In This Issue

DttP

Documents to the People

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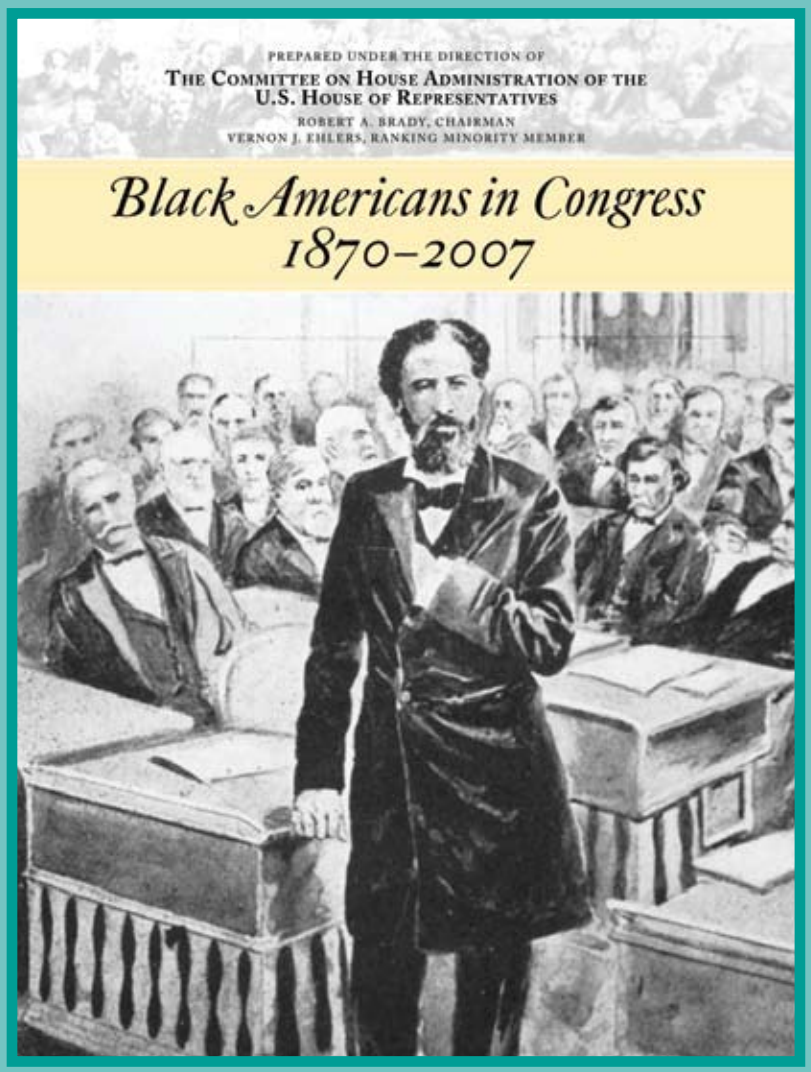

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DttP features articles on local, state, national, and international government information and government activities and documents the professional activities of GODORT. The opinions expressed by its contributors are their own and do not necessarily represent those of GODORT.

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Columns

Articles

Review

'Round the Table

About the Cover: *Black Americans in Congress, 1870–2007*. Washington: U.S. G.P.O., 2008. H. Doc. 108-224; Serial Set 14904. (purl.access.gpo.gov/GPO/LPS106070). About the image: One of the preeminent African-American politicians of the 19th century, John Mercer Langston of Virginia was the only black Member of Congress to serve in elected office both before and after the Civil War. Langston's career as a proponent of civil rights, which spanned nearly five decades, was capped by his service in the U.S. House (1890–1891). The image is from John Mercer Langston, From the Virginia Plantation to the National Capitol (Hartford, CT: American Publishing Company, 1894).
This was nominated for the 2009 cover contest by Thomas Ivie, from the College of Law Library at the University of Idaho.

Editor's Corner

A Little Mash Note

Andrea Sevetson

Finally, after all this time, it has come to an end. No, not GODORT, not *DttP*, just this team and our contributions to *DttP*—twenty-three issues of them.

When we started, we kind of knew what we were doing. We had each written for journals, and before we started we met with the ALA Production Services team and they told us about things they could do to make our lives a bit easier. But basically it was left to this team to figure out what we wanted in a professional journal and how we could accomplish that. Some things were easy—Ben wanted images on the cover, Lynne wanted a back cover she could sell to advertisers, I knew we needed to meet deadlines (no excuses!), and we all wanted a journal that operated on a sounder business footing than it had in the past.

