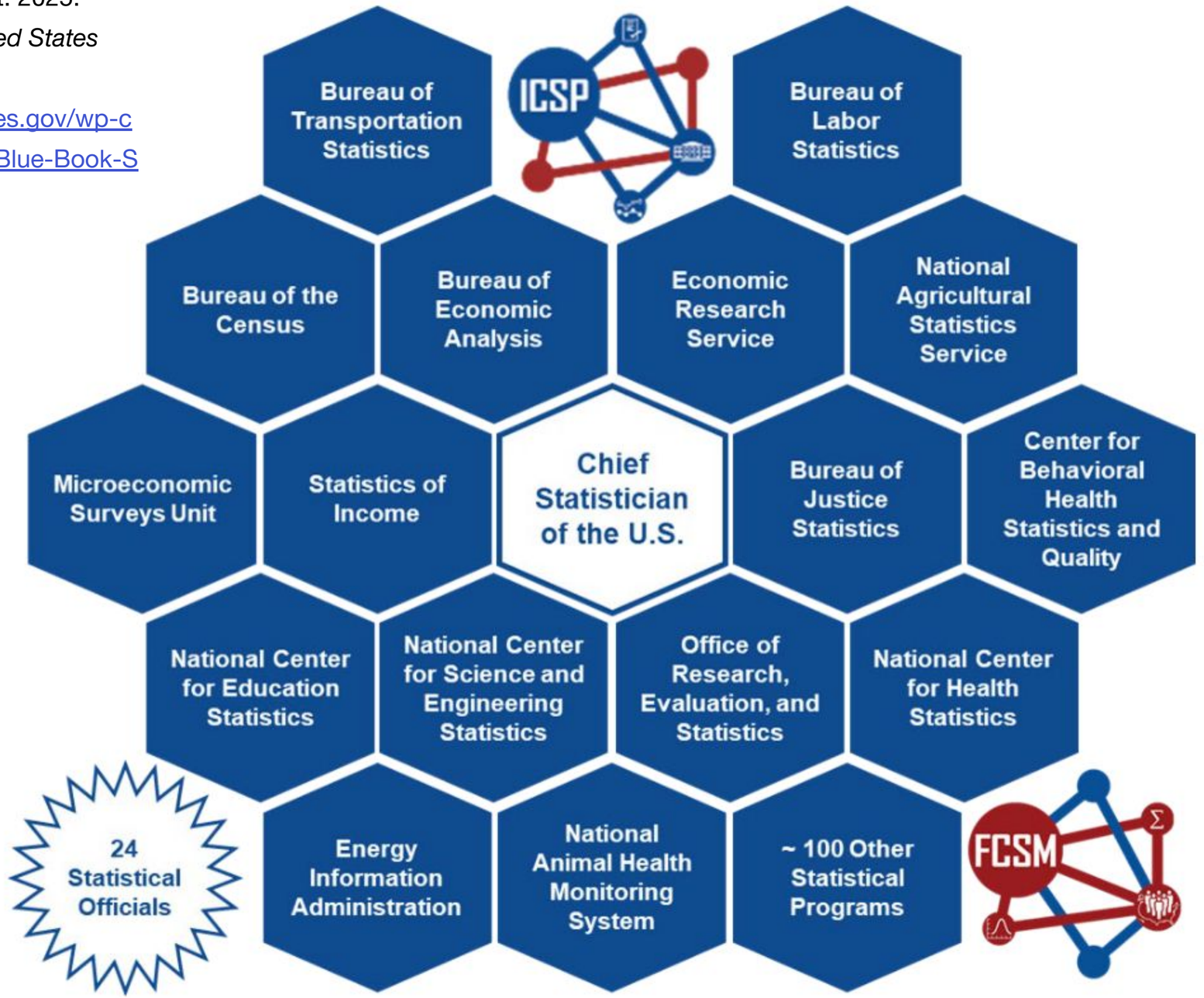
Data Rescue Project

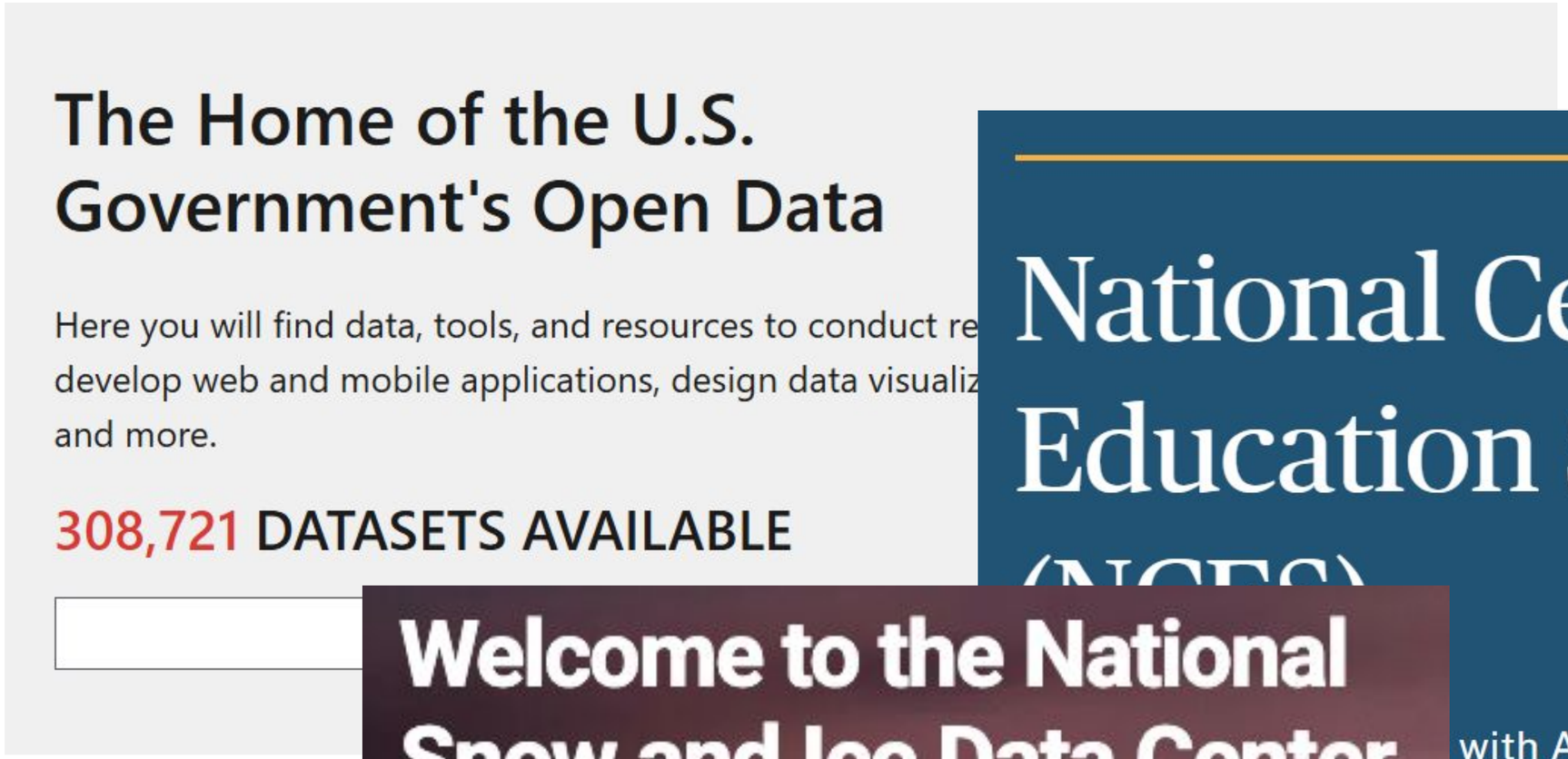
Presented by Lynda Kellam
on behalf of the DRP

