

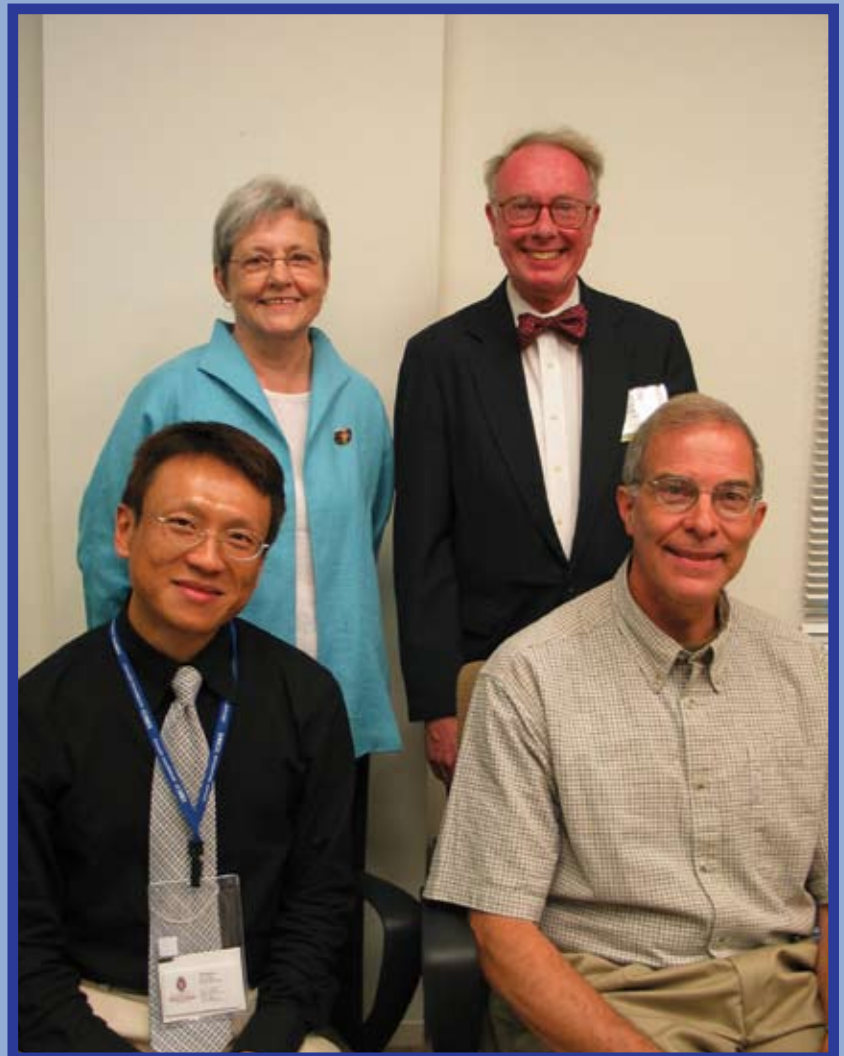
# DttP

Documents to the People

Fall 2007 | Volume 35, No. 3  
ISSN 0091-2085

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- Disasters: Preparedness and Recovery
- Fallacy in the 55 Percent Rule
- International Criminal Justice Statistics
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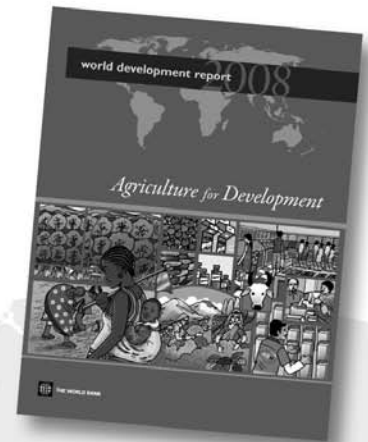
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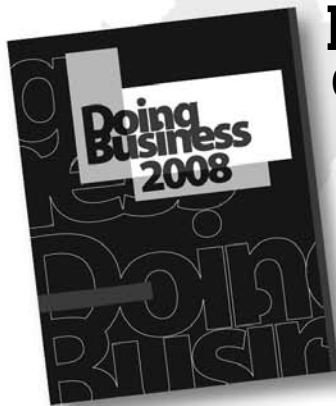
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*DttP* features articles on local, state, national, and international government information and government activities and documents the professional activities of GODORT. The opinions expressed by its contributors are their own and do not necessarily represent those of GODORT.

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# DttP

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**About the cover:** The cover photo is of the 2007 GODORT Award Recipients. They are (clockwise from top left), Cathy Hartman, August Imholtz, Tom Stave, and Chi-Shiou Lin. See page 45–46 or [www.ala.org/ala/godort/godortcommittees/godortawards/awards2007.htm](http://www.ala.org/ala/godort/godortcommittees/godortawards/awards2007.htm) for more details. Photo by Andrea Sevetson.

# Editor's Corner

Andrea Sevetson

For a long time one of my favorite quotes has been:

When in danger  
 When in doubt  
 Run in circles  
 Scream and shout.

Shortened, one can just use “wid wid ric sas.” As I came back from ALA Annual to put this issue together, I came across a disaster of my own. A water pipe in the basement (conveniently located where both the electrical and the phone lines came into the house) had been dripping for about ten days. The plumbers came the next day and were able to fix it, and I was left with some mold (now dispatched) and a soggy piece of carpet. However, this is not my first ALA water-related story. Several years ago, our water heater also gave out during ALA. Luckily, it was near a low spot in the floor where the water would flow into the sump pump, so there was no damage done. Both this, and the wid wid ric sas, seemed timely as I contemplated my column for this issue, as it has several articles about disasters and disaster response in libraries.

My experience with library disasters was mentioned in an earlier column (*DttP* 33, no. 1 [Spring 2005]: 4), but

## From the Chair

Bill Sleeman

The March 2007 issue of *Preservation* had an article about the technological marvel of the Horn and Hardart Automat in New York.<sup>1</sup> The article reminded me of my own experience with the Automat and technology as a child.

While on a family trip to New York, we stopped at the Automat for lunch. After making my dessert choice, a slice of lemon meringue pie, I inserted my money, only to have the door stick and, as I tugged at my plate, the pie fell off. Snuffling back to my parents, my Dad came up with the needed change, and I again went off for my pie, only to have the same result! By this time I was near tears, and my Dad wasn't a happy guy either. I distinctly remember that at this point in my earliest “content exchange” experience, a woman who worked at the Automat opened the back of the unit and handed me a slice of pie.

Technology is often like that. Sometimes it doesn't work exactly the way we expect, and it often needs human intervention to be effective. As government information specialists, we face this challenge every day in our libraries. The users of our collections no longer prefer digital, as we were once told, but now *expect* that our services and our content will be both in electronic form and structured

the wid wid ric sas quote always reminds me of a bomb scare that I once witnessed. It took the person on the public address system three tries just to spit out his name and title. His adrenaline was pumping, and he was definitely in the “run in circles, scream and shout” mode. Luckily, this does not appear to have been the case at many of the libraries mentioned in this issue.

I'd like to thank Dan Barkley for coordinating this issue and the authors for sharing their experiences. I know it isn't easy to write about this kind of thing, though it may have therapeutic benefits, and, one hopes, will serve to help other librarians plan for scenarios that could happen in their own libraries.

### *DttP* Online

I'm thrilled to announce that, through the courtesy of Stanford University, we now have 1972 through 1998 (volumes 1–26) available for full-text searching or browsing—that is 123 issues! This complements the current material (v. 31, 2003–present) that is available to GODORT members through the ALA site. Visit [www.ala.org/ala/godort/dttp/dttponline](http://www.ala.org/ala/godort/dttp/dttponline), and click on the “Digital archive for *DttP*” link.

Many thanks to those who helped us achieve this: Chuck Eckman (formerly of Stanford), Elizabeth Cowell, and Stu Snyderman at Stanford, who took care of the scanning and technical details.

Enjoy your issue of *DttP*! ■



to work with whatever format or delivery device *they* use. Meanwhile, our vendor partners regularly create new products that significantly change how we and our patrons access government information. At the same time, government entities at all levels rapidly produce new electronic content, but

often without the necessary funding support to do the job thoroughly. As government information librarians, it is difficult to keep up with everything and to remain effective in this ever-changing environment.

I believe that GODORT has a very important role to play in responding to these changes. Like the employee at the Automat, it is our responsibility to make sure that new technologies and new concepts of service are not just available, but delivered in the most effective and reliable manner possible. How can we, as an organization, ensure that all our members have the skills to do this? One approach is by offering increased training opportunities to our members. Whether it is a subject-orientated preconference or a technology boot camp that focuses on Web 2.0 issues, we must continue to provide the type of educational experiences that



can help all our colleagues to develop new skills and abilities that will enhance their careers.

Another way we can work toward this goal is to ensure that ALL the public information-producing communities we work with receive our full support in fulfilling their missions while keeping the goal of free, permanent public access at the forefront of any technology-based initiative. Finally, I believe very strongly that we have much to learn from our vendor partners about managing content, delivering services, and training staff to be conversant with new technologies. I am fully committed to building a strong relationship with this community, one where knowledge and experience can flow easily between GODORT and our colleagues in the commercial sector.

This is why I urged that a vendor representative be included in our strategic planning initiative. This effort, approved during the New Orleans membership meeting, will get underway this year. The strategic planning process will be led by Linda Johnson and Marianne Ryan and include a mix of old hands and newer GODORT members that will focus on the needs of the organization and help us to improve our services and outreach efforts. As part of this process, the Membership Committee will shortly be sending out

a survey to evaluate our services and mission. I know that many of us are bombarded with survey requests but I really want to encourage each of you to respond to this survey. It will help us to better prepare a plan for the future if we know with some degree of assuredness what our members like and don't like about GODORT. We will also be working with ALA to get the survey out to former members as well.

As we move into the next year, we must work together to create an environment of change that will help to position GODORT for the future. We have to meet the needs of current members, yet work to make our round table more attractive to newer librarians who work with government information but don't necessarily see themselves as "documents librarians." Certainly past chairs Aimee Quinn and Arlene Weible have worked hard to move us in that direction, and I hope that I will be able to build on their successes.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your GODORT chair. I look forward to learning from and working with all of you. ■

## Reference

1. Suzanne Gannon, "An Automatic Choice?" *Preservation* 59, no. 2 (2007):14-15.

# Washington Report

Mary Mallory

On Sunday, June 10, 2007, *The New York Times Week in Review* featured a front-page article headlined "Why Washington Can't Get Much Done." ALA GODORT members and other government information specialists in the midst of finalizing presentations, projects, and such committee assignments as letters and resolutions, and packing for the ALA Annual Conference in Washington, D.C., may feel differently, at least in terms of legislative activities, the immigration bill aside. At present there are a number of significant issues being addressed through legislative action. Especially pertinent bills include (1) *Congressional Research Accessibility Act*, H.R. 2545; (2) *The OPEN Government Act of 2007*, S. 849, and a similar effort, the *Freedom of Information Act Amendments of 2007*, H.R. 1309; and (3) the *Presidential Records Act Amendments of 2007*, H.R. 1255, and its counterpart, the *Presidential Records Amendments of 2007*, S. 886. To date, the House Committee on Appropriations has met to mark up the Subcommittee on Legislative Branch's appropriations bill, and the committee recommended \$92,892,000 for GPO and \$35,434,000 for the Superintendent of Documents. These were both less than GPO requested, and as a result of amendments the amounts were further decreased.

Other bills of interest are as follows: the *America COMPETES (America Creating Opportunities to Meaningfully Promote Excellence in Technology, Education, and Science) Act*, S. 761; the *LIBRARIAN (Librarian Incentive to Boost Recruitment and Retention*

*in Areas of Need) Act of 2007*, S. 1121 and H.R. 1877; and the *Voter Advocate and Democracy Index Act of 2007*, S. 737.

Although last year's *Federal Research Public Access Act of 2006*, S. 2695, did not become law, it brought greater attention to this matter. More than 21,000 individual and organizational signatures in support of this were presented to the European Union's Commissioner for Science and Research and students in the U.S. staged a National Day of Action, as reported by Miriam M. Nisbet, ALA Washington Office, to ALA COL's Government Information Subcommittee (GIS), March 19, 2007. On a related note, GAO has produced *Federal Research: Policies Guiding the Dissemination of Scientific Research from Selected Agencies Should be Clarified and Better Communicated*, GAO-07-653, May 17, 2007. National Security Letters also have repeatedly made the news. Coverage of these appears in "National Security Letters," a recent *AALL Issue Brief* 2007-2, March 2007.

In regard to the three significant bills in process, the Congressional Research Service (CRS) has apparently been updating its media policy for the preceding eight months. According to *Roll Call*, January 18, 2007, CRS announced that CRS staff would now be required to inform management within a twenty-hour time period of any press interviews. In an explanation of this new policy, Daniel Mulhollan, CRS director, told staff in writing that the overall purpose was to minimize inaccuracies and preserve the agency's mission as an unbiased source for legislative research. See Elizabeth Williamson's "You'd Know If You Were Congressional," in the *Washington Post*, March 22, 2007, p. A19, for an additional perspective.

Lack of free access and distribution of Library of Congress publications, in particular CRS reports and *Issue Briefs*, have long been a concern in the federal depository library community and among other professional groups and public information advocates. Recently, individual reports, as well as select compilations, are available at a few heavily promoted web sites constructed mainly for that purpose. See for example, *Congressional Research Service Reports Archive*, [digital.library.unt.edu/govdocs/crs](http://digital.library.unt.edu/govdocs/crs). Cathy Nelson Hartman and Valerie D. Glenn conceived this permanent archive. Their development of the site was funded by a Newsbank/Readex/GODORT/ALA Catharine J. Reynolds award, which they received in 2002. Starr Hoffman, University of North Texas Libraries, has announced that the archive has more than ten thousand documents to date. Another useful site is *OpenCRS.com*.

ALA has supported a number of its Committee on Legislation's resolutions concerning the timely release of CRS reports and products through the Federal Depository Library Program and via no-fee Internet access. The latest resolution was issued in 1998, and this topic was addressed again at the 2007 ALA Annual Conference during committee meetings, including the GIS joint meeting with ALA GODORT's Legislation Committee. One exciting development is the *Congressional Research Accessibility Act*, H.R. 2545, introduced May 24, 2007.

The second aforementioned bill, the *OPEN Government Act of 2007*, S. 849, has received considerable attention. It has received bipartisan support in the Senate, and the House passed its companion bill, the *Freedom of Information Act Amendments of 2007*, H.R. 1309, by a substantial margin. More than one hundred business, public interest, and historical associations, in addition to ALA, have endorsed the Senate bill, and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, which represents more than three million businesses and organizations, has urged support of it, too.

President George W. Bush's Executive Order 13233 of 2001 gave current and former presidents and vice presidents broad authority to withhold presidential records or delay their release indefinitely, according to the National Coalition for History and other groups. The final set of bills under consideration herein, the *Presidential Records Act Amendments of*

*2007*, H.R. 1255, and the *Presidential Records Act Amendments of 2007*, S. 886, would revoke E.O. 13233. The House bill has passed, and the Senate bill has not as yet had a floor vote scheduled. A White House veto threat has been issued.

Overall, these three major efforts represent the pursuit of open government and accountability. At the same time, more than ten million pages of Central Intelligence Agency declassified records have become accessible, and the Nazi War Crimes and Japanese Imperial Government Records Interagency Working Group has completed its work, which has resulted in eight million pages of new material on U.S. records of war crimes being made available. Stay tuned.

On another front of interest to government information specialists, the closure of federal libraries, including Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) libraries, may have slowed, but it has not stopped. One of the latest is an army base library, Fort Huachuca. The Army Surgeon General's Armed Forces Medical Library, founded in 1836, may close due to budget cuts. A recent EPA budget increase may prevent further library closures. Robert Kennedy, Jr., along with ALA president Leslie Burger, discussed the role and value of EPA libraries at the 2007 ALA Annual Conference.

While keeping an eye on these developments, federal depository librarians and others are waiting for the announcement of the confirmation proceedings on GPO chief of staff Robert C. Tapella's promotion to Public Printer. President Bush selected him in late May 2007. William H. Turri, Acting Public Printer, will continue to serve until Tapella has been confirmed. In the meantime, it has been reported that more than one million pages of historical government documents have been removed from public view since September 11, 2001, and Paul Schaffer describes "web harvesting's disabilities" in a GOVDOC-L message dated May 10, 2007. The *GPO LOCKSS Pilot: Final Analysis*, GPO, April 12, 2007, is essential reading, as is Jim Jacobs' "GPO LOCKSS Report: Why does GPO want to use IP Authentication?" This also appears in a GOVDOC-L message dated April 9, 2007.

To conclude on a bright note, a 2007 *Freedom of Information Act Guide* has been published, and try out the new tool LOUIS ([www.louisdb.org](http://www.louisdb.org)) in its beta release. Perhaps

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Basic personal membership in ALA begins at \$50 for first-year members, \$25 for student members, and \$35 for library support staff (for other categories see [www.ala.org/Template.cfm?Section=Membership](http://www.ala.org/Template.cfm?Section=Membership)).

Personal and institutional members are invited to select membership in GODORT for additional fees of \$20 for regular members, \$10 for student members, and \$35 for corporate members.

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a review of the latter is in order? E-government and civic engagement may be on the rise. Let's hope government and we, as depository librarians, are ready to meet the challenges. As Angela Davis recently said in her commencement

address to graduates of Grinnell College, "think about education as the practice of freedom." And, I would add, think about advocacy as the practice of freedom. ■

# By the Numbers

## Survey of International Criminal Justice Statistics

Stephen Woods

### International Criminal Police Organization—Interpol

Interpol's storied history began in 1914, with the meeting of the First International Criminal Police Congress in Monaco. Police officers, lawyers, and magistrates from fourteen countries met to discuss arrest procedures, identification techniques, extradition processing, and, more importantly, the creation of a centralized international criminal records program. These individuals eventually formed an organization called the International Criminal Police Commission (ICPC) that in 1927 established a framework for a centralized reporting system known today as the National Central Bureau (NCB). The literature at this stage of the organization's history is replete with questions regarding the legality of forming such an organization.

ICPC lost considerable power and credibility in 1938 when the Nazis assumed control, but was resurrected by Belgium in 1946 after the end of the war. The adoption of a modernized constitution in 1956 officially changed the name of the organization to the International Criminal Police Organization—Interpol. The constitution allowed the organization to continue to be autonomous, operating on collection of membership dues and investments for support. It was not until 1971 that the United Nations (UN) officially recognized Interpol as an intergovernmental organization.<sup>1</sup>

The relocation of Interpol to France (itself a topic of political debate) initiated the creation of an independent body, the Commission for the Control of Interpol Files, to monitor the implementation of rules for data protection. A new X.400 communication system for reporting and queries was launched in 1992, morphing into the Interpol Criminal Information System developed in 1998. This system was further updated in 2002 with a web-based communication system called I-24/7.