So we got our act together, and had many e-mails and many calls, and over the past six years *DttP* has been remade. It's now a professional journal with columns, articles, and news from GODORT. We also may be the only ALA journal, aside from *American Libraries*, with a regular humor column (perhaps a dubious distinction . . .).

There have been a few wrinkles along the way—like the time my Hotmail account mysteriously started blocking e-mails from the GODORT chair and past chair (and my Dad, too), and occasionally wondering if we were going to receive content in time to fill an issue, and more.

This team, this wonderful, committed, funny team, has been an absolute pleasure to work with. They gave me permission to worry about them and how things were coming along, and to worry about the journal content. I still remember a phone call with Dena Hutto when I called to ask if the columns were in. I didn't want to pester her, but she said "Andrea, that's your job. This is what we want you to do." What a blessing—to be given permission to worry!

So I would like to thank the team that has helped for part or all of these twenty-three issues: Ben Amata, Sherry DeDecker, Jackie Druery, Chuck Eckman, Dena Hutto, Julie Linden, Helen Sheehy, Lynne Stuart, Susan Tulis, and Kris Kasianovitz as our webmanager. Each has committed what adds up to weeks, if not months, of time and energy for *DttP*. Thanks, as well, to each of their partners for being generous with family time that may have been donated to the cause. A special thanks to Frank for service as an on-call advisor, and to TC for the endless conversations he has had to endure about *DttP* and the weekend activities that were cancelled for proofing.

This team has produced *DttP* through thick and thin: job changes, home moves, home renovations, sickness, death in the family, work crunches, work reorganizations, and more that I'm sure I can't even remember now. Our commitment to each other and to *DttP* got the job done.

Thank you to our readers both for reading *DttP* and supporting us with your comments and notes. Our best wishes go out to the next team—carry on!

Enjoy your issue of *DttP!*

Give to the 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 master's degree in library science. This award, established in 1994, is named after W. David Rozkuszka, former documents librarian at Stanford University. The award winner receives $3,000.

If you would like to assist in raising the amount of money in the endowment fund, please make your check out to ALA/GODORT. In the memo field please note: Rozkuszka Endowment.

Send your check to GODORT treasurer: Jill Moriearty, General Reference, Marriott Library, University of Utah, 295 South 1500 East, 1738A, Salt Lake City, Utah 84112-0860

More information about the scholarship and past recipients is at the GODORT Awards Committee website (wikis.ala.org/godort/index.php/Awards).

Introduction from the Incoming Lead Editors

Hello from the New Co-Lead Editors of *DttP*

Beth Clausen and Valerie Glenn

This is the last issue of *DttP* for which the creation and production will be directed by Lead Editor Andrea Sevetson. Andrea and her excellent editorial team have developed and sustained a publication of which GODORT should be quite proud.

Beginning with the next issue, the content and production of *DttP* will be the responsibility of a new team led by the two of us. Together we have a wealth of experience and knowledge of government information resources, trends, and services. We also have experience with writing for publication, as well as managing projects and implementing change. Our knowledge and experience and different perspectives will be invaluable as we take on this endeavor of editing a professional quarterly publication.

The 2009 Fall and Winter issues will not be terribly different than what *DttP* readers have come to expect of the publication. The same columns, primarily written by the same columnists, will appear. There are four substantive articles that are certain to impress scheduled for the Fall issue, and the Winter issue will follow recent tradition and feature student papers. This issue has become a favorite of many readers and has featured some outstanding articles that reveal the talent and abilities of those entering our profession.

Starting with the new volume (38) and year (2010), we anticipate noticeable differences in the publication. As we move toward making changes, we are asking questions of ourselves and of you, our readers. Some of these are:

- What are the most relevant themes and topics for our readers that should be addressed in current or newly developed columns?
- What are the best ways to provide more news and information about GODORT members and GODORT activities and initiatives?
- How do we solicit content from providers who have not written previously for publication and then provide the support these new authors may need?
- What options are available for providing open access to content without financially damaging our organization?
- How do we stay in touch with readers so the publication remains relevant and fits their needs?

