

Minutes of meeting of Output Area Classification User Group (OACUG) Steering Group.

6/9/2010, 11am, Nightingale Room, Royal Statistical Society (RSS), 12 Errol Street, London, EC1Y 8LX

Welcome by Chair (Alex Singleton), Attendance, Apologies, new member.

Attendees: Alexander Singleton (AS); Daniel Lewis (DJL); John Fisher (JF); Martin Robson (MR); Tony Duckenfield (TD); Martin Callingham (MC).

Apologies: Keith Dugmore, Chris Denham, Gesche Schmid, Henry Burroughs, Daniel Vickers, Stephen Richards, Daryll Lloyd, Alistair Edwardes, Oliver Duke-Williams (ODW), Sheila Quan, Alan Lewis.

Introductions: Andrew Bates will be the new ONS member of the OACUG steering group, replacing Steve Bond who has moved on to the Cabinet Office.

Minutes from previous meeting are acceptable.

Content of Meeting

AS - The ONS continue to work on the OAC posters from Local Authorities.

DJL - Went to the Royal Geographical Society (RGS) Annual Conference Census 2011 session, in which ODW spoke. Little to report other than the budget for dissemination has not yet been set, although the consultations are now over and the required parties are assessing the comments. Most Census 2011 consultations come from local government, then substantially fewer from the commercial sector, then academia.

MR - Reports that the Place Survey has stopped, meaning that there is no more qualitative data from this source, as a result the set of National Indicators drops to around 30 variables. There is a clear impetus here to make greater use of nationally available data.

TD - Is the citizenship survey OAC coded? Can we link this to the big society? Can we get land registry data at a suitable scale to integrate it into OAC and the grand index?

ACTION POINT - Clarify the above

JF - There is growing interest in OAC, which is reflected by the popularity of the conference and the fact that existing licenses are running out.

JF - The LGA/IDeA/LGID 'Customer Insight' paper does not mention OAC at all, although it does seem to use our maps:

<http://www.idea.gov.uk/idk/core/page.do?pageId=18029936>

Customer insight: through a Total Place lens

ACTION POINT - AS to write a letter of enquiry about why OAC was not mentioned.

AS - There are 3 interesting papers in the current issue of the Journal of Maps:

<http://www.journalofmaps.com/crossrefMap.php?mid=1106>

Mapping the geodemographic classifications of migrants' origins and destinations

<http://www.journalofmaps.com/crossrefMap.php?mid=1096>

Mapping Welsh neighbourhood types classified using attitudinal data from the national Living in Wales survey

<http://www.journalofmaps.com/crossrefMap.php?mid=1090>

Rectangular Hierarchical Cartograms for Socio-Economic Data

Additionally Daniel Vickers's introduction/editorial is useful.

AS - Intends to step down as the Chair of OACUG by Christmas due to his new job at the University of Liverpool, and other life commitments.

ACTION POINT- AS to advertise within the group for a new Chair

JF - Notes that there is a 'customer insight' community of practice, and suggests that there should be an OAC element to this group.

ACTION POINT - MR and JF to follow up on this and explore options.

AS - CD is standing down as the OACUG representative on the Statistics User Forum (SUF) of which the OACUG is a subcommittee, so we need to replace this member.

ACTION POINT - MR is happy to do this, but will first explore the commitment and liaise with JF about the possibilities.

AS - We have been offered a space in the 'marketplace' for the 'Smart Cities' event in Cambridge on the 21st of October.

ACTION POINT - AS to email group and find out whether someone is happy to represent us there.

MR - Is interested in contributing to the Case Study element of the OACUG site.

ACTION POINT - DJL to get MR a logon for the site, and inform of the structure for case studies.

MC - Where are we on the names for subgroups?

AS - We will be prepared to work on this once we have assembled a suitable grand index, a wiki style setup may be useful for this.

ACTION POINT - Connected to this DJL will get the Colour Palette used for OAC by JF and post it on the website in an attempt to standardise the colours.

ACTION POINT - AS to contact the ONS about the colour scheme for the LA maps and whether the OACUG can draft the letter that will accompany these maps.

ACTION POINT - DJL to set up a new OACUG meeting for January.