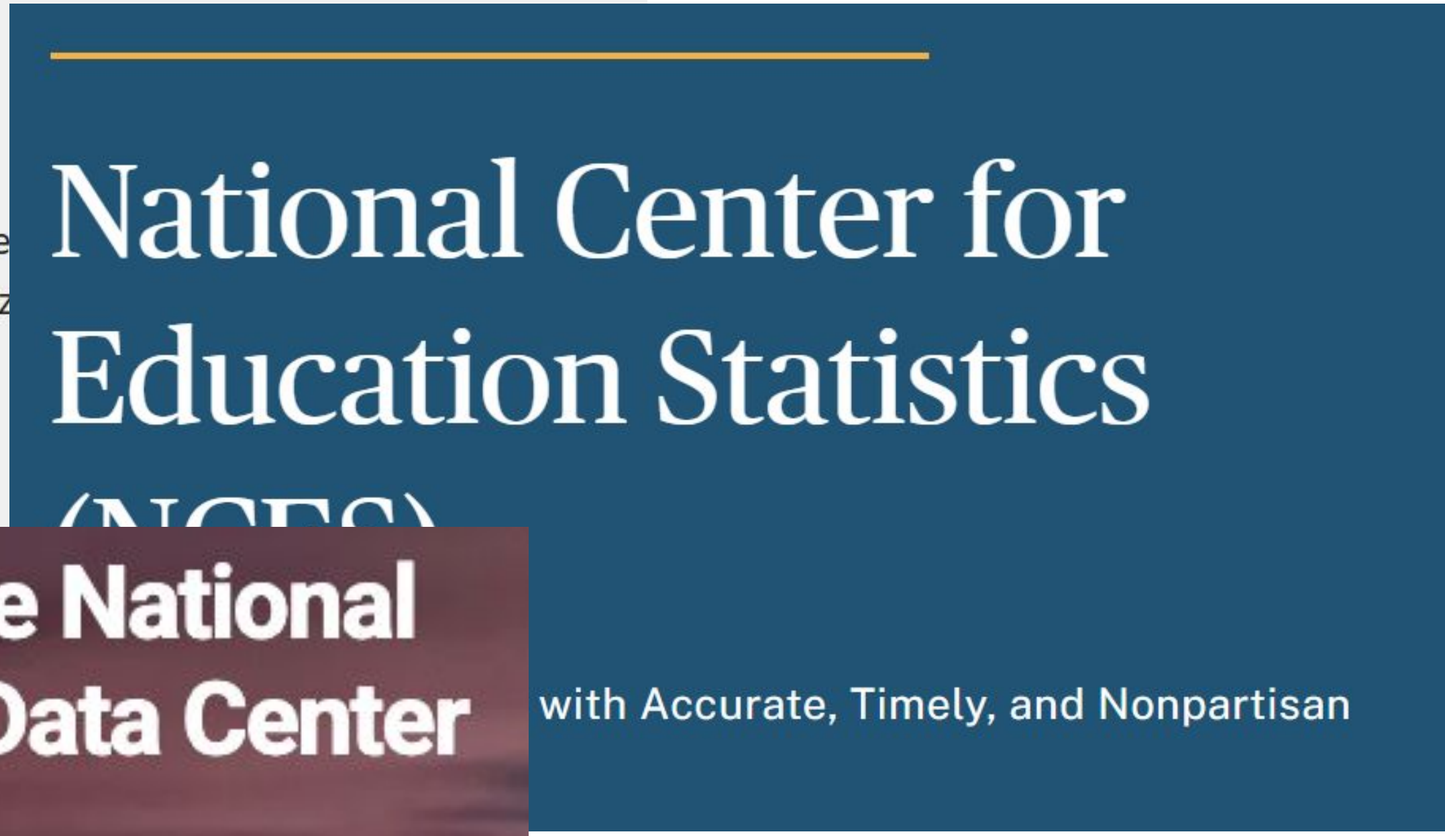
www.datarescueproject.org/ bsky.app/profile/datarescueproject.org

Office of Management and Budget. 2025. *Statistical Programs of the United States Government FY 2023*. https://bidenwhitehouse.archives.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/FY23-Blue-Book-Statistical-Programs.pdf.



What are public federal data resources?





Data R
Project

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The data produced by this system are “widely trusted, widely used, and often the most authoritative source of information available on a variety of topics.”

Congressional Research Service. 2024. The Federal Statistical System: An Overview. Legislation. Congressional Research Service Reports. https://www.congress.gov/crs-product/R48161.

What's happening?