As you see, we are considering questions that can have various and complex answers. Some of the answers, at least in part, should be revealed with the Spring 2010 issue. Thankfully, we will not need to find the answers ourselves, and we will draw from the experience and knowledge of the editorial team. Members of the new team are:

Editors:
Jennie Burroughs (University of Montana)
Becky Byrum (Valparaiso University)
Julie Linden (Yale University)
Catherine Morse (University of Michigan)

Advertising Editor:
Kirsten Clark (University of Minnesota)

Reviews Editor:
Kevin McClure (Chicago Kent College of Law)

Please continue to look for and respond to calls for articles. We encourage you to submit suggestions for content at any time. We welcome your feedback as we work to maintain the high quality readers have come to expect from *DttP* while making changes that will work best for readers and align with their interests.

Beth Clausen (Northwestern University)
Valerie Glenn (University of Alabama)
dttp.editor@gmail.com

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DttP
Documents to the People

From the Chair

"Once and Forever" Documents Librarians

Cass Hartnett

The past few months have seen major news developments: a new presidential administration, an economy in crisis, library budgets slashed, and change in the air. In our professional world, a new sense of openness, transparency, and progress balances out some of the challenges. GPO's FDsys debuted to positive reviews. GODORT's meetings at ALA Midwinter 2009 ventured into new territory with a program on nongovernmental organizations (NGOs). Excellent talks by three different speakers convinced us that libraries, and specifically government information specialists, have a role in collecting NGO literature.[1] GODORT helped promote the Federal Armed Services Libraries Round Table's "Libraries in Tough Economic Times" summit in March. The Free Government Information (FGI) blog, unaffiliated with GODORT but stocked heavily with our members and friends, has been buzzing with content and talented guest bloggers: the former editor of *DttP*, John Shuler (University of Illinois at Chicago), published an engaging series of "Won't Get Fooled Again" essays about the future of government information.[2] Literally, there has not been a dull day in the world of government information (blogs, classrooms, public libraries, discussion groups are all teeming with talk of government) in 2009. Lorna Aites, a University of Washington Libraries technician who typically has had little interest in government documents outside of work and "hadn't read a newspaper for years, it was too depressing," now watches presidential speeches online on the weekends and sends herself e-mail messages from home about government links to revisit at work.

Writing my final Chair's Column is difficult. How can I summarize GODORT's 2008–09 activities, or encapsulate how this experience has broadened my thinking profoundly? A quiet hallway at a professional conference might seem like a good setting for reflection, but I barely had time to think at the March 2009 ACRL national conference in Seattle. I kept running into academic library colleagues, most of who had past connections to government documents: there was Bob Schroeder (Portland State University, now an information literacy coordinator; he and I "did docs" in Detroit in the 1990s), Ann Miller (University of Oregon, now a metadata and digital projects librarian, GODORT Chair 2000–2001), Lindsay Johnston (University of Alberta, now a biological sciences librarian, previously government publications librarian and Chair of the Canadian Library Association's Access to Government Information Interest Group), and M. Elizabeth Cowell (once a gov docs and LOCKSS maven at Stanford and University of California, San Diego, now associate university librarian for public services at University of California, Santa Cruz). I saw Lori Ricigliano (University of Puget Sound), who balances depository coordination duties with her associate director role.

I ran into no fewer than ten librarians who were either former government publications graduate assistants at my department or who had taken the government documents class at our iSchool, all doing "non-documents" work, all vigorously nodding their heads when I asked them if their documents work was a helpful foundation in their current job. One of them, who graduated in 1999, even told me ". . . and I still find *DttP* so helpful." Feedback I received from several of these folks was that the statistical, legislative, and historical nature of documents work helped build their skill set, as did the need to think jurisdictionally (in state, local, federal, international, and now nongovernmental terms).

The day before the conference, I spoke with Wendy Mann, education librarian at George Mason University, who still contributes to GODORT via the Notable Documents project. For the first fifteen years of Wendy's career, she was a documents librarian at the University of Pittsburgh, where she worked with the esteemed Amy Knapp. In turn, Amy (assistant university librarian, University of Pittsburgh University Library System until 2008), had ties to the documents community, having taught Pitt's Government Information Resources class as an adjunct professor and having written her dissertation on faculty use of online government resources.[3] (Sadly, Knapp succumbed to cancer last year at age 46.[4]) GODORT should nurture our connections to as many of these "once and forever" government documents colleagues as possible, especially now with the reality, and perhaps necessity, of virtual ALA participation. Clearly, these colleagues see the value of our specialization, and we can't overstate the importance of keeping them aware of government information developments. So my charge to committees, task forces, and other GODORT groups is to reenvision the work of our organization into meaningful yet manageable participation—that will keep these people involved.

