

The Center for Technology in Government, through the Using Information in Government (UIG) program, has worked during the past year with NYS agency project teams and partners from the public, private, and academic sectors to identify benefits of and strategies for integrating and using data for program planning, evaluation, and decision making. The policy, management, and technology issues identified through our work with the agency teams will be shared in a series of seminars focused on increasing the value of existing information to government programs. This report summarizes the presentations given at the first of the Using Information in Government seminar series, "Dealing with Data" conducted on February 4, 1999.

The first seminar covered a wide range of data issues such as quality, standards, and long-term maintenance and preservation. The seminar was divided into three sessions. In the introductory session, Dr. Giri Kumar Tayi, professor of Management Science and Information Systems at the University at Albany, gave a presentation on data quality management. In the second session, three speakers- Wendy Scheening, Manager of Data Processing Technical Services at the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets; Pam Neely, Graduate Assistant at the Center for Technology in Government and doctoral student in the Information Science program at the Nelson A. Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy of SUNY Albany; and Michael Medvesky, Director of the Public Health Information Group at the NYS Department of Health- presented data tools and techniques. Finally, Alex Roberts, Assistant Director of Data Processing at the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services, and Alan Kowlowitz, Manager of Electronic Records Management Services at the NYS Archives and Records Administration, shared their experience in dealing with data issues. A panel discussion concluded the program.