
Overview of Gemini Project

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Survey Methods Symposium

Presentation Overview

1. Project overview
2. Motivation for redesign
3. Project tasks
4. Current teams
5. Activities to date
6. Upcoming activities
7. Related research

Project Overview

Mission

- ▶ Improve data quality through a verifiable reduction in measurement error, with a particular focus on under-reporting.

Objective

- ▶ Develop a detailed research plan for implementing a redesign of the CE surveys, including piloting, evaluation, and transition.

Motivation for Redesign (1)

- Evidence of measurement error
 - ▶ Declining ratios of aggregate expenditure estimates from the CE compared with Personal Consumption Expenditures (PCE)
 - ▶ The 2008 CE Program Review Report cites item nonresponse and measurement error as areas of concern
 - ▶ Subgroup comparisons show differences in expenditure reporting by mode of interview and use of recall aids
 - ▶ Possibly due to complexity, conditioning, proxy reporting, recall error, survey length, mode effects

Motivation for Redesign (2)

- Technological advances
 - ▶ Transformation of respondent behavior
 - ▶ Emergence of new data collection options
- Need for more flexibility
 - ▶ Allow for faster implementation of questionnaire changes
 - ▶ Allow for mixed-mode interviewing
- Same basic design for past 30 years

Overview of Project Tasks (1)

1. *Produce database of CE research
2. *Refine data requirements and priorities
3. *Define data quality for CE
4. *Sponsor internal and external events for information gathering and expert review

*completed

Overview of Project Tasks (2)

5. Conduct research
6. Recommend a survey redesign
7. Assess user impact of design alternatives
8. Propose a transition roadmap

Project Tasks by Year

| Year | Tasks |
|---------|--|
| 2009-10 | (1) Research database (2) Data requirements and priorities (3) Data quality definition |
| 2010-12 | (4) Hold research events, produce reports |
| 2010-13 | (5) Conduct ongoing supporting research |
| 2013 | (6) Recommend survey redesign (7) Assess user impact of design alternatives (8) Propose transition roadmap |
| 2014+ | Piloting Evaluation Transition |

Current Gemini Teams

- Gemini Design Team
 - ▶ Joint Census-BLS, Kick-off this week
- Gemini Sampling Team I
- Gemini Technology Team
 - ▶ Joint Census-BLS, Just finished
- OPLC (Office of Prices and Living Conditions) Requirements Team
 - ▶ Joint CE-Consumer Price Index (CPI) plus Division of Price and Index Number Research (DPINR)
- Small-scale Redesign Team

Activities To Date: Reports (1)

| Date | Report |
|----------|---|
| Oct 2009 | Data Quality Definition Report |
| Mar 2010 | Research Project Tracking System Report |
| Jun 2010 | CPI Requirements Paper |
| Aug 2010 | Conference Team Report |
| Aug 2010 | Data User Needs Report |

Activities To Date: Reports (2)

| Date | Report |
|----------|--|
| Mar 2010 | Methods Workshop Report |
| May 2011 | Revised Vision Document |
| May 2011 | CE Data Requirements Report |
| Aug 2011 | Household Survey Producers Workshop Assessment |
| Dec 2011 | Redesign Options Workshop papers |

Activities To Date: Reports (3)

| Date | Report |
|-----------|-------------------------------|
| Jun 2012 | Gemini Technology Team Report |
| July 2012 | Revised Vision Document |

Activities To Date: Events and Contracts (1)

| Date | Event |
|-----------|--|
| Jan 2010 | Survey Redesign Panel |
| Mar 2010 | Data Capture Technology Forum |
| May 2010 | Panel on Respondent Record Use |
| Jun 2010 | Data User Needs Forum |
| Sept 2010 | Contract with the Committee on National Statistics (CNSTAT) Expert Panel awarded |
| Dec 2010 | Methods Workshop |

Activities To Date: Events and Contracts (2)

| Date | Event |
|----------|--|
| Feb 2011 | CNSTAT Expert Panel First Meeting |
| Jun 2011 | Household Survey Producers Workshop |
| Oct 2011 | Redesign Options Workshop |
| Jan 2012 | CNSTAT Expert Panel Fourth Meeting |
| Jun 2012 | Contract for Independent Redesign Proposals II awarded |
| Jul 2012 | Survey Methods Symposium (this event) |

Upcoming Activities

| Date | Event |
|-----------|---|
| Aug 2012 | CNSTAT Panel Recommendations (pre-pub report) |
| Fall 2012 | OPLC Requirements Team Report; Gemini Sampling Team II Report; CNSTAT presentation of recommendations |
| Win 2012 | Independent Redesign Proposals II presentations |
| Spr 2013 | Independent Redesign Proposals II Report |
| Spr 2013 | Gemini Design Team proposal |

Related Research

- Already covered by Adam in previous presentation
- Joint efforts
 - ▶ BLS Division of Consumer Expenditure Survey
 - ▶ BLS Office of Survey Methods Research
 - ▶ Census Bureau
- Mostly the same people involved in research projects and Gemini
- 30+ completed projects since ~2009 and 17 ongoing

Project Website

<http://www.bls.gov/cex/geminimaterials.htm>

Information available on:

- ▶ Gemini overview
- ▶ Gemini events
- ▶ Gemini presentations
- ▶ CE survey methods research
- ▶ CE methods and survey forms
- ▶ Other redesign related events and studies

Contact Information

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