Editorial

This, the June 2014 Issue of the Statistical Journal of the IAOS (International Association of Official Statistics), is completely open to all. The June issue is not just for members of the IAOS.

In fact, since last year, at least one article of the IAOS has been available to nonmembers free of change. In this issue all of the articles are open.

For June we cover four areas. Each of these are "prefaced" below, albeit briefly.

1. The present Issue begins with a Skype interview with *Lars Thygesen* from Denmark. The interview concentrates mainly on his role in starting the modern census movement several decades ago, back in the 1970's. In his interview Lars Thygesen talks about the early days of the modern Census movement that now relies as much as possible on existing data, rather than independent collection.

The idea that he and his team had was to directly use population registers rather than ask many of the same questions a second time in the Census. Of course, there is a lot more to the idea, when you get into the details and address quality and timing issues, etc. But, bottom line, in the end the *Thygesen's Team* was able reduce both data collection cost and respondent burden. Since those early days the idea has morphed and expanded as it moved from country to country. It covers much more that population censuses in Denmark, for example and elsewhere, substituting, where possible, administrative record data in place of directly collected items.

2. Next is a paper written by *Michael Yang and his Team*. It is about the work he led to minimize re-identification risks when releasing macro or tabular business data. The approach that was eventually settled upon was a mixture of methods. Traditionally, they had started out using tabular cell suppression. This is hard to manage, time consuming, and expensive. Furthermore, there were concerns that the loss of information was excessive. The paper talks about the alternatives that were tried and the successes achieved. Since the work continues, it may have appeal because other NSIs may want to try the methods Michael's team used or suggest new ones to him that they are using. So far a general macro data solution has not emerged.

The *Thygesen* interview and the *Yang et al.* paper are newly presented here. What follows next in the June issue are two collections of papers that were given at the Hong Kong Meetings last summer. Like the *Yang et al.* paper they too deal with re-identification risks. Since each set is introduced by the session organizer I will again be brief.

3. The first of these two sessions is introduced by the organizer *Murray A Cameron* from the United Kingdom. Found here are a full set of papers on general statistical access considerations. If you are as experienced as I am, you may feel that there is nothing new to say. At least in my case, though, there was still a lot for me to learn. You can be the judge?

4. The second of these complete Hong Kong sessions takes us back to the nitty-gritty of disclosure protection. This time the papers look at the micro-data level. The papers from Germany and the USA were organized and introduced by *John Abowd* from Cornell University. His team has made real advances and I can only recommend you take a look. The work was so innovative, in fact, that the team will be receiving the 19th Roger Herriot Innovation Award later this year when the American Statistical Association celebrates its 175th year of operation (in Boston).