US gov't data resources and websites are being

- removed
- altered
- made inaccessible or endangered

Affected datasets			
Dataset	**Description**	**Organization**	**Notes**
Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System	widely used national health survey	Centers for Disease Control	[7]
Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System	high school student social determinants of health	CDC	[7][29]
CDC AtlasPlus	HIV, viral hepatitis, STI, and TB, social determinants of health	CDC	[7]
PEPFAR Dashboard	PEPFAR programs	Department of State, Global AIDS Coordinator	[7]
Demographic and Health Surveys	population, health, HIV, and nutrition data from many countries	USAID, ICF International	[7]
foreignassistance.gov	foreign aid data by country, budget, expenditure, program	Department of State, Agency for International Development	[7]
Household Pulse Survey	long COVID	CDC	[14]
Social Vulnerability Index	Relative deprivation	CDC	[29][17]
Environmental Justice Index	Identifies areas "most at risk for the health impacts of environmental burden."[30]	CDC	[17][30]
Employment Situation	Unemployment in the United States	Bureau of Labor Statistics	[12]
Federal criminal charge records	January 6 United States Capitol attack	United States Department of Justice	[18]

2025 United States government online resource removals - Wikipedia

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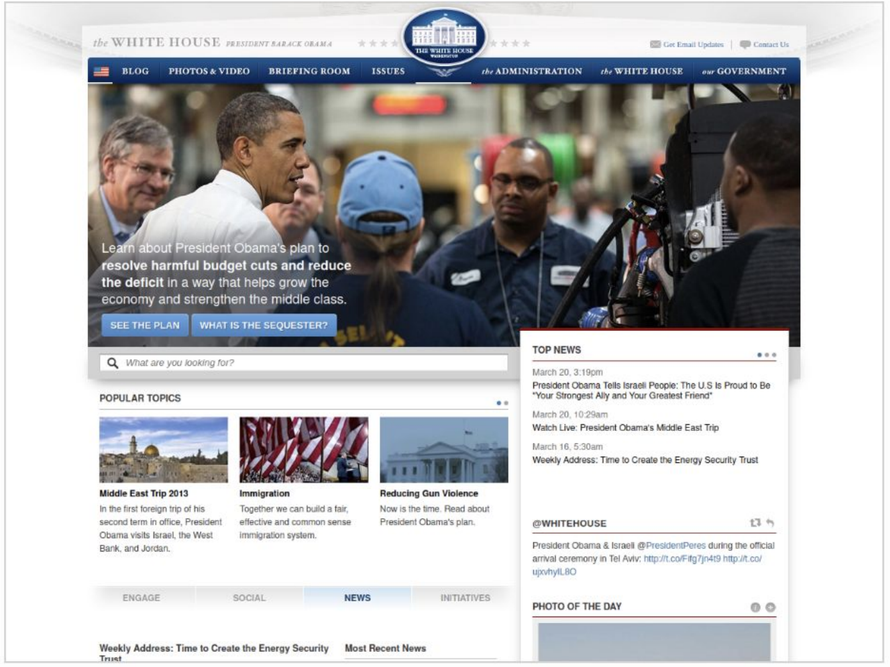
End of Term Web Archive https://eotarchive.org

Purpose

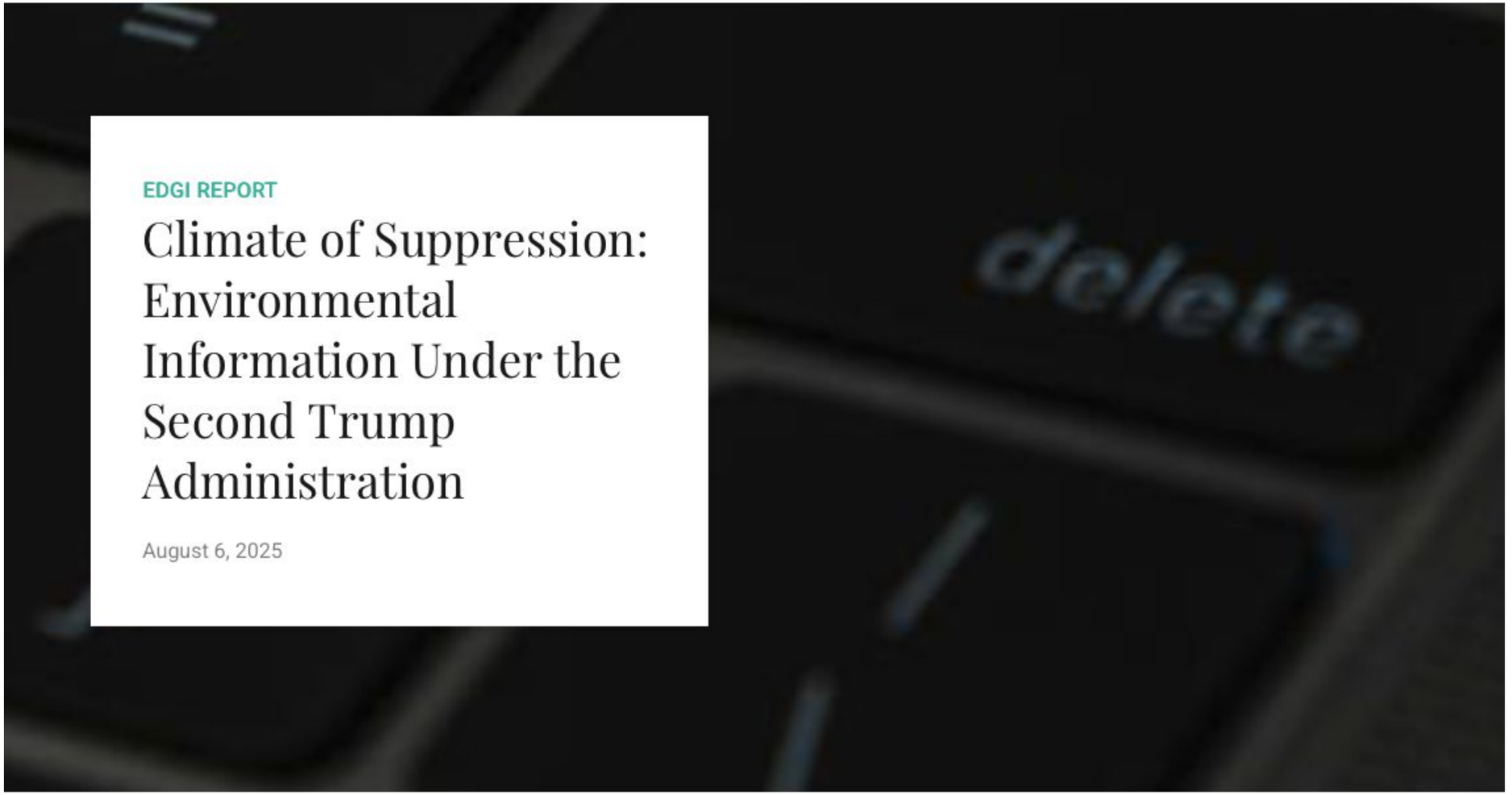
The End of Term Web Archive captures and saves U.S. Government websites at the end of presidential administrations. The EOT has thus far preserved websites from administration changes in 2008, 2012, 2016, 2020, and 2024. We have closed the EOT seed nomination form for the 2024 harvest.

We are now accepting human-nominated URLs for the **U.S. Government Web & Data Archive 2025**.



