2019 Section Annual Report

Your report is due by December 31, 2019.

Introduction

It is important to the ASA and its members that sections are performing well by

1. engaging with their membership
2. delivering the services and resources that benefit current members per section charter objectives (Article III: Functions)
3. promoting their activities to attract new members

The purpose of this questionnaire is to collect data to inform the Council of Sections (COS), Council of Sections Governing Board (COSGB), and the ASA Board of the activities of all Sections, and to provide the COSGB with information it can use to assist sections in strengthening and promoting their work.

The questionnaire consists of three parts

- A required update of the ASA Communities "Promotional Bullets" for selected sections (see check-box below)
- Required questions about section activities
- An optional highlighting of new section activities or plans for 2020

Section Name: Government Statistics Section______________________________

Promotion Bullets

Please review your current bullets at http://www.amstat.org/asa/membership/Sections-and-Interest-Groups.aspx (click on “Informational Slides”) and provide any updates below.

If the objective is to retain the existing three-bullet format, then we would like to make the following changes to the third bullet. However, for consistency, we would prefer the substitution of the informational bullets provided below which are displayed on our web page.

1. Assist in the development and advancement of knowledge in techniques and practices that will contribute to excellence in the production and use of government statistics.
2. Promote a wider understanding of the attained levels of quality, continuity, comparability, appropriateness, accessibility, and timeliness of release of governmental statistical activities for large and small geographic areas.
3. Encourage professional statistical review of statistical activities carried out by governmental units.
4. Disseminate information and provide training opportunities for individuals involved in the production and use of government data and statistics.
• Bullet #1: Offers ongoing dialogues with statisticians involved in the development of techniques and practices related to government statistics and products, advancing knowledge sharing of cutting-edge practices
• Bullet #2: Provides opportunities for members to better understand the levels of quality, continuity, comparability, appropriateness, accessibility, relevance, and timeliness of governmental statistical activities and the role of professional statisticians in public programs
• Bullet #3: Co-sponsors the Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award, the Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship, the Roger Herriot Award, and the Data Challenge. Sponsors the Pat Doyle Award. Organizes topical workshops and provides continuing education opportunities for our constituency through topical workshops and webinars, attended in person and virtually. Promotes interest in government statistics applications by co-sponsoring the Data Challenge Expo and other student contests

Section Activities 2019
Please respond to the following questions about activities your section promoted or completed during 2019:

Q1. A Section performing well is one that is (1) engaging with their membership, (2) delivering services and resources that benefit current members per section charter objectives, and (3) promoting activities to attract new members. Overall, how does the section’s Executive Board rate the section’s performance in 2018?

– Excellent

Q2. If your Executive Board graded section performance at Good or below, please explain why and how the COSGB can help your section perform better: N/A

Communications.
Sections use a variety of communication methods each year to stay in touch with members.

Q3. Did your section publish a Newsletter for its members?
Yes 3 in 2019: March; July; Dec

Q4. Did your section submit article(s) to Amstat News to inform members of section activities?
Yes 10 articles in 2019 https://community.amstat.org/governmentstatisticssession/new-item3/gssblog

Q5. Did the section executive board communicate to members through your ASA community?
Yes

Q6. Did your section members communicate with other members through your ASA community?
Yes

Q7. Did your section reach out for feedback from its members (e.g., feedback sessions at JSM mixers, section sponsored sessions, surveys, emails, face-to-face meetings, feedback meetings, etc.)?
Yes

Q8. Did your section have a specific "welcome new members" initiative (email/mailed letter, etc.)?
Yes – Yes; Welcome letter in newsletter; hard to cull ASA member list for true new members
Q9. Did your section have a current/updated section website?
   Yes; many updates in 2018 and 2019.
   • Many updates to home page: https://community.amstat.org/governmentstatisticssection/home
   • New Blog with Articles: https://community.amstat.org/governmentstatisticssection/new-item3/gssblog
   • Updated Awards page and added “Award Winners” page: https://community.amstat.org/governmentstatisticssection/awards/awardwinners
   • Added Data Expo page: https://community.amstat.org/governmentstatisticssection/awards/dataexpo
   • Created “Professional Development and Mentoring” page: https://community.amstat.org/governmentstatisticssection/professionaldevelopmentmentoring
   • Mentoring page, featuring GSS and ASA:
   • Virtual Workshop page: https://community.amstat.org/governmentstatisticssection/professionaldevelopmentmentoring/mentoring
     https://community.amstat.org/governmentstatisticssection/professionaldevelopmentmentoring/virtualworkshop

Q10. Did your section use social media (Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, etc.) to communicate with your members?
   No

Q11. Did your section communicate with your members in another way, not listed above?
   Yes

Q11.1. If yes, how? direct emails; JSM Business Meeting

Meetings and Networking
Sections engage in a variety of meeting and networking activities each year. The following questions ask about the types of these activities your section engaged in during 2019.

