



# Science Resources Statistics

National Science Foundation

## SRS Commitment to Quality

### Background

The Division of Science Resources Statistics (SRS) of the National Science Foundation (NSF) is one of 14 agencies in the federal statistical system represented on the Interagency Council on Statistical Policy (ICSP). Mandated by the National Science Foundation Act of 1950 as amended, SRS is “to provide a central clearinghouse for the collection, interpretation, and analysis of data on scientific and engineering resources, and to provide a source of information for policy formulation by other agencies of the federal government.”

The U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) issued final guidelines at 67 FR 5365 on February 22, 2002, directing all Federal agencies to issue and abide by quality guidelines for information that they disseminate. For many years, the Division of Science Resources Statistics has had the responsibility to inform users of the concepts and methodologies used in collecting data, the quality of the data it produces and provides, and other features and assumptions of the data that may affect their use or interpretation. This information allows users to decide if the data are similar in concept and definitions to the data that they need to complete their work. It also allows users to assess the limitations of the data.

SRS is enhancing and updating its statistical Information Quality Guidelines (Guidelines). The SRS Guidelines supplement the National Science Foundation’s Information Quality Guidelines, and SRS adheres to both.

### SRS Role

The Division of Science Resources Statistics is the nation’s primary source of high-quality, comprehensive, quantitative information on the science and technology (S&T) enterprise. The division collects data on U.S. science and technology for analysis and dissemination, both U.S. and international, through various products and services for a wide variety of customers. To fulfill this role, SRS engages in:

- Planning and designing surveys and other means of collecting data
- Developing concepts and methods

- Collecting data
- Processing and editing data
- Analyzing and synthesizing data produced in the U.S. and internationally
- Producing estimates and developing indicators
- Reviewing information products and disseminating information in published reports, electronic files, and other media requested by users.

## SRS Commitment to Quality

SRS's commitment to quality and professional principles of practice are described below:

1. Use of modern statistical and survey practices and theory in all technical work
2. Use of appropriate internal and external expertise in areas relevant to our mission
3. Documentation designed for users to assess the suitability of the information for their needs
4. Diligence about fitness of use of external data and information and notation of limitations of the data or information
5. Review of information products and documentation by technically qualified staff (or independent experts when appropriate)
6. Ongoing quality assurance and improvement programs