MC1100 Data Journalism data and FOIA examples

**=== Database repositories (with organized collections of different data) ===**

The National Institute for Computer-Assisted Reporting maintains a big list of sources for data

<https://www.ire.org/nicar/database-library/>

Propublica, which is an independent investigative journalism outlet which partners with major news outlets like the New York Times and Washington Post, also maintains a list of data sources

<https://www.propublica.org/datastore/>

Enigma is a repository of databases on lots of industries and governments

<https://www.enigma.com/data>

Harvard’s “Dataverse” collects links to lots of open data – public, free. This is largely a collection of data from academics, like Dr. Carter and Dr. Kaufhold, who choose to share their data with other researchers.

<https://dataverse.org/>

**=== Some sources for data (Week 3) ===**

U.S. Census (select the Data tab)

<https://www.census.gov/en.html>

U.S. Census data download center

<https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/download_center.xhtml>

U.S. Census data downloads by topic (income, education, population, race…)

<https://www.census.gov/support/USACdataDownloads.html>

Cooperative Congressional Election Study (a DETAILED multi-year database of election details)

<https://cces.gov.harvard.edu/>

Pew Center for the People and the Press (lots of opinion surveys about current events)

<http://www.people-press.org/datasets/>

Data World provides a large, diverse clearinghouse of global data, especially around trade and economic issues (you can get 3 datasets for free)

<https://data.world/>

This UK site also has links to lots of fun business-related datasets

<http://www.makeovermonday.co.uk/data/>

Crime data

<https://www.bjs.gov/rawdata.cfm>

<https://www.ucrdatatool.gov/>

Government data links (one repository for TONS of federal government data on crime, health, manufacturing…)

<https://www.data.gov/>

Data on gun thefts in the U.S.

<https://www.thetrace.org/missing-pieces-data/>

**=== Tips for searching for data (Week 3) ===**

* In a Google search, select **“Settings”** then **“Advanced search”** and

change your **Filetype to .xls**

* Also, be VERY specific with what to include and exclude from your search and, if appropriate, with a date range
* You can search for “raw data xxxxx” (for example, **raw data health**), choose Advanced, then filetype .xls and get free data sources

**=== Freedom of Information and Texas Public Information Act request examples (Week 3) ===**

<https://www.nfoic.org/sample-foia-request-letters#foireq>

<https://www.nfoic.org/texas-sample-foia-request>

<http://foift.org/resources/letter-templates/pia-letter/>