Interpol began collecting and publishing reports on crime statistics of its member nations in 1950. The publication *International Criminal Statistics* provided statistics on murder, sex offenses, larceny, fraud, counterfeit currency offenses, drug offenses, and crimes cleared. The title was changed in 1953 to *International Crime Statistics* and was

expanded to include statistics on serious assault, theft, robbery and violent theft, breaking and entering, and theft of motor cars. The paper version of this publication ceased in 2000 and was issued only online to authorized users. Ultimately, the General Assembly of Interpol, at its meeting in Rio de Janeiro on September 2006, agreed to cease collecting and reporting crime statistics from its member nations.<sup>2</sup>

### United Nations Crime Surveys

The UN in its early years paid intermittent attention to the possibility of collecting and publishing crime statistics. The one exception was a survey conducted in 1947. This survey gathered data on criminal activity occurring from 1937–1946. Member countries reported on criminal offenses in one of five categories: person, family, state, public interest and order, and property. The survey also requested information about police, court actions, and institutional confinements. The results from this survey were published in 1950 by the UN in a report called the *Statistical Report of the State of Crime 1937–1946*.<sup>3</sup> Although this survey laid an important foundation for the development of future surveys, the committee indicated that there were too many problems with the data to publish a full report.

It wasn't until the early 1970s, following a resolution in the General Assembly, that serious attention was given to developing and distributing comparable international crime data. Surveys also known as sweeps were conducted by the UN in five-year intervals from 1970–1994 and in two-year intervals from 1995–2004. These surveys collected qualitative and quantitative information on crime and criminal justice systems from UN members. Unlike the Interpol crime surveys, which focused only on specific types of crime, the UN surveys included a broad spectrum of questions related to the criminal justice system for each nation. Each survey included a number of questions in one of four major categories: police, prosecution, courts, and prisons or penal institutions.<sup>4</sup>

### International Crime Victimization Survey (ICVS)

The problems of making international comparisons from statistics gathered from administrative sources prompted the launching of an international survey focusing on the incidence of crime from the perspective of the victim. The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development organized one of the earliest proposals in the 1970s.<sup>5</sup> Pilot studies in the United States, Netherlands, and Finland were ultimately evaluated at the regional conference of the Council of Europe in Barcelona in 1987 to develop survey methodology ultimately for the ICVS.

The Ministry of Justice of the Netherlands provided initial funding in 1987 for the first ICVS in 1989. The questionnaire covered eleven types of victimization that affected the respondent or the household. Crimes were divided into three major groupings: vehicles, household, and personal. Women also were asked about sexual incidents. Finally, the questionnaire included reports to the police and reasons for not reporting, respondent's opinion of police work, fear of crime, crime prevention measures, and attitudes about punishment.

The first survey in 1989 was conducted by seventeen industrialized nations. Subsequent surveys conducted in 1992, 1996, and 2000 were expanded to include many underdeveloped countries. By 2000, forty-seven nations were participating in the survey. Furthermore, separate surveys also were conducted in city and regional areas in 1992, 1996, and 2000.<sup>6</sup>

### Conclusion

There is a significant amount of scholarship assessing the use of these three data sources for comparative purposes.<sup>7</sup> Users should be cautioned that each of these resources has different perspectives and methods for data collection, scopes, and definitions. This culminates in a variety of different types of errors. For example, police reported data is affected by changes in law, processing errors, police discretion, and inaccurate reporting. Victimization surveys are greatly affected by sampling error, respondent error, estimation, and imputation. ■

### Notes and References

1. The history of Interpol is extremely fascinating and a worthwhile summer read. I would recommend the

following: Fenton S. Bresler, *Interpol* (London: Sinclair-Stevenson, 1992); Michael Fooner, *Interpol: Issues in World Crime and International Criminal Justice* (New York: Plenum Pr., 1989); and Malcolm Anderson, *Policing the World: Interpol and the Politics of International Police Co-operation* (Oxford: Clarendon Pr., 1989).

2. Reasons given for discontinuation included: operational and financial solutions are not viable, number of nations reporting and the quality insufficient, limited interest, and, more importantly, the statistics were creating political difficulties. The text for this resolution can be found at [www.interpol.int/Public/ICPO/GeneralAssembly/AGN75/resolutions/AGN75RES19.asp](http://www.interpol.int/Public/ICPO/GeneralAssembly/AGN75/resolutions/AGN75RES19.asp).
3. United Nations, *Statistical Report of the State of Crime 1937–1946*, E/CN.4/204 (1950).
4. The data from the survey waves are available at [www.unodc.org/unodc/en/crime\\_cicp\\_surveys\\_2.html](http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/crime_cicp_surveys_2.html).
5. Ugljesa Zvekic, The International Crime (Victim) Survey: Issues of Comparative Advantages and Disadvantages. *International Criminal Justice Review* 6 (1996): 1–21.
6. The data and statistics are available at United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), [www.unicri.it/www/analysis/icvs/index.php](http://www.unicri.it/www/analysis/icvs/index.php).
7. For further investigation into these issues, see Richard Bennett, "Does a Difference Make a Difference? Comparing Cross-National Crime Indicators," *Criminology* 28, no. 1 (1990): 153–82; and Wilson Huang, "Assessing Indicators of Crime Among International Crime Data Series," *Criminal Justice Policy Review* 3, no. 1 (1989): 28–48.

## Geospatial News

### LiDAR Imagery

## Revolutionizes Disaster Mapping and Disaster Planning

Marcy A. Allen

Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) technology has been around for some time and was first used by police officers to determine speed limit violations on the highway. Since then LiDAR has slowly become known as a useful tool for collecting detailed topographic information from the Earth's surface. Due to the amount of data collected when using LiDAR, adoption was initially slow. But as technology has advanced—and data storage capacities have grown

and prices for capacity have shrunk—LiDAR is becoming a replacement for photogrammetry and other traditional remote sensing technologies. LiDAR works by sending out pulses from a laser sensor mounted to the bottom of an airplane (although LiDAR data also can be collected from satellites) and measuring the return time of the beam. What makes LiDAR so special is that it can see through objects by measuring multiple returns from each laser pulse emitted. For example, the first return when flying over a heavily wooded area may be the tree tops, the second return a lower tree stand, and then the third return would be the ground. LiDAR processes this information, along with global positioning system (GPS) points collected to provide location data, into a false color image where shades of blue are typically used for lower elevations and shades of red for higher elevations. By itself this image tells a short story, but importing the LiDAR data into various geospatial software products provides additional capabilities that are making LiDAR a very popular means of topographic analysis around the world.

How is LiDAR different from traditional photogrammetry procedures? In order to use aerial photographs to create eleva-

tion models, two separate pictures must be taken from two different angles in order to create a 3-D image when viewed through a stereoscope. Collection of aerial photography can only happen during the leaf off time, the time in the winter and early spring months when there are no leaves on the trees. Then a series of calculations are performed to determine the elevation of a particular point or area. From these calculations an elevation model is created. When comparing the two digital elevation models (DEM) created (one from the aerial photographs, one from LiDAR) you can see that the LiDAR DEM provides a much more detailed image than what is derived from aerial photography. Figure 1 illustrates such differences.

LiDAR use is becoming more widespread through the world. Foresters use it to measure and evaluate tree stands. Environmentalists use it to measure air quality and beach erosion. Geologists are using it to measure and find new ground faults, and it has been the technology of choice on new projects for bathymetric mapping. However, one of the most popular uses for LiDAR in recent times is flood plain modeling and mapping along with natural disaster prediction and emergency response planning. The rest of this article will show how LiDAR data are being used by agencies and states for emergency planning related to certain natural disasters.

### Flooding

FEMA is partnering with states and other organizations to collect LiDAR data for major flood-prone areas in the U.S. as part of its Map Modernization Project. LiDAR is able to detect information from the ground that typical digital orthoimagery is not able to see, particularly at elevations both above and below sea level. LiDAR's ability to create a detailed topographic image both underwater and on the ground allows emergency response planners to overlay this information onto a digital orthophoto and see detailed information about the areas that will be affected in the event of a major flood.

### Earthquakes

The Puget Sound LiDAR Consortium early on recognized the need to deliver high-resolution LiDAR topography for the use in evaluating ground fault activity. This unique organization is made up of a number of public agencies and researchers within the Puget Sound area. The organization's overall goal is to provide LiDAR-based products to the public. Through the collection of this data, the organizations and researchers can find important features that lie near or on fault lines, determine how active a fault has been, and begin to use some of this data in predicting earthquakes. This type of data is essential for emergency response planners, as they are able to see changes in elevation, roads, and streambeds that may make disaster recovery challenging.

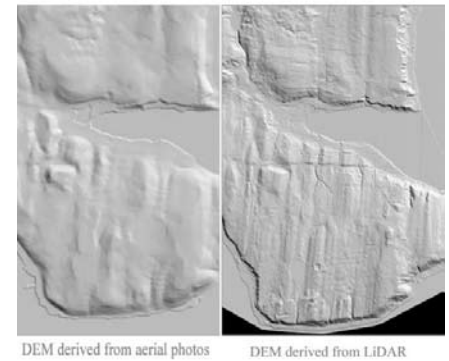
### Volcanic activity

LiDAR has multiple uses when it comes to volcanoes. It can be used as a topographic mapping tool to create detailed 3-D images of a volcano for use in predicting lava flows, landslides, avalanches, and mountain changes. But LiDAR also can be

used in assessing air quality following a volcanic eruption not only in the area immediately surrounding the volcano, but also along the path the ash plume takes once it enters the atmosphere. Similar to the way LiDAR collects topographic information from the Earth's surface, LiDAR can determine the density of

particles in the atmosphere and tell scientists the quality of the air for a particular place during a given time period. LiDAR used in this manner can also detect the speed at which particles are moving through the atmosphere, allowing predictions of how fast volcanic ash and gases may reach distant areas.

Images courtesy of the Puget Sound LiDAR Consortium



**Figure 1. Image Comparison**

### State Examples

A number of states are currently collecting LiDAR simultaneously with digital aerial photography. In addition, several states are collecting LiDAR for specific areas related to projects or ongoing research. Pennsylvania, Iowa, and North Carolina are three states with ongoing LiDAR projects described in the following paragraphs.

#### Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania was the first state to begin collecting LiDAR to FEMA specification for the entire state, beginning in winter 2006 and continuing through 2008. Pennsylvania's goal is to have a complete, high-resolution elevation data set available to the public via the Pennsylvania Spatial Data Access (PASDA) web site, pasda.psu.edu, in efforts to assist emergency planners with flood and other natural disaster planning.

#### Iowa

Iowa started collecting LiDAR on a number of watersheds throughout the state, each serving as a pilot project to determine whether the whole state should be collected. Iowa is currently collecting LiDAR for the entire state but at two separate resolutions. For the watershed areas they are collecting data at FEMA high-resolution standards, and for the rest of the state they are collecting data at a standard resolution in an effort to save money, as collecting LiDAR to full FEMA standards is very expensive. Similar to Pennsylvania, Iowa plans to have a complete set of LiDAR data available via download for public use.

#### North Carolina

North Carolina was the first state to partner with FEMA to develop digital flood insurance rate maps (DFIRMS). Due to



North Carolina's history with hurricanes, and the age of the flood insurance rate maps at the beginning of the project, they have undertaken a venture that has mapped all of the watersheds within the state. One of the results of this project was the North Carolina Floodplain Mapping Information System. Through this system, an individual can go online and view flood information for their area to determine if their address is located in a flood-designated area. This information can be quite useful when you are looking to buy a house or locate a business. It also can be used for predicting flood depth and breadth in high-risk areas during hurricanes or other major storms.

There are a number of other fascinating uses of LiDAR; the ones mentioned above are but just a few. The following list of web resources was consulted to write this article and also are places you can go to find out more about LiDAR and the various agencies using this technology:

NOAA site about LiDAR, [www.csc.noaa.gov/products/scocoasts/html/tutlid.htm](http://www.csc.noaa.gov/products/scocoasts/html/tutlid.htm)

NASA's Experimental Advanced Airborne Research LiDAR, [inst.wff.nasa.gov/eaarl](http://inst.wff.nasa.gov/eaarl)

NASA's Airborne Topographic Mapper, [atm.wff.nasa.gov](http://atm.wff.nasa.gov)  
FEMA's Map Modernization site, [www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/fhm/mm\\_main.shtm](http://www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/fhm/mm_main.shtm)

National Resources Conservation Services web site on LiDAR, [www.ncgc.nrcs.usda.gov/products/datasets/elevation/lidar.html](http://www.ncgc.nrcs.usda.gov/products/datasets/elevation/lidar.html)

Science Daily article on LiDAR use in seeing earthquake trouble spots, [www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2006/11/061108102300.htm](http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2006/11/061108102300.htm)

Science Daily article on LiDAR use in tracking changes to Mt. St. Helens, [www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2004/10/041026121441.htm](http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2004/10/041026121441.htm)

Oregon Department of Geology article on using LiDAR to predict landslides, [www.oregongeology.com/sub/quar-pub/CascadiaFall2006.pdf](http://www.oregongeology.com/sub/quar-pub/CascadiaFall2006.pdf)

Iowa Department of Natural Resources LiDAR mapping page, [www.iowadnr.com/mapping/lidar/index.html](http://www.iowadnr.com/mapping/lidar/index.html)

Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources LiDAR project page, [www.dcnr.state.pa.us/topogeo/pamap/elevation.aspx](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/topogeo/pamap/elevation.aspx)

North Carolina floodplain mapping program, [www.ncflood-maps.com/pubdocs/NCFPMPHndOut.htm](http://www.ncflood-maps.com/pubdocs/NCFPMPHndOut.htm) ■

## International Documents RoundUp

### The NGO Documents Task Force

James Church

Libraries are by nature conservative institutions and can be particularly resistant to changes in collection development policy. This can be as true of government information librarianship as much as any discipline. For many years documents librarians have largely ignored the expanding role that nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) have played in influencing government policy. To be fair, the issue has not entirely escaped our attention. There have been several books published on the role of information and civil society, and many librarians actively collect NGO publications. But by and large we have not been paying enough attention. A keyword search for "NGOs" in the Library Literature & Information Full Text database returns only eight articles, while the phrase "civil society" returns only fifteen ("United States Congress" retrieves several hundred). This is certainly an enormous oversight. The exponential influence of civil society is arguably one of the most important political developments of our time, and the widespread adoption of information technology has played a significant role in this process. Civil society groups use the Internet and other forms of information technology to generate levels of public sup-

port and awareness inconceivable a few decades ago, and government information librarians can use these resources to shed light on the government process. It is the intent of this article to demonstrate the essential value of NGO information to our profession; to present arguments why the issue needs our immediate attention; and to offer strategies for collection development, outreach, and digital preservation of NGO information.

#### Why Nongovernmental Organizations?

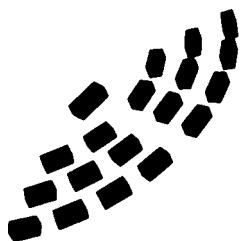
The first argument that might be raised against documents librarians collecting NGO information is that NGOs are not government organizations, and documents librarians collect government documents, period. There are a number of problems with this argument. First, in the majority of libraries, no one is formally charged with collecting NGO information. Because NGO information is multidisciplinary, undervalued, and difficult to acquire, it is often overlooked or, even worse, ignored or denigrated. While I have not undertaken a formal survey, I have seen only one documents position with the word "NGO" included in the job description. In all my years at the GODORT International Documents Task Force (IDTF) the topic of major international NGOs, such as the International Committee of the Red Cross, Oxfam International, the World Conservation Union, or the Third World Network, has not come up even once. We have never had a preconference or a program devoted to this. This is not to say that documents librarians are ignorant of the NGO phenomenon or have ignored it personally. But we have not given it the professional consideration it deserves.

The fact that librarians at times neglect NGO publications is to some extent understandable. Many NGOs produce nothing of significant research value, while others can be biased, extreme, and confrontational in their tactics. But many NGOs have developed strong working relationships with International Government Organizations. The United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) has had a standing Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations since 1946. There are currently 2,870 NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC, and about 400 NGOs accredited to the ECOSOC Commission on Sustainable Development.<sup>1</sup> All NGOs with consultative status with ECOSOC are required to submit a report of their activities every four years. In addition, more than 1,600 NGOs have associative status with the UN Department of Public Information, and are charged with providing information to clients about relevant UN activities. The UN is not alone in establishing such relationships. The European Union, Organization for American States, International Labour Organization, World Bank, World Health Organization, and World Trade Organization (WTO) have collaborated with NGOs for years. NGO consultation has become an important part of government public policy formation, and in some cases has been officially incorporated into the government decision-

making process. To that extent, NGO information qualifies as government information, even according to the strictest of definitions.

Another reason why government information librarians are ideally situated to collect this material is that NGO information resembles official government information in several respects. One unfortunate reason mentioned earlier is that in many libraries, no one else is doing it or wants to do it, and we are, perhaps, used to that. But the similarity does not stop there. NGO publications are multidisciplinary—they cover every conceivable public policy topic, from human rights and climate change to HIV/AIDS and globalization. The range of topics is virtually identical to those in which we already have expertise. NGO publications also are not typically distributed by commercial vendors, and escape the notice of subject specialists. Most importantly, NGO information is primarily digital. More than any other field of librarianship, government documents librarians work in the open Internet. We know the tricks to uncovering digital information and, most importantly, we know the risks of its disappearance. NGOs, even more so than government agencies, come and go like the wind. They proliferate, branch out, change names, and disband. If no one makes an effort to digitally preserve NGO information, the

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record of one of the most important political developments in recent history is in danger of being lost.

### Reference

The government information machine can be obfuscatory at best, and, at worst, government organizations deliberately ignore or conceal topics of vital interest to the public. While writing this article, I was approached by a Peace and Conflict Studies faculty researching Security Council reform and the Permanent Five veto. The *Yearbook of the United Nations* does not include a useful entry on the topic. It is not listed on the Security Council web site. Typing “Security Council reform” into the UNBISNet database does not return very useful results. To be fair, there is an entry on the Dag Hammarskjöld Library research guide to the Security Council ([www.un.org/Depts/dhl/resguide/scfaq.htm](http://www.un.org/Depts/dhl/resguide/scfaq.htm)), but it was difficult to find and not as helpful as one might hope. The best source that I found was on a web site created by the World Federalist Movement (WFM), an NGO founded in 1946 that has consultative status with United Nations Economic and Social Council. WFM has a site on United Nations reform that tracks the issue and is called “Reform the UN” ([www.reformtheun.org](http://www.reformtheun.org)). On the site it lists significant UN reform issues, such as Security Council reform, the Responsibility to Protect, HIV/AIDS, and more. It includes key documents from national governments, civil society organizations, and the UN itself. It also includes UN documents haven’t made it into the official system of UN documentation, and have no symbol. The lesson learned here? When looking for information about reforming the government, think twice about going to official government organizations. Civil society organizations, regardless of their political persuasions, often do the job better.