Environmental Data & Governance Initiative

https://envirodatagov.org



International Association for Social Science Information Service & Technology

RDAP ASSOCIATION

DATA CURATION NETWORK

Our mission

The Data Rescue Project serves as a lifeboat for at-risk US Governmental Datasets. Our dedicated steering committee and community of volunteers work towards the **continued and robust accessibility** of these at-risk datasets.

Data Rescue Project

International Association for Social Science Information Service & Technology

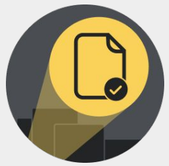
RDAP ASSOCIATION

DATA CURATION NETWORK

Data Rescue Project

- Coordinate
- Communicate
- Conserve
- Curate

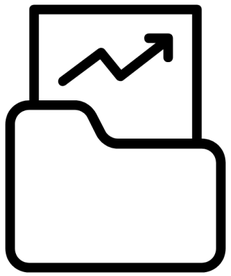
PRESERVATION OF ELECTRONIC GOVERNMENT INFORMATION



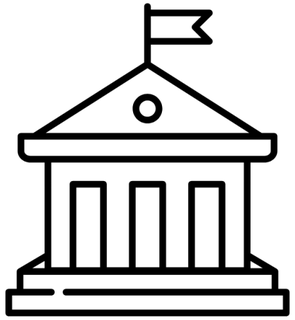
EDGI Environmental Data & Governance Initiative

SAVING UKRAINIAN CULTURAL HERITAGE ONLINE

The DRP at a Glance

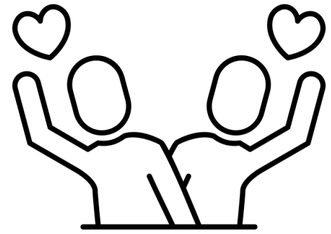


1000+ rescued datasets



80+ at-risk gov’t offices covered

Hundreds of Terabytes of mirrored data



500+ volunteers

Data Rescue Project

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Data Rescue Project Website

Current Efforts

There are many individuals, organizations, and community-based efforts to capture and preserve data in early 2025. Below are the efforts we are aware of and their collecting scopes. This list was developed from the original Data Rescue Google Doc. If you would like to add your efforts, feel free to email us at datarescueproject@protonmail.com. If you want to send us a secure, encrypted email, you can sign up for a free account at protonmail.com or use our public PGP key: https://keys.openpgp.org/search?q=datarescueproject%40protonmail.com.

Larger and Established Data and Website Efforts
Data Rescue Events
Ad Hoc Rescue Efforts and Data Archiving Activists

Larger and Established Data and Website Efforts

- End of Term Archive
  - The main coordinated effort to save U.S. Government websites at the end of presidential administrations.
  - Datasets have been more of a challenge, especially data embedded in databases.
- Environmental Data & Governance Initiative (EDGI)
  - EDGI is a research collaborative and network of diverse professionals promoting evidence-based policy-making and public interest science that advances the

Resources

There are many individuals, organizations, and community-based resources that document and assist with rescuing efforts. Below is the list of tools, data sources, library guides, and articles we are aware of and their associated scopes. This list was developed from the original Data Rescue Google Doc. Please email suggestions to datarescueproject@protonmail.com. If you want to send us a secure, encrypted email, you can sign up for a free account at protonmail.com or use our public PGP key: https://keys.openpgp.org/search?q=datarescueproject%40protonmail.com.

Checklists for Data Rescue
Tools for Data Rescue
Existing Alternative Data Sources
- Economic Indicators
- Public Health
Library Guides to Data Rescue

Further Reading
- Articles About Current Efforts
- Contextual Articles

Data Rescue Project

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Data Inventory Spreadsheet and Workflow

A	B	C
Process for data rescue		
	1a. Check the data rescue tracker to see if the data have already been rescued.	
	1b. Decide which agency you are most interested in collecting data for. There are different tabs at the bottom of the document. If you would like to rescue data and do not see a tab for the agency or office, feel free to add a new tab.	
	2. Review the MIT Checklist for data rescue in the US	
	3. Add your information to the relevant row in the Agencies tab (for example: IMLS or MBDA). Many of the tabs already have datasets listed so you may be able to skip this step	
	4. Capture ALL necessary information and documentation in addition to data files, if they are data related (e.g., codebooks, data dictionaries, metadata, data stories). If the site does not contain data, make a note of it (these pages can still be nominated to EOT, but documents not relevant to data should not be loaded into Data Lumos)	
	5. Organize the documents and data in a logical fashion (i.e., by year)	
	6. Flag any datasets that are behind explorer tools or otherwise difficult to download. These can be indicated in the Data Downloadable column.	
	7. Nominate the links of dataset to the U.S. Government Web & Data Archive 2025 (this replaces the EOT web archive as of 2025-04-01)	
	8. Zip the files.	
	9. Submit the data files to Data Lumos.	
Fields in each tab of the sheet (dividid by agency)		
	Admin Notes	perceived threat or known issues
	Data Added (Y/N/IP)	Has a link to the data been added to the spreadsheet
	Title of Site	The human-readable name of the website

Data Rescue Project

www.datarescueproject.org/

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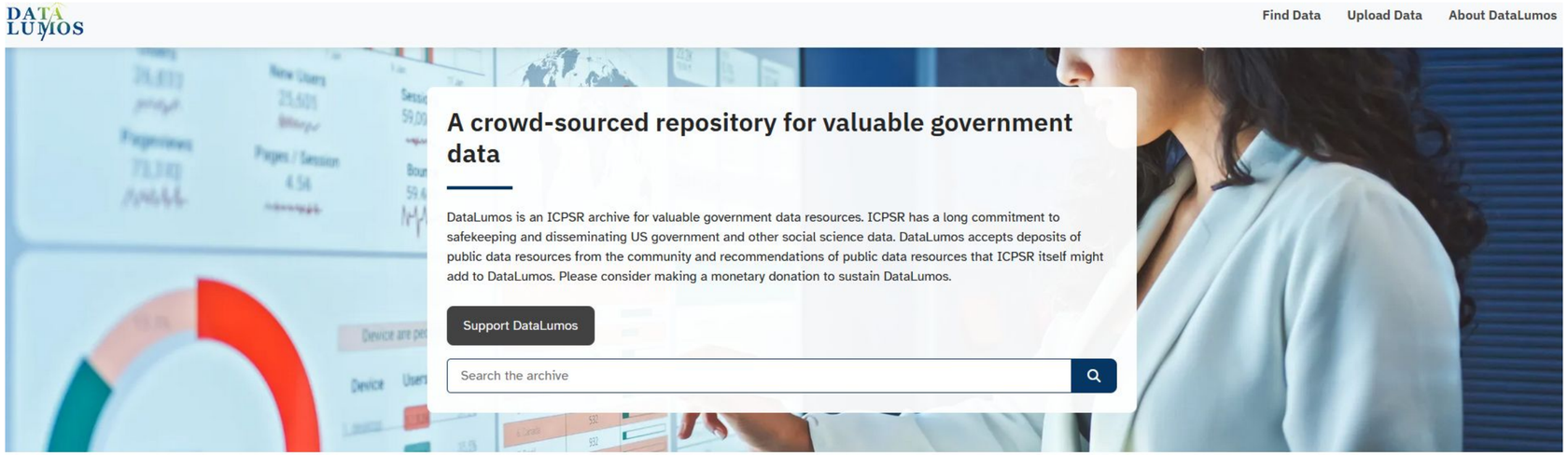
From Friday, February 7 - today