Those of us who attend conferences year after year develop a delusion that we "know everyone" in the field: it is an interesting, mildly intoxicating belief. It is also dead wrong. We get this heady feeling that if we could map out our connections

visually, we would form some kind of star cluster. Before we get enamored with ourselves, let's remember the dozens of ALA units with whom we will collaborate via the ALA Forum on the Future of Government Information. They are part of the cluster, too. Let's remember the libraries represented by those units, and all of those libraries' users. Add to that the millions of individual government information users worldwide, with or without online connections; they are our real universe. We've got to form a mental picture of this mega-set of all government information seekers, and keep it in our minds, especially if we want to stay relevant and work side by side with activists and pioneers reshaping access to government information all around us.

As the editorial team of this journal changes with the next issue (we owe a debt of gratitude to the outgoing team), I began looking back on the past six years of *DttP* and easily chose my favorite issue: Fall 2006 (vol. 34, no. 3). Five GODORT award winners (Reynolds, Linden, Sanders, York, and Mosley) smile out at us from the cover photo. Inside is a fantastic range of essays, including one of *DttP*'s catchiest projects so far: "Things I Wish I Knew about Documents, and Things I'm Glad I Know." Seven brief articles cover disciplines ranging from medicine, agriculture, education, data services, humanities, law, business, economics, and public safety. Librarians specializing in these areas tell how government resources impact their content areas, and what they still want to know.

The larger world has changed, in many ways and across many sectors. We are far from alone in feeling both invigorated and overwhelmed by the rapid changes confronting our profession. People who visit antique stores are now a fraction of those buying and selling antiques; professional critics see their book and movies reviews placed side by side with thousands of amateur reviews online; and my goodness, the millions of people who routinely seek government information are rarely consulting librarians or libraries! And yet we still have a role. All those people are charged up by the same thing that we are: government information. Whenever they need serious and comprehensive searching, when they require general assistance, when they want to find collections of actual artifacts, or when they want to put data in a context, GODORT librarians need to be there online, via phone, and of course in person. I looked around on the bus this morning to see a lady poring over statistical printouts from King County Public Health, while the man sitting next to me read a book about the 1964 *Civil Rights Act* with the page open to a table tallying the number of yea and nay votes in Congress (we know how to find those). The next seat over? A student reading a *Time* magazine article on taxes and a woman asleep with her State of Washington identification tag hanging outside of her bag. Government content is everywhere. So . . . how can we position GODORT's expertise, and GODORT members' willingness to learn and share, in as many places as possible?

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GODORT Membership

Membership in ALA is a requisite for joining GODORT.

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).

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.

For information about ALA membership contact ALA Membership Services, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611; 1-800-545-2433, ext. 5; e-mail: membership@ala.org.

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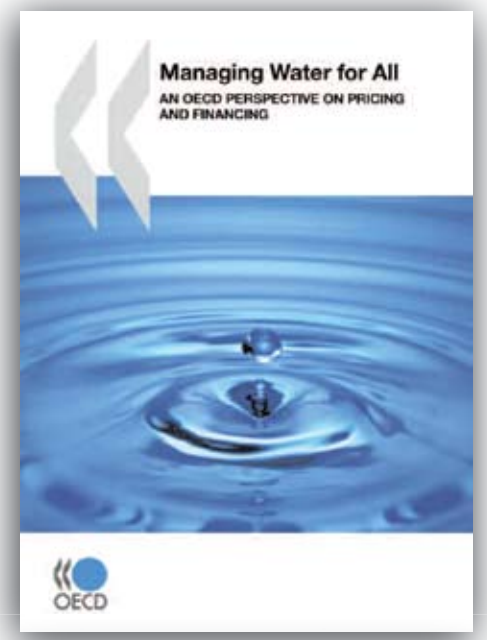
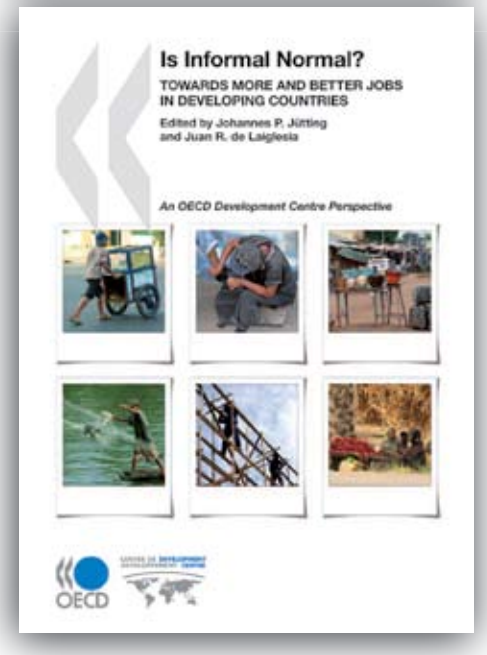