### Print Collection Development

Even if we agree that this information is important and needs our attention, we are still faced with the daunting task of acquiring it. Documents librarians need to actively acquire print copies of NGO publications, where they exist.<sup>2</sup> This is arguably the most urgent task we face, because unless a nationwide digital preservation strategy is adopted soon, much of this information will inevitably suffer “digital death” and be lost. International vendors, such as Renouf Publishing, and regional vendors, such as MEABOOKS, sell NGO publications. Renouf publishing offers publications from several leading international NGOs, including Amnesty International, Oxfam International, Human Rights Watch, and the World Conservation Union. MEABOOKS and other regional vendors will pick up excellent NGO publications if they are asked. But unfortunately, some of these publications will not be picked up by any vendor. It is therefore up to documents librarians to contact the NGOs and order the material.

The task of embarking on this is intimidating, to say the least—there are so many NGOs, which ones to collect? Some of the major international NGOs named above are

essential, but let me add to the list: the International Committee on the Red Cross (ICRC), the Third World Network, the New Economics Foundation, the Open Society Institute, Transparency International, and the International Institute for Environment and Development are a few examples. If you want a good starting point, Catherine Shreve has constructed an excellent NGO research guide at Duke University ([docs.lib.duke.edu/igo/guides/ngo](http://docs.lib.duke.edu/igo/guides/ngo)). The site is a marvelous resource for locating the most important international NGOs by geography, IGO affiliation, and subject, and lists NGOs in the fields of the environment, human rights, women, and development. Time spent on the site is very educational.

### Digital Collection Development and Outreach

In this day and age, we should all make digital outreach a priority, because the web is the first place most users go to find information. This can take the form of creating traditional web research guides, blogs, or customized search engines. Digital outreach is particularly important for NGO information because of the means in which NGOs disseminate information and the demographics of NGO information users. At the University of California, Berkeley, the documents group has used the free Google Analytics service to create detailed reports of our web site traffic. There are more than one hundred pages on the site, and the NGO page gets hit more than any except one—more than our pages on the U.S. Congress, the UN, and international statistics. NGO information is in tremendous demand, and there are not enough library research guides to help users navigate it.

Digital preservation is still in its infancy, but a number of fascinating projects—such as the LOCKSS Alliance at Stanford, the National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program at the Library of Congress, and the New Zealand Digital Library—show great promise. A major concern is that we will overlook NGOs in our rush to digitally preserve official government information. By and large, librarians are not cataloging NGO web sites. Only one research library in the U.S. has created a catalog record for the Third World Network site, while a handful have cataloged online publications of other development NGOs, such as the World Development Movement. It is my sincere hope that as we become more involved with digital preservation, we consider the extraordinary importance of the NGO phenomenon and take steps to preserve this information also.

### What the Documents Profession Needs to Do

In his book *Civil Society in the Information Age*, Peter Hajnal documents three stages in the relationship between civil society and the G7/G8. In the first stage, from 1975 to 1983, civil society and the G7 ignored each other. In the second stage from 1984 to 1994, civil society recognized the G7/G8. After 1995, the G7/G8 recognized civil society.<sup>3</sup> Unfortunately, many documents librarians are still living in the pre-1995 era. The documents profession has, by and large, not recog-



nized the importance of NGO information, even though G8, WTO, and World Bank have done so.

It would be very easy for documents librarians to do what they have always done—provide reference assistance for US Congressional Hearings, UN resolutions, Bureau of Labor statistics, and so on. But a fundamental change has occurred in the way citizens perceive themselves in relation to their government. People do not always look to governments as the first place to achieve their political, economic, or social objectives, or to uncover information about the government itself. They join civic society groups and work with them to apply pressure on governments, and they look to civil society organizations to provide clear explanations (written in jargon-free English) about the arcane workings of government bureaucracies. In an appeal to my professional organization that I rarely make in print, I think it is time for GODORT to form a group to study this issue, and (dare I say?) create an NGO Documents Task Force along the lines of our other task forces. At very least, we need to make inqui-

ries at our institutions about collection development responsibilities for NGO information, and consider taking it on ourselves if other subject specialists do not do so. By ignoring this information, we overlook an enormously important cultural trend, and, as the digital preservation people like to rhetorically ask, if not us, who will? ■

### References

1. See the ECOSOC NGO page ([www.un.org/esa/coordination/ngo](http://www.un.org/esa/coordination/ngo)) under the Q&A section. Unless the documents librarian is prohibited from adding NGO documents to a collection organized by a documents classification system. Many libraries add international government organization publications to their main stack collection, and this option can be used for NGOs.
2. Peter Hajnal, "Civil Society Encounters the G7/G8," in *Civil Society in the Information Age*, ed. Peter Hajnal, 216–18 (Burlington, Vt.: Ashgate, 2002).

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# The Fallacy in the 55 Percent Rule

Andrew Hubbertz

Government information librarians are well-acquainted with unobtrusive evaluations. Among the best known of these is the 1983 study of depository libraries by Peter Hemon and Charles R. McClure.<sup>1</sup> More recently, there was a similar study of Canadian depositories by Juris Dilevko and Elizabeth Dolan.<sup>2</sup>

These studies, and others like them, have various things to say about library reference service, but what is best known is the so-called “55 percent rule.” Hemon and McClure, on reviewing the average scores on number of unobtrusive studies, found that a user has about a 55 percent chance of getting a correct answer to a straight informational question.<sup>3</sup> Prior to their article, scant attention was paid within the literature on unobtrusive evaluation to average, aggregate scores. Hemon and McClure’s claim, published in 1986, sparked a lively debate. *Journal of Academic Librarianship* published a symposium the following year on “Library Reference Service: An Unrecognized Crisis.” (The lead article was by Hemon and McClure.)<sup>4</sup> Critics of the proposed rule argued variously that questions used in unobtrusive evaluations are unrepresentative, that they comprise only a small part of the services rendered at a reference desk, that the samples are too small, and that other indicators, such as willingness of users to return, are better measures of success. The debate was to take an unfortunate turn, with proponents of unobtrusive methodologies and the 55 percent rule coming largely from library school faculty (including doctoral students), and critics coming, for the most part, from the ranks of practicing librarians. Critics’ objections were mostly dismissed as rationalizations for poor performance.

The debate eventually petered out, and there have been fewer large-scale unobtrusive studies in recent years, but the controversial 55 percent rule lives on. It has found its way into a standard textbook on reference service, and when mentioned in the literature, it is generally treated as established fact.<sup>5</sup> Because it enjoys this lingering, albeit dormant life in library literature, the 55 percent rule, or “half-right reference” as the issue is sometimes known, still deserves to be engaged.

This article will demonstrate the fallacy in the 55 percent rule.

Let us start with the basics. In a typical unobtrusive evaluation, the researcher compiles a number of questions, either original or derived from documented reference questions, that are then administered to libraries anonymously by proxies posing as real users. The resulting scores are then used to compare success (“correct answer fill rate” is the term used by Hemon and McClure) with whatever variables are of interest: type of library, geographical region, hours of service, number of staff, and so on. Hemon and McClure’s 55 percent rule is a generalization based upon the average scores in a number of such unobtrusive evaluations.

As a first step, we need to understand that an unobtrusive evaluation is nothing more than a standardized test, a set of pre-established questions administered to a range of subjects. Attention to the specifically unobtrusive aspect seems to have obscured that fact.

A standardized test, however, is chiefly useful for measuring *relative* performance. It has little or no value for measuring performance in a global, overall sense. A familiar example of a standardized test is an ordinary school exam. What does it mean to get 80 percent on an exam? If the class average is 70 percent, it is fairly good; if the average is 90 percent, it is rather poor. Of itself, it means almost nothing. Another example is the SAT exam taken by college-bound students. The raw score is merely data, meaningless without further analysis. However, the percentile score is *very* meaningful, and indicates the performance of the student relative to others taking the same exam.

Not only is a standardized test chiefly useful for measuring relative performance, but in order for it to serve this purpose—and *this is the crux of the argument*—the researcher can and *must* ensure that the test is neither too easy nor too hard. A test in which the average score approaches 100 percent (or zero) will not separate the able from the unable, the skilled from the unskilled. It will be completely useless.

In fact, if we look to the published literature, we see that researchers in many cases tell us that their tests were constructed precisely with this in mind.

Terence Crowley, who was the pioneer in these studies (publishing his results in 1968), pretested a set of questions, rejecting those that scored higher than 75 percent (one question) or lower than 25 percent (two questions).<sup>6</sup> He did this, of course, to ensure that there was a reasonable spread in the test results. (He had no interest, incidentally, in an average, overall score.)

Thomas Childers, following Crowley, did much the same. As he explained, “A test consisting of a large portion of questions that everyone answered correctly or that no one answered correctly would not serve to distinguish one library’s performance from another.”<sup>7</sup>

Others have made the same point. In his 1978 unobtrusive study of reference service in Melbourne public libraries, Michael J. Ramsden said, “since the object of the survey was in part to distinguish the difference between libraries it was necessary to select questions that were neither so easy as to be certain to elicit a 100% correct response, nor so difficult as to elicit a nil response.”<sup>8</sup> He found that one question used in the study (“Where’s Quito?”) was too easy, as it elicited a 100 percent correct response.

In her 1983 study, Marcia J. Myers observed, “In general, the queries chosen fell in the 25–75 percentile range. This



range was selected because differences in effectiveness of telephone reference services would be more easily detected if staff members were unlikely to obtain all correct or all incorrect answers."<sup>9</sup>

Jassim M. Jirjee's study, published together with Myers's, stated similarly, ". . . thirty-five questions that fell in the middle range of difficulty were selected from the list of eighty-three questions. Thus, it was felt that a good use was made of what Crowley described as the 'principle of parsimony', seeking to make each question distinguish between the able and unable."<sup>10</sup>

These authors chose questions that were neither too hard nor too easy, that would be answered correctly at a rate in the middle range. Of course, the average of all such questions will itself fall in the middle range. Seen in this light, average scores in the middle range are an artifact of the unobtrusive methodology, and in two senses: first, an average score in the middle range is characteristic of any well-designed unobtrusive evaluation; and second, the average score is under the control of the researcher, who can make it generally as high or low as desired. Hemon and McClure's 55 percent rule, then, is nothing more than a spurious generalization.

This argument is supported as well by a reanalysis of data published in the studies of Hemon and McClure and of Dilevko and Dolan, referred to above.

In 1983, Hemon and McClure published a study of government document reference service in United States depository libraries in the Northeast and Southwest. Their published data includes scores for each question in the test, disaggregated by region. The overall, average score for all libraries was 37 percent correct answers. However, libraries in the northeast scored 49 percent, while those in the southwest scored 20 percent.

Hemon and McClure used twenty questions. By way of thought experiment, let us suppose that they had used only ten questions. Had they used the ten questions that libraries answered overall most successfully (questions 4, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, and 20), the average score would jump to 52.3 percent; let us call these the easy questions. Had they used the ten questions that libraries had answered least successfully (questions 1, 2, 3, 6, 8, 10, 12, 17, 18, and 19), the score would fall to 22.4 percent; let us call these the hard questions. Clearly, average score is a function of the questions asked. Easier questions, and the scores go up; harder questions, and the scores go down.

Now consider the results if the same tests are applied to *relative* performance. Given the easy questions, libraries in the northeast have an average score of 66 percent. Libraries in the southwest have an average score of 33 percent. Given the hard questions, libraries in the northeast have an average score of 32 percent, while libraries in southwest have an average score of 8 percent. Easy questions or hard questions, depository libraries in the northeast consistently outperform those in the southwest, evidently a robust, empirical fact about library service in those two regions, at least as measured against a standardized test. The average

scores, however, are merely raw data, meaningless until analyzed. We may expect that other researchers, using the same methodology and procedure, but different questions, will discover the same relative performance, whatever the raw scores (see table 1).

We derive similar results from the reanalysis of data from the Canadian study. In 1997, Dilevko and Dolan performed an unobtrusive evaluation of reference service in Canadian depository libraries, modeled after the work of Hemon and McClure and published in 1999. The authors reported that complete and partially complete answers together came to 42.4 percent. However, full depositories (comprising larger academic libraries and major municipal libraries) outperformed selective depositories (comprising smaller academic libraries and most public libraries). Full depositories scored 51.1 percent for complete and partially complete answers, while selective depositories scored 37.1 percent.

Dilevko and Dolan used fifteen questions. By way of experiment again, suppose that they had used only ten questions. Had they used the questions answered most successfully (questions 1, 3, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, and 15), the average score rises to 53.1 percent for complete and partially complete answers. Call these the easy questions. Had they used the ten questions answered least successfully (questions 2, 4, 5, 6, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15), the scores fall to 29.1 percent. Call these the hard questions. (Of course, there are five questions that fall into both sets.)

Now, consider the relative performance of full and selective depositories. Given the easy questions, full depositories still outperform selectives, 63.0 percent to 47.3 percent. Given the hard questions, full depositories again outperform selectives, now 39.8 percent to 22.5 percent (see table 2).

The superior performance of full depositories on this standardized test appears to be a robust, empirical fact, independent of the observer, and available to any researcher using a comparable test. The average, overall score however depends upon the questions used. It will be as high or as low as the researcher wants it to be. And yet, the 55 percent rule is nothing more than a generalization based upon a number of such average scores.

**Table 1. Performance of depository libraries in the United States Northeast and Southwest**

	All libraries (%)	Northeast (%)	Southwest (%)
McClure and Hemon	37	49	20
Ten "easy" questions	52	66	33
Ten "hard" questions	23	32	8

Any research that purports to be scientific must minimally aspire to say something about the world that is objective and, so far as possible, independent of the observer. The relative performance of libraries, as measured in an unobtrusive evaluation, appears to meet that requirement. The overall, average score clearly does not. The fallacy at the heart of the 55 percent rule turns on failing to distinguish between raw data and the analysis of that data. As a consequence, a methodology intended for one purpose has been applied to another, for which it was not intended and is completely unsuited. It is now so established in library lore that one of the standard textbooks not only teaches the 55 percent rule, but encourages student librarians to use the methodology for evaluating overall quality of service, for example in an individual library—precisely the *wrong* application, if the present analysis is correct.<sup>11</sup>

The argument presented here is by no means an excuse for complacency. Providing quality reference service is a challenge that requires ceaseless effort at improvement. There is no doubt that some are better at it than others, and that librarians display the usual range of competence and dedication you find among teachers, lawyers, or any other group of professionals. Nor does identifying the fallacy at the heart of the 55 percent rule prove that service is *good*. We have merely established that unobtrusive evaluation provides no evidence, one way or the other, for overall quality of service.

Over the last twenty years, that is to say over the two decades since Herson and McClure proposed their 55 percent rule, reference service has been utterly transformed, above all by the web and by electronic services. Over that period, librarians have worked hard to develop and integrate these services, all with the objective of improving services to users. And yet, to judge by unobtrusive evaluations, service has not improved at all. If the analysis presented here is correct, we now know why that is so. And if we attempt to gaze into the future, it can be predicted, with a high degree of confidence, that any future unobtrusive evaluations will produce similar, middle-range results. They have to. Those are the results they are designed to produce. ■

**Table 2. Performance of Canadian full and selective depository libraries**

	All libraries (%)	Full depositories (%)	Selective depositories (%)
McClure and Herson	42.4	51.1	37.1
Ten "easy" questions	53.1	66.0	47.3
Ten "hard" questions	29.1	39.8	22.5

*Editor's note: This article is based in large part on Andrew Hubbertz, "The Design and Interpretation of Unobtrusive Evaluations," Reference & User Services Quarterly 44, no. 4 (2005): 327–35.*

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# Best Books for College Libraries

## World Drug Report 2007

The 2007 edition of the World Drug Report provides evidence that the world drug problem is being controlled. For almost every kind of illicit drug there are signs of overall stability, whether we speak of cultivation, production or abuse. The Report shows that while there are growing signs that both the supply of and demand for drugs are broadly stable and greater efforts are being made to reduce the harm they cause, the situation could easily deteriorate again. If the drug problem is to be reduced in the longer term, there must be more preventive interventions and the problem must be treated at its source – the drug users.

*Sales Number: E.07.XI.5 ISBN: 9789211482225 Pages: 280 Price: \$35.00*

## State of World Population 2007: Unleashing the Potential of Urban Growth

In 2008, for the first time in history, more than half of world population, 3.3 billion people, will be living in urban areas. Urbanization—the increase in the urban share of total population—is inevitable, but it can also be positive. This Report looks beyond current problems. It examines the implications of impending urban growth and discusses what needs to be done, with specific attention to poverty reduction and sustainability.

*Sales Number: E.07.III.H.1 ISBN: 978089714807 Pages: 104 Price: \$17.50*

## World Economic and Social Survey 2007: Development in an Ageing World - 60th Anniversary Edition, 1948-2007

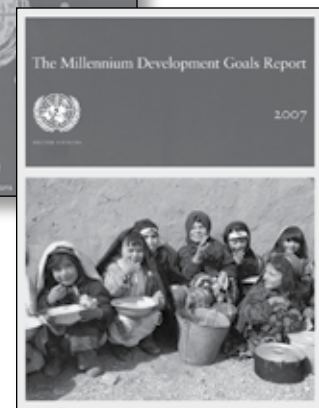
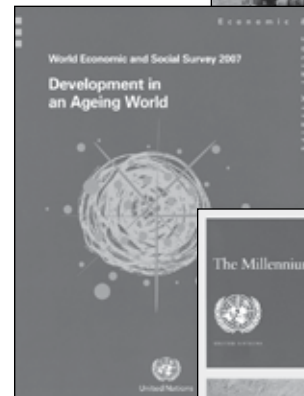
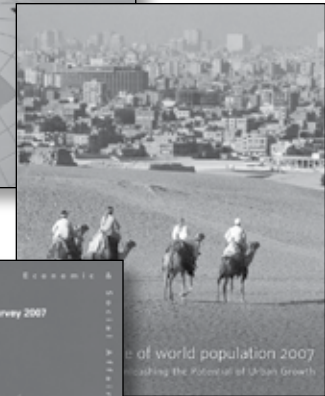
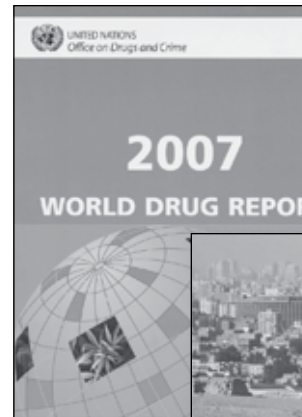
The World Economic and Social Survey 2007 analyses the challenges and opportunities associated with ageing populations and aims to facilitate discussions in furthering the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing which focuses on three sets of priorities: older people and development; advancing health and well-being into old age; and enabling and supportive environments for older persons. The Survey underscores the need to fully recognize and better harness the productive and social contributions to societies that older persons can make but are, in many instances, prevented from making.

*Sales Number: E.07.II.C.1 ISBN: 9789211091540 Pages: 212 Price: \$60.00*

## The Millennium Development Goals Report 2007 (Includes Chart)

We are now at the midpoint between the adoption of the Millennium Development Goals and the 2015 target date. The results presented in this report suggest that there have been some gains and that success is still possible in most parts of the world. The report aims to show what can be achieved and how much still needs to be done.

