DATABASE GUIDE

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

Web-based ABS Resources (AusStats)
- provides the full standard product range of the Australian Bureau of Statistics
- national as well as state figures are produced
- links to other Australian and international statistical and government web sites
- are updated daily

How to Access Database
To access this database go to: http://library.vu.edu.au

1. Click Databases & E-journals
2. Select A for AusStats
3. Please read general guidelines for database use
4. Click Connect
5. If accessing databases off campus you will be asked to supply your student/staff ID number and library PIN

Types of Resources
The ABS (AusStats) provides a variety of different types of resources including:

- Census Data: A number of different profiles including Basic Community Profiles from the Census of Population and Housing
- Publications: All ABS publications from 1998 onwards (see subject Pathfinders for examples)
- Year Books: Statistical overview of economic and social conditions in Australia and its states
- Time Series Data: Over 2,000 spreadsheets containing economic and social data
- Data Cubes: Excel spreadsheets and multidimensional datasets in SuperTABLE format. Datasets contain a number of fields or classifications from the ABS collection. From the range of classifications included, different tailored tables can be created to suit your needs

Please note: Most tables from the Data Cubes are in.xls format and can be opened in Excel. Some tables are in .srd format which requires SuperTABLE software to be downloaded from the ABS website.

Finding Resources on a Topic
- Access All Themes from the left navigator bar of the ABS homepage. Choose one of the subjects to access a list of relevant statistics and publications, not all of which are ABS statistics
- If your topic is not listed under Themes, try browsing subject categories by selecting All Statistics from the left navigator bar of the ABS homepage.

Search by:
- Catalogue number (then select subject areas from drill-down menus)
- Release Date
- Topic
- Title (of ABS document)
- Use the Search box (powered by Google) to look up a topic or keywords. This searches across all publications excluding Census material.
Print ABS Resources
VU library also holds ABS print publications prior to 1998 and these can be found by a title search in the VU library catalogue.

Census Data
The Census of Population and Housing, conducted every 5 years by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, collects information on social and demographic topics in various formats.

Access via AusStats homepage
Select Census from the navigation bar at the top of the ABS homepage and choose 2001 Census (or 1996 Census) by:
- **Location Name** - Click on the blue arrows to expand each level in order to choose the geographic area you need.
- **Location Map** - Start with the map of Australia and zoom in to a particular geographic area. Click on the map to navigate to lower levels. Click on the link above the map to view data. If you want to use the map option from home you need **Internet Explorer 5.+, Adobe Acrobat Viewer 5.+, with a SVG file viewer**
- **Profile** - Easiest way to find Local Government Areas or Statistical Local Areas when you already know the name.
  - Select **Basic Community Profile** (basic demographic information for an area) or **Expanded Community Profile** (more detailed information about an area) or **Time Series Profile** (tables are based on both Basic and Expanded Community Profiles but also contain comparable data from the 1991, 1996 and 2001 censuses. There are other profiles which might be useful

Please note: Files are compressed to reduce download time. Decompression software (eg. Power Archiver) is required to unzip the spreadsheets. This software is already loaded on all VU library computers and is available from the ABS site (and the VU IT/Library software disk).

Census Reference Products such as the **Census Dictionary** (containing the 2001 Census Household Form) and the guide **How Australia Takes a Census** (including history, planning, collection, etc) are available from the ABS site.

Access via CLIB 2001, 1996 and 1991 are available at several campuses
- CD-ROM access via stand-alone computer (ask at the Service Desk)
- Limited customisation of geographic areas possible
- User-friendly drill-down map interface
- Maps available on separate CD-ROM

Earlier Census material (Ask at the Serials Inquiry Window, Footscray Park Library, Level 2)
- Microfiche reader/printer is located on Level 4

Related ABS databases using Census information
Allows users to analyse and display comprehensive 2001 Census data in detailed thematic maps, graphs and reports.

**Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA 2001)** (available at Footscray Park Campus)
Allows users to investigate the socio-economic well-being of Australian communities and identify areas of advantage and disadvantage, by sumnarisng information from the 2001 Census. Also included with demographic information under the "Regional Statistics" link under the green map of Australia on the ABS homepage.