Managing Water for All: An OECD Perspective on Pricing and Financing

ISBN: 978-92-64-05033-4, 148 pp, March 2009

Water is a key prerequisite for human and economic development, and for maintaining ecosystems. However, billions of people lack access to water and sanitation services, mainly due to poor governance and inadequate investment and maintenance. This report, which emphasises the economic and financial aspects of water resources management and water service provision, the need for an integrated approach (including governance considerations) to address these complex policy challenges, and the importance of establishing a firm evidence base to support policy development and implementation, summarises the results of OECD work in this area.



Is Informal Normal? Towards More and Better Jobs in Developing Countries

ISBN: 978-92-64-05923-8, 163 pp, April 2009

Shoe shine workers in Cairo, street vendors in Calcutta, badly-paid public officials driving their taxis at night in the streets of Moscow: this is informal employment - jobs or activities in the production and marketing of legal goods and services that are not regulated or protected by the state. Over half the non-agricultural jobs in developing and emerging economies come into this category.

The informal sector deprives states of revenues and workers of social protection. It also, however, frequently constitutes the most dynamic part of the economy and creates massive employment. Informal employment is ubiquitous and growing. *Is Informal Normal?* provides evidence for policy makers on how to deal with this issue of crucial importance for developing and developed countries alike.

> *"This volume is an important contribution to the current policy debates on the informal economy. It recommends providing support to the working poor in the informal economy, making formal structures more efficient and flexible and creating more formal jobs."*
>
> Professor Marty Chen, Harvard Kennedy School and WIEGO

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Washington Report

Kirsten Clark

At the time of this writing, President Obama's administration is well into its first one hundred days. The last Washington Report column discussed the upcoming opportunities to be part of this new, more open government. Since then, there have been many such opportunities to get libraries out in the forefront of the new administration, although these opportunities are not necessarily under the best circumstances. Discussions at recent conferences as well as discussion lists, tweets, RSS feeds, and general conversation all reflect an economic downturn that is creating a balancing act for libraries to provide excellent service to patrons while facing budget cuts to their staff and services. Key during this time is balancing local needs with the national arena of Congress and federal agencies.

Locally, many libraries have seen an increase in patron traffic as people are using library resources to assist in finding unemployment benefits; doing job searches; accessing information on business development; and checking out free books, magazines, and music. ALA recently developed a press kit to highlight these library activities and services (www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/mediapresscenter/presskits/sloweconomyfuelslibraryusage). For those libraries and library staff that work with government information, promotion of freely accessible resources has been the backbone of depository library programs and many of the resources libraries are pointing patrons to in these trying times are government resources.

A key place where the government information experience provides a direct road to the patrons we serve is help finding and disseminating the laws, rules, and regulations, and steering people to the right agencies to get the help they need. The recent passage of the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act* (P.L. 111-5) provided billions of dollars to federal agencies and, through them, to state governments. Not only do people want to see the specific law, but also to figure out how exactly it will affect them, either through their businesses, their employers, or their daily lives. Expertise in how the government works is needed to ensure the correct information gets to people to help in the best ways.

In addition there is the need for transparency in how the law will be implemented. "The President has made it clear that every taxpayer dollar spent on our economic recovery must be subject to unprecedented levels of transparency and accountability."[1] To ensure this transparency, the website RECOVERY.gov monitors the resulting fund distributions and programs provided by the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act*. This transparency goes beyond the federal level through the site's state recovery section where each state's recovery plans are outlined (www.recovery.gov/?q=content/state-recovery-page).