826 datasets uploaded to ICPSR's DataLumos with metadata

Through July 28, 8,000+ downloads from Data Lumos



Be the First – *Verify that the data have not already been preserved to ICPSR*

Describe Data – *Learn how to make the data more findable and useful*

Add Data Now – *Start uploading to DataLumos*

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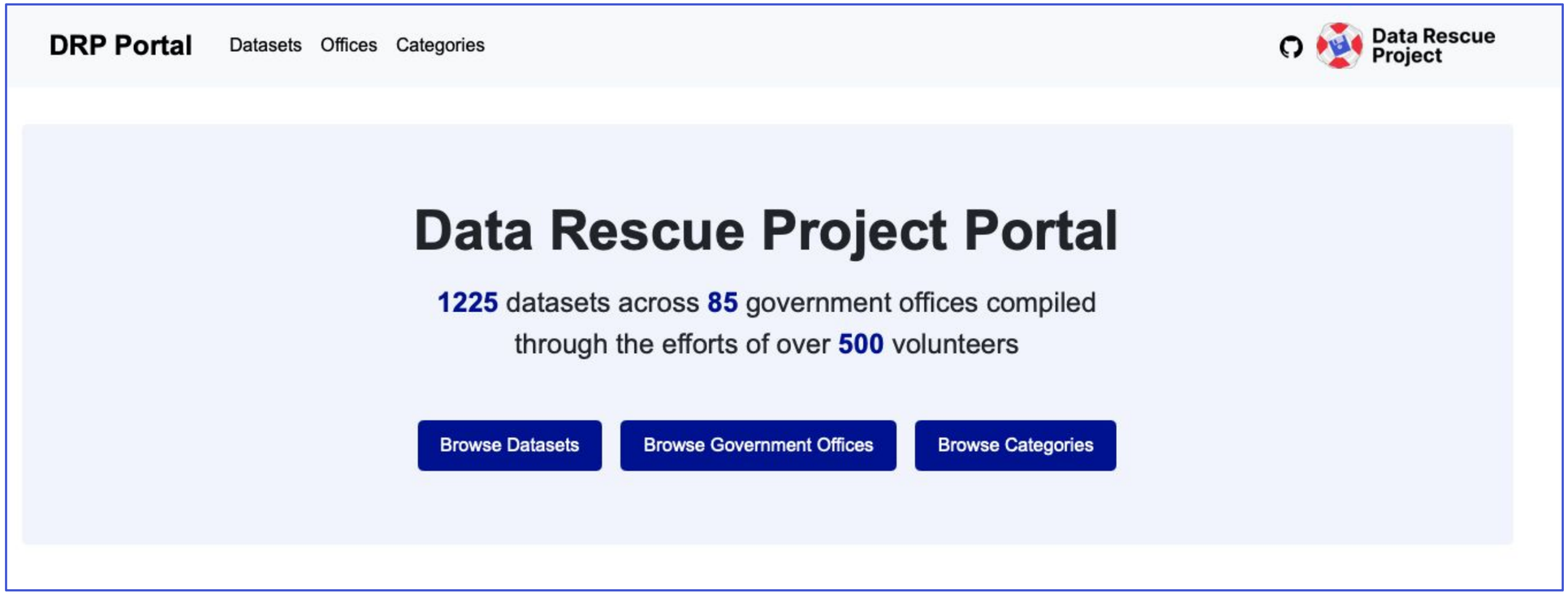
Data Rescue Project Portal

portal.datarescueproject.org



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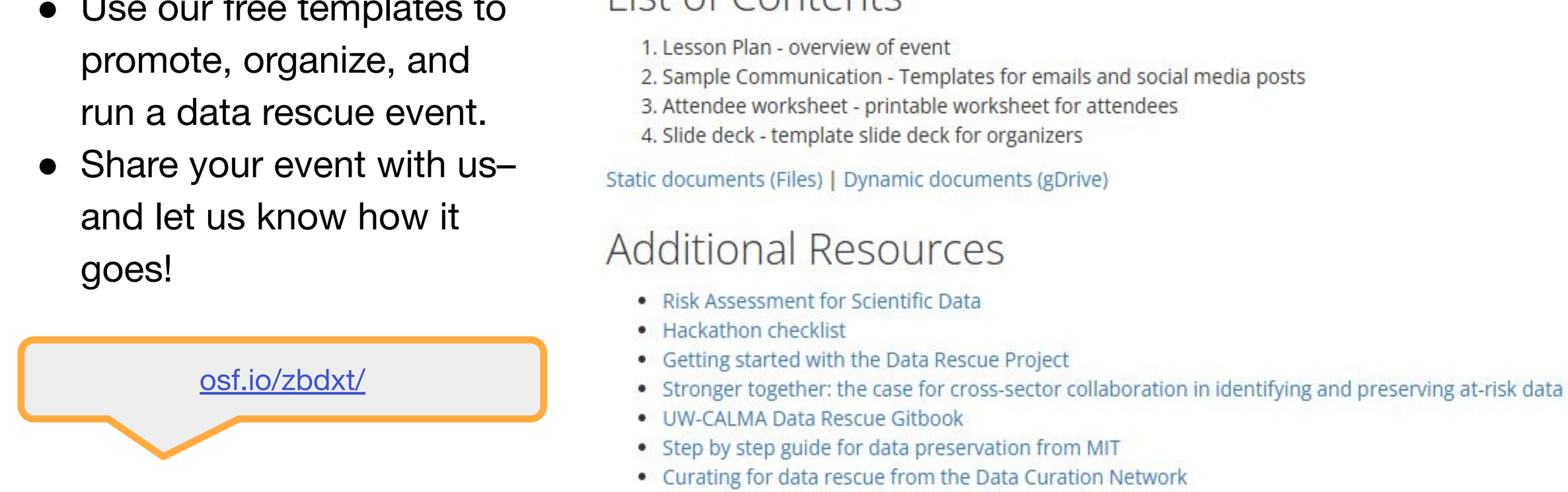
Data Rescue Event Toolkit

- Use our free templates to promote, organize, and run a data rescue event.
- Share your event with us– and let us know how it goes!

osf.io/zbdxt/



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Share your data user story! 📢

Education Data: A Data User Story

Photo by Tim Mossholder / Unsplash

We received a timely data user story focused on the Department of Education's data, especially the **Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS)**. The data user wrote,

Submit your story today!