Q12. Did your section organize and/or sponsor any ASA sponsored conference (other than JSM)?
   Yes
   Sixth International Conference on Establishment Statistics (ICES VI)

Q13. Did your section organize and/or sponsor any non-ASA sponsored conferences?
   Yes
   2019 Seasonal Adjustment Practitioners Workshop

Q14. Did your section offer Roundtables at ASA sponsored conferences, including JSM?
   Yes (3)
   • GSS Mentoring Round Table;
   • Combining Probability and Nonprobability Samples for Estimation
   • Synthetic Data as an Alternative to PUMS: Challenges, Success, and Issues.

Q15. Did your section sponsor invited and/or topic contributed sessions at the JSM?
   Yes
   GSS Invited Sessions
   • Challenges and Breakthroughs in Analyzing Big Survey Data
   • The multiple adaptations of multiple imputation
• Administrative Income Data, Survey Data and Inequality
• Government cybersecurity research: Statistical challenges and opportunities
• Developing Multi-Purpose Imputed or Synthetic Data for Official Statistics
• Evolving survey inference in the big data era: Challenges and opportunities
• Achieving Adequate Representation When Surveying Rare Populations
• Official Statistics at the Crossroads: Data Quality and Access in an Era of Heightened Privacy Risk
• Data Fabrication and Falsification: Protecting the Credibility and Impacts of Surveys
• Total survey errors in the combination of probability and nonprobability samples
• Learning from the Past – A History of Censuses
• Small Area Estimation: “Producing Estimates for Small Areas from Sampled Data”

GSS Topic Contributed Sessions
• GSS Student Paper Competition Winners
• Improving Data Collection: Challenges in Survey Practice, Differential Privacy Research and Applications at the U.S. Census Bureau
• Assessing the Quality of Integrated Data
• Statistical Data Editing Modernization
• Time Series in Government and National Statistics
• Statistical advances in population research in the developing world

Q16. Did your section hold a member mixer at any ASA sponsored conferences, including JSM?
Yes

Q17. Did your section coordinate any networking activities with another section(s)?
Yes – SSS, SRMS, WSS, SSPA

Q18. Did your section have any other activities for meetings or networking not included above?
Yes – Chapter: WSS

Q18.1. If yes, what was it? _____Coordination with Wendy Martinez and WSS to offer “Imposter Syndrome” presentation and discussion including networking (Oct 11 2019)___

Continuing Education for members:
Many sections promote continuing education activities for members each year. Please tell us what continuing education activities your section engaged in during 2019.

GSS undertook a major continuing education initiative in 2019. GSS is providing professional webinars for its members and community via the series on Usage of Blended Data and Combining Alternative Source Data: Methods, Challenges, and Considerations in the Era of Big Data launched this fall in partnership with the Social Statistics Section (SSS) and in partnership with ASA’s Professional Development series.

Q19. Did your section offer any webinars?
https://community.amstat.org/governmentstatisticssection/professionaldevelopmentmentoring
Yes – Virtual Workshop – 6 webinars with Hands-on Activities; 3 in 2019, 3 planned for 2020
https://community.amstat.org/governmentstatisticssection/professionaldevelopmentmentoring/virtualworkshop

Virtual Workshop Professional Development In 2019 and 2020, GSS and SSS are organizing a series of FREE virtual workshops on Usage of Blended Data and Combining Alternative Source Data: Methods, Challenges, and Considerations in the Era of Big Data as part of the ASA’s
**Professional Development (PD) Series.** These workshops are aimed for audiences who may not be able to travel to conferences but are interested in continuing education opportunities. The virtual workshop consists of a series of 1-hour webinars followed by a virtual participation in a group discussion and possible set of activities using data and code provided by the presenter. Each virtual workshop component is designed to educate on one aspect of blended data from an acknowledged expert in the field, with a focus on applications to surveys and censuses (demographic and establishment).