Besides outlining specific recovery initiatives, the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act* also includes provisions that directly help libraries to then help their patrons. ALA provides a list of these resources including:

- National Endowment for the Arts;
- Title I (Department of Education);
- Enhancing Education through Technology;
- Broadbanding;
- State Fiscal Stabilization Fund;
- Senior Community Service Employment;
- Rural Community Facilities Program; and
- Military Libraries.[2]

The recent passage of the *Omnibus Appropriations Act for FY 2009* (P.L. 111-8) combines nine unfinished appropriations bills from the last year. Of particular relevance to libraries is the inclusion of $171,500,000 for the Grants to State Library Agencies program within the *Library Services and Technology Act* as well as an increase in funding for GPO. Within the GPO Salaries and Expenses Appropriation several initiatives were highlighted, including:

- Data Storage;
- FDLP Outreach and Online Educational Training;
- Modernization of Item Selection Systems and other Mainframe-based Applications; and
- Cataloging and Indexing Program.[3]

In addition, $1,000,000 in new funding was provided for continued FDsys development. While these initiatives may not be seen as "glamorous" as other programs developed by the Obama administration, their funding provides the necessary support to help move GPO and access to government information into the future.

Also as part of the *Omnibus Appropriations Act*, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Public Access Policy was made permanent. The policy requires eligible NIH-funded researchers to deposit electronic copies of their manuscripts into PubMed Central, where the electronic version will be made publicly available no later than twelve months after journal publication.[4]

Recent guideline changes to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) also continue the current administration's push toward disclosure and transparency. An attorney general memo from March 19, 2009, outlines changes to federal agencies'

response policies to FOIA requests.[5] This memo rescinds the attorney general's FOIA Memorandum of October 12, 2001, and asks that agencies not withhold information simply because it may do so legally, and if full disclosure cannot be made, that partial disclosure be considered. The memo also goes on to outline the need for online information availability in the administration's efforts to provide easy, timely access to government information:

> Providing more information online reduces the need for individualized requests and may help reduce existing backlogs. When information not previously disclosed is requested, agencies should make it a priority to respond in a timely manner. Timely disclosure of information is an essential component of transparency.

As the new Congress moves forward there are several laws and bills to keep on the radar such as:

- *Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008* (P.L. 110-314). This law seeks to lower the levels of lead and phthalates in products for children. Current interpretation of this law places books under the same testing standards as children's toys, and as such all books would need to be tested before children could use them. While this law passed last year, the ALA Washington Office is working with legal staff and Congress to exempt books.[6]
- *Safe and Secure America Act of 2009* (H.R. 1467). This bill extends certain provisions of the USA PATRIOT Act and the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 for ten years.
- *Preserving the American Historical Records Act*. This bill would provide formula-based funding to states for distribution to local governments, historical societies, library historical collections, universities, and other organizations to ensure care of and access to documents and historical records.[7] This bill is not yet introduced as of March 23, 2009.

To keep up-to-date on laws that could affect libraries, check out ALA's District Dispatch (www.wo.ala.org/districtdispatch/) or services such as GovTrack (www.govtrack.us) to follow legislation.

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News from the North

Mike McCaffrey

In this issue, I report on the effects of the Government of Canada's *Common Look and Feel for the Internet 2.0* policy on the presentation of electronic information. The changes will be seen across the board and so some discussion of the policy itself is in order. Of more immediate concern are some operational changes made to the websites of the Government of Canada Publications (publications.gc.ca) and Depository Services Program (dsp-psd.pwgsc.gc.ca) and I have detailed them below. I conclude this column by reporting on an exciting initiative to digitize Ontario provincial publications presented to the library community in January 2009.

Common Look and Feel for the Internet 2.0

In the last column, I mentioned the Canadian government's *Common Look and Feel for the Internet 2.0* (CLF2) initiative. The initiative consists of a series of standards, developed by the Treasury Board, designed to govern the appearance and presentation of Canadian government information and to address issues of accessibility in alternative formats. The standards came into effect on January 1, 2007, and replaced a number of existing standards and guidelines. The complete document is available at www.tbs-sct.gc.ca/clf2-nsi2/index-eng.asp. The standards apply to only institutions listed in Schedules, I, I.1,

and II of the *Financial Administration Act* (RSC 1985 c. F-11, available at: laws.justice.gc.ca/en/f-11).

The new standards comprise four parts, the first three of which may be of interest to the documents community. They are:

1. Standard on Web Addresses
2. Standard on the Accessibility, Interoperability, and Usability of Web Sites
3. Standard on Common Web Page Formats
4. Standard on E-mail

Standard 1, on Web Addresses, requires all Government of Canada addresses to be registered in the *gc.ca* domain. For collaborative sites involving non-Government of Canada partners, the level of participation determines whether an address in the gc.ca sub domain is warranted. Statistics Canada websites, for example, have changed to comply with this standard. The 2004 *Directive on the Use of Official Languages on Web Sites* (www.tbs-sct.gc.ca/pol/doc-eng.aspx?id=12528) continues to apply and governs the order and manner in which English and French elements appear in web addresses.

