

FORUM - "A medium of open discussion or voicing of ideas."

This is **YOUR** forum!

We want **YOUR** ideas (yes, even the crazy ones), suggestions, questions, and contributions!

SHARING IS FUN!! Here's a chance to share any articles, presentations, questions, or ideas even remotely connected to the ALMIS Database or its practical application. Remember! It could be something you've already done or something you've seen somewhere else.

So, send us an [email](#) right away and let your voice be heard! (I dare you!!) -*editor*

DELIVERING SOLUTIONS: An ALMIS Database Seminar

**Emory Conference Center Hotel
Atlanta, Georgia
November 3-5, 2003**

Want to know more about the latest issues impacting the ALMIS Database?

Like to have some new tools and techniques to take back to your office?

Need to discuss database and application issues with peers and experts in the field?

Here's your chance!!

Conference Features

Hear it straight from the source! We're convening the leaders and visionaries in Workforce Information so you can get the direct line on what the latest happenings are and how they impact the ALMIS Database:

- ☞ XML and the ALMIS Database
- ☞ ALMIS Database Extracts from Federal/State Programs
- ☞ Harnessing the Power of O*NET!
- ☞ ALMIS Employer Database
- ☞ National Crosswalk Service Center
- ☞ Local Employment Dynamics (LED)
- ☞ Wage Records
- ☞ Benefits
- ☞ Job Vacancy

Unique Opportunities

Take advantage of several networking and learning opportunities, including:

- ☞ Question and answer sessions with peers and a panel of experts,
- ☞ One-on-one sessions with ALMIS Database "gurus",
- ☞ And, outside of classroom networking opportunities.

Brush up on the basics in workshops such as:

- ☞ LMI for Those Who Have Other Things to Do
- ☞ SQL (Structure Query Language)
- ☞ ALMIS Database Fundamentals

Find more details at:
www.almisdb.org/Level2/4_1seminar.cfm

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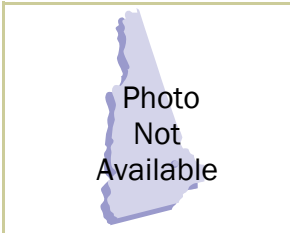


This year's ALMIS Database Seminar is being held at the beautiful Frank Lloyd Wright inspired Emory Conference Center Hotel in Atlanta, Georgia.

DBA in the Spotlight

Katrina Evans

New Hampshire
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Concord, NH
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Do you have job responsibilities in addition to being an ALMIS DBA?

Compiling community profiles for New Hampshire's cities and towns, publishing licensed occupations data, web site design, GIS mapping projects, and other projects.

What is your educational background? I have a BS in Child and Family Studies from the University of NH, and a BS in Business Computer Science from Franklin Pierce College.

Are you originally from New Hampshire? Born and bred.

What are your interests outside of work? Reading, music, going places and doing tourist stuff like museums, nature attractions, festivals. New England is a great place for that.

What is your favorite work-related web site? [Google](http://www.google.com) -- you can find links to anything.


What is the strangest job you ever held? I once had a temp job doing product testing. One of the things we asked customer opinions on was juice box design, if they preferred round or square, straw or no straw. The square juice box with attached straw came on the market shortly after that. And once, during a summer internship working with the Cooperative Extension Service, I spent three weeks counting blueberries -- they were testing the effectiveness of different ways to keep birds out of the bushes, and we counted the berries on marked stems once a week.

What is the most rewarding aspect of your current job? When someone says that our information was useful to

them and helped them answer a question or achieve a goal.

What is the most challenging aspect of your current job? Trying to keep up with changing technology.

What is the most exotic (and awe-inspiring) place you've been? Scotland's castles and glens, Loch Ness, and the battlefield at Culloden; and Chichen Itza, the Mayan ruins on the Yucatan Peninsula near Cancun.

What would a perfect day be like for you? A few good books, a comfy chair, a sunny beach, warm waves, and a good waiter. 

How long have you been involved in the world of LMI?

I started at the SOICC of NH in 1987, compiling data for the Micro-OIS and then OLMID, a predecessor to the ALMIS database, and have worked at NH Employment Security's Economic and Labor Market Information Bureau since 1996.

How long have you been an ALMIS DBA? Since 1997.

NOTES from the ALMIS Resource Center Meeting, August 2003

The ALMIS Resource Center/ALMIS Database Maintenance Consortium met in Portland, Maine on August 5-7, 2003.

Welcome by Bob Cottrell and Ray Fongemie with a brief discussion of the week's events. Members gave updates on various consortia, policy councils, workgroups, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), and the Employment and Training Administration (ETA).

Jim Winner of *infoUSA* discussed the Employer Database contract extension. The contract was extended with the State of Maine through March 31, 2004. The NAICS code was modified to four digits for a more convenient search and effective immediately through the contract extension the approximately two million URLs can be activated for use on Web applications. The 2nd Edition 2003 is coming out in mid-October.

Sally Cox and Harry Russos of the National O*NET Center gave an overview and update of the O*NET Project. Following the presentation, a question and answer session was held.

