

Introduction to Data Rescue

LRIPF

June 11, 2025

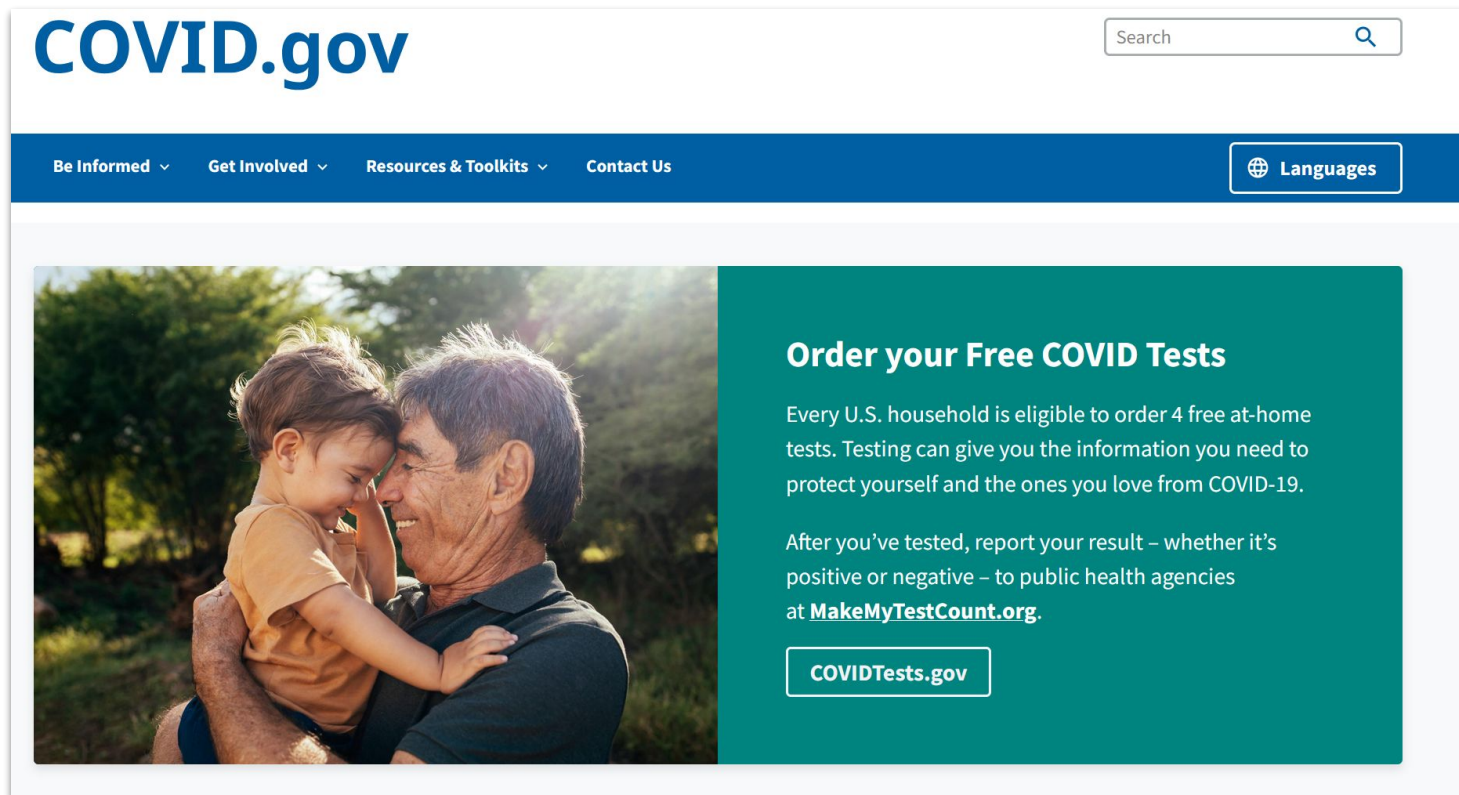
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What is happening?