Standard 2 addresses the issue of accessibility and requires that, where the content cannot be represented by a language described by World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) recommendations, notice must be given on how to obtain accessible versions. Here, the presentation of statistical information has proven to be particularly challenging and Statistics Canada has employed visualization tools such as *iGraph-Lite* for compliance.

Standard 3 prescribes the format government pages should take. Certain changes have been made to agency welcome pages as a result of the standard with, for instance, navigation between official languages and navigation back to the main Government of Canada webpage being standardized.

While, for the most part, the changes brought about by the new policies will not pose any problems, a knowledge of the underlying policy changes may prove useful in navigating redesigned Canadian government websites.

Government of Canada Publications and the Depository Services Program

As a result of the Common Look and Feel 2.0 standards, the Publishing and Depository Services Directorate had planned to integrate the Depository Services Program (DSP) and Publications websites into a single, CLF2 compliant site. A Website Integration Initiative (WSI) was initiated in 2007 to combine information and services into a single access point, but for technical and content-related reasons, the project was abandoned in order to concentrate on the delivery of a CFL2-compliant integrated Publications Web Site in March 2010. Two changes will take place shortly as a result. The On-line Client Care Module, originally launched in October 2006, which enabled customers to access their account information online will be abandoned, and generic e-mail addresses on the Publications website will be changed to comply with CLF2 Standards.

Ontario Digitization Initiative

A draft project plan entitled *Ontario Digitization Initiative: Maintaining the Momentum* was presented to the library community by David Burke (Queen's) and Donna Millard (McMaster) in January. The aim of the initiative is to provide access to all Ontario government publications through an ambitious five-year digitization project involving participants from government and the academic library community. The project builds on the Ontario Council of University Library (OCUL) goal to create comprehensive digital collections of Ontario material and will result in a searchable, catalogued collection accessible via the Internet Archive. It is estimated that 55 million pages of Ontario government publications exist in print and the initiative seeks to digitize the material over a five-year period. Print publications to which copyright may be obtained are targeted for digitization. Excluded materials include publications born digital and those for which copyright is not obtainable during the time frame of the project.

A pilot project is under way involving the digitization of Bills and Signed Bills (completed January 14, 2009), Regulations (including the *Revised Regulations of Ontario* and *Supplements*), and a collection of Ministry of the Environment publications. Identified collections of interest for which there is no current funding include the *Statutes of Ontario*, the *Revised Statutes of Ontario*, and the publications of provincial Royal Commission and Commissions of Inquiry.

There has been pressure from the University of Guelph to make the *Sessional Papers* a priority as, in this case, preservation is a concern. Based on my experience with the material, preservation is likely to be an issue at many other institutions as well and making the digitization of the *Sessional Papers* a priority would be a wise decision.

A number of existing digital collections and initiatives are being scrutinized to ensure that there is no overlap. The Law Library Microform Consortium (LLMC) and the Canadiana.org alliance have been approached and other collections are being examined as well.

State and Local Documents Roundup

The NGO Documents Task Force: A State and Local Perspective and a Farewell

Kris Kasianovitz

> *People do not always look to governments as the first place to achieve their political, economic, and social objectives or to uncover information about the government itself.*[1]

My esteemed colleague, Jim Church, wrote a column for the Fall 2007 (35:3) issue of *DttP: Documents to the People* in the International Documents Roundup titled: "The NGO Documents Task Force." In that column he demonstrates "the essential value of NGO information to our profession; [presents] arguments why the issue needs immediate attention; and [offers] collection development, outreach and digital preservation strategies of NGO information."[2] In support of the information in that article, I want to echo the need for us to actively include these materials in our collections and in our discussions as a profession. So, I ask the question again: What are we doing as government information professionals to collect, use, and make these publications accessible and preserve them for the future?

