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**Hints on using the PL-94-171 data (using the ftp site)** and not AFF2

Since I have seen a lot questions about this I thought I would post my

personal notes. If your state hasn't come out yet I strongly suggest

downloading a different state and practicing. Once you get the method down,

it will be easy to repeat.

These instructions are for Access 2003 but I think they are similar for

Access 2007.

You will need the following documents. Download them to your computer and

keep them close at all times.

0FILE\_STRUCTURE.pdf found at

<http://www2.census.gov/census_2010/01-Redistricting_File--PL_94-171/0FILE_ST>

RUCTURE.pdf

0GEOID\_Construction\_for\_Matching.pdf found at

<http://www2.census.gov/census_2010/01-Redistricting_File--PL_94-171/0GEOID_C>

onstruction\_for\_Matching.pdf

pl94-171\_tech\_doc.pdf found at

<http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/pl94-171.pdf>

1. Go to

<http://www2.census.gov/census_2010/01-Redistricting_File--PL_94-171/> and

download the access document that matches your MS Access version, either

PL2010\_Access.accdb or PL2010\_Access2003.mdb.

2. In the same directory, go to the folder your state is in and download

everything in the folder.

3. Unzip the files.

4. Open the PDF called 0FILE\_STRUCTURE.pdf. Read the first page, it has

useful information. The go to the section marked "For Access Users" on page

2. FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS EXACTLY.

5. After the tables are imported into Access, you should have the two data

tables and the geography table automatically joined by the LOGRECNO field.

>*From here, you can use queries to extract tables on a single geography and*

on the topics of your choice. Start a new query in design view. I recommend

starting all queries by adding the entire geography table until you get a

feel for which fields you don't need.

6. SUMLEV is the field that will let you extract a particular geography,

such as tracts or counties. You can find a full listing of SUMLEVs under

Chapter 4 of pl94-171\_tech\_doc.pdf. So if you want a table that has all the

census tracts in your state, type "140" under the Criteria field of the

SUMLEV column in your query design.

7. The other two tables list your data fields. The table names are given in

the back of 0FILE\_STRUCTURE.pdf.

8. Export the query to the format of your choice - Excel, dbf, txt, ect.

Note that only the newest Excel program will handle more than 65,000

columns.

9. If you are using the data in GIS, you will need to construct a GEOID

field to match the one in the shapefile. The file

0GEOID\_Construction\_for\_Matching.pdf provides formulas for doing this.

Concatenate the fields found in the geography half of your exported table

into a GEOID field.

10. Analyze! Analyze! Analyze!

TIP: Compare the number of records in your shapefile with the numbers of

records in your exported table to make sure the table was extracted

correctly.

Hopefully these steps make things less confusing, not more. Good luck!

Mara