*Sales Number: E.07.I.15 ISBN: 9789211011531 Pages: 36 Price: \$10.00*



## Also of Interest...

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UN Comtrade gives you instant access to 1.3 billion records on trade from over 200 reporting countries or areas, covering 45 years of data and more than 5000 different products. Special features such as My Comtrade, Comtrade Explore and UN Comtrade Knowledge Base enable you to personalize your Comtrade pages, dig for more refined data, find answers to some frequently asked questions, and more. In addition, users have access to instant online support via UN Comtrade Community Forum.

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# African American Historical Documents Online from the Federal Government

## Pre- and Post-Civil War

Sylvia A. Nyana

Not long ago reference questions regarding information made available by the federal government were referred to document librarians or specialists in the field. However, the changing needs of library users, changing access options, and the different models of staffing the reference desk and virtual reference services have meant that library users either help themselves or are being assisted by non-document specialists in the library. Maintaining awareness of and finding documents online remains a challenge for both library reference staff and library patrons. Therefore, an article such as this one is still necessary and serves the dual purpose of enhancing access to and building awareness of resources that are made available online by the federal government in a particular subject area—African American history and culture. It is particularly important for frontline library reference staff to be aware of these resources so that they may provide timely and accurate responses to patron information needs.

It is not possible here to provide descriptions of all online resources related to African American history and culture that are available. I hope this list will raise the awareness of the rich collections of African American history that are provided by the American Memory project from the Library of Congress ([memory.loc.gov/ammem/index.html](http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/index.html)), the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA, [www.archives.gov](http://www.archives.gov)) and the National Park Service ([www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov)).

Many African American historical and cultural documents are not available online. For additional primary resources and other government resources, researchers should investigate the collections available from Primary Source Media ([www.gale.com/psm](http://www.gale.com/psm)), their local public and university libraries, historical societies, museums, research institutions, and state and local governments.

## Library of Congress: American Memory

**Abraham Lincoln Papers at the Library of Congress**  
[memory.loc.gov/ammem/alhtml/malhome.html](http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/alhtml/malhome.html)

The complete Abraham Lincoln Papers at the Library of Congress consists of approximately twenty thousand documents. Most of the items are from the 1850s through Lincoln's presidential years, 1860–65. Treasures include Lincoln's draft

of the *Emancipation Proclamation*; his March 4, 1865, draft of his second inaugural address; and his August 23, 1864, memorandum expressing his expectation of being defeated for re-election in the upcoming presidential contest.

### **African American Experience in Ohio 1850–1920**

[memory.loc.gov/ammem/award97/ohshtml/aaehome.html](http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/award97/ohshtml/aaehome.html)

Manuscripts, newspaper articles, serials, speeches, reports, photographs, and pamphlets from the Ohio Historical Society collections depict the history of Ohio's African Americans, including slavery, abolition, underground railroad, African American politics, government, and religion.

### **African-American Mosaic: A Library of Congress Resource Guide for the Study of Black History and Culture**

[www.loc.gov/exhibits/african/intro.html](http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/african/intro.html)

Mosaic is the first librarywide resource guide to the institution's African American collections. Covering nearly five hundred years of the black experience in the western hemisphere, Mosaic surveys the full range and variety of the library's collections, including books, periodicals, prints, photographs, music, film, and recorded sound.

### **African American Odyssey: A Quest for Full Citizenship**

[memory.loc.gov/ammem/aohtml/exhibit/aointro.html](http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/aohtml/exhibit/aointro.html)

This online presentation of a Library of Congress exhibition showcases the library's incomparable African American collections, which include a wide array of important and rare books, government documents, manuscripts, maps, musical scores, plays, films, and recordings.

### **African American Perspectives—Pamphlets from the Daniel A. P. Murray Collection 1880–1907**

[lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/aap/aaphome.html](http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/aap/aaphome.html)

A collection of 351 titles, including sermons on racial pride and political activism; annual reports of charitable, educational, and political organizations; college catalogs; and graduation orations. Also included are biographies, slave narratives, speeches by members of Congress, legal documents, poetry, playbills, dramas, and librettos. Among the authors represented are Frederick Douglass, Booker T. Washington, Ida B. Wells-Barnett, Benjamin W. Arnett, Alexander Crummel, and Emanuel Love.

**African-American Sheet Music, 1850–1920**

[memory.loc.gov/ammem/collections/sheetmusic/brown](http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/collections/sheetmusic/brown)

This sheet music from the collections of Brown University consists of 1,305 pieces of African American music dating from 1850 through 1920, including many songs from the heyday of antebellum black face minstrelsy in the 1850s and from the abolitionist movement of the same period.

**Born in Slavery: Slave Narratives from the Federal Writers' Project, 1936–1938**

[memory.loc.gov/ammem/snhtml/snhome.html](http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/snhtml/snhome.html)

The collection contains more than 2,300 first-person accounts of slavery and 500 black-and-white photographs of former slaves.

**A Century of Lawmaking for a New Nation: U.S. Congressional Documents and Debates, 1774–1873**

[memory.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw](http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw)

Although not exclusively African American, this site includes many documents on the slave trade, pro- and anti-slavery arguments, important trials regarding slavery, and a collection of historic volumes, constitutions, and charters for Native American tribes.

**The Church in the Southern Black Community, 1780–1925**

[memory.loc.gov/ammem/award99/ncuhtml/csbchome.html](http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/award99/ncuhtml/csbchome.html)

Through slave narratives and observations by African American authors, the collection focuses on how the black community adapted evangelical Christianity, making it a metaphor for freedom, community, and personal survival.

**Creative Americans, Portraits by Carl Van Vechten**

[memory.loc.gov/ammem/vvhtml/vvhome.html](http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/vvhtml/vvhome.html)

The Carl Van Vechten Photographs Collection at the Library of Congress consists of 1,395 photographs taken by American photographer Carl Van Vechten (1880–1964) between 1932 and 1964. The bulk of the collection consists of portrait photographs of celebrities, including many figures from the Harlem Renaissance. A much smaller portion of the collection is an assortment of American landscapes.

**First-Person Narratives of the American South, 1860–1920**

[memory.loc.gov/ammem/award97/ncuhtml/fpnashome.html](http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/award97/ncuhtml/fpnashome.html)

The collection includes diaries, autobiographies, memoirs, travel accounts, and ex-slave narratives of prominent individuals, women, African Americans, enlisted men, laborers, and Native Americans.

**The Frederick Douglass Papers**

[memory.loc.gov/ammem/doughhtml/doughome.html](http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/doughhtml/doughome.html)

Correspondence, speeches, and articles by Douglass and his contemporaries in the abolitionist and early women's rights movements; a draft of his autobiography; financial and legal papers; scrapbooks; and miscellaneous items. The

collections span the years 1841 to 1964, with the bulk of the materials from 1862 to 1895.

**From Slavery to Freedom: The African American Pamphlet Collection, 1824–1909**

[memory.loc.gov/ammem/aapchtml](http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/aapchtml)

A collection of 397 pamphlets, published from 1824 through 1909, by African American authors and others who wrote about slavery, African colonization, emancipation, reconstruction, and related topics. The materials range from personal accounts and public orations to organization reports and legislative speeches.

**Baseball, the Color Line, and Jackie Robinson**

[memory.loc.gov/ammem/jrhtml/jrabout.html](http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/jrhtml/jrabout.html)

Library staff selected and reproduced approximately thirty interesting items created between the 1860s and the 1960s, including manuscripts, photographs, ephemera, and books. Narrative information drawn from encyclopedia articles, published biographies, and baseball histories also is included to establish the context for understanding the original materials.

**Maps of Liberia, 1830–1870**

[memory.loc.gov/ammem/gmdhtml/libhtml/libhome.html](http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/gmdhtml/libhtml/libhome.html)

This collection of Liberian maps includes twenty examples from the American Colonization Society (ACS), organized in 1817 to resettle free black Americans in West Africa. These maps show early settlements in Liberia, indigenous political subdivisions, and some of the building lots that were assigned to settlers.

**Slaves and the Courts, 1740–1860**

[memory.loc.gov/ammem/sthtml/sthome.html](http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/sthtml/sthome.html)

This collection includes trials and cases, reports, arguments, accounts, examinations of cases and decisions, proceedings, journals, a letter, and other works of historical importance. Significant names include John Quincy Adams, Roger B. Taney, John C. Calhoun, Salmon P. Chase, Dred Scott, William H. Seward, Prudence Crandall, Theodore Parker, Jonathan Walker, Daniel Drayton, Castner Hanway, Francis Scott Key, William L. Garrison, Wendell Phillips, Denmark Vesey, and John Brown.

**William P. Gottlieb: Photographs from the Golden Age of Jazz**

[memory.loc.gov/ammem/wghtml/wghome.html](http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/wghtml/wghome.html)

A collection of more than 1,600 photographs of celebrated jazz artists documents the jazz scene from 1938 to 1948, primarily in New York City and Washington, D.C.

**The Zora Neale Hurston Plays at the Library of Congress**

[memory.loc.gov/ammem/znhtml/znhome.html](http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/znhtml/znhome.html)

The plays reflect Hurston's life experience, travels, and research, especially her study of folklore in the African American south. Totalling 1,068 hundred images, the scripts are

housed in the Library's Manuscript, Music, and Rare Books and Special Collections divisions.

## National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)

### **African American History and Federal Records (Prologue Magazine)**

[www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/1997/summer](http://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/1997/summer)

Sixteen articles written by NARA staff and other historians explore the depth and breadth of material at NARA related to African Americans, including the Civil War and Reconstruction, labor issues, civil rights, pictorial records, and research aids.

### **Teaching with Documents: The Amistad Case**

[www.archives.gov/education/lessons/amistad](http://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/amistad)

Documents related to the Amistad Slave Revolt Case from the circuit court and the Supreme Court, including more than nineteen pages from five primary documents. Teaching activities also are included to assist teachers and school age students in using primary documents on the Internet.

### **Black Family Research: Using the Records of Post-Civil War Federal Agencies at the National Archives**

[www.archives.gov/publications/ref-info-papers/108](http://www.archives.gov/publications/ref-info-papers/108)

This reference information paper describes three post-Civil War Federal agencies' records housed at NARA in Washington, D.C., and College Park, Maryland: the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands; the Freedman's Savings and Trust Company; and the Commissioners of Claims. The records of these agencies provide considerable personal data about African American family and community, including family relations, marriages, births, deaths, occupations, and places of residence. They also contain the names of slave owners and information concerning black military service, plantation conditions, manumissions, property ownership, migration, and a host of family-related matters.

### **Teaching with Documents: The Fight for Equal Rights: Black Soldiers in the Civil War**

[www.archives.gov/education/lessons/blacks-civil-war](http://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/blacks-civil-war)

Teaching activities, historical documents, and photographs explore the issues of emancipation and military service, including thirteen pages of documents and one teaching activity.

### **Fugitive Slave Case Papers, 1850–1860, and Petitions Filed under the Fugitive Slave Act (Fugitive Slave Petition Book), 1850–1860**

The digitized, multipage documents include affidavits, copies of wills, and other papers in support of the petition-

ers' ownership of slaves. The Fugitive Slave Petition Book includes a transcribed record of petitions filed with the judge of the District Court under the Fugitive Slave Act of September 18, 1850, and supporting documents. The supporting documents include copies of descriptions of the fugitive slaves, owners' titles, affidavits, certificates, bills of sale, will deeds and court orders. In order to find the records, one must search in the Archival Research Catalog (ARC, [www.archives.gov/research/arc/topics/genealogy.html](http://www.archives.gov/research/arc/topics/genealogy.html)). These materials are held by NARA's Mid Atlantic Region in Philadelphia.

### **Records of Death and Internment at Camp Nelson, KY, 1864–1865**

Two-hundred and fifty-nine documents have been digitized from this series. The records provide the individual's name, rank, unit, cause and date of death, and burial location. The Records of Death from the Colored Refugee Home and the Freedman's Hospital are for contraband slaves who escaped or were brought within Union lines. These records provide the decedent's name, height, and date of death. Only portions of these documents have been digitized and made available online. In order to find the records, one must search in ARC ([www.archives.gov/research/arc/topics/genealogy.html](http://www.archives.gov/research/arc/topics/genealogy.html)). These materials are held by NARA's Southeast Region in Atlanta.

### **Records of the Freedman's Savings and Trust Company**

[www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/1997/summer/freedmans-savings-and-trust.html](http://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/1997/summer/freedmans-savings-and-trust.html)

Incorporated by Congress on March 3, 1865, the Freedman's Savings and Trust Company (also known as Freedman's Bank) was established as a banking institution primarily for the benefit of former slaves. Between 1865 and 1870, the Freedman's Bank opened thirty-seven branches in seventeen states and the District of Columbia. Over its nine year history, the bank had more than 70,000 depositors and deposits totaling more than \$57 million.

### **Records that Pertain to American Slavery and the International Slave Trade**

[www.archives.gov/research/african-americans/slavery-records.html](http://www.archives.gov/research/african-americans/slavery-records.html)

A finding aid identifying record groups and series with brief descriptions and locations. The site does *not* provide the actual documents online. Some of the records are available on microfilm.

### **Selected Documents Relating to Fugitive Slaves, 1837–1860**

Twenty-six documents have been digitized from this series. They include affidavits, petitions, powers of attorney, case file covers, depositions, and certification of the receipt of fugitive slaves. In order to find the records, one must search in ARC ([www.archives.gov/research/arc/topics/](http://www.archives.gov/research/arc/topics/)

genealogy.html). These materials are held by NARA's Northeast Region in New York City.

### **Sketches by Charles Alston, 1940s**

[www.archives.gov/research/arc/topics/african-americans.html#sketches](http://www.archives.gov/research/arc/topics/african-americans.html#sketches)

One hundred and six original sketches drawn by artist Charles Alston, a twentieth-century African American Harlem Renaissance painter and sculptor, highlight the participation of African Americans in World War II.

## National Parks Service (NPS)

### **Aboard the Underground Railroad: A National Register Travel Itinerary**

[www.cr.nps.gov/NR/travel/underground](http://www.cr.nps.gov/NR/travel/underground)

Included in its story are such individuals as Harriet Tubman, Frederick Douglass, Abraham Lincoln, William Still, Sojourner Truth, and Harriet Beecher Stowe, to name only a few. The Underground Railroad provided stories of guided escapes from the South, rescues of arrested fugitives in the North, complex communication systems, and individual acts of bravery and suffering in the quest for freedom for all.

### **African American Sailors in the Civil War Union Navy**

[www.civilwar.nps.gov/cwss/sailors\\_index.html](http://www.civilwar.nps.gov/cwss/sailors_index.html)

Documents the names and military history of approximately 18,000 African American sailors who served in the Civil War Union Navy and have been identified and incorporated into the Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System (CWSS).

### **American Visionary: Frederick Douglass**

[www.cr.nps.gov/museum/exhibits/douglass/index.htm](http://www.cr.nps.gov/museum/exhibits/douglass/index.htm)

This site features items owned by Frederick Douglass and highlights his achievements. The items are in the museum and archival collections at the Frederick Douglass National Historic Site at Cedar Hill, southeast Washington, D.C.

### **American Visionary: Legends of Tuskegee**

[www.cr.nps.gov/museum/exhibits/tuskegee/index.htm](http://www.cr.nps.gov/museum/exhibits/tuskegee/index.htm)

This three-part web exhibit highlights the achievements of Booker T. Washington, George Washington Carver, and the Tuskegee Airmen. It features collections from the Tuskegee Institute National Historic Site and Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site in Tuskegee, Alabama, and selected items from the Booker T. Washington National Monument in Hardy, Virginia, and the George Washington Carver National Monument in Diamond, Missouri. The exhibit also features collections from the Library of Congress, National Digital Library; NARA; and the Department of Defense.

### **Bibliographic Essay on the African American West**

[www.cr.nps.gov/history/resedu/bib\\_africanamericanwest.htm](http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/resedu/bib_africanamericanwest.htm)

In spite of the widely held assumption that the African American presence in the west was not significant until World War II, the historical literature on blacks in the region is surprisingly rich and diverse.

### **The Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System/Colored Troops**

[www.itd.nps.gov/cwss](http://www.itd.nps.gov/cwss)

A database of more than 230,000 names of the United States Colored Troops (USCT) developed by the NPS and its partners in the Civil War Soldiers and Sailors (CWSS) project.

### **Lossed, Tossed, and Found: Clues to African American Life at Manassas National Battlefield Park**

[www.nps.gov/mrc/exhibit/arch00.htm](http://www.nps.gov/mrc/exhibit/arch00.htm)

Clues provided by archeological works at Manassas about African Americans who lived and worked there before, during, and after the Civil War.

### **National Parks Associated with African Americans: An Ethnographic Perspective**

[www.cr.nps.gov/ethnography/index.htm](http://www.cr.nps.gov/ethnography/index.htm)

This site describes the integral role that African Americans played in the development of American culture, heritage, and history at many national park sites, and highlights the ethnographic methods used to discover the stories described.

### **Our Shared History: African American Heritage**

[www.cr.nps.gov/aahistory/ugrr/ugrr.htm](http://www.cr.nps.gov/aahistory/ugrr/ugrr.htm)

The site covers slavery and Underground Railroad.

### **The Robinson House: A Portrait of African American Heritage**

[www.cr.nps.gov/archeology/robinson](http://www.cr.nps.gov/archeology/robinson)

The Robinson house, now within Manassas National Battlefield Park, survived the first and second battles of Manassas. As African Americans, the Robinson family found itself embroiled in the struggles of the nation before, during, and after the Civil War.

### **Scholarship on Southern Farms and Plantations**

[www.nps.gov/history/history/resedu/slavescholarship.htm](http://www.nps.gov/history/history/resedu/slavescholarship.htm)

An extensive essay that outlines scholarly interpretations of black communities on plantations and other sites and selectively reviews landmark works pertaining to this topic.

### **We Shall Overcome: Historic Places of the Civil Rights Movement**

[www.cr.nps.gov/nR/travel/civilrights](http://www.cr.nps.gov/nR/travel/civilrights)

This National Register of Historic Places Travel Itinerary tells the powerful story of how and where the centuries-long struggle of African Americans to achieve the bright promise of

America culminated in the mid-twentieth century in a heroic campaign we call the modern civil rights movement. Many of the places where these seminal events occurred—the churches, schools, homes and neighborhoods—are listed in the National Register of Historic Places and are included in this itinerary.

## Other Web Resources

### Chronology of the History of Slavery

[innercity.org/holt/slavechron.html](http://innercity.org/holt/slavechron.html)

A detailed chronology of American slavery is presented here, including statistics from 1619 to the 1990s. Also provides links to primary sources and documents.

### Dred Scott Case Collection (Washington University in St. Louis)

[library.wustl.edu/vlib/dredscott](http://library.wustl.edu/vlib/dredscott)

Eighty-five documents constitute the case documentation of Dred and Harriet Scott's petition to the St. Louis Circuit Court for emancipation from slavery. The case lasted between 1846 and 1857, when the U.S. Supreme Court affirmed their slavery status. The case led, in part, to the Civil War. ■

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## Announcing the Second Annual Cover Contest

### Put Your Photo on *DttP*!

We had such fun with the photos we received for the first contest, and we already had requests for another contest . . . so . . . here we go again!