The National Crosswalk Service Center (NCSC) handed out and discussed their Annual Report and a one-page sheet outlining some of their most recent activities.

The notice of intent to award the ALMIS Employer Database issued by Iowa to *infoUSA* was upheld by the Iowa Administrative Law Judge. No additional appeals were filed. The state of Iowa and the ALMIS Employer Database Steering Committee are working on the contract between Iowa and *infoUSA*. Meetings with *infoUSA* on the contract will occur later this fall.

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As under the existing contract, each state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam and the Virgin Islands will receive three copies of the database. The database will be updated every six months. Under the proposal submitted by *infoUSA*, **additional CD-ROM copies of the ALMIS Employer Database and the search and display software will be provided free of charge** to the primary recipient, i.e. the State Workforce Agency or the State Employment Security Agency.

Once the master contract between Iowa and *infoUSA*


is signed, a license between each state and *infoUSA* will also be executed. Information on those licenses and ordering additional copies will be provided as soon as possible.

The Education and Communication Subcommittee discussed plans for the upcoming ALMIS Resource Center workshop at the LMI Forum, the ALMIS Database Seminar in November, demonstrated the ALMIS Resource Center test Web site (www.almisdb.org), discussed proposed changes for handling help desk requests and technical support, and handed out copies of the new ALMIS

Resource Center informational brochure. Plans were also discussed for an upcoming annual report, a DBA survey to be conducted in early 2004, and a proposed article on the ALMIS Resource Center for the DOL *Monthly Labor Review*.

The Structure Subcommittee discussed waiting until the Employer Database contract is finalized so they will know the agreed upon table structure and will include that component in a new ALMIS Database version release most likely in the January 2004.

Other issues that were raised as being potential components to be changed in a Version 2.3 release included OES added to SOC crosswalk, NAICS level issues, firms vs. establishment issue, MLS claims and events issue (showing where work vs. where lives), OES six-digit expansion, addition of summary data tables, and the URL table.

Next meeting will be Atlanta, Georgia, November 5 - 7, 2003. 

DBA in the Spotlight

Will Chamberlain
Maine Department of Labor
August, Maine
will.chamberlain@state.me.us



Are you originally from Maine?

I was born and raised in Downeast Maine.

What are your interests outside of work?

I am an avid Mountain Biker. I also enjoy skiing and snowboarding. I ride my motorcycle to work every day that the Maine climate allows.

What is your favorite work-related web site? Why?

The Maine Employment Info Guide. <http://www.state.me.us/labor/lmis/>. This is the site that we developed with Geographic Solutions to utilize our ALMIS database. I can use this site to answer virtually any LMI

question and keep an eye on job openings.

What is the strangest job you ever held?

I was a stern man on my uncle's lobster boat for a summer in high school. There is nothing like the smell of rotten fish at 4 AM.

What is the most rewarding aspect of your current job?


Helping people make informed decisions about their careers.

What is the most challenging aspect of your current job?

Trying to bring the programmers together with the data providers to produce a product that

can be useful to our diverse range of customers.

What is the most exotic (or awe-inspiring) place you've been?

I did a semester abroad at the University of Otago on the South Island of New Zealand. Those scenes in the Lord of the Rings really exist. 

How long have you been involved in the world of LMI?
Almost 4 years.

How long have you been an ALMIS DBA?
For about 3 years.

What is your educational background?
I have a BA in economics from Colby College, a small liberal arts college in Waterville, Maine.

Geographical Definitions Explained

By Steve Rosenow, National Crosswalk Service Center

Location, location, location...

Geography is at the center of nearly every data table in the ALMIS Database. The number of types of geography for which data may be available is truly staggering. In addition to the standard area types like states, counties and metropolitan statistical areas, you may have data for townships, school districts, taxing authorities, community college districts, workforce areas, functional economic areas or others.

On June 6, the federal Office of Management and Budget (OMB) revised definitions for Metropolitan Statistical Areas as well as definitions for a number of new geography types – Micropolitan Statistical Areas, Metropolitan Divisions, and Combined Statistical Areas. They also recognized 49 new Metropolitan Statistical Areas and defined New England City and Town Areas.

ALMIS Database Administrators and other Labor Market Information professionals may have a number of questions about the new geographic definitions --

When will we start using these in DOL (Department of Labor) programs?

The OMB bulletin announcing the changes stated that they would go into effect immediately. The revised standards upon which these areas were designated were announced by OMB in the *Federal Register* on December 27, 2000. However, the areas covered by these definitions were not defined until the June 6 bulletin, so data from the 2000 Census do not use the new areas. The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) has

