Advanced Search

Meanwhile, If you have a more specific goal in mind rather than a more relaxed investigation, the Advanced Search option is the tool for you. The Advanced Search Option, through the blue bars on the left of the screen, give you filter options you may select to build your specific search. What if, for example you wanted to look up the most recent information about the state of the housing stock in your neighborhood? First, you would click on the top blue bar on the left side of the screen called "Topics." This bar gives you a number of options to add to your selection, each having an even more detailed sub-category. Since we are looking up information about housing, we would click on that topic, and then further narrow our search by selecting "Physical Characteristics" since we are interested in the type and age of housing stock in our neighborhood.
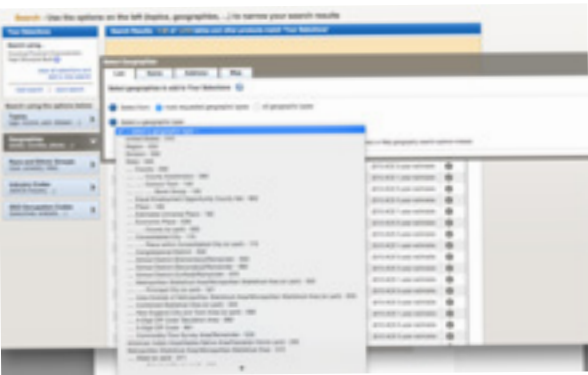

After selecting Physical Characteristics, we see even more options available for exploration. You may narrow your search. In our case we will choose "Year Built" but you may choose whichever topic you are interested in.

Once selected, close this dialogue box and turn your attention toward Geographies, once again on the left in the blue boxes. It is through this category that you may choose what level of inquiry you wish to follow. Choose to view data on a city-wide scale or all the way down to "Block Group."

Once decided, close this dialogue box.

Your results are now displayed. The most recent data will be displayed first, so if you are looking for data from the past, go back into the Topics bar and determine your data set under the appropriate category. Otherwise, start exploring! Often, even though you might have made a narrow specification in your search, other tables still show up in the list of your results. Though these might have titles that sounds broad, they often still include just what you are looking for, and sometimes other information you weren't expecting to be useful. Explore the different tables and see what it tells you about your city or neighborhood.

You can also add more specifications like race and income to your initial search if you wish to add to your inquiry.

HAVE FUN AND DO GOOD WORK!

TOOLS TO "UN-SORT" THE CITY & HOW TO USE THEM:
A COMPANION TO URBAN ALCHEMY

Part 1 of 2

Complied by Beth Gratzer