Put together your favorite government comic book together with its superhero . . . industrial guides with your neighboring factory—the sky (and perhaps TSA) is the limit!

Details:

- Photos may be of state, local, federal, foreign, or international publications out in the field.
- All photos submitted must include citation information.
- Photo orientation should be portrait (not landscape).
- Digital photos must be at least 300 dpi.
- For submitted hard copy photos, please make sure the return information is available so we may return the photo.

Please submit all images to the Lead Editor of *DttP* by December 1, 2007. The photo will be on the cover of the Spring 2008 issue.

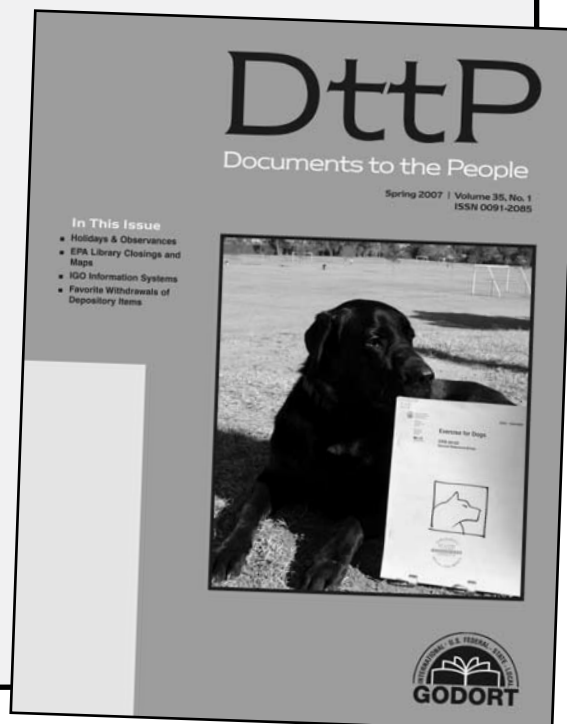
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# Disasters—Preparedness and Recovery

## An Introduction

Dan Barkley

**M**uch of this issue of *Documents to the People* is devoted to disaster preparedness and recovery. Each contributor sometime in the past three years has suffered a significant loss to the collection(s) for which he or she has had responsibility. By sharing our experiences, we aim to prepare you for a disaster that we hope never occurs at your institution. With this in mind, however, now is the time to have a plan in place.

Disasters happen! Whether it's a human-caused or natural disaster is of little consequence once it happens to you. The bottom line is to be adequately prepared to deal with one once it happens. Certainly the type and magnitude will affect your response and recovery efforts.

Without exception, each of us went through our work-life with the philosophy that "it can't happen here." Well, it did. Each of the described events was tragic, each was devastating, and each will have long-lasting effects on all of those impacted by the disaster—faculty, staff, students, and the public. It is

worth noting at this juncture that each situation, in its own way, is still in some stage of recovery, human or material.

Until a disaster strikes, your current plan probably looks pretty good on paper—each of ours did. However, once an event occurs, questions arise. Does the plan address the reality of the situation at hand, not only the short-term issues of material and building recovery, but also the long-term issues, including employee displacement; material assessment and replacement; working with a variety of internal and external resources, including campus, local, and state safety officials; and the psychological effects of the occurrence?

Having a disaster recovery plan in place and ready to be implemented at a moment's notice cannot be emphasized enough. When our situations occurred, we all discovered that some aspects of the plan worked well, while other parts didn't. Situations and events will arise that you have planned for, others that you haven't. The important part is having a plan that is current, that has to some degree been practiced, and that is

## Emergency Preparedness during a Renovation

Dan Barkley

Hazards relating to building renovations increase the risk of damage to collection, facilities, and people. Because of this risk, project managers and all library staff should take steps to increase the level of preparedness and the ability to respond quickly in the event of fire, flooding, or other emergency. Here are several areas of action for library staff during a building renovation.

**Increase awareness.** Be aware of the potential for trouble, including fire from welding and other activities that can ignite flammable materials in the area (paints, solvents, plastic sheeting, and so on). Be aware also of the potential for water damage from alterations to plumbing or roof work. Report any concerns to the designated person in your area. Diligence is especially necessary if fire alarms are turned off during the day.

**Increase night and weekend monitoring.** Provide for a regular walk-through of the area by security and staff on weekends and evenings. Each walk-through is crucial to catch leaks and floods or fire in their early stages.

**Increase housekeeping.** Construction will kick up additional dirt and debris in the area, which can settle on and eventually damage library materials and computers. Housekeeping activities in the building should be increased—at the very least in the areas adjacent to the construction. Cover computers, fax machines, and photocopiers near the area of construction when not in use.

**Plan for fire protection.** Remind yourself of the locations of fire extinguishers in nearby areas. Make sure you know how to properly use these fire extinguishers by reviewing printed instructions or participating in training opportunities.

**Remove irreplaceable materials.** Move irreplaceable materials and collections out of the areas near construction, or off-site, if possible. These may include microfilm masters, high-value collections, unique library records, and so on. If this is not possible, alert staff and administration of the risk and the need to protect or remove these materials in the event of disaster.

based in reality and can be easily implemented once disaster strikes. It should also be fluid, dynamic, and readily available to anyone in your building.

Equally important is to have a plan that is flexible and can be changed on the fly, and provides each member of the disaster preparedness and recovery teams the ability to make decisions on the spot. Each member's decision-making requires quick thinking in some situations, administrative support, and the need to make decisions without spending unnecessary time vetting it before numerous individuals or committees.

The need for people who can remain calm in a crisis is critical. Administrative officials, from the university level down to departments within the unit affected, must have people who can respond quickly, think clearly in the midst of chaos and confusion, and possess decision-making skills that can be trusted. Know who you can trust and who you don't want in the initial response. Administrators should know who their go-to people are and rely on and trust them.

Finally, each event may not be a crisis or disaster. It is equally important to be prepared for scenarios involving animals in the library as it is for a security threat to library employees or clients, or a catastrophe, such as a fire or flood. While this issue will focus solely on natural and human-caused disasters, the better prepared you are for any situation, the better the outcome will be.

## The Disaster Plan

As noted earlier, any plan should address various scenarios that may happen to your building. Your plan should include:

- emergency contacts (include home, cell, and office numbers):
  - library crisis and response team (including preservation team)
  - campus crisis and response team
  - campus police
  - campus safety and health
  - physical plant
  - university administrators
- equipment and supplies
  - location
  - contents
  - where additional supplies can be obtained from other campus departments and units
- detailed floor plans
  - location of emergency exits
  - location of alarms
  - location of extinguishers
- objective of response and recovery plan
  - responding to emergencies or disasters
  - handling emergencies, including evacuation of building
  - other pertinent information as developed by your organization

The current University of New Mexico plan is at [www.ala.org/ala/godort/dtt/dttponline/35n3\\_supplement.pdf](http://www.ala.org/ala/godort/dtt/dttponline/35n3_supplement.pdf). ■

*Dan Barkley, Coordinator of Government Information, Microforms and Periodicals, University of New Mexico, barkley@unm.edu*

# The University of New Mexico, Centennial Science and Engineering Library

Anne Schultz

The University of New Mexico's library system consists of four main branches, collectively known as the University Libraries (UL). Centennial Science and Engineering Library, which is housed in two large, underground levels, has a long history of water problems relating to the weather, ranging from leaky skylights during our summer rainy season to an occasional seep along a back wall, the direct source of which has never been pinpointed. But by far the worst water damage the library staff has had to deal with occurred on Christmas Eve 2004. After a bitterly cold night and a power outage, a water pipe cracked and began leaking, spilling thousands of gallons of water

onto the first floor and through the ceiling of our lower level into our map room. The university was closed for the winter holidays, but a postdoctoral student who had an office in the building came in to do some work and called for help immediately when she heard water running. The physical plant was able to shut off the water valve, and the library's director set our disaster plan in motion as soon as he had been notified.

By December 26, when the first e-mail was sent out to the UL general employee list, the initial disaster response was well underway. A local company had been contracted to do the cleanup, and had already sucked 40,000 gallons of

water out of the lower level. Fans and dehumidifiers, used to speed the drying process, were up and running throughout the building. A separate contractor had been retained for the cleaning and pack-out of all collections on the lower level. Following the salvage priorities established in our disaster plan, the pack-out was prioritized to target the collections in the map room first. Because water poured through the ceiling directly onto several map cases for hours before discovery, care of materials in this area was urgent. Wet maps were to be freeze-dried, and other maps and map cases had to be removed quickly and efficiently. The second priority was the large circulating book collection. A second broken pipe in the fire suppression system caused some damage to one small section of books, but the primary leak was fortunately contained before water on the floor was deep enough to reach the volumes on the lowest shelves. Undamaged books were to be monitored for mold damage resulting from the spike in humidity levels, and were packed out and stored during the remediation of the lower level. The third priority for salvage on this floor was everything else: furnishings, computers, and the contents of staff offices.

Once the critical response was underway, the stages of the recovery plan were sketched out. Mold damage to the carpeting and walls in the lower level meant extensive repair work to be coordinated between outside contractors, the university's Physical Plant Department, and the library. It was clear that the building could not be operating at normal capacity by the time the semester began in mid-January, so in addition to dealing with construction projects, staff had to quickly find innovative ways to provide services to our students and faculty. Because collections had to be removed from the building for the duration of the repairs, the library staff made accommodations for our patrons—including expedited inter-library loan services for books, as ours could not be retrieved. We moved the core portions of the map collection to an area on the upper level so that the map librarian could continue to provide a reasonable level of service. Library instruction for classes was split between the small classroom on the first level, the classroom at Zimmerman Library, and lab facilities



Map cases drying out.



Moldy books.

in the Biology Department. Several staff had to move into temporary office space while water and mold damage to the first floor was repaired.

The major repair work, including new tile for the lower level and new carpeting for our first floor, was completed in time to allow us to begin returning the book and map collections in March—just fewer than three months since

the water leak and flood. We were able to close the building during spring break that month to allow several projects to proceed simultaneously: installation of carpeting in our periodicals area, complete cleaning of the HVAC system, and completing the pack-in of the map collection and the book collection. We were able to fully open the lower level by the end of that month.

We were fortunate in this instance to have had a carefully prepared disaster plan. The plan ensured that library administrators had contact information for members of the initial response team and for emergency services at the university. The plan also provided a framework for salvage by prioritizing items and collections. Having a detailed plan as well as a core group of people who can implement that plan is critical. Depending upon the magnitude and circumstances of a disaster, however, unforeseen difficulties and challenges may arise. Although much of our response to the flood went as well as could be expected, we had a serious problem in one very critical area. Because we had not had a remediation contractor on retainer, we were forced to hire quickly to begin the salvage operations. Instructions on how to handle the pack-out of the book collection were given to the contractor, but unfortunately were not well followed. Because we had never done this before, we did not have the foresight to closely supervise the pack-out. By the time we discovered that boxes were not being adequately labeled, or removed and stored in any particular order, it was too late to correct the situation.

A small team of staff from Centennial Library as well as a few volunteers from Zimmerman Library tackled the

problem. The boxes of books as well as the map cases and maps were being stored in a warehouse on the edge of the campus. We were able to devise a system to relabel more than 15,000 boxes efficiently and in a way that tied each box to a specific shelf in the new shelving configuration on the lower level. All shelves were labeled, and, as pallets of boxes were returned, using another local contractor for labor, boxes could be placed roughly in order in the stacks. Boxes were opened, books returned to the shelves, and the majority of the collection shelf-read in a three-week period.

Flexibility and creative problem solving are great skills in a library setting. In a disaster response, particularly in difficult conditions, it is critical to find personnel with these traits to deal with the practical issues surrounding the building, the collections, and the services. We were ultimately successful in our handling of the difficult circumstances created by the flood because of the library staff's hard work and willingness to innovate. We maintained effective services to our users despite lack of access to our book collection, and were able to quickly return materials to the shelves despite problems with the initial pack-out of materials. The challenge of dealing with the Centennial flood proved to be a particularly valuable learning experience, as it prepared us to deal with a disaster of even greater magnitude at Zimmerman Library in 2006. ■

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## The University of New Mexico, Zimmerman Library Fire

Dan Barkley

**A**t approximately 10:35 P.M. on Sunday April 30, 2006, the fire alarms were sounded in Zimmerman Library. The building was quickly evacuated per our disaster plan with the library staff and student assistants on call that evening. At the time of the fire, there were approximately seventy-one library patrons scattered throughout the building, which comprises three floors plus the basement.

Within eleven minutes of the alarm, Albuquerque Fire Department Engine Company #3 had responded and begun their initial deployment, attempting to locate the area of the fire in the basement. Two additional alarms were sounded and within thirty minutes there were more than seventy-five firefighters working to suppress a very hot fire. The fire was limited to the basement, which contained periodicals, microforms, and government information. There was smoke damage throughout the entire library.

Due to the length of the investigation, no Zimmerman Library personnel were allowed to inspect the damage area for ten days. By then, water-damaged materials were beyond any currently known salvage methods and were removed, as were books with heavy thermal damage.

There were two sections in the basement—fire-damaged and non-fire-damaged. Each side of a shelving range (one range equals seven sections of shelving, with seven shelves per section) was assigned a number for inventory control purposes. The area was then mapped with call number ranges for materials contained on each range.

The fire damaged stacks were labeled 1–76, non-fire 100–191. In the areas near the fire or where heavy damage resulted, inventory lists were created noting the extent of the damage. An “L,” “M,” or “H,” denoting level of damage, was assigned to each call number. The assessment team worked closely with



the remediation company to box and remove materials that were estimated to be salvageable. Anything deemed heavily damaged was left to the demolition company to remove.

While assessment was very time-consuming, the assessment team reviewed more than 30,000 volumes in seven days. The conditions under which the assessment team worked were very arduous and dangerous. There was no electricity, the air was smoky and dirty, and numerous work crews were tearing out and removing the contents of the basement concurrent with the remediation company packing and removing all materials that could be saved. In all, in thirteen days 15,000 boxes of books and 272 cabinets of microforms were removed from the basement.

## Protocols Developed for Assessment Purposes

Before the assessment team began to evaluate materials in the fire-damaged area, protocols were developed by University Libraries (UL) personnel to ensure that as much material as possible could be saved. These protocols were developed from myriad resources, including current library literature, consultation with other preservation experts in and outside of the UL system, and with BMS CAT, the remediation company hired to assist UL. The primary emphasis was to save as much material as possible regardless of thermal damage. Some items saved have heavy thermal damage to the binding but can be rebound. Because the evaluations were done under difficult circumstances, items with heavy exterior damage may need to be reevaluated after their return. Some may be too severely damaged for rebinding.

The assessment team discarded materials with pages that had been burned beyond any reasonable means of remediation. Others volumes were discarded because they had sustained heavy thermal, water, or burn damage to a portion of the text; or damage to the top, bottom, or side margins that could not be trimmed and rebound due to lack of necessary inner margins; or volumes that had been saturated by water. (Due to the lack of access to the area for approximately ten days, water-damaged books that might have been saved were not, as they had dried, swelled, and become heavily infiltrated with toxins from the water.)

Loose issues and items with non-buckram binding often suffered extremely heavy damage (thermal, burn, or water), while some items located next to these did not. In these cases, the damaged



Damaged material.

items were discarded while attempting to salvage the bound runs. Some bound volumes and loose issues were crushed beyond repair because of the collapsed shelving.

Every attempt was made to save some of the highly damaged volumes that are in our research collections (for example, Anthropology, Ibero, Latin American Studies). Once many of these materials are returned, a further assess-



Pile of rubble.

ment will be conducted to determine if they can be reincorporated into the collection.

More than a thousand volumes of periodicals were saved, although heavily thermal-damaged due to content that did not appear at the time to be burned. As these volumes are returned, a closer inspection will be required to determine whether or not they can be recased and reshelved for patron use.

Each situation will dictate the protocols that will be developed locally. It is highly recommended that an assessment team be assembled with protocols for various scenarios, as illustrated in this issue. Regardless of the disaster, a set of protocols should be available that includes damage assessment and recovery procedures, safety equipment to move into the affected area immediately after it's cleared by officials, well-trained and prepared personnel, and lists of contacts and equipment to salvage material. The important factor to remember in any disaster: the quicker you move to save material, the more success you will realize.

## The Return of Materials

An equally important part of your disaster plan should include recovery and materials return. As this issue goes to press, the material taken off-site for remediation has yet to be returned.

Because the fire caused extensive damage in the basement and heavy smoke damage throughout Zimmerman Library, the basement and first floor areas underwent a dramatic redesign. The first floor was remodeled to reflect changes that had been discussed for several years. A research plaza was created, which necessitated the removal of traditional stacks and much of the reference collection to reflect a more patron-friendly environment that included more study areas, more computers, and fewer tangible collections.

The basement also has undergone a radical transformation that will include grouping all technical service personnel in one area, a classroom that will accommodate forty students with computers, and a digitization center. The new floor design will require the relocation of stacks, including some in a compact shelving configuration, and the microform collection in a different area of the basement. There also will be

a rearranged area for viewing and printing of the microform collections and fewer publicly available computers for use.

Here are some of the questions we have been addressing as we work toward the return of our print and microform collections.

### Planning is essential:

- How many boxes of books are returning?
- How many cabinets of microforms are returning?
- Will the shelving configuration be different than before the disaster? If so, how, and will all of the materials fit?

### Staging materials:

- How and where will you sort your returning materials?
- Who will move boxes around?

### Returning volumes to shelves:

- Do you have a sufficient number of book carts or trucks?
- Who will be reshelving?
- Will collection-related projects (such as weeding) be conducted at this time?
- Do you have a current inventory?
- Shelf-reading will be necessary—as you go, or after books are returned to the shelves?
- Will services to your user communities be disrupted during the pack-back?
- How are internal workflows affected (for example, ordering, cataloging)?
- Will the pack-back be conducted during regular business hours, or after the building is closed?
- Don't rush
- Do it right the first time to avoid long-term shelf-reading projects
- Use knowledgeable personnel for reshelving to avoid unnecessary shelf-reading ■

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# Regional Disaster

## The Flood at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Library

Gwen Sinclair

The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, located in Honolulu, is the main campus of the University of Hawai'i system. Upon its establishment in 1907, the university was designated a depository for federal government documents by virtue of the 1907 law relating to land grant colleges. In 1977, the library was designated the regional depository for Hawai'i, and it also serves the U.S. territories in the Pacific (Guam, Federated States of Micronesia, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, and American Samoa). The library also has been a depository for United Nations documents since the late 1940s.

Someone said that you always prepare for the disaster that happened most recently. The arson fire at the University of Georgia Library of 2003 was fresh in my mind, and I thought that if disaster were to strike our library, we would have a fire. However, at approximately 8 P.M. on Saturday, October 30, 2004, heavy rainfall caused a nearby stream to overflow its banks, and a flash flood rushed through the campus. More than thirty university buildings were affected, but the most heavily damaged was the main library, Hamilton Library.