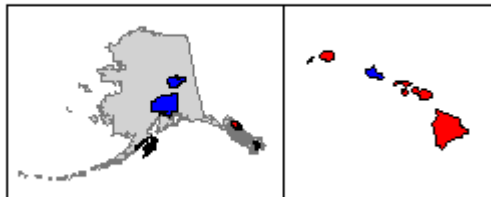
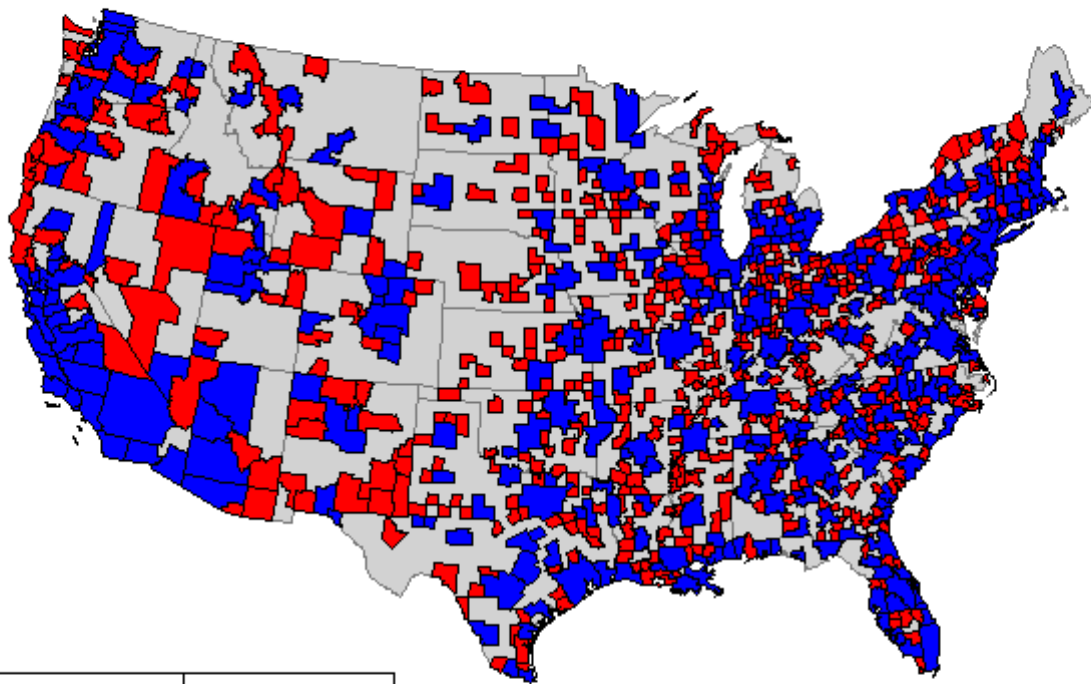
announced that they expect to begin publishing data for the new areas in 2005 in the Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program. The BLS has not yet determined when the areas will be used in their other programs.

What's available now?

The OMB announcement, along with errata, is available on the Internet at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/bulletins/b03-04.html>. The National Crosswalk Service Center (NCSC) has downloaded files containing

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(2000 Metropolitan and Micropolitan Area coverage = 1,764 counties)



SOURCE: Department of Commerce Census Bureau

NOTE: Areas in New England are county-based under the 2000 standards.

- Metropolitan Areas
- Micropolitan Areas
- Outside 2000 coverage

Web Source: <http://www.bls.gov/laui/maps/uscmpr.htm>

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the metropolitan, micropolitan and metropolitan division names and definitions. The files (including changes from the errata) have been incorporated into a geography database (GEOG and SUBGEOG tables) that already contained state and county codes. Three new values for the AREATYPE variable are included in the tables:

- ☞ 21=Metropolitan Statistical Areas (2003 definition)
- ☞ 22=Micropolitan Statistical Areas ((2003 definition)
- ☞ 23=Metropolitan Division (2003 definition)

Information about the files and links to files for downloading can be found on the NCSC Non-standard ALMIS Database Information web page at <http://www.xwalkcenter.org/almisdb/nonstd.html>. NCSC staff plan to add records to the database for other new or revised geographic types.

Where can I get more information?

In addition to the OMB announcement, the BLS (<http://www.bls.gov/lau/lausmsa.htm>) and Census Bureau (<http://www.census.gov/population/www/estimates/metroarea.html>) both have web pages with information about the geographic areas and their use. Questions about the content of the NCSC geography files can be directed to the center at NCSC@ed.state.ia.us.

Dates to Remember

[Delivering Solutions: An ALMIS Database Seminar](#)
November 3—5, 2003
Atlanta, Georgia


ALMIS Resource Center Meeting
November 5—7, 2003
Atlanta, Georgia

Have you been to the new ALMIS Database Web Site?

www.almisdb.org

Check out what's new!

- ◆ **Searchable FAQs**
- ◆ **ALMIS Database Administrator's Guide**
- ◆ **Help Desk**
- ◆ **Links to ALMIS Database Applications Nationwide**

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If you have any questions regarding **almis database news** or would like to contribute information, please contact Marilyn Skalberg (503) 623-2504 or Email mskalberg@yahoo.com.

The ALMIS Database is a normalized, relational database structure developed for the storage and maintenance of labor market, economic, demographic and occupational information. The ALMIS Resource Center is responsible for the ALMIS Database structure development, update, and maintenance. Members include North Carolina (lead), Connecticut, Georgia, Florida, Illinois, Iowa, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, North Carolina, Oregon, South Carolina, Wisconsin, and ETA, along with support from the National Crosswalk Service Center and the LMI Institute.