Data Rescue Project

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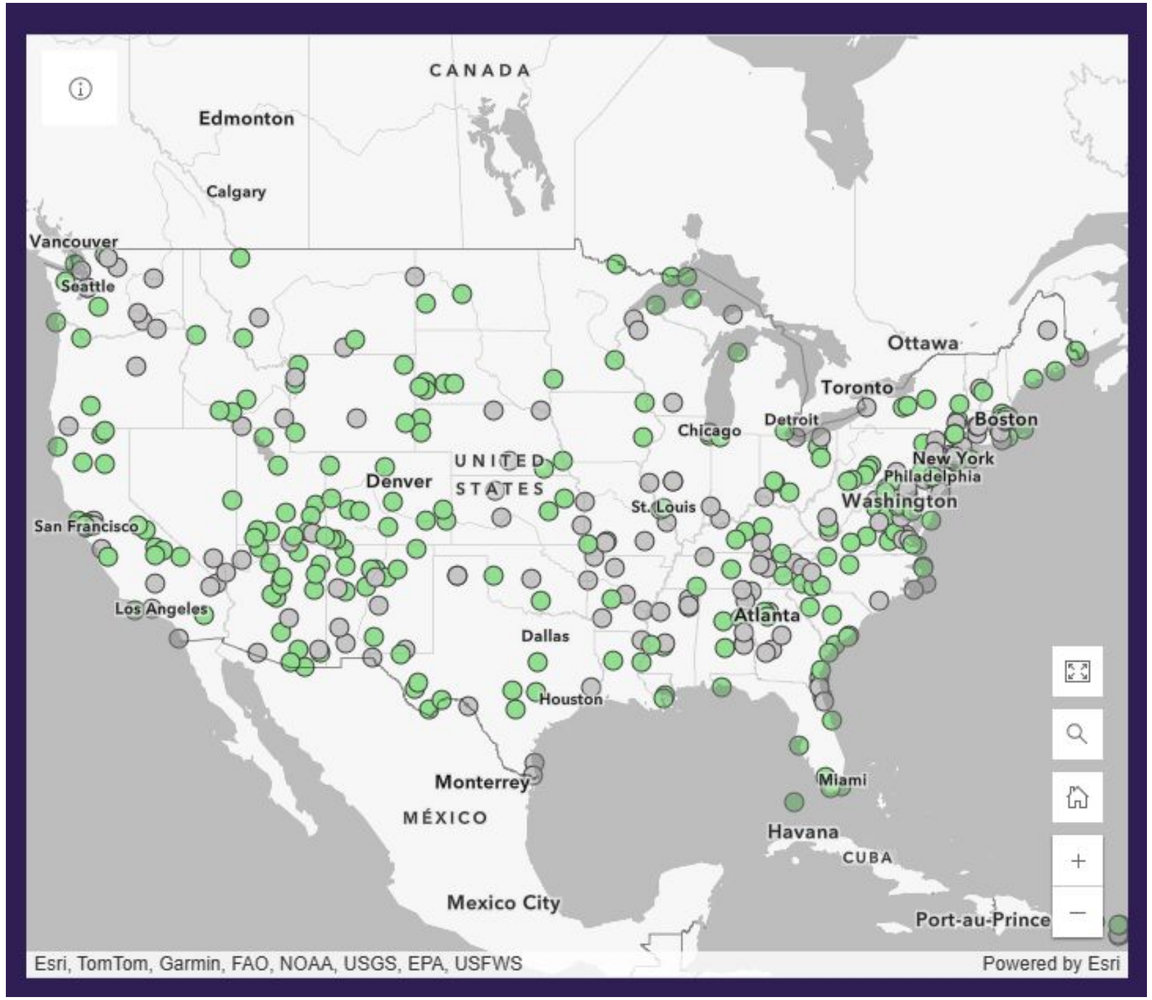
Save Our Signs

saveoursigns.org

- Crowdsourced effort to archive National Parks Interpretive signs
- Partnership with University of Minnesota and Safeguarding Research and Culture
- 10000+ photos submitted from around the country



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Wider DRP Infrastructure 🛟💾

Data Rescue Project

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EDGI's Public Environmental Data Partners

Data + Screening Tools

Data & Tools Get Involved About News Donate

https://screening-tools.com

Public Environmental Data Partners

The Public Environmental Data Partners are **committed to preserving and providing public access to federal environmental data.** We are a volunteer coalition of several environmental, justice, and policy organizations, researchers across several universities, archivists, and students who rely on federal datasets and tools to support critical research, advocacy, policy, and litigation work. To gather insights on what data to preserve, we reached out to our networks, which consist largely of environmental justice groups and networks, state and local government climate offices, and academic researchers. We compiled a large list of federal databases and tools, and prioritized them based on their relative impact, our confidence that we could archive them, and the relative effort it would take to obtain and archive them.