The Government Documents and Maps Department occupied the basement of Hamilton Library, along with the technical services departments, the computer server room, and the Library and Information Science Program. Water crested at six to eight feet, causing enormous damage to the basement and its contents in a matter of minutes. The floodwaters rose so quickly in the basement that students in a classroom had to break a window to escape because stairs were inaccessible due to rising water. The power of the water lifted automobiles, moved stacks of fully loaded map cases, picked up Dumpsters, and knocked over bookshelves. Furniture, library materials, and computers were carried from one end of the basement to the other. Fortunately, no lives were lost and no serious injuries occurred.

### Did We Have a Disaster Plan?

The library had a disaster plan ([libweb.hawaii.edu/libdept/preservation/disrecovery.htm](http://libweb.hawaii.edu/libdept/preservation/disrecovery.htm)), which was activated immediately. Key staff members were contacted and arrived on the scene the night of the flood, although we weren't able

to enter the basement until the following day. The scale of the disaster was so large, however, that recovery efforts were not immediately focused on the library. Campus administrators were chiefly concerned with two issues: restoring power to classrooms so that classes could resume, and saving laboratories with active experiments in them. Thus, the library was left to its own devices the first few days following the flood.

Fortunately, the head of the Preservation Department abruptly returned from sabbatical leave to successfully implement the disaster plan. She immediately contacted a disaster recovery firm, which brought in equipment to stabilize the library environment by controlling humidity, and she arranged the delivery of freezer containers for our use. She also used her network of contacts in the profession to seek advice and hire consultants to work in the library to determine treatment protocols. Most significantly for us, she worked with librarians to focus recovery efforts on the materials deemed most important.

Our first priority was to determine what to salvage, because we knew there was no way to save everything before mold set in. The university was able to muster only a few refrigerated containers for a short period because they were already engaged to ship Christmas trees from the Mainland. Our map technician, who was most knowledgeable about the maps and aerial photographs, was on vacation



The author stands next to aerial photographs that were washed and hung to dry. Credit: Lloyd Tsukano

in Japan at the time of the flood, so my colleagues and I worked with professors from the Geography Department to identify which materials were most critical to save in addition to previously identified rare maps and maps and aerial photographs of Hawai'i, the Pacific, and Asia.

We immediately contacted the Superintendent of Documents and the United Nations, who held our depository shipments for several weeks until we were able to receive mail. We also posted messages to the Govdoc-I and Maps-I discussion lists requesting that libraries with significant discard lists hold those materials if at all possible. We informed our selective depositories that we would not be able to provide services as a regional for an indefinite period.

## What Was the Extent of the Damage?

All of the materials in the Map Collection were inundated with silt and water. Some maps and aerial photographs were washed out of a broken window and were deposited all over campus by the floodwaters. Approximately 40,000 of the 161,000 maps were saved, and the 91,000 aerial photographs were frozen for future evaluation, for we could not immediately determine (and in some cases still don't know) whether we could obtain duplicates from other collections. Some aerial photographs and Mylar maps were washed and hung to dry, but the volume of material was too great for most of it to be treated on-site.

Only five percent of the 800,000 federal and United Nations paper documents—those on the top shelves of the stacks—were salvageable. These were removed from the area using human chains to load books onto salvaged book trucks, which were wheeled outdoors so that the books could be boxed and loaded into freezer containers. All of the *Congressional Serial Set* volumes, *Congressional Record* volumes, microforms, and CD-ROMs and DVDs, as well as materials that were being processed, were completely destroyed.

In the closed stacks room, where some of the oldest and most valuable government documents were kept, only a few hundred books on the top shelves were spared from water damage and could be salvaged. The entrance to the room was blocked for several days, so that by the time salvage crews could enter, mold had bloomed. Many of the stacks had collapsed, creating great heaps of books on the floor over which the salvage crews had to climb.

Most of the maps and books salvaged from the flood were shipped to a document restoration firm for treatment. The remaining maps, along with the aerial photographs, were moved to off-site cold storage to be held for treatment by the library's Preservation Department. Some books and shelflist cards were air-dried by library staff.

In addition to materials, the department lost almost all of its furniture and equipment, including computers. Data was recovered from some computer hard drives, but other computers were total losses, as were diskettes containing backups of the files. Because the library's server room was also destroyed by the flood, the web site had to be restored from backups, as was the library catalog. We now have a contract with a firm to store backups off-site.

## How Did We Handle Relocation of Flood-Affected Departments?

Although the other floors of the library were not flooded, the electricity, air conditioning, and elevators were knocked out by the flooding in the basement. As a result, the library was closed for several days until power was restored in the newer Addition Building and public services resumed. Between that time and the arrival of a large generator to power the main building, which happened months later, the library functioned out of the addition using a temporary entrance. Books were available via paging only and were retrieved by



The Government Documents reference area following the flood. Credit: Susan Murata

student assistants using flashlights. Many staff members had to move to temporary offices elsewhere on campus so they could have electricity. Students could not use study spaces in Hamilton Library, so the smaller Sinclair Library became the chief study area on campus.

Reference service for government documents was resumed two months after the flood, when the Government Documents staff relocated to Sinclair Library. Public service for maps and aerial photographs was not resumed until January 2007 as most of the maps and aerial photographs had not been treated or were inaccessible because we lacked map cases.

Because there was insufficient space to house all of the replacement government documents at Sinclair Library, the university leased space in an office building several miles away. A delivery service was established to transport materials to and from off-campus storage and to retrieve materials needed by patrons.

## What Was It Like to Work with Insurance and FEMA?

The department worked with the university's insurance company and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to document its losses so that the university could request reimbursement for replacement or restoration of materials, furniture, equipment, and staff time spent on flood recovery activities. Initially, both the insurance company and FEMA wanted us to give them itemized lists of the materials destroyed or damaged in the flood. We were able to convince them that it would take months to compile such a list from shelflist cards because most of our documents and maps did not have records in our online catalog.

Compiling the project worksheets for FEMA consumed the better part of 2005 and took valuable staff time away from recovery efforts. Because we did not have a computerized inventory of our collection, we estimated the quantities of each type of material based on our annual report, shelf space, or our own memories, in some cases. In addition to providing evidence of quantities, we also had to document average replacement costs and processing costs to come up with a total dollar amount to "make us whole again." To calculate average replacement costs, we contacted vendors, used figures provided by East Carolina University and the University of California system, and

did our own research to estimate replacement costs for some materials.

In addition to calculating materials costs, we also had to project how much and what type of labor would be required for acquisitions and processing work, and we had to account for acquisitions travel. The Preservation Department completed a project worksheet for the costs of document recovery using outsourced or in-house labor, supplies, and equipment, as well as travel expenses for visiting experts and visits to the document recovery firm. Our computer support department had to account for additional computers for flood recovery personnel and personnel to service those computers, as well as staff to restore the library's web site and digital collections.

Because FEMA operates on a reimbursement basis, the Hawai'i State Legislature appropriated \$31 million for flood recovery efforts. Flood-related expenditures may be reimbursed for up to four years following the disaster declaration, but every six months the university must request an extension of the initial six-month funding reimbursement time frame.

## Did We Hire Flood Recovery Personnel?

Although it would have been preferable to use professional disaster recovery teams to remove materials from the library, it took several days for the university to contract with a disaster recovery firm. Library staff and volunteers did most of the initial recovery work in the few critical days before



Mold on volumes in the Government Documents closed stacks.  
Credit: Lloyd Tsukano



mold set in. Working with volunteers can be a mixed blessing. Although librarians know which books or maps may be easily replaced, the public tends to place the same value on everything, and they want to save each item. I also found it difficult to participate in the recovery work and direct volunteers at the same time.

Our recovery has been further slowed by the difficulties we've experienced in hiring flood recovery workers. We have so far been unsuccessful in our attempts to recruit workers through the state civil service system, so we have been using temporary library assistants who do not receive benefits—not a situation calculated to retain qualified workers, to be sure. The low unemployment rate in Hawai'i has made it difficult even to hire student assistants for flood recovery work. Fortunately, we successfully hired a flood recovery librarian to handle much of our acquisitions work.

## How Did We Go about Replacing the Collections?

If there is one area in which we have developed a significant amount of expertise, it is rebuilding large collections of government documents, maps, and aerial photographs. We have relied heavily on the Needs and Offers List system to acquire needed federal documents and to post our own lists of needs. Our fellow regional depositories have been enormously helpful in notifying us of their selectives' discards, and we have corresponded directly with hundreds of depository libraries that are discarding surprisingly large quantities of documents. Several vendors have facilitated the acquisition of large sets of microfiche, electronic resources, and replacement documents and maps. Several of us have undertaken travel to other libraries or to vendors to select replacement materials. We also have contracted with vendors to replace unique materials, such as aerial photographs. Although the GPO does not have its own collection and could not provide replacement documents, we were able to obtain a number of publications from the United Nations and its specialized agencies.

## How Is Reconstruction Proceeding?

Although it has been more than two years since the flood, reconstruction of the basement of Hamilton Library will not begin until fall 2007. Reconstruction has taken longer than expected due to an extended planning period that included flood mitigation measures. The Government Documents and Maps Department will return to its former space in the basement of Hamilton Library in 2009. Many people have expressed dismay that we will be moving back to the site of

the disaster. Unfortunately, FEMA will only provide funding for us to return to our former state, so they will not support a permanent relocation.

## What Were the Disaster Costs?

The Government Documents Collection flood losses totaled \$22 million, and the Map Collection accounted for \$4 million. Aside from the monetary losses, many irreplaceable books, documents, maps, and aerial photographs were destroyed. There was an emotional cost, too. For many employees, the daily grind of pulling materials out of the dark, muddy basement, washing photographs, searching for important personal possessions, or dealing with bureaucracy represented an unpleasant period that few wish to recall. The frustrations of working with FEMA, architects, and vendors, and being housed in temporary quarters also took a toll. Fortunately, the library arranged counseling for staff members who needed an emotional outlet.

## Can the Process Be Made Less Painful?

Many people have asked why library collections are located in basements. My response is to point out how many library disasters have affected areas other than basements. There is no way to predict what kind of disaster might befall your library, and no measures you can take to completely prevent them, so it's best to assume that someday your library will experience one.

You may not be able to prevent a disaster, but there are a few things libraries could do to make recovery easier. In addition to having a detailed disaster plan, it would be most helpful to contract with a disaster recovery firm in advance. The firm may be called upon immediately following a disaster without further approval being required. The disaster recovery firm can assess the library's collections in advance and ensure that the most important materials are treated first. Any peculiarities of the collections can also be explained beforehand.

Documenting losses turned out to be the most difficult part of our disaster recovery. Not having electronic records of our holdings meant that we had to rely upon a number of inferior methods to estimate losses. I often wished that we had maintained photographs and detailed floor plans of each part of our collections to aid our memories (of course, they would need to have been stored away from campus). It also has been extremely time-consuming to compile lists of needed documents from shelflist cards. If only we had had records of them in a database!

Maintaining off-site backups of computer files is also critical. We all know about the principle of LOCKSS (Lots of

Copies Keep Stuff Safe), and an essential part of implementing LOCKSS is geographic dispersion.

## Were There Any Positive Effects from the Disaster?

Although a disaster is not something anyone wants to experience, there have been some positive effects. First, the librarians have increased their familiarity with the collections and have dramatically improved their knowledge of which documents are available online or through other sources. In addition, the librarians and staff have gained invaluable experience and technical skill in disaster recovery and have shared our expertise with other libraries and organizations.

Not having access to a collection for several months necessitated referring users to other depository libraries, so our selectors began using their collections more intensively. They also acknowledged that it was not desirable to withdraw too much from their own collections, as they could no longer be assured that the regional would always be the collection of last resort.

Many libraries have studied our situation and other disasters and have concluded that they must create or revise their disaster plans. The large number of disaster-affected depositories inspired the GPO to add a chapter on disaster planning and recovery to the *Federal Depository Library Handbook* ([www.gpo.gov/su\\_docs/fdhp/handbook/index.html](http://www.gpo.gov/su_docs/fdhp/handbook/index.html))

GPO also created a section in the Needs and Offers List for disaster-affected libraries to post lists of needed documents ([www.access.gpo.gov/su\\_docs/fdhp/tools/needs\\_of/index.html#dn](http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fdhp/tools/needs_of/index.html#dn)).

Perhaps most heartening, we have been overwhelmed by the assistance of hundreds of libraries that have donated duplicates or portions of their collections. We continue to be amazed by the generosity of librarians at other institutions (perhaps you, dear reader?).

## Conclusion

At present, we have replaced or restored approximately 70 percent of our collections. It is unlikely that we will ever replace some materials, given the difficulty of obtaining out-of-print maps and government publications from vendors and the pending expiration of flood recovery funding. Nonetheless, we have been remarkably successful in rebuilding and restoring access to our collections. Ours was certainly not the worst disaster to befall a library, and we constantly remind ourselves of how fortunate we are that we still have our homes, jobs, and colleagues.

*Note: Photographs and accounts of the disaster at Hamilton Library may be viewed at [library.manoa.hawaii.edu/about/flood/floodinfo.html](http://library.manoa.hawaii.edu/about/flood/floodinfo.html). ■*

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# Hurricane Katrina

Maureen Olle-LaJoie

**A**n annual hurricane threats are the norm for New Orleans, which is located approximately one hundred miles upstream from the Gulf of Mexico. In late August 2005, Hurricane Katrina formed and headed toward Louisiana. On August 28, New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin issued a mandatory evacuation for the city's 485,000 residents. On August 29, Hurricane Katrina struck the Louisiana and Mississippi coasts. The storm surge caused several breaches in the levees, and much of New Orleans was submerged.

Eleven of Louisiana's twenty-eight federal depositories are located in New Orleans. The first task for the state's regional depositories, Louisiana State University (LSU) and Louisiana Tech, was establishing contact with the selective depositories in the areas affected by Hurricane Katrina. The regional librarians e-mailed the depository libraries located in southeastern Louisiana, requesting updates for their institutions two days after Katrina hit. There was one drawback with this plea for information; the institutional e-mail servers in New Orleans

were down. To make sure that people were all right, the regional librarians used personal e-mail addresses, when available, to contact the displaced librarians.

The importance of professional associations was demonstrated during the first few weeks after Hurricane Katrina. The Association of Research Libraries (ARL) administrators were in constant contact concerning the damage from Hurricane Katrina, and this information was shared with the regional librarians. The electronic discussion list for Association of Southeast Research Libraries (ASERL) was another excellent resource for status updates. The GPO served as an invaluable hub of information. Judy Russell shared updates with LSU and Louisiana Tech. Some of the depositories contacted GPO directly, while other updates came from the American Association of Law Libraries electronic discussion list. In turn, LSU and Louisiana Tech disseminated updates via Bayoudoc to keep the rest of the Louisiana depositories informed. The amount of communication from various groups helped the

regional depositories put together a picture of the damage incurred. Even with all of these resources, it took several weeks to receive reports from all the depositories.

Tulane University was the hardest hit of the New Orleans depositories. The government documents collection was housed in the lower level of the Howard Tilton Memorial Library, which was flooded by eight feet of water. Tulane University has a campuswide emergency plan and contract with an international disaster management company, Belfor, who responded to the scene with generators and equipment to remove the water and control the humidity to keep the mold in check. Despite the quick response, only about 10 percent of the government documents collection was salvaged.

Shortly after Hurricane Katrina hit southeastern Louisiana, Hurricane Rita headed for southwestern Louisiana. On September 24, 2005, Hurricane Rita struck the Texas and Louisiana border at Sabine's Pass and Johnson's Bayou as a Category 3 hurricane. The storm surge destroyed several coastal communities. Following Hurricane Rita, the regional depositories contacted the all the selective depositories in Louisiana. Lake Charles, home to McNeese State University, was badly hit. There was significant water damage to the government documents collection located on the fourth floor.

In response to the hurricanes, the Louisiana regional depositories had the selective depositories in Louisiana hold onto discards that had been approved for disposal. All items approved for discard were to be offered to the damaged depositories, with the understanding that it would be some time before those libraries could assess their needs. The GPO set up a section on the National Needs and Offers List for the damaged depositories to list their needs. Many depositories across the country offered documents to help the damaged depositories rebuild their collections.

Having faced two major disasters in a mere month, the experience of Louisiana depositories can provide some lessons for others facing similar situations. During an emergency, regular communication will most likely fail on some level. Alternative methods that deal with communication issues need to be addressed prior to an emergency. As part of the disaster planning process, compile a list of personal contact information. The regional depository should have the personal contact information of each selective depository librarian and the library administrator.

Communication with administration is vital during an emergency. While the government documents librarian may be the ordinary contact person for the regional librarian, during an emergency contacting the library's administrator will often yield the most information about the situation. Administrators also are good resources for learning what is happening at other institutions. When a disaster does strike, a depository should contact its regional depository and the GPO.

Natural disaster policies must be established regarding employee safety, building security, collection preservation, and suspension of services. Because Tulane University's risk management division had plans for a large-scale disaster in place, and those plans were well-executed, the library did not need to implement its disaster plan. The library has reviewed its plan, both before and after Hurricane Katrina, and found that the plan was inadequate for the situation. While each library should have its own disaster plan, it should be aware of its parent institution's disaster plan. ■

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# Disaster Preparedness Bibliography

Dan Barkley and Anne Schultz

## Online Resources

American Institute for Conservation of Historic & Artistic Works (AIC). Disaster Response & Recovery. [aic.stanford.edu/disaster](http://aic.stanford.edu/disaster)

## Valuable Informational Articles—Links to Other Resources

American Library Association. Disaster Preparedness and Recovery: [www.ala.org/ala/washoff/woissues/disasterpreparedness/distrprep.cfm](http://www.ala.org/ala/washoff/woissues/disasterpreparedness/distrprep.cfm)

California Preservation Clearinghouse, [cpc.stanford.edu/disasters/index.html](http://cpc.stanford.edu/disasters/index.html)

Central New York Disaster Recovery Resource Guide, [clrc.org/progs/disaster/resourceguide.shtml](http://clrc.org/progs/disaster/resourceguide.shtml)

Conservation Online, [palimpsest.stanford.edu/bytopic/disasters](http://palimpsest.stanford.edu/bytopic/disasters)

Links for Disaster Planning & Response. Links to resources for preservation and conservation of library, archive, and museum materials. Archive for Cons DistList.