- Thousands of federal government web pages, datasets, and interactive tools have been taken down since the Trump Administration took office in January
- Much of the content has been related to diversity initiatives, LGBTQ issues, environmental justice, etc.

affirming care	diverse communities	indigenous community	prostitute
all-inclusive	diverse community	inequalities	race
allyship	diverse group	inequality	race and ethnicity
anti-racism	diverse groups	inequitable	racial
antiracist	diversified	inequities	racial diversity
assigned at birth	diversify	inequity	racial identity
assigned female at birth	diversifying	injustice	racial inequality
assigned male at birth	diversity	institutional	racial justice
at risk	enhance the diversity	intersectional	racially
barrier	enhancing diversity	intersectionality	racism
barriers	environmental quality	key groups	segregation
belong	equal opportunity	key people	sense of belonging
bias	equality	key populations	sex
biased	equitable	Latinx	sexual preferences
biased toward	equitableness	LGBT	sexuality
biases	equity	LGBTQ	social justice
biases towards	ethnicity	marginalize	sociocultural
biologically female	excluded	marginalized	socioeconomic

Example: Covid.gov (previous)



The screenshot displays the COVID.gov website interface. At the top left is the "COVID.gov" logo. To its right is a search bar with the text "Search" and a magnifying glass icon. Below the logo is a dark blue navigation bar containing the following links: "Be Informed" with a dropdown arrow, "Get Involved" with a dropdown arrow, "Resources & Toolkits" with a dropdown arrow, and "Contact Us". On the right side of this bar is a "Languages" button with a globe icon. The main content area features a large image of an elderly man holding a young child. To the right of the image is a teal-colored promotional box with the following text:

Order your Free COVID Tests

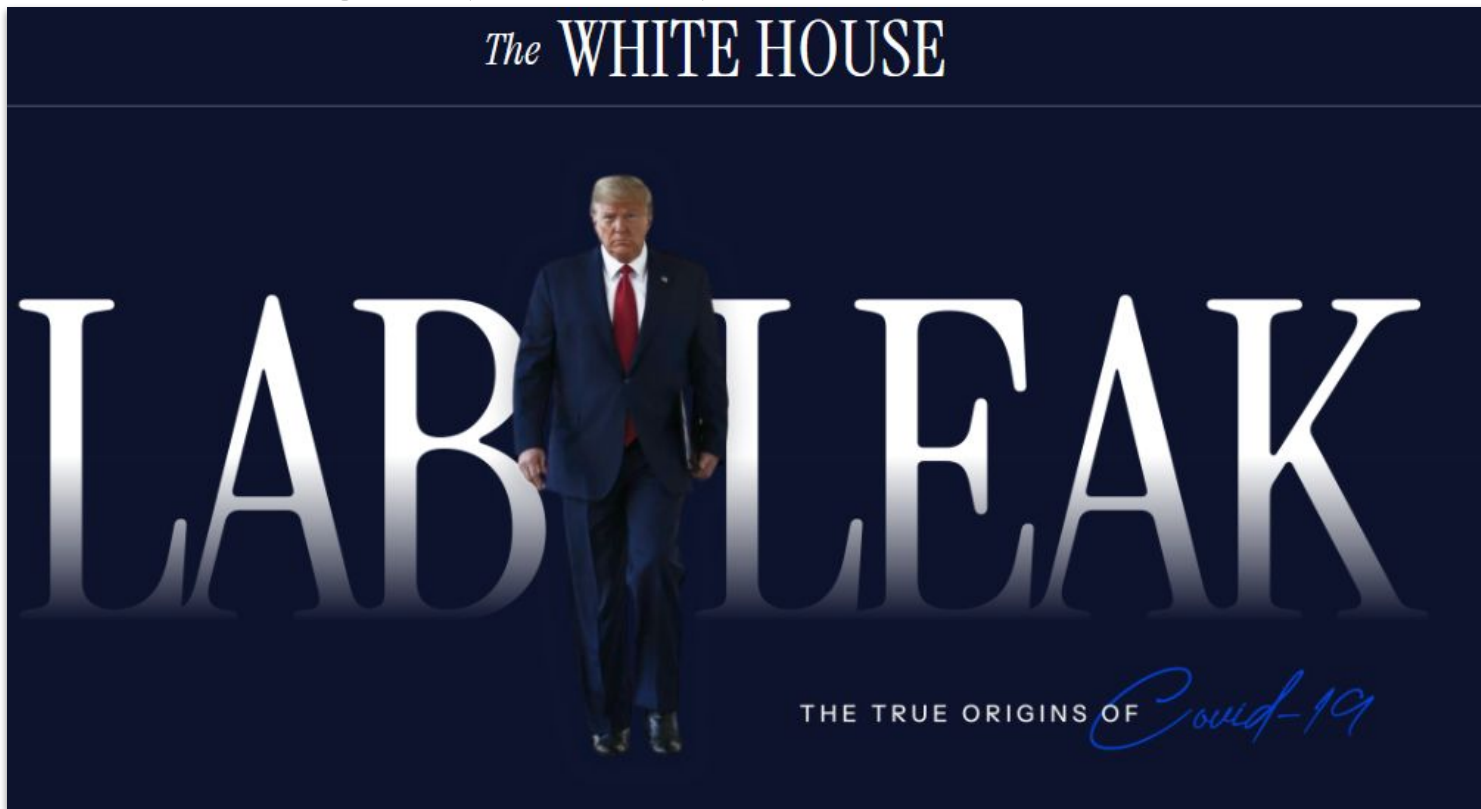
Every U.S. household is eligible to order 4 free at-home tests. Testing can give you the information you need to protect yourself and the ones you love from COVID-19.

