Beyond *the* Numbers
November 18-20, 2020

These sessions aim to provide librarians and other information professionals with the knowledge, competence, and enthusiasm to disseminate economic information expertise to their respective audiences.

November 18 — For anyone interested in promoting data literacy skills with students.

"Discovering Data Sources Through the Dataset Presentation"
Charles Hokayem, Kentucky Research Data Center, and John Perry, Centre College

This presentation addresses a potential hold-up for undergraduates engaging in research that has received little attention: how to acquaint students with major data sources. Data literacy has become an important skill as students plan and carry out research projects. In understanding major data sources, research questions are more accessible and informed. To help teach data literacy, in this presentation we discuss an assignment (prompt, list of data sources by difficulty, and grading rubric) in the form of a short, data-driven presentation designed to have students learn, acquire, and work with a publicly available dataset and present the dataset to peers.

November 19 — Learn all about the history, present, and future of the Consumer Price Index.

"The Consumer Price Index: The Background of the Index, Navigating the Pandemic, and Looking Toward the Future"
William Beach, Commissioner, Bureau of Labor Statistics

The Bureau of Labor Statistics produces several principle economic indicators, one of which is the Consumer Price Index. This index is the most widely used measure of inflation and plays an important role in measuring our economy. Commissioner Beach will discuss how this index is calculated, the Consumer Expenditure survey from which it draws its sample weights, how it's been affected by the pandemic, and what the future holds for it.

November 20 — Learn data citation best practices from the expert.

"Data Provenance in the Research Lifecycle: Report from the Trenches"
Lars Vilhuber, Economist, Cornell University and Data Editor of the American Economic Association

Data provenance is an important, but often neglected piece of replicability. In particular when data cannot be published but can be accessed by a shared community, properly documenting provenance is essential, but difficult. This presentation reports on the experience gathered from nearly 1,000 reproducibility reports, and on the guidance given to authors to provide good-enough data provenance.

November 20 — 1:30 pm CST/2:30 pm EST

Open Discussion Session

Meet up with fellow attendees to discuss the presentations, reconnect with colleagues, and share what's on your mind.