Disaster Recovery Journal. Library Disaster Recovery Planning, [www.drj.com/drworld/content/w1\\_043.htm](http://www.drj.com/drworld/content/w1_043.htm)

Federal Depository Library Handbook chapter on disaster planning and recovery, [www.access.gpo.gov/su\\_docs/fdlp/handbook/chapter14.pdf](http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fdlp/handbook/chapter14.pdf)

- Federal Emergency Management Association, [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)  
 Harvard University. Library Preservation at Harvard, [preserve.harvard.edu/bibliographies/emergencypreparedness.html](http://preserve.harvard.edu/bibliographies/emergencypreparedness.html)  
 Heritage Emergency National Task Force, [www.heritagepreservation.org/PROGRAMS/taskfer.htm](http://www.heritagepreservation.org/PROGRAMS/taskfer.htm)

## Emergency Response and Salvage Wheels (English and Spanish)—Links

- Society of American Archivists. MayDay: Saving our Archives, [www.archivists.org/mayday/MayDayActivityList.pdf](http://www.archivists.org/mayday/MayDayActivityList.pdf)  
 National Archives and Records Administration. Saving Family Treasures Guidelines, [www.archives.gov/preservation/disaster-response/guidelines.html](http://www.archives.gov/preservation/disaster-response/guidelines.html)  
 New York University. Disaster Preparedness and Bioterrorism Resources Toolkit, [library.med.nyu.edu/library/eresources/toolkits/disaster.html](http://library.med.nyu.edu/library/eresources/toolkits/disaster.html)  
 Northeast Document Conservation Center. Preservation of Library & Archival Materials: Emergency Management, [www.nedcc.org/plam3/index3.htm](http://www.nedcc.org/plam3/index3.htm)

## Valuable Technical Leaflets on Disaster Planning and Recovery Topics

- Society of Rocky Mountain Archivists. Disaster Recovery, [www.srmarchivists.org/preservation/resources/websites.htm#disaster](http://www.srmarchivists.org/preservation/resources/websites.htm#disaster)  
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# Tips from Tim

## The Inevitable Student Assistant Column

Tim Byrne

Recently, there was a Govdoc-I message asking for advice about hiring student assistants. An obviously very frustrated supervisor was looking for something to use in the hiring process that would screen out the duds. There were a number of responses, most offering sympathy and anecdotes of truly bad student workers, but no one offered a sure solution. If Govdoc-I can't supply the answer, there just might not be a solution. I actually wrote a response, but decided to save it for this column.

I am fairly convinced that trying to be selective in the hiring of student assistants is not worth it. The Government Publications Library at the University of Colorado has not done so in many years. With the library's student assistant budget being stagnant for the last couple of decades, we have been forced to rely heavily on work-study students. Of course, the competition for these students is fierce. Taking time to make a decision or asking overly rigorous questions in an interview usually means you lose the student. So for some years now, the primary criteria we use when hiring work-study students is whether they are breathing or not. If there is any question about this during the interview, a small mirror is placed under a nostril and any hint of moisture on the mirror is confirmation that the student is, in fact, alive. Once their paperwork is filled out, we start training them on the SuDoc system. If that doesn't kill them, they are moved on to other duties. This process has allowed us to hire a large number of truly outstanding students and a few remarkable duds. We have had two student assistants named Student Assistant of the Year for the entire university, and many

more left us heartbroken when they graduated. The duds are inevitable and, when necessary, we gently fire them, or, at least, not rehire. When firing is not an option, we send them to shelve in our foreign documents collection, where no one can find anything anyway.

As with many libraries, we are extremely reliant on student assistants. This can be a problem because, often, student assistants are not very reliable. They insist on giving more priority to such things as classes, homework, studying for exams, and going home to visit their family over breaks. Graduation is especially annoying. The students are happy and excited to be finishing school, but I am depressed thinking about the experienced workers we are losing. However, a new crop of student assistants always comes in, and we start the whole process all over again. Then, a few years down the road, a call comes in from a prospective employer doing an employment check, and we have to run around the department asking whether anyone remembers the student.

When our fearless *DttP* editor first asked me to write this column, she gave me a list of suggested topics I might write about. I have not written about any of those topics until now. The topic of student assistants was on the list. It is not like it was a real formal list, more like five things written on the corner of a sheet of paper that she tore off and gave to me. I still have the list, somewhere. I will have to find it and mark off student assistants. ■

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# Book Reviews

**United States Senate Catalogue of Graphic Art.** United States. Congress. Senate. Commission on Art. (Senate Document 109-2). Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 2006. \$49. GPO Stock Number: 052-071-01429-2. ISBN: 0-16-072853-3. Available from [purl.access.gpo.gov/GPO/LPS76440](http://purl.access.gpo.gov/GPO/LPS76440).

The Senate curator is charged with developing and implementing the museum and preservation programs for the United States Senate Commission on Art. This office, established in 1968, collects, preserves, and interprets the Senate's decorative arts collection. The graphic arts collection was established in 1975 by J. R. Ketchum, Senate curator emeritus, who recognized the value of prints as primary historical documents and acquired the first engravings. The initial purpose was to collect images of the Senate and the U.S. Capitol building, which were available to the general public from 1830 to the early twentieth century. The collection has now grown to almost one thousand historical prints and is an invaluable resource for students and teachers of American history and politics, mass media, and graphic arts.

In 1995, the commission published a modest partial checklist of the graphic arts collection illustrated with tiny black-and-white images. The 2006 edition is a sumptuous, full-color catalogue that presents the reader with the Senate's entire collection of graphic art, including its wonderful collection of political cartoons. These illustrations show how the Senate was portrayed to the American public before radio and television provided twenty-four-hour news coverage.

The catalogue is divided into eight thematic chapters: the Senate Chamber, Capitol Interior, Capitol Exterior and Grounds, Senate Art, Portraits, Group Portraits, Beyond Capitol Hill, and Political Cartoons and Caricatures. Senate Curator D. K. Skvarla and Don-

ald Ritchie, associate historian in the U.S. Senate Historical Office, provide introductory essays.

Skvarla reminds the reader that during its first fifty years, America was predominately rural, and transportation was rudimentary. People in the hinterlands waited weeks for news from the new capital. Many got their news by way of broadsides—oversized sheets of paper that included text and wood engraved images. In the early 1850s, a new engraving procedure was developed that reduced the time needed to make wood engravings. News magazines, such as *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper* and *Harper's Weekly*, capitalized on this, and their artists and craftsmen were able to provide the public with timely glimpses of democracy at work. Trains, steamboats, and improved roads allowed these images to be disseminated to a news-hungry public and helped build a strong nationalistic feeling across the country.

Political cartoons were an important part of early mass media. Satirists such as Thomas Nast and Joseph Keppler translated complex issues into easily recognized visuals. They exposed corruption, scandal, and political mischief with their pens. Ritchie points out that they also were politically motivated. Nast was strongly pro-Union; Lincoln said of him, "Thomas Nast has been our best recruiting sergeant." A lifelong Republican, Nast created such universally recognized symbols as the Republican elephant and the Democratic donkey, and he shaped the American image of Santa Claus. Keppler, an anti-Catholic Democrat, made brilliant use of color lithography in *Puck*, the weekly magazine he founded and used to fight Irish Catholic patronage in New York's infamous Tammany Hall.

This is a wonderful art history book that also happens to be a great U.S. government document. Carefully edited and beautifully printed, it truly deserves to be brought to the

attention of a wider reading audience than those who regularly peruse the shelves of U.S. government document collections.

*Marta A. Davis, Reference Librarian/Assistant Professor, Southern Illinois University Carbondale; mdavis@lib.siu.edu*

**200 Notable Days: Senate Stories: 1787 to 2002.** Richard Baker. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 2006. \$46. GPO Stock Number: 052-071-01444-6. ISBN: 0-16-076331-2. Available from [purl.access.gpo.gov/GPO/LPS77292](http://purl.access.gpo.gov/GPO/LPS77292).

This book is fun to read and to quarrel with. Any book that picks the most notable two hundred days in the history of the U.S. Senate is itching for a fight, just as with a book that presumes to pick the best presidents, the best places to live, or the best baseball players.

Senate historian Richard Baker has picked *his* two hundred days for a variety of reasons. In a brief introduction, he explains that the corridors of the Capitol echo with stories, and that he has reworked the best of them into one-page historical sketches to convey "the traditions, personalities, and legislative landmarks of the 'World's Greatest Deliberative Body'" for "those who have a strong interest in the subject but lack the time to explore extended historical essays" (p. v).

Each sketch includes an illustration—mostly from the Library of Congress, the Senate Historical Office, or other federal sources—and a citation or two for further reading. The sketches are arranged chronologically, beginning with June 7, 1787, when the delegates to the Constitutional Convention decided that senators would be selected by state legislatures rather than by easily misled voters, and ending with November 22, 2002, "The Unforgettable 107th Congress."

It seems the 107th was unforgettable for a fact now largely forgotten, that controlling power in the Senate shifted between parties four times within two years, as presiding officers, party deserters, and interim elections tipped the prevailing balance.

The chronology is shaped into five chapters organized by prevailing themes. Some chapter themes, such as “Formative Years of the Senate 1787–1800” and “War and Reconstruction 1851–1880,” cohere nicely around broad historical events. Others such as “Era of Investigations 1921–1940” and “The Modern Senate 1964–2002” seem more imposed or arbitrary.

The selected days often focus on key votes, memorable speeches, landmark legislation, and the creation of institutional offices or structures. Many sketches relate to the unending quest for committee or office elbow room and the construction projects that followed, as the Senate, as with the country, gradually grew larger. Librarians will be delighted to discover that the Senate vote to purchase Mr. Jefferson’s library as a replacement for the Congressional collection burned by the British is selected as one of the two hundred notable days.

Baker isn’t one to overlook the humorous and the absurd. He recounts how the Senate, known for its dilatory legislative pace, had only eight of twenty-two members present for the beginning of its first session on March 4, 1789; it needed another month to muster a quorum to certify the election of George Washington, five weeks after his term began. “The Vagabond Statue” of July 31, 1851, recalls how a controversial half-naked, toga-clad statue of Washington was hauled from place to place within and without the Capitol and even housed one winter in a specially constructed shed to protect the underdressed founding father from winter chills.

Will readers all agree that these are the most notable two hundred days of the United States Senate? There seem to be an excessive number devoted to the deaths of members and ex-members. Baker wants to capture the colorful per-

sonalities that had their moment to strut across the Senate stage. But do we need a day designated for Charles Thomas (May 12, 1920), notable mostly for discarding his toupee as a sign that spring had returned? One wonders why there is no day or anecdote for the Senate’s passage of the Social Security Act, or the landmark education acts of 1964 and 1965 that got the feds involved with schools and colleges.

I said the book was fun to quarrel with. Less demanding and time-consuming than Robert Byrd’s magisterial four-volume history of the Senate, *The Senate, 1789–1989: Addresses on the History of the United States Senate*, Baker’s book of anecdotes offers far more than the occasional chuckle at another Senate pratfall. It fulfills his intention of enlightening, inspiring, amusing, and informing his reader.

*Alan Zoellner, Government Information Librarian, Earl Gregg Swem Library, College of William and Mary; afzoel@wm.edu*

**The New Woman As Librarian: The Career of Adelaide Hasse.** Clare Beck. Lanham, Md.: Scarecrow, 2006. \$45. ISBN-13 978-0-8108-5106-1.

Have I ever told you about this documents librarian friend of mine, so talented it’s almost maddening? My colleague has had an amazing career and she just keeps going. She started at twenty-one at the Los Angeles Public Library, where they did not seem to mind that she had not been to library school, or even college—she was exceptionally bright. She left Los Angeles when the library board grew too small-minded for her, but she ended up with a good job at the Government Printing Office in Washington, D.C. You should have seen the indexing work they piled on her there, a mountain of documents that had not been touched for years. They respected her so much at GPO, they ended up naming a room after her (I am more than a little jealous). But she got restless after a few years at GPO and headed to the Big Apple, where she worked at the New York Public Library and hung out with some of the city’s

most famous intellectuals and policy makers. That is where her story gets really interesting.

By now, you may have figured out that my documents librarian “friend” is Adelaide Hasse, who actually died in 1953, before I was born. But she is now vibrantly alive to me and anyone else who reads Clare Beck’s outstanding biographical study, *The New Woman as Librarian: The Career of Adelaide Hasse*. Hasse, as the book’s back cover notes, is known as the “patron saint of government documents librarians.” Her sixty-year career started in 1889, and gradually she became a sophisticated, urbane woman of her day: a New Woman, independent, career-oriented, and ambitious.

While reading this well-crafted book, I found it impossible to resist Hasse’s luminous spirit, evident from young adulthood, when she won a prize as the “Champion Fast Lady Bicycle Rider of Los Angeles”; through her early career, when she devised what became the Superintendent of Documents classification system; to her later years, when (through her presidency of the District of Columbia Library Association) she met Eleanor Roosevelt. Even when Hasse’s forceful personality surprised and challenged me, I found myself deeply admiring her accomplishments, drive, and vision, and especially the questions she raised about library work that are still relevant today.

Hasse’s career spanned a time when the majority of library department heads and directors were male. And, as Beck discusses, at least some of these influential male librarians were hired into professional management positions without library experience, coming from such fields as business, academia, journalism, government, or the military. This helped nurture an active old boys’ club in library leadership, a practice with which Hasse was all too keenly familiar. The first half of her career also coincided with the height of the women suffrage movement, when Carrie Chapman Catt and others focused their attention on highly populated New York State, leading to “assertive, noisy women parading, orating, *demanding* the right to vote” (p. 152)—sometimes in

front of the New York Public Library (NYPL). Elihu Root, a famous American of his day (he was a former United States senator who had held two cabinet positions and won the Nobel Peace Prize), was vocally anti-suffrage and served on the NYPL board of directors. So while Adelaide Hasse strove to succeed as a department head at NYPL, a member of her board was on record as stating that he would never “place that high duty [the vote] in the weak and nerveless hands of those designed by God to be protected rather than to engage in . . . government” (p. 152).

In the best sense, reading this book is an education, along many different lines. Beck artfully interweaves primary source material (letters, personnel files, library annual reports, contemporary newspaper articles, Hasse’s personal effects, and much more) with secondary interpretations culled from reference books, published histories, biographies, and feminist criticism, using her considerable talent for historical synthesis and good, old-fashioned storytelling. Shortly after finishing *The New Woman As Librarian*, I happened to read Erik Larson’s powerful true-crime history set in 1890s Chicago, *The Devil in the White City*, and Beck’s writing style reminds me of Larson’s (although Beck’s text is blissfully free of serial killers). Both writers do a very good job of setting the stage for their histories, with just the right amount of factual background for the uninitiated. Beck’s captivating prologue transported me to the first American Library Association conference held on the West Coast (San Francisco, October 1891), where eighty librarians careened around Golden Gate Park, Chinatown, and the Cliff House while debating librarianship and the reputations of the still young universities of Stanford and the University of California, Berkeley. “There was an elegant closing banquet in the white and gold splendor of the Palace Hotel,” Beck writes, “where the courses included canapés de caviar, filet de boeuf a la Richelieu, asparagus with hollandaise sauce, petits fours, fruit, cheese, and even champagne toasts, accompanied by many speakers and much inspiration” (p. 3). Along with the

now famous Richard Bowker and John Cotton Dana, the attendees included Tessa Kelso, librarian of the Los Angeles Public Library, Adelaide Hasse’s mentor and herself a minor heroine of *The New Woman As Librarian*.

Hasse’s work speaks uncannily to some of the core issues many of us in documents librarianship continue to contemplate. What levels of service can we really provide? How best can we describe the content of government documents, using the smartest indexing systems available? How can we convince the business and academic communities that librarians can assist them in navigating the government information maze? What should our role be in promoting access to state and local documents and in managing the flood of gift documents typically received by research libraries? It is no wonder these issues are so well-articulated, as Clare Beck herself served for many years as a government documents librarian at Eastern Michigan University. She is well-known to GODORT of Michigan and to ALA GODORT, and has already written on American library history. I remember a very animated Professor Beck speaking to a University of Michigan School of Information class in the mid-1990s, shortly after the publication of her *American Libraries* cover story on Hasse.<sup>1</sup> The article was just the beginning of Beck’s ten-year obsession to find Hasse’s story, a quest that led her to untold hours of library and archival research in New York, Pennsylvania, Illinois, New Mexico, and Washington, D.C., and to wonderful conversations with Ariel Fielding, Adelaide Hasse’s great-grandniece. In her acknowledgments, Beck credits librarians many GODORT members would know (Mary Redmond, Bernadine Abbott Hoduski, and the late Lois Mills) and numerous colleagues and friends who lent encouragement, but her final thanks go to two pioneers of the history of women librarians: Laurel Grotzinger and Suzanne Hildenbrand. Her credit to them should create a broader audience for their works.

As Larson does in *White City*, Clare Beck allows us to “meet” many famous



Adelaide R. Hasse

characters. A small selection includes John Shaw Billings, medical library pioneer and NYPL librarian; Robert Brookings, founder of the Brookings Institution; Melvil Dewey, library maverick with an unfortunate habit of making selected female librarians uncomfortable, perhaps even sexually harassing them; and Minnie Sears and Isadore Mudge, longtime companions and champions of cataloging, reference, and library education. We also meet Hasse’s foes, among them NYPL colleagues Charles Williamson, Keyes Metcalf, Edwin Anderson, Harry Lydenberg, and a cataloger with the impossibly perfect name of Axel Moth. One of the compelling friendly figures along the margins is John Cotton Dana.

Readers who have ever experienced conference burnout will be refreshed by the irreverent, restless Dana’s letter to Hasse in 1914: “I have reached the point where I feel like fighting whenever I come near a group of librarians, especially the Council, the Institute, or the ALA. I don’t think they have done themselves credit or have added anything to the standing of our profession” (p. 157). Dana had helped found the Special Libraries Association in 1909 as a “venue for the legislative, business, and technical librarians who were more active in serving business and government than the typical public library,” (p.128) a fairly perfect description of Adelaide Hasse’s brand of library service.

Hasse and her professional output could not be contained by the four

walls of any library. She published dozens of articles, editorials, and annotated bibliographies, and worked on many long-term indexing projects of such massive scale that it boggles the mind. She was an unapologetic self-promoter who wanted public libraries to provide outstanding and intelligent reference service. She was passionate about educating the next generation of librarians, but at the same time she was suspicious of the quality of library studies programs. She was a workaholic with an intense personality, who did not suffer fools lightly. In the *Hunter College Bulletin*, she asked of potential library studies students: "Have you a reasonable amount of intelligence, common sense, scholarship, general knowledge, accuracy, stick-to-it-iveness, tact, health, enthusiasm, open-mindedness, executive ability, sympathy, presence, reasonableness, patience, imagination, interest in all kinds of people, and in everything in the world, inside and outside of books?" (p. 167).

Hasse worked on bibliographic indexing projects, usually related to government documents, both at work and on her personal time. She had moved to New York City in 1897, but by the World War I era, such controversy arose surrounding her role as economics librarian at NYPL that her career

took unexpected turns. To say more would be to spoil some of the central surprises of *The New Woman as Librarian*. Suffice to say that Adelaide Hasse was the target of bigotry, both gender- and ancestry-related (a strong anti-German sentiment prevailed), and may have been the victim of some of her own poor moves in the game of workplace politics. Regardless of what transpired, Hasse had a career that extended well beyond the NYPL days. I'm grateful that NYPL kept such a complete file about her, and that educated people of Hasse's era preserved their written correspondence and personal memoirs. Beck has read through the early twentieth-century equivalent of thousands of e-mails. Some chapters contain more than a hundred references. The subject and author index would do even Hasse proud. I am a little surprised that Beck did not include a merged, megabibliography as an appendix, to add another layer to Adelaide's Hasse's story; this would have brought together in one convenient list Hasse's published works, works about her, and so on. But that seems to be a minor shortcoming of this topnotch effort.

