EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON QUALITY IN OFFICIAL STATISTICS
2024 ESTORIL - PORTUGAL

Official statistics of a lifetime – and beyond?

Hans Viggo Sæbø, Statistics Norway

Photo: Open.EDU

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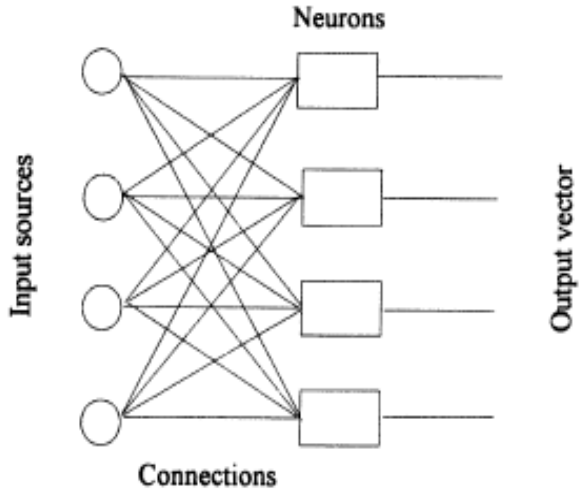
50 or more years ago....

Q2012 Athens: «Before Q2001 and after Q2012»



Petter Jacob Bjerve in Statistical Council of Portugal in 1978:

- Use of administrative data for statistics
- Quality and analyses
- Coordination
- More planning of the economy?

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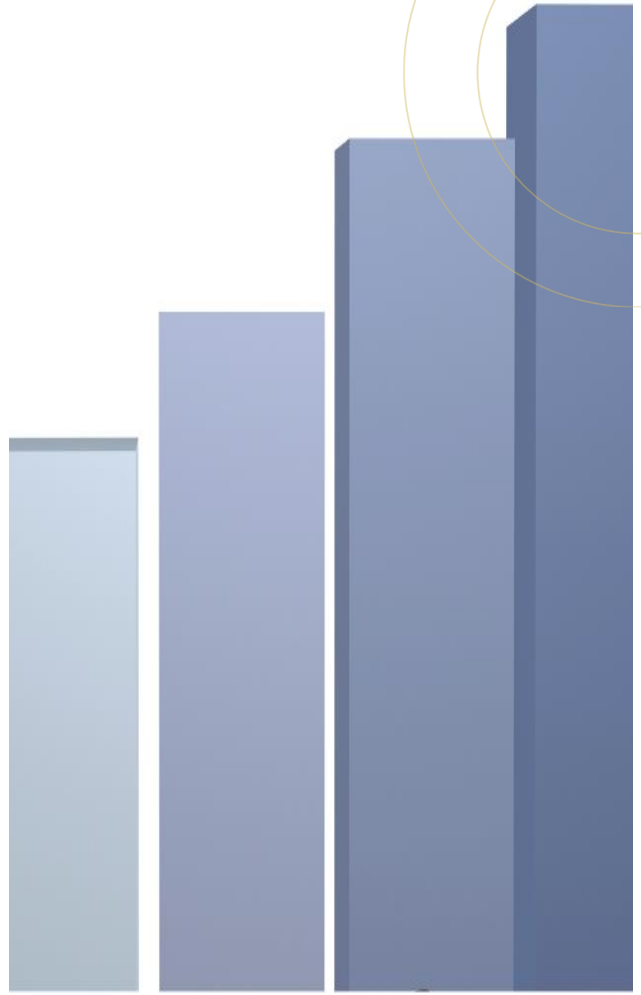
Trends

- Official statistics as a public good, developed, produced and disseminated in an independent manner
- Systematic quality work and quality requirements
- WWW
- Use of secondary data
- From NSIs to statistical systems



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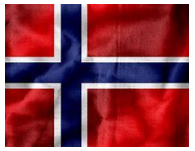
Milestones

