

user-friendly. The traditional tabulation plan has been much reduced and structurally simplified. The priority goes to electronic access, including on-line databases, and plenty of illustrations in the form of maps and graphs. Selected users can obtain microdata files, which contain a random sample of census records. This allows them to do their own and independent analysis.

Future developments will build upon what has been accomplished. This will certainly include closer integration of statistical work with that of other government bodies. The Federal Building and Dwelling Register and the Communal/Cantonal Population Registers, both crucial building blocks for statistical enquiries, serve many important non-statistical purposes. The task of adapting the registers to efficient common use is much more organisational than technical. The issue of communality in definitions and codes is only one of the many concerns to be tackled in the near future. For additional information see [Ha00].

3.4. Norway

Norway is one of the countries moving towards a totally register-based census. For the November 2001 Census this was not yet possible, although already registers were used to a large extent. This census can be called a register-assisted census [He00, SN03].

The main problem holding back a register-based census was the impossibility to link the dwellings in the GAB Register (Ground, Addresses and Buildings) sufficiently with the persons in the Central Population Register CPR. This difficulty has been addressed in the 2001 Census and associated programs, which lead to the GAB being updated with the required link to persons where necessary. It is the expectation that future censuses will no longer require questionnaires.

Since the CPR already provided acceptable person data, the 2001 Census has been called a Housing Census, although respondents were asked to compile or correct a list of persons living in each dwelling unit. The collection method was mail-out/mail-back.

The publicity for the census aimed at obtaining a response rate of at least 95%, with a minimum of 80% correctly completed forms returned by the deadline. With media in Norway being traditionally critical of government interference, an effort was undertaken to obtain at least a neutral coverage. This was done by explaining carefully the methodology and providing continuous access for remaining questions.

Difficult-to-reach groups: students, the elderly, immigrants, received special attention. After a study of non-response, posters were displayed on public transportation in four common foreign languages. The publicity placed the census in a historic context, underlining the value of ongoing data series that tell so much about the development of a nation. Apart from public transportation, Internet start-up pages, the press, teletext, postcards, plastic bags and radio commercials were used as podium for publicity.