- Partnered with SRMS and WSS to advertise a webinar on the use of ROAM (Sept):
  - Partnered with NISS to advertise: What’s in a name webinar (Sept)
- Professional Development (w/ WSS): Imposter Syndrome Webinar
- Statistical Programmers and Analysts (SSPA) to sponsor Statistical Career Planning and Development Webinar – Government Service (March)

Q19.1. If Yes, how many were offered? ____4 +3 with partners_________
Q19.2. How many on technical techniques and/or methods? ___3_+ 2_____ 
Q19.3. How many on Communications, Consulting and/or Mentoring? ____1____
Q19.4. How many on Diversity and Inclusion? ____1____

Q20. Did your section offer any Continuing Education courses (at JSM, CSP, other conferences, etc.)?  Yes

The Washington Statistical Society hosted an all-day version (April 2019) of the CE course on hot deck imputation taught by Andridge and GSS Chair-Elect Thompson at JSM 2018. This course had 25 registered participants, speaking to the relevance of the topic.

Q20.1. If Yes, how many were offered? __________1__________
Q20.2. How many on technical techniques and/or methods? __________1__________
Q20.3. How many on Communications, Consulting and/or Mentoring? ______________________
Q20.4. How many on Diversity and Inclusion? ______________________

Q21. Did your section offer other continuing educational activities for its members not included above?  No

Q21.1. If yes, what was it? __________________________________________________________

**Support for Students, Young Researchers, New Statisticians**
Sections offer support to encourage students, young researchers, and new members to participate in meetings and other activities. The following questions ask about such activities your section was engaged in during 2018.

Q22. Did your section sponsor travel grants and scholarships?  Yes –
  - 2019 Data Challenge Expo with SSS and SRMS
  - 2019 Wray Scholarship
  - 2019 GSS/SSS/SRMS Student Paper Award with Travel Funding to JSM
  - ICES VI student award

Q23. Did your section offer student outreach programs (e.g., K-12 programs, science fairs, undergrad and grad student programs, etc.)?  Yes – GSS JSM Mentoring Round Table for students
Q24. Did your section offer any other support specifically directed to students, young researchers, and new statisticians?
   Yes

Q24.1. If yes, what was it?
   • GSS JSM Mentoring Round Table for students – ticket sponsorship
   • Student Sponsorship: 2019 Data Challenge Expo with SSS and SRMS
   • 2019 GSS/SSS/SRMS Student Paper Award with Travel Funding to JSM
   • ICES VI student award

Recognition and Awards:
Sections may also provide recognition and awards to members and others. The following questions ask about such activities your section engaged in during 2018.

Q25. Did your section offer Student Awards?
   Yes
   • 2019 Data Challenge Expo with SSS and SRMS
   • 2019 Wray Scholarship
   • 2019 GSS/SSS/SRMS Student Paper Award with Travel Funding to JSM
   • ICES VI student award

Q25.1. If Yes, what kinds of awards were offered? ______Financial as well as recognition by Section at Business Meeting, website, Newsletters______________________________

Q26. Did your section offer Volunteer Recognition awards?
   Yes: 2019 Pat Doyle Award - due Apr 1, 2019

Q27. Did your section offer Member Awards of other types?
   Yes
   • 2020 Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award
   • 2019 Roger Herriot Award 2019 (offered but not awarded)

Q27.1 If Yes, what kinds of other awards did your section present? ___________________________

Q28. Does your section have a nominating committee (or other efforts) to solicit member nominations for ASA Fellow?
   Yes

Q28.1. If Yes, how many of your section members were nominated, through your section’s efforts, in 2019? ____0 via committee; Restructuring committee in 2019 in cooperation with other sections; efforts directed towards 3 GSS members nominated via other avenues (4 GSS members new Fellows in 2019)

Q29. Did your section make other forms of recognition and awards for its members?
   Yes

Q29.1. If yes, what other forms were offered? ____Plaques, website, AmstatNews articles, recognition at JSM Business Meeting and Mixer with Awards Ceremony______________________________
**Leadership Development and Mentoring:**
Sections also provide leadership development and mentoring activities each year. The following questions ask about these kinds of activities engaged in by your section during 2018.