2021 — Statistisk sentralbyrå / Statistics Norway

National programme for official statistics 2021–2023

1964 — 11-digit personal ID number



2005 — European Statistics Code of Practice

2002 — Quality in statistics - Lars Lyberg

1995 — WWW

1992-94 — UNFPOS

1950 — The quality revolution

W. Edwards Deming: **TQM**

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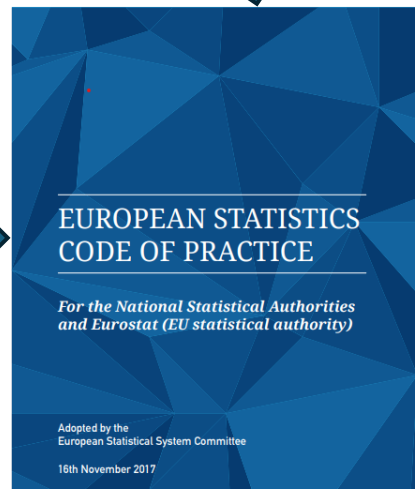
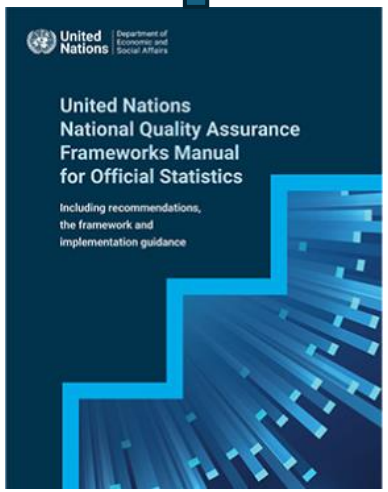
Values, principles and requirements for official statistics

Core values:

- Relevant
- Impartial
- Transparent
- Professionally independent
- Respects confidentiality
- Collaborative

Statistical legislation





UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

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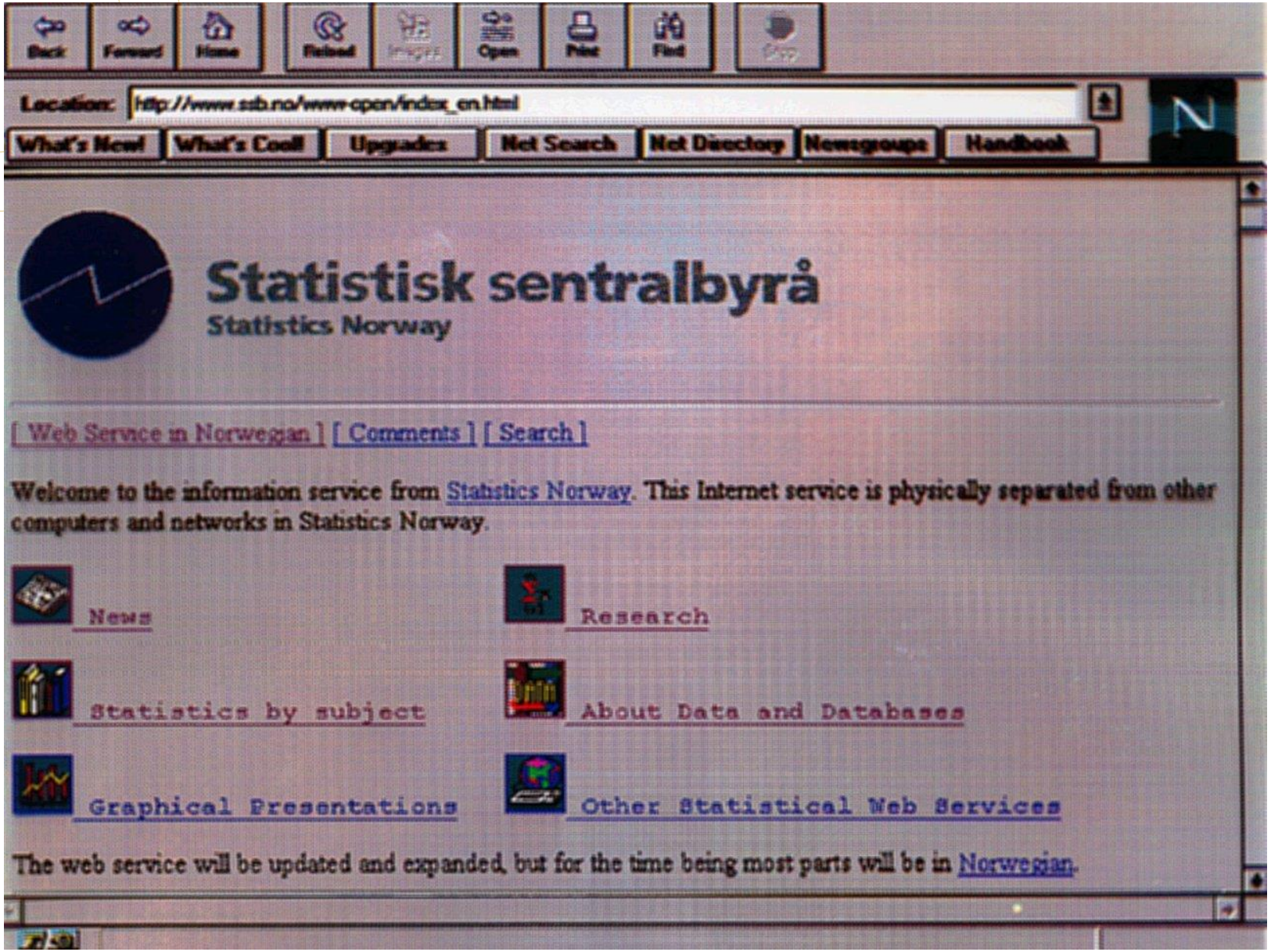
Internet February 1995