Perhaps the most fascinating chapter is the aptly titled epilogue, "History of a Reputation." It is the most difficult to read as well, because it means

the book is ending and our time with Adelaide is waning. Here Beck pulls out the scholarly stops, quoting everyone from social psychologist Carol Tavris to writer, feminist historian, and former Smith College president Jill Ker Conway, in her illuminating analysis of Adelaide Hasse's Progressive Era challenges and rapidly changing (though still frustratingly sex-typed) world.

I urge everyone to read this book. If you want the full effect, read it as you fly to a library conference. Tuck it under your arm as you wait at baggage claim alongside your tote-bag-carrying male and female colleagues. Give yourself time to think about how things have or have not changed since Adelaide Hasse's time. You will find yourself feeling not the least bit lonely, but rather as if you have made a new and genuine friend. ■

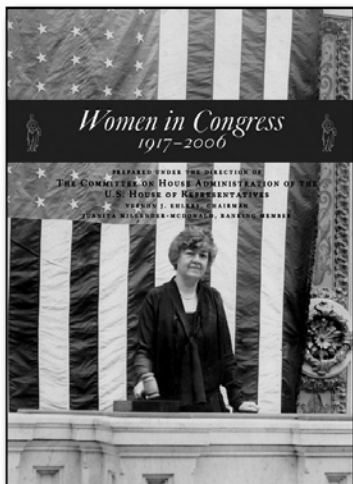
**Cass Hartnett**, *U.S. Documents Librarian and Women's Studies Selector, University of Washington Libraries*; [cass@u.washington.edu](mailto:cass@u.washington.edu)

### Reference

1. Clare Beck, "A 'Private' Grievance against Dewey," *American Libraries* 27, no. 1 (1996): 62-64.



# The Remarkable Stories of Women in the U.S. Congress



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## 2007 Annual Conference Wrap-Up, GODORT Highlights

### Washington, D.C., 22-25, 2007

GODORT members descended upon Washington, D.C., for the 2007 ALA Annual Conference to attend a wide variety of programs and meetings as well as a celebration of GODORT's thirty-fifth anniversary. The International Documents Task Force (IDTF) sponsored a successful preconference, "International Documents in an Electronic Age: The Open Internet and Beyond: Challenges, Tasks, and Tools for All Libraries," which was hosted at World Bank. It is projected that the preconference raised \$10,000 for GODORT's treasury. GODORT's main program, "What Difference Does it Make What Congress Published? American History in the Earliest Congressional Documents," also was well-attended.

The GODORT Update session featured speakers who focused on the state of access to online government information. Topics discussed included the state of public access to UN documentation, the Iowa Publications Online service provided by the State Library of Iowa, and the Open Source Center, the successor agency to the Foreign Broadcast Information Service.

The Federal Documents Task Force meeting featured updates from GPO and the Bureau of the Census. The group also is planning to restart the Agency Liaison Program and use the GODORT wiki to recruit participants. IDTF finalized a letter to be sent under the signature of the GODORT chair to the Editorial Control Section of the UN requesting modifications to the UN classification scheme. The State and Local Documents Task Force heard a report from the Center of Research Libraries indicating the completion of a project to organize its state documents collection. The group also agreed to host a web site on the GODORT wiki that would serve as a directory of databases produced by state governments. Finally, SLDTF continued its planning efforts by reviewing preliminary results of its survey of state depositories.

GODORT's Ad Hoc Committee on Strategic Planning had its initial meeting at the Conference, and is currently working with the Membership Committee to devise a membership survey to help inform planning efforts. The Cataloging Committee made plans to submit comments to the Library of Congress Working Group on the Future of Bibliographic Control. GPO also provided the committee with a report on its pilot project to use brief bibliographic records to assist in tracking documents through the acquisitions process. The Education Committee hosted a discussion session on support for e-government services in libraries. Challenging issues identified include a lack of computer literacy among some segments of the public, inadequate time available on public workstations to complete some types of online forms, and the lack traditional types of support from agencies (phone contacts, paper form alternatives). Suggestions included developing partnerships with local support agencies that can provide more extended assistance, and to designate a workstation for those who need extended time to complete forms.

GITCO is forming a subcommittee on numeric and geospatial data with the purpose of identifying other groups within ALA interested in data and identify training and education needs among GODORT members. The Legislation Committee worked on resolutions supporting GPO's 2008 appropriations request, and urging government agencies to maintain mirror sites and disaster recovery systems to support e-government services. The committee also submitted a memorial resolution in honor of Ridley Kessler, and began work on a letter supporting legislation to open access to CRS reports.

Efforts also are underway to reinvigorate the National Action Alert Network (NAAN).

The Development Committee will be sending out a letter to membership soliciting donations for the Rozkuszka

scholarship, and anticipates a successful fundraiser with the online auction of vacation properties donated by Readex.

The Rare and Endangered Government Publications Committee will be using the GODORT wiki to collect information about methods for determining brittleness and commercial sources for reproductions of publications from 1932-1962. The Program Committee continued work on preconference and programs for the 2008 Conference. Two preconference are planned, one on election and campaign data, and the other on uses of Web 2.0 applications in providing government information services. The program will cover local data sources for business.

The Publications Committee selected and the Steering Committee confirmed the appointment of Starr Hoffman as the new web manager, and James Church as the new chair of the Notable Documents Panel.

GODORT membership approved the formation of an ad hoc committee to explore the feasibility of starting an oral history project with members. Most committees also discussed the opportunities and issues associated with having virtual committee memberships. A number of options were discussed for the use of GODORT's new e-mail list, GODORT-L. There was a lack of consensus on whether the list should remain an announcements-only list, or be opened up to allow members to discuss GODORT-related issues. More feedback will be solicited before a decision is made.

As always, GODORT's Conference and Awards Committees put on a good party. The GODORT Reception and Awards Ceremony was held at the ALA Washington Office near Dupont Circle. The award recipients included:

- James Bennett Childs—August A. Imholtz Jr., Vice President for Government Documents, Readex (a division of NewsBank, inc);

- LexisNexis/GODORT/ALA *Documents to the People*—Cathy N. Hartman, University of North Texas;
- Bernadine Abbott Hoduski Founders—Thomas A. Stave, University of Oregon Library;
- NewsBank/Readex/GODORT/ALA Catherine J. Reynolds Research Grant—Chi-Shiou Lin, University of Wisconsin—Madison; and

- W. David Rozkuszka Scholarship—Michael Schmidt, enrolled at the University of Arizona in Tucson.

The reception was supported by Readex (a division of NewsBank inc), LexisNexis, Paratext, Marcive, Inc., CQ Press, and Renouf and was planned by the Conference and Awards Committee. For more information about the five

GODORT awards recipients, please see [www.ala.org/ala/godort/godortcommittees/godortawards/index.htm](http://www.ala.org/ala/godort/godortcommittees/godortawards/index.htm). ■

*Arlene Weible, GODORT Past Chair*

## Councilor's Report

### 2007 Annual Conference—Washington, D.C.

The 2007 ALA Annual Conference set a new attendance record, with 28,635 persons registered. This exceeds by about one thousand the previous record attendance set at the 2005 Chicago conference. With so many librarians visiting Washington, D.C., ALA sponsored a successful Day-on-the-Hill event that brought about two thousand ALA members to the Hill to speak in support of libraries with the congressional delegations from their home districts. Representatives from GODORT and the Government Information Subcommittee of the ALA Committee on Legislation met with the staff of the Joint Committee on Printing during the event to discuss funding for the Government Printing Office, the depository library program, and other issues of interest to GODORT members.

ALA Council approved a memorial resolution in honor of Ridley Kessler. Other Council actions of interest to GODORT members included:

- Approval of a Resolution on Government Printing Office FY 2008 Appropriations. ALA supports full funding for the GPO appropriations.
- Approval of a Resolution on the Use and Abuse of National Security

Letters. This resolution condemns the use of National Security Letters in order to provide adequate protection for library user's rights to be free from unwarranted and unjustified government surveillance.

- Approval of a Resolution on the National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program FY 2008 Funding. Congress is urged to restore full funding for this program.
- Approval of a Resolution on Funding for the National Library Service. This resolution supports funding to move the NLB service away from audiocassettes to more up-to-date digital technology.
- Approval of a Resolution on Accessible Digitization Projects. This resolution encourages libraries that are digitizing material to adopt Section 508 regulations to ensure that materials are accessible to persons using screen readers or other assistive technology.
- Rejection of a proposal to send a letter from ALA to the Government Printing Office in support of the GPO *Guidelines for Establishing Shared Regional Depository Libraries*. The letter, drafted by the Committee on

Legislation, did not address concerns expressed by members of GODORT, and many Councilors were disturbed that GODORT's issues were not included in the letter.

In informational sessions, Council members learned that the ALA endowment surpassed \$30 million in the past six months, propelling ALA toward a strong financial future. With funds from the higher membership dues, an ALA Office for Library Advocacy was established to prepare training materials and toolkits for local libraries to use for advocacy with their governing bodies or funding bodies.

It has been a pleasure representing GODORT on the ALA Council for the past three years. GODORT's strong support of permanent public access to government information fills an important role in ALA that might otherwise be neglected. Keep up the excellent work! My best wishes go to GODORT's newly elected councilor, Mary Mallory. ■

*Cathy Nelson Hartman, GODORT Councilor (2004–2007)*

## Award Nominations Due December 1, 2007

The Awards Committee of ALA GODORT welcome nominations of documents librarians recognized for their contributions and achievements to the profession. Awards will be presented at the 2008 Annual Conference in Anaheim, California, and will be selected by the Awards Committee at Midwinter in January 2008. These awards are:

### **Bernadine Abbott Hoduski Founders Award**

The Bernadine Abbott Hoduski Award recognizes documents librarians who may not be known at the national level but who have made significant contributions to the field of state, international, local, or federal documents. This award recognizes those whose contributions have benefited not only the individual's institution but also the profession. Achievements in state, inter-

national, or local documents librarianship will receive first consideration. The award winner receives a plaque.

### **James Bennett Childs**

The James Bennett Childs Award is a tribute to an individual who has made a lifetime and significant contribution to the field of documents librarianship. The award is based on stature, service, and publication, which may be in any or all areas of documents librarianship. The award winner receives a plaque with a likeness of James Bennett Childs.

### **LexisNexis/GODORT/ ALA Documents to the People**

The LexisNexis/GODORT/ALA "Documents to the People" Award is a tribute to an individual, library, institution, or other noncommercial group that has

most effectively encouraged the use of government documents in support of library service. The award includes a \$3,000 cash stipend to be used to support a project of the recipient's choice. LexisNexis Academic & Library Solutions sponsors this award.

Guidelines for all award nominations are available from the GODORT web site ([www.ala.org/ala/godort/godortcommittees/godortawards/index.htm](http://www.ala.org/ala/godort/godortcommittees/godortawards/index.htm)) or can be requested from the Awards Committee chair, Stephen Woods. Nominations will be accepted via e-mail (preferred), mail, or fax. Please send to Stephen Woods, Chair, GODORT Awards Committee, Social Sciences Librarian, Social Sciences Library, Pennsylvania State University, 208 Paterno Library, University Park, PA 16802-1809; phone (814) 865-0665; fax (814) 863-1403; [swoods@psu.edu](mailto:swoods@psu.edu). ■

## Research and Scholarship Applications Due December 1, 2007

The Awards Committee of ALA GODORT welcome applications by December 1, 2007, for the Catherine J Reynolds Research Grant and the David Rozkuszka Scholarship. Awards will be presented at the 2008 Annual Conference in Anaheim, California, and will be selected by the Awards Committee at Midwinter in January 2008.

### **NewsBank/Readex/ GODORT/ALA Catharine J. Reynolds**

The NewsBank/Readex/GODORT/ALA Catharine J. Reynolds Award provides funding for research in the field of documents librarianship, or in a related area that would benefit the individual's

performance as a documents librarian, or make a contribution to the field. This award, established in 1987, is named for Catharine J. Reynolds, former head of Government Publications at the University of Colorado, Boulder. It is supported by an annual contribution of \$2,000 from NewsBank inc./Readex.

### **W. David Rozkuszka Scholarship**

The W. David Rozkuszka Scholarship provides financial assistance to an individual who is currently working with government documents in a library and is trying to complete a masters degree in library science. This award, established in 1994, is named after W. David Roz-

kuszka, former documents librarian at Stanford University. The award recipient receives \$3,000.

Guidelines for the research grant and scholarship are available from the GODORT web site ([www.ala.org/ala/godort/godortcommittees/godortawards/index.htm](http://www.ala.org/ala/godort/godortcommittees/godortawards/index.htm)) or can be requested from the Awards Committee Chair, Stephen Woods. Applications will be accepted via e-mail (preferred), mail, or fax. Please send to Stephen Woods, Chair, GODORT Awards Committee, Social Sciences Librarian, Social Sciences Library, Pennsylvania State University, 208 Paterno Library, University Park, PA 16802-1809; phone (814) 865-0665; fax (814) 863-1403; [swoods@psu.edu](mailto:swoods@psu.edu). ■

## Memorial Resolution for Ridley R. Kessler

WHEREAS, Ridley R. Kessler was an articulate, vocal and tireless advocate for open, permanent access to government information; and

WHEREAS, Ridley was a valued member of the American Library Association and Government Documents Round Table, and former Regional Depository Librarian and Assistant Head of Reference at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and Adjunct Professor at the School of Information and Library Science, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; and

WHEREAS, Ridley R. Kessler achieved national prominence through his outstanding writing and speaking as well as his Congressional testimony in support of government information; and,

WHEREAS, Ridley R. Kessler received numerous awards during his lifetime in recognition of his professional achievements including LexisNexis/GODORT/ALA "Documents to the People Award" in 1992; the Distinguished Alumni Award from the School of Information and Library Science, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, 1996; The Mentor Award for Lifetime Achievement, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, in 2000; and The James Bennett Childs Award, ALA/ GODORT for lifetime achievement and significant contributions to the field of government documents librarianship in 2002

WHEREAS Ridley R. Kessler was recently honored with the Madison Award at Freedom of Information Day on March 16, 2007, and tribute made to his distinguished career of over thirty years during which he devoted much of his life to the cause of free access to government information; and

WHEREAS, Ridley R. Kessler generously influenced, mentored and guided the professional careers of his students, many of whom are well-known and highly-successful librarians, during his years of teaching at the University of North Carolina's School of Information and Library Science and through his careful and judicious supervision of their masters papers; and

WHEREAS, Ridley R. Kessler was an active and committed member of the North Carolina Library Association's Government Resources Section; and

WHEREAS, Ridley R. Kessler served in leadership positions and on committees of the American Library Association's Government Documents Round Table and other divisions such as the Reference and User Services Association and the Association of State and Cooperative Library Agencies; and

WHEREAS, Ridley R. Kessler served as chair of the Depository Library Council from 1989–1990, and was a member from 1987–1990; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the American Library Association recognizes and celebrates the lifetime achievements of Ridley R. Kessler, and that the Association expresses its members' deepest sympathy to Ridley R. Kessler's surviving family members; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the American Library Association honor Ridley R. Kessler for his lifelong work supporting access to government information, mentorship of young librarians, and exchange of professional knowledge in the area of government information; and be it further

RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be sent to Ridley R. Kessler's family, the President of the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, the Director of the School of Information and Library Science at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, the University Librarian, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and the Government Resources Section of the North Carolina Library Association.

3:10 P.M.

6/26/07

Endorsed COL—Government Information Subcommittee

Endorsed GODORT—Legislation Committee

Moved by: Cathy Hartman

Seconded by: Larry Romans ■

## Proposed GODORT Bylaws Changes

Members will have an opportunity to vote on proposed bylaws changes at the Midwinter membership meeting. The proposed changes would reduce the membership of the Government

Information Technology Committee (GITCO) from twelve to nine members and update its description; strike a misleading sentence about the number of members appointed to the Cataloging

Committee each year; and revise the language and format throughout the bylaws for clarity. The proposed changes will appear on the GODORT web site and be announced on Govdoc-l. ■

## ALA/GODORT Wants You!

This is a great time to be active in GODORT. With the challenge of keeping government information accessible, meeting the information needs posed by e-government, the upcoming election, and the next decennial census, the rapid development of electronic networks on the state and local levels, and new challenges in the area of international information resources, now is the time you can make a significant contribution. Get involved in GODORT today. Volunteer to run for one of these offices by contacting a GODORT Nominating Committee member:

- assistant chair/chair-elect (3 years)
- secretary (1 year)
- Awards Committee (2 years)
- Bylaws Committee (2 years)
- Nominating Committee (2 years)
- Publications Committee chair/chair-elect (2 years)
- Federal Documents Task Force assistant coordinator/coordinator-elect (2 years)
- Federal Documents Task Force secretary (1 year)
- International Documents Task Force assistant coordinator/coordinator-elect (2 years)
- International Documents Task Force secretary (1 year)
- State and Local Documents Task Force assistant coordinator/coordinator-elect (2 years)
- State and Local Documents Task Force secretary (1 year)

Whatever you're interested in, there's a place in GODORT for you. If you want to be a candidate for office, please contact the chair of the Nominating Committee or one of the committee members directly. Join us in making GODORT an even more effective organization.

GODORT Nominating Committee:

- Esther Crawford, chair (crawford@rice.edu)
- Marianne Mason (marianne-mason@uiowa.edu)
- Marcia Meister (mmeister@lib.ucdavis.edu)
- Yvonne Wilson (ymwilson@uci.edu)

### Interested in Depository Library Council?

The Depository Library Council is an advisory board to the Public Printer

of the United States. Are you interested in being considered for possible nomination, or do you wish to suggest someone else for consideration as a nominee? If so, please fill out the online application form at [www.ala.org/ala/godort/godortcommittees/godortnominating/dlcform.htm](http://www.ala.org/ala/godort/godortcommittees/godortnominating/dlcform.htm) before December 7, 2007. Please note, résumés cannot be substituted for the application form. The GODORT Steering Committee will select up to five names at the Midwinter Meeting. Names of the selected nominees will be forwarded to the ALA Executive Board for their consideration and submission to the Public Printer. Please contact a member of the GODORT Nominating Committee with any questions:

- Esther Crawford, Chair (crawford@rice.edu)
- Marianne Mason (marianne-mason@uiowa.edu)
- Marcia Meister (mmeister@lib.ucdavis.edu)
- Yvonne Wilson (ymwilson@uci.edu) ■

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## Steering Committee 2007-2008

For complete contact information, see [www.ala.org/ala/godort/godortdirectory](http://www.ala.org/ala/godort/godortdirectory)

### **GODORT Officers**

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