

Throughout the papers and discussions common themes keep emerging, and the value of this book is that one can find remarks about these issues from various perspectives. Some of these themes have already been mentioned: the issue of confidentiality; the problem of continuing liaison with the scholarly community about what may be useful, and how it could be useful; the concern with adequate documentation and finding aids necessary to use both conventional and machine-readable sources. Others are: how changing technology will affect the media in which information is stored, the ways it will be retrieved, and the amount that can be stored; the ways in which archival material can be used quantitatively. These are the recurring themes; others are mentioned.

The problem with such conferences and thus with this book is that such subjects are mentioned, briefly discussed and dropped. In this format there is no possibility for extended, focused development of any particular issue. This makes the book useful for raising problems and seeing various viewpoints on those problems briefly expressed, but not for moving closer to any solutions.

Anyone seriously interested in any of the problems mentioned in this book will not find it of much use. Anyone seriously interested in the use of the U.S. National Archives for statistical research should consult the papers prepared for distribution to the conference, which are not in this book but which are available from the National Archives. Someone interested in a general discussion of the range of issues mentioned will find it a pleasant source, for the book is fun to read, especially the discussions.

## **ABOUT CONTRIBUTORS**

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Much of the information contained in the paper was obtained while conducting an industrial survey of the work of health inspectors. As part of the task of defining their duties, their relationship to the other officers of council was defined, and the organisation of records within the council structure was examined in order to see how the Health Department dovetailed with the councils' other responsibilities.

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