The term NGO often connotes groups and organizations working at the global or international level to address political, social, and environmental issues. Peter Willetts in his article titled "What is a Non-governmental Organization?" states that there is generally no "accepted definition of a NGO and the term carries different connotations in different circumstances . . . they are an independent voluntary association of people acting together on a continuous basis, for some common purpose, other than achieving government office, making money or illegal activities."[3] Willetts goes on to point out the following key characteristics of NGOs: they have to be independent from any direct governmental control (but may receive government funds); they are not considered a political party; they are nonprofit, noncriminal, and typically they are nonviolent; and they can be global or based in a single country and operate transnationally. According to Willetts they can also be locally-based such as grassroots or community-based organizations—some becoming active in the national or global arena; they are components of social movements; and they can be trade unions, professional bodies, and even religious organizations (the UN treats them as NGOs). And the list goes on: interest groups, pressure groups, research institutes, recreational groups, lobby and private voluntary organizations could all be legitimately considered NGOs. There is such diversity in the values advocated by different NGOs that they do oppose each other, as well as put pressure on governments and companies. Typically, they influence or make an impact on policymaking, question the political agenda, formulate alternative policy proposals, and criticize the policy of government. Using Willetts' definition of NGOs it is readily apparent that this includes organizations at the local, state, and federal levels.

So why should we—government information professionals—be concerned about nongovernmental information especially at the state and local levels? Simply put, if these organizations are vital to the social and policy debate in our society, then their materials are important to include in our collections. They complement our government information collections, and provide citizens and researchers alike with alternative analysis and viewpoints.

NGOs as information producers have a great deal in common with governments as information producers. Like government publications, NGO publications are multidisciplinary; they cover every possible policy and social issue imaginable. In addition to subject scope, NGO publications present us with the same collection development dilemmas as government publications. The publishing and distribution parallel the born-digital methods of governments; this gives us the unique opportunity to use our skills and tools to collect and digitally archive both types of publications. Our reference skills can be utilized for NGOs as well. I won't belabor the points that Jim made, but working with government information gives us the skills and knowledge to work effectively with NGOs.[4]

At the local level especially, NGOs provide key perspectives and analyses of government programs you can't find anywhere else. Local city agencies frequently partner with nonprofits or other such NGOs to research and make program recommendations on a specific problem the city faces. When I work with students, I explain that NGOs help to fill an information and service gap left by the local government agencies. A good example of this in Los Angeles is Bring LA Home! (www.bringlahome.org). This group brought together civic leaders from city, county government, and NGOs to create a ten-year program to end homelessness in Los Angeles (www.bringlahome.org/blue-ribbon.htm). Two other Los Angeles area examples are the Economic Roundtable, also a participant in Bring LA Home! (www.economicrt.org), and the LAANE: Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy (www.laane.org).

Their research and publications are vital to understanding and studying the local economy. Nobody else is looking at these issues and writing authoritative reports and analysis. Especially at the local level, I rely on NGOs to fill important gaps in the literature; our article databases and academic journals are not rife with information about local programs, policy issues, and analysis. News and reports of government agencies and NGOs are often all one can find when studying a topic like the effectiveness of mural art programs on gang prevention and graffiti in Los Angeles.

About a year ago, I discovered an incredible NGO resource that was basically doing exactly what I as the librarian for NGOs was grappling with: collecting, preserving, and making accessible the reports, papers, and briefs published by federal, state, and local NGOs. The Policy Archive is "a comprehensive digital library of public policy research containing over 20,000 documents" (www.policyarchive.org). It covers every policy topic imaginable from agriculture, health, human rights, military and defense, to trade and transportation. In the past, I had to rely on scouring news and a local NPR station, Google, and local directories like the Rainbow Resource (www.resourcedirectory.com) for mention of organizations and associations working in specific areas. I still make use of these resources, but the Policy Archive is now my go-to-first resource. I've even helped one of our campus research centers get their papers added to Policy Archive, which is an important scholarly communication function of my job.

The 2009 ALA Midwinter GODORT Update theme was nongovernmental organizations. Three speakers, including Romulo Rivera from Policy Archive, presented descriptions of international, federal, state, and local NGOs—how they work, how they affect policy making, why they are integral resources for our collections, and why we as government information professionals must actively work with these sources of information. The Midwinter Meeting wiki provides links to the speakers' bios, resources, and the videos of the session if you weren't able to attend or want a refresher (wikis.ala.org/godort/index.php/GODORT_Update_Midwinter_2009).

Whether GODORT chooses to form a separate task force on NGOs or finds a way to infuse NGOs into the work we do in our existing committees and task forces, the time has come for us to openly and actively include NGOs in our professional organization and work. If we don't, who will?

A Farewell

It has been a pleasure and an honor to write for *DttP* as the State and Local Documents Roundup editor these past years. This is my last column as editor. My first