

Hi

My name is Lynda Kellam and I am the Data Services & Government Information Librarian at Jackson Library. I want to talk with you today about an upcoming event—the 2010 Census.

The foundation of our American democracy is dependent on fair and equitable representation in Congress. To achieve an accurate assessment of the number and location of people living within the nation's borders, the US constitution mandates a census of the population every 10 years.

The census population totals determine representation in Congress. For example, after the 2000 census North Carolina gained one representative because its population increased. The census count also determines the amount of state and federal funding communities will receive over the next decade. 2010 Census data will directly affect how over 4 trillion dollars are allocated to local and state governments. For this funding allocation to be accomplished fairly and accurately, the goal of the decennial census is to count everyone, count them only once, and count them in the right place. The information gathered in the census also helps to shape decisions for the rest of the decade about public health, transportation, education, and much more. Even your financial aid!

The goal of the 2010 Census is to count all residents living in the United States on April 1, 2010. The US Census Bureau does not ask about the legal status of respondents in any of its surveys and census programs. Responses to the 2010 Census questionnaire are required by law and the Census Bureau cannot share an individual's responses with anyone, including other federal agencies and law enforcement entities.

With one of the shortest questionnaires in history, the 2010 Census asks for name, gender, age, race, ethnicity, relationship, and whether you own or rent your home. It takes only about 10 minutes to complete. UNCG students living on-campus will be counted through the University's office of housing and residence life. Students and faculty living off-campus will receive their forms at their current residence. Please make certain you fill out your census form. Regardless of where you are registered to vote or where you obtained your driver's license or where your parent's live, if you are a student at UNCG and live here for the majority of the year, complete your Census form received at your Greensboro address.

On April 1, 2010, stand up! Be counted! For more information, visit the 2010 Census website at www.census.gov/2010.