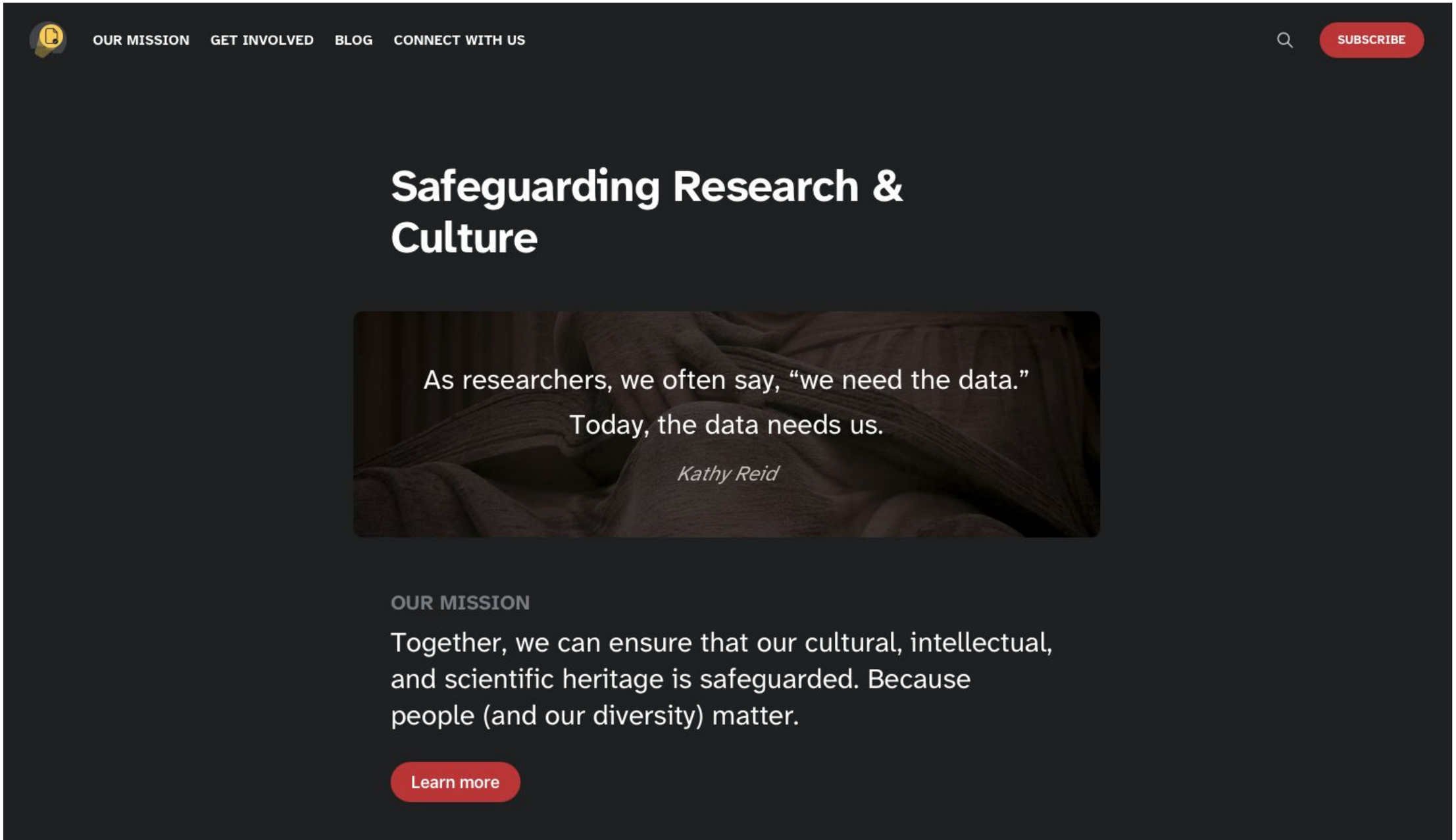
Fill out the form here to nominate data for us to preserve.

Updates

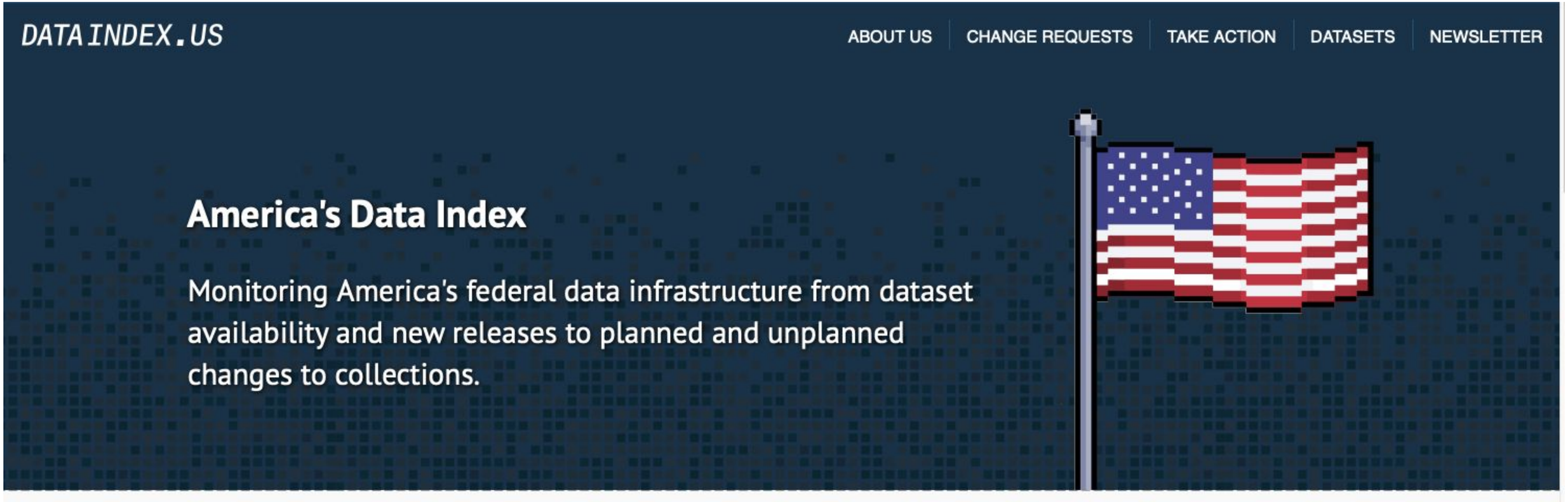
- [March 27, 2025] PEDP shared list of archived resources here.
- [March 19, 2025] PEDP created a *new* map that displays environmental justice grants the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has made through the Inflation Reduction Act since 2024.
- [February 28, 2025] Access to DOE Local Investment Map for Demonstration and Deployment Projects was made publicly available.
- [February 27, 2025] Access to FEMA's Future Risk Index was made publicly available.
- [February 14, 2025] Access to EPA EJAM was made publicly available.
- [February 7, 2025] Access to EPA EJScreen was made publicly available.