Q30. Did your section have a mentoring program for its members?
   Yes – GSS JSM Mentoring Roundtable

Q31. Were any of your section’s continuing education workshops/webinars geared towards leadership or career development?
   Yes – Imposter Syndrome (WSS); SPSS Statistical Career Planning and Development Webinar

Q32. Did your section offer any other additional leadership development and mentoring activities?
   No

Q32.1 If Yes, what were they? ____________________________________________________________

**Outreach Activities**
Sections may offer outreach activities to other ASA sections or outside organizations. The following questions are about those kinds of activities your section engaged in during 2018.

Q33. Did your section participate in or coordinate any activities with other sections?
   Yes

Q34. Did your section conduct any new member recruitment activities?
   Yes

Q35. Did your section conduct any public relation activities to bring awareness of the section or the ASA?
   Yes
   Newsletters; Amstat News; Email outreach; Business meetings

Q36. Did your section do any other types of outreach activities?
   Yes – newly developed Virtual Workshop and GSS Mentoring Initiative

Q36.1. If yes, what were they? __________________________________________________________

Q36.2. How many were targeted at improving/encouraging Diversity and Inclusion? _____all_____

**Section’s Executive Board Duties**
Section Executive Boards conduct activities each year as well. The following questions address those kinds of activities that your section completed in 2018.

Q37. How many times did your section’s executive board meet face-to-face or virtually in 2019?
   - monthly EB meetings by phone;
   - 3-5 small group EB meetings for topical issues;
   - 4-6 Chair/Chair-Elect meetings
   - in-person JSM EB meeting
   - JSM Section Business meeting

Q38. Did your section keep and distribute executive meeting agendas and minutes?
   Yes
Q39. Did your section submit a full slate of officer candidates for 2020 elections?
   Yes – 4 open GSS EB positions; 8 candidates submitted for ASA 2020 Election

Q39.1. Did your section provide a summary of the specific duties and responsibilities for each position to the slate of officer candidates for 2020 elections before they agreed to run?
   Yes – Also updating GSS Charter to update and streamline Executive Board functions and Officer Duties, also fully defining description of officer duties via a dynamic Operating Procedures document.

Q40. Did your section conduct a new officer transfer/training/orientation plan for newly elected board members and officers to ensure a smooth transition to the new year (officer training, officer hand-off meetings, training manuals, historical archives, etc.)?
   Yes
   • Documents with duty list provided;
   • Award committee/due date matrix developed in 2019 and updated for 2020
   • transition meeting planned for Dec 2019 and Jan 2020;
   • website is updated regularly;
   • website training planned Jan 2020
   • once elected, new EB members invited to participate in EB meetings as able

Q41. Did your section submit a budget to ASA by November 7, 2019?
   Yes

Q42. The COSGB finds it helpful to tell sections about other activities that we may not routinely ask each section about. What other activities is your section doing that were not mentioned above, or for which you would you like to provide more details about something exciting that your section is doing?

The Virtual Workshop GSS developed and organized in partnership with ASA PD and SSS is a huge undertaking meant as outreach and professional development for those not able to attend traditional in-person meetings such as JSM. A Mentoring Initiative was also launched in 2019 as outreach to young professional members of the GSS and ASA community.

Q43. Sections encounter challenges each year to carrying out their mission. Did your section face any barriers or challenges that preventing it from achieving its goals in 2019? And if so, what assistance might ASA provide to help your section overcome those challenges or barriers?

An option for easily adding Section and Chapter memberships to existing ASA memberships would be monumental in terms of increasing Section and Chapter activity and membership
Website can be clunky and difficult to update/ add content

Q44. As your section is planning for 2020, is it expecting to take on any new activities or initiatives? Please describe

Both the Virtual Workshop GSS developed and organized in partnership with ASA PD/SSS and the GSS Mentoring Initiative launched in 2019 are continuing in 2020 as professional development and outreach to members of the GSS and ASA community

Q45. If you are an interest group, are you planning to apply to become a section in the coming year?
   Yes
   No
Q46. The COSGB would like the questionnaire to be consistent from year to year, but if there is anything that you suggest we should add, remove or modify, or any comments on the questions, timing or format in general, please let us know below.

As a statistical organization, the ASA should NOT be including self-assessment questions as a form of evaluation. Instead, we should be doing a statistical analysis, trying to find a positive association between outreach activities and deliverables and section retention and growth rates as well as participation in Section and ASA activities.