are successful
- ❖ Data sets purchased with collections money
- ❖ Acquisitions Department tracks data purchases separately from regular process
- ❖ Data hosted behind firewall for campus access
- ❖ Readme files written by Data Services Committee and posted with data
- ❖ Researchers speak at brownbag about data use

What Small Data Did We Buy?

Partial List:

- ❖ Coordinates of villages in Himachal Pradesh, India
- ❖ High-resolution satellite imagery of Bermejo River, Argentina
- ❖ National Establishment Time Series (partial)
- ❖ Parcel-level property sale and tax assessment data for Chicago metropolitan area
- ❖ Individual income tax data by zip code
- ❖ PALSAR satellite imagery of Wisconsin
- ❖ Gene sequencing data for rats on high fat diets
- ❖ Detailed body measurements for women
- ❖ Bankruptcy, mortgage and divorce data for Chicago metro area
- ❖ Home Mortgage Disclosure Act data (5 years of data)

What Did We Learn?

Treat requests as reference questions



Build relationships with subject librarians



Marketing matters



Consult vendors before agreeing to support purchase



Explore use restrictions as part of vendor negotiations, not in application



Understand implications of procurement process/rules



Start small to understand unintended consequences: impact on storage, cataloging, subject librarians....



Small money has a big impact