Safeguarding Research and Culture

https://safeguar.de

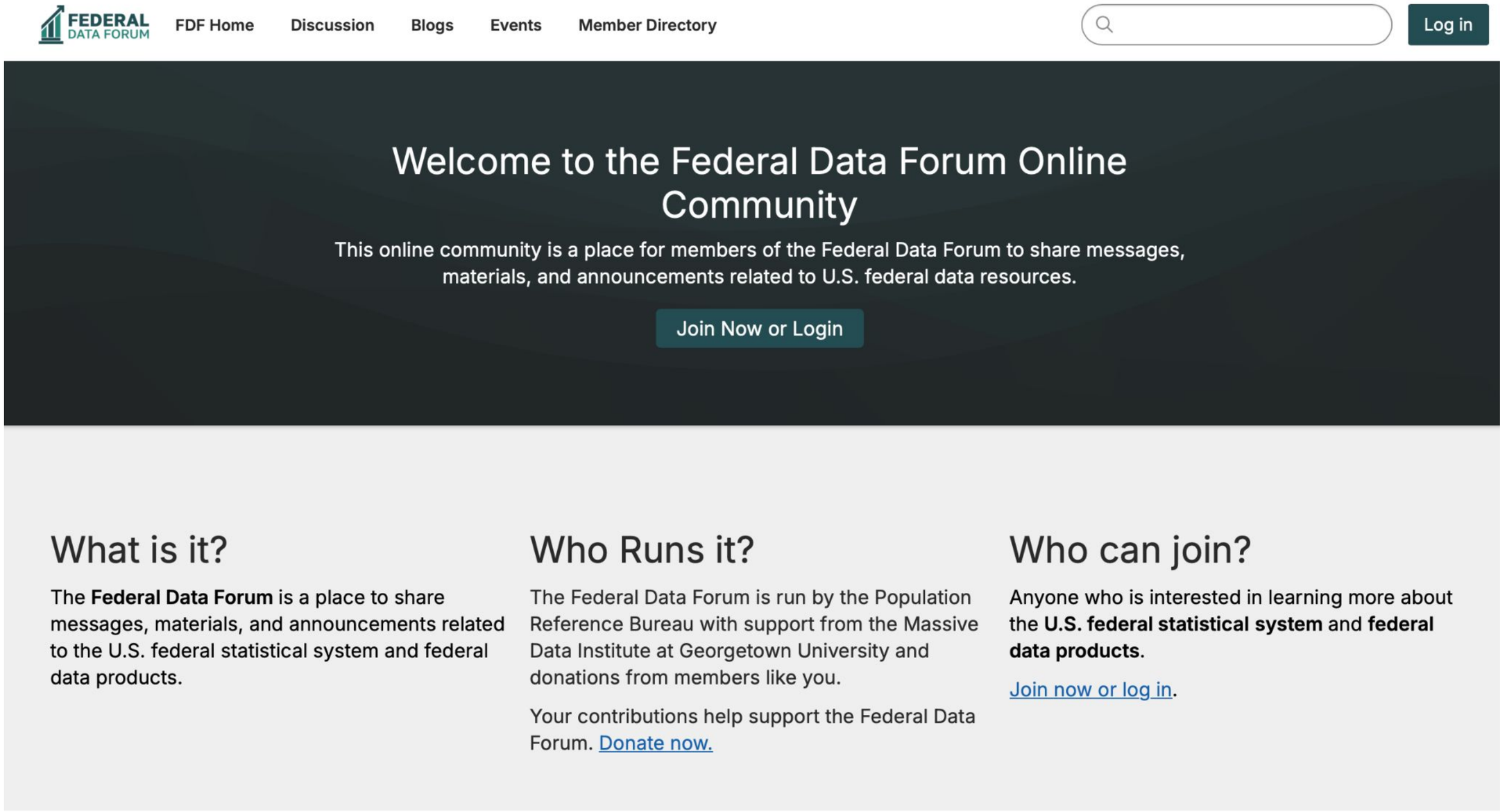


America’s Data Index https://www.dataindex.us



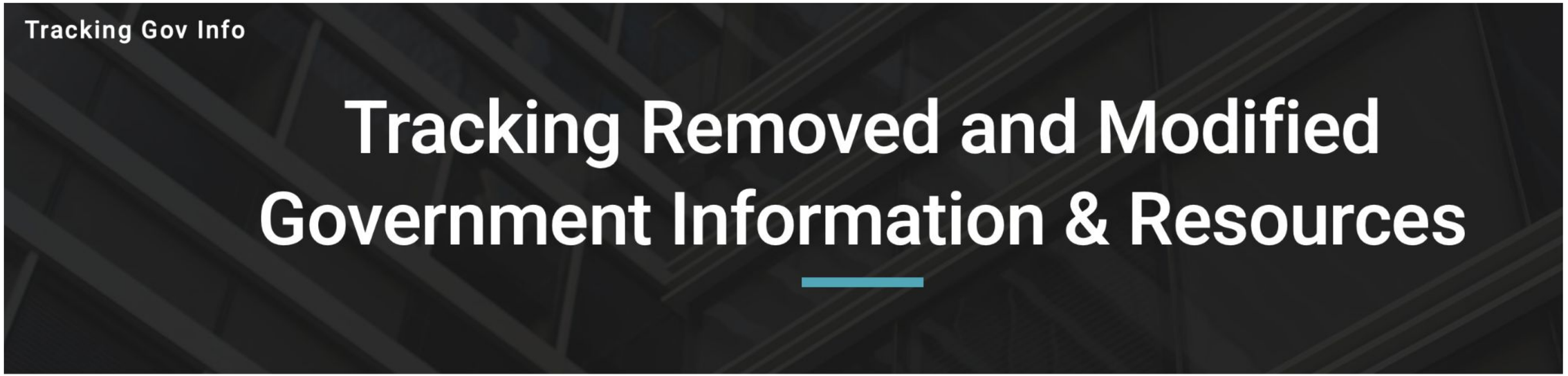
PRB's Federal Data Forum

https://federaldataforum.prb.org/home



Tracking Government Information

https://sites.google.com/umn.edu/trackinggovinfo



What's going on with Government Information?

The news media has widely reported the current U.S. administration's removal and modification of federal websites and information. As academic librarians, we have also heard from faculty and researchers about their work being removed without notice, and received many questions from academics and the public about how widespread this phenomena is.

Librarians, data experts, and others have launched many excellent projects to preserve missing information and data. In particular, we take inspiration from projects including the long-standing End of Term Archive, the newer Data Rescue Project, and many others. While removed or threatened data has been well-tracked by various data rescue groups, we hope to supplement these efforts by focusing on tracking non-data materials and information that have been impacted.

Future questions

- What happens to restricted access data?
- What is the impact on data integrity and data collection?
- How do we create infrastructure to support efforts like these over the longer term?
- How create infrastructure for the next time … or the next country?
- How do we sustain the community we've built across professions and international borders?

How you can support us.

Data Rescue Project

- Share our resources and projects with your professional and personal circles.
- Rescue data identified in our Data Inventory.
- Add rescued data to our Tracker.
- If you are able, contribute financially

datarescueproject@
protonmail.com

Data Rescue
Project

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