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What now?

- Official statistics as a public and free good, independently produced according to a quality framework
  - Clarify and develop standards for assuring quality of source data
  - Do not reinvent the wheel, but focusing on special issues such as ethics is fine
- Data stewardship? Tasks within the statistical system:
  - Coordination
  - Quality control
  - Agreements with owners of administrative registers
  - Large data bases, API service with open data
  - Sharing of microdata under specific conditions
  - Collaboration beyond the statistical system
- Artificial intelligence

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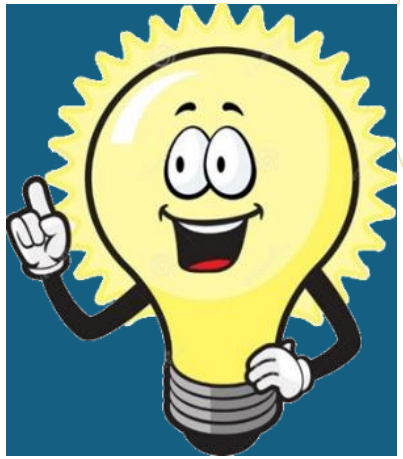
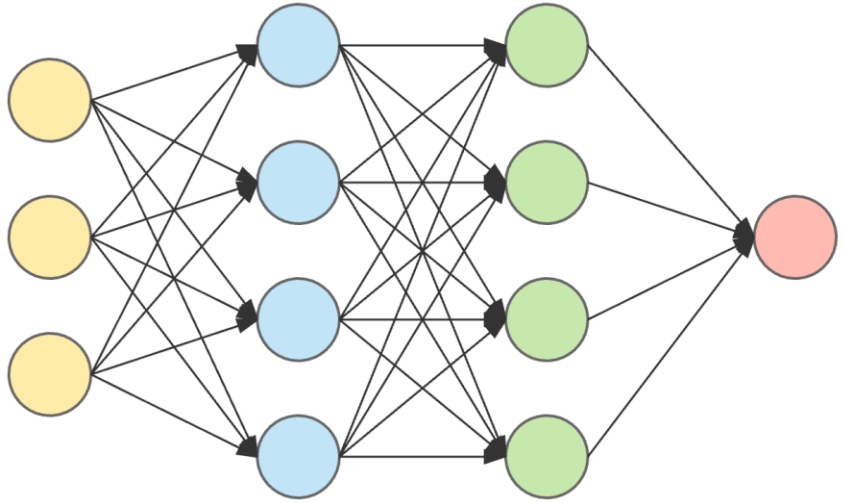
Artificial intelligence in brief

- Not new but applications take off due to *open data*, *code* and *computing capabilities*
- Use in statistics: Programming, classifications, editing, analyses and dissemination
- Will have great impact on:
  - Production
  - Use of statistics
- Rules can be implemented (”constitution”)
- Challenges: Quality control, Confidentiality, Ethics, Labels (references to use, sources and data)





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Ambitions for the future

- Work to utilize and control AI
- Quality control
- Statistical literacy
- Promote innovation
- Stick to the core values of official statistics
- Extended collaboration, within and outside the National Statistical System and internationally!

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Thank you for your attention!

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