After you've tested, report your result – whether it's positive or negative – to public health agencies at [MakeMyTestCount.org](https://www.makemytestcount.org).

[COVIDTests.gov](https://www.covidtests.gov)

Archived version: <https://web.archive.org/web/20250113233515/https://www.covid.gov/>

Example: Covid.gov (current)



Redirects to: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/lab-leak-true-origins-of-covid-19/>

Example: Social Vulnerability Index

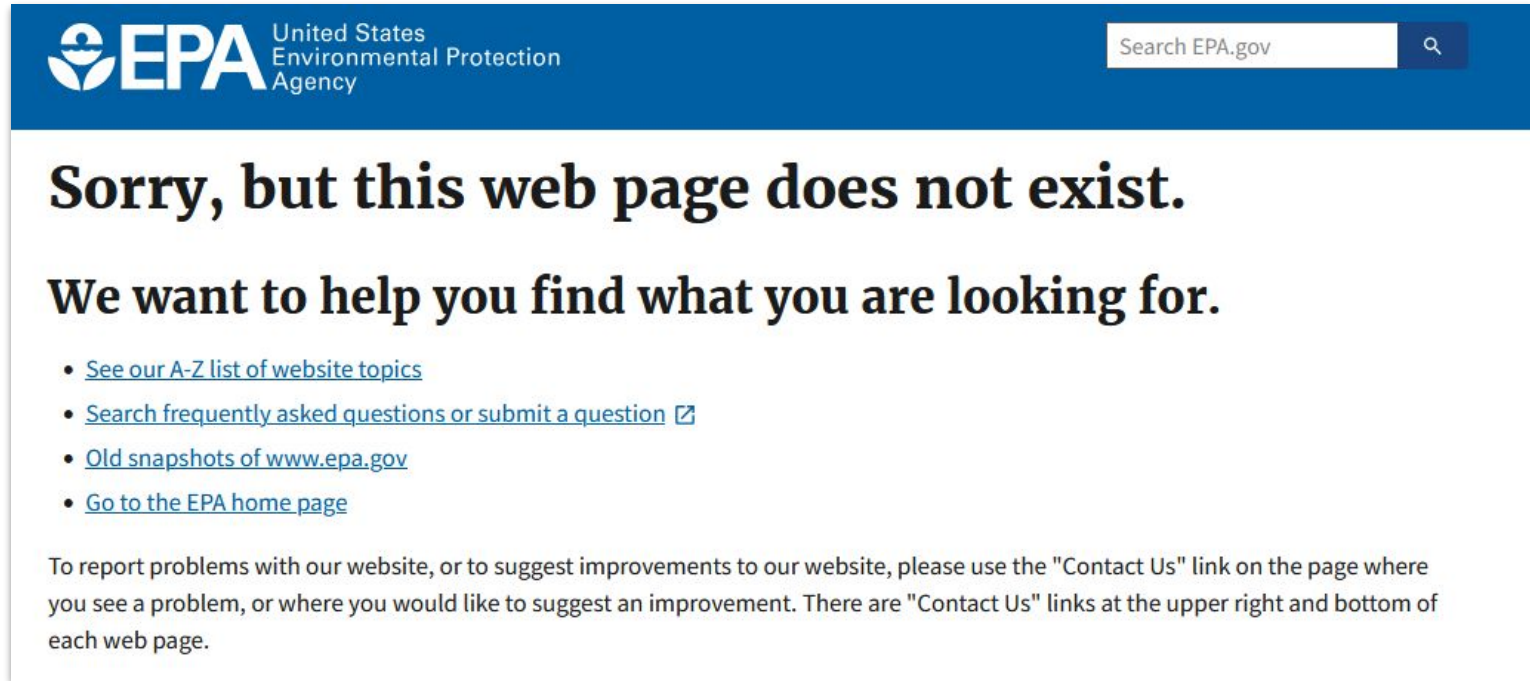
This tool was removed. A court order in February required the website to be restored. The banner below is now on the web page:

Per a court order, HHS is required to restore this website as of 11:59PM ET, February 11, 2025. Any information on this page promoting gender ideology is extremely inaccurate and disconnected from the immutable biological reality that there are two sexes, male and female. The Trump Administration rejects gender ideology and condemns the harms it causes to children, by promoting their chemical and surgical mutilation, and to women, by depriving them of their dignity, safety, well-being, and opportunities. This page does not reflect biological reality and therefore the Administration and this Department rejects it.

Social Vulnerability Index


<https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/place-health/php/svi/index.html>

Example: Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool

A screenshot of the EPA website's error page. The header is blue with the EPA logo and text 'United States Environmental Protection Agency' on the left, and a search bar with 'Search EPA.gov' on the right. The main content area is white and contains the following text:

Sorry, but this web page does not exist.

We want to help you find what you are looking for.

- [See our A-Z list of website topics](#)
- [Search frequently asked questions or submit a question](#) 
- [Old snapshots of www.epa.gov](#)
- [Go to the EPA home page](#)

To report problems with our website, or to suggest improvements to our website, please use the "Contact Us" link on the page where you see a problem, or where you would like to suggest an improvement. There are "Contact Us" links at the upper right and bottom of each web page.

Original: <https://www.epa.gov/ejscreen>

Archived version: <https://screening-tools.com/epa-ejscreen>

Frustratingly, remnants and old links to these tools persist on other [agency websites](#)

The screenshot shows the FEMA website header with the FEMA logo and a search bar. The navigation menu includes "Disasters & Assistance", "Grants", "Floods & Maps", "Emergency Management", "About", and "Work With Us". A button labeled "Apply for Assistance" is visible in the top right. The main content area features a "Back to Previous Page" link on the left and the title "EJScreens: Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool" in large blue font. Below the title, there are two paragraphs of text describing the tool as an online mapping tool that combines demographic and environmental information to identify areas with disproportionate exposure to environmental hazards. A table provides details about the provider, website, information resource type, and intended beneficiary. A disclaimer at the bottom advises consulting the provider for current program information.

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EJScreens: Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool

Online mapping tool that combines demographic and environmental information on places and can be used to identify areas experiencing disproportionate exposure to environmental hazards and impacts.

Online mapping tool that combines demographic and environmental information on places and can be used to identify areas experiencing disproportionate exposure to environmental hazards and impacts.

Provider:	Environmental Protection Agency
Website:	https://www.epa.gov/ejscreens
Information Resource Type:	Online Tool or Toolkit
Intended Beneficiary:	General Public

Please directly consult the provider of a potential resource for current program information and to verify the applicability and requirements of a particular program.

State governments often utilized and linked to these tools on their own websites.

**MD Department
of the
Environment: [EJ
Screening Tool](#)**



Thank you for your interest in the Environmental Justice Screening Tool. At this time, the tool is temporarily disabled due to disruptions in the federal online data availability. Our team will be launching an enhanced product in the near future. Please call us if you have questions at 410-537-3041.

Other Examples

- **Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System** (BRFSS)
 - Temporarily removed and later restored. **Changes to the questionnaires and code books were found by KFF**
- **ERIC Database**
 - Less indexing going forward
 - Uncertainty if grey literature will be indexed
- **NIH-Supported Data Repositories**
 - “The repositories on this page are currently being reviewed for potential updates to comply with Administrative directives and agency priorities”
 - Many of these require Data Use Agreements as they contain human health data

What is the impact of this?

- Disrupts research utilizing publicly available data
- Loss of information available to the public
- Censorship: suppressing and distorting research
- Erases diverse voices and perspectives
- Damaging to U.S. research's reputation and trust
- Generative artificial intelligence (AI) topic summaries
- Future changes: long-term maintenance of datasets, staffing cuts, budget cuts

How to track changes in access?

- News outlets are reporting on losses to web pages and datasets. Includes national news sources and niche outlets.
- Social media: [Bluesky data rescue starter pack](#)
- Professional organizations: listservs and press releases
- Wikipedia Article on [2025 United States government online resource removals](#)

How to track changes in access?

- **Advocacy organizations**

- [Data Rescue Project](#): they have a [tracking tool](#)
- [Environmental Data & Governance Initiative](#): they also have a [tracking tool](#)
- Columbia Law School's Sabin Center for Climate Change Law and Climate Science Legal Defense Fund: [Silencing Science Tracker](#)

How can I locate archived data?

- [Data Rescue Project: Current Efforts](#)
- **ICPSR** (The Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research)
 - [DataLumos](#): crowd-sourced repository for US federal gov. data; main repository for Data Rescue Project's data. Has data from FEMA, IMLS, and Department of Education (as of 3/31/25)
 - Distinction between deposit and access permissions – access to select datasets is publicly available, whereas deposit requires membership (UMD is a member)
- [Internet Archive: Wayback Machine](#)
- Subject-specific repositories

Digital Preservation Practices at the University of Maryland

- **DRUM**
- **APTrust (Academic Preservation Trust)**
 - Consortium of institutions committed to providing a preservation repository for digital content; accepts digital materials from member institutions and provides redundant storage in the cloud
- **Mass Digitization and Digital Collections**
 - Digitizing and preserving materials in legacy formats
- **Born-Digital Archives**
 - Materials that have always existed in digital form
- **Web Archiving**
 - Part of [records management mandate](#) to preserve University records
 - Web crawlers: start from a specific website (“seed”), then “crawl” to follow a trail of hyperlinks.
 - Archive Webpage application: software used to capture dynamic content (like animated features) that web crawlers miss

Can I help archive data? YES

The situation is rapidly evolving, but there are organizations that are ready to support you in describing and uploading data!

- [Data Rescue Project: Ways You Can Help](#)
- [Five Things to Know about ICPSR Data Rescue Efforts \(including how to contribute\)](#)

Each repository has its own guidelines for preparing metadata and uploading data.

Can I help archive data? YES

- **Data Rescue Project: Ways You Can Help**
 - Identify data for downloading
 - Check **The Tracker**
 - Host a data rescue event
 - Troubleshoot tech issues
 - **Resources**
 - **Data inventories**
 - **Upload to Data Lumos**

Screenshot of the Data Tracker

Baserow Public Filter Sort Group Hide Fields Height

ID	Dataset	Status	Dataset URL	Website
1	Billion-Dollar Weather and Climate Disasters	Finished	https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/acc	ncei.noaa.gov
2	BLS Downloads	In Progress	https://download.bls.gov	download.bls.gov
3	CDC FTP Server	In Progress	https://ftp.cdc.gov/	ftp.cdc.gov
4	Census Bureau FTP Server	Uploading	https://www2.census.gov	www2.census.gov
5	National Hurricane Center (NHC)	In Progress	https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/arch	nhc.noaa.gov
6	United States Geological Survey	In Progress	https://rockyweb.usgs.gov	usgs.gov
7	Office of General Counsel Documents	In Progress	https://www.gc.noaa.gov/docu	noaa.gov
8	National Hurricane Center FTP	In Progress	ftp://ftp.nhc.noaa.gov	ftp.nhc.noaa.gov
9	Enforcement and Compliance History Online (ECHO)	In Progress	https://echo.epa.gov/files/echo	echo.epa.gov
10	Consumer Financial Protection Bureau Website	In Progress	https://files.consumerfinance.g	consumerfinance.gov
11	College Scorecard	Finished	https://collegescorecard.ed.gov	collegescorecard.ed.gov
12	Campus Safety and Security	Finished	https://ope.ed.gov/campusSAFE	ope.ed.gov
13	Equity in Athletics Data Analysis Cutting Tool	Finished	https://ope.ed.gov/athletics/#/c	ope.ed.gov
14	Teacher Education Title II Reports	Finished	https://title2.ed.gov/Public/Hon	title2.ed.gov
15	Education Stabilization Fund	Finished	https://covid-relief-data.ed.gov	covid-relief-data.ed.gov
16	National Household Education Surveys Program (NHES)	Finished	https://nces.ed.gov/nhes/data	nces.ed.gov
17	Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)	Finished	https://sites.ed.gov/idea/data/	sites.ed.gov

1127 rows

Can I help archive data? YES









- [Data Rescue Project: Ways You Can Help](#)

- If you host a data rescue event:

- Lesson Plan

- Choose a dataset and download
- Nominate the URL To [US Government web & Data Archive](#)
- Organize downloaded data
- Create Data Lumos Workspace and Upload the files
- Fill in data
- Publish

Name ↑

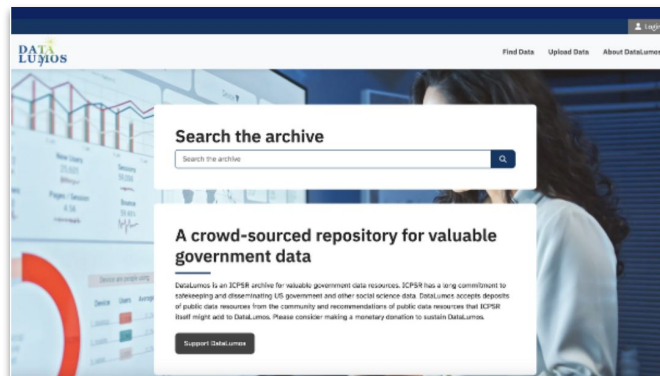
	Attendee Worksheet for Data Rescue Events 
	Data Rescue Event Slide Deck 
	Lesson Plan for Data Rescue Events 
	Sample Communication - Data Rescue Events 

	4. Capture ALL necessary information and documentation in addition to data files, if they are data related (e.g., codebooks, data dictionaries, metadata, data stories). If the site does not contain data, make a note of it (these pages can still be nominated to EOT, but documents not relevant to data should not be loaded into Data Lumos)	
	5. Organize the documents and data in a logical fashion (i.e., by year)	
	6. Flag any datasets that are behind explorer tools or otherwise difficult to download. These can be indicated in the Data Downloadable column.	
	7. Nominate the links of dataset to the U.S. Government Web & Data Archive 2025 (this replaces the EOT web archive as of 2025-04-01)	
	8. Zip the files.	
	9. Submit the data files to Data Lumos . Instructions: Rescuing a Dataset and Uploading to Data Lumos	
tab of the sheet (divided by agency)		
	Admin Notes	perceived threat or known issues
	Data Added (Y/N/IP)	Has a link to the data been added to the spreadsheet
	Title of Site	The human-readable name of the website
	Office	The office that hosts the data
	Agency	Relevant agency
	URL	Link to the dataset / landing page of the explorer tool
README ▾ 2 TASKS YOU CAN DO ▾ 7 DOT ▾ 3 CPSC ▾ 4 Vet Admin ▾ CMS ▾ Bird Flu Related ▾ 2 DOL ▾		

Screenshot of data inventories spreadsheet

Can I help archive data? YES

- [Five Things to Know about ICPSR Data Rescue Efforts \(including how to contribute\)](#)
 - ICPSR is a data tracker/archive space; since 1962
 - Uses [DataLumos](#) to house the data.
 - Over 800 institutions participate, including UMD
 - 465+ datasets are held in DataLumos - Jan 1, 2025
 - [You can suggest data sets to rescue](#)



datalumos.org

Since 2017, the DataLumos archive at ICPSR has soared from 103 to over 450 datasets, safeguarding vital government data for future access.

**DATA
LUMOS**

ICPSR

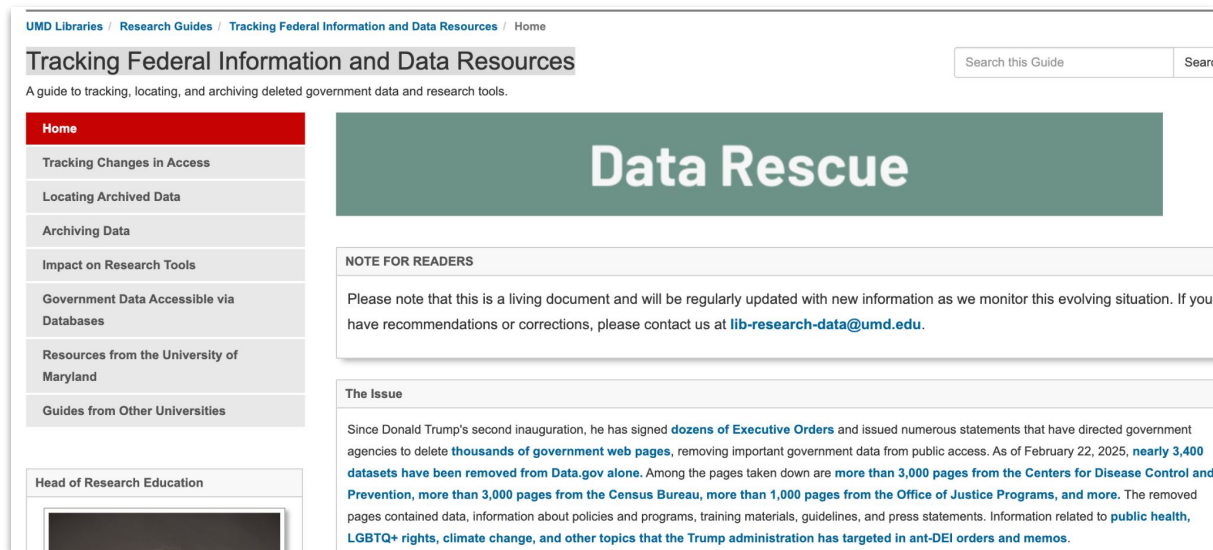
MAPPschool and Art History Event in April

Data Rescue Event Toolkit

- One Art History Professor, One Historic Preservation Professor
 - Interested in:
 - [NEA](#) and NEH grants
 - Census data
 - Drawings
 - Historic Buildings that are housed at Library of Congress:HABS/HAER collections
 - Archaeological sites
 - Event in the fall with graduate students.

Our Own Libguide: How can I contribute to the guide?

- The guide is a living document and will be regularly updated
 - [Tracking Federal Information and Data Resources](#)
- If you have recommendations or corrections, email lib-research-data@umd.edu



The screenshot shows the homepage of the 'Tracking Federal Information and Data Resources' guide. The page features a navigation menu on the left with options like 'Home', 'Tracking Changes in Access', and 'Locating Archived Data'. A large green banner with the text 'Data Rescue' is prominently displayed. Below the banner, there is a 'NOTE FOR READERS' section and a 'The Issue' section. The 'NOTE FOR READERS' section contains a message about the guide being a living document and provides the contact email lib-research-data@umd.edu. The 'The Issue' section discusses the impact of Donald Trump's second inauguration, mentioning the signing of 'dozens of Executive Orders' and the removal of thousands of government web pages.

UMD Libraries / Research Guides / Tracking Federal Information and Data Resources / Home

Tracking Federal Information and Data Resources

A guide to tracking, locating, and archiving deleted government data and research tools.

Home

- Tracking Changes in Access
- Locating Archived Data
- Archiving Data
- Impact on Research Tools
- Government Data Accessible via Databases
- Resources from the University of Maryland
- Guides from Other Universities

Head of Research Education

Data Rescue

NOTE FOR READERS

Please note that this is a living document and will be regularly updated with new information as we monitor this evolving situation. If you have recommendations or corrections, please contact us at lib-research-data@umd.edu.

The Issue

Since Donald Trump's second inauguration, he has signed **dozens of Executive Orders** and issued numerous statements that have directed government agencies to delete **thousands of government web pages**, removing important government data from public access. As of February 22, 2025, **nearly 3,400 datasets have been removed from Data.gov alone**. Among the pages taken down are **more than 3,000 pages from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 3,000 pages from the Census Bureau, more than 1,000 pages from the Office of Justice Programs, and more**. The removed pages contained data, information about policies and programs, training materials, guidelines, and press statements. Information related to **public health, LGBTQ+ rights, climate change, and other topics that the Trump administration has targeted in ant-DEI orders and memos**.

**Tracking Federal
Information and
Data Resources
LibGuide**



Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who helped put together this libguide:

Cindy Frank, Celina McDonald, Josh Westgard, Michelle Wilson, Pam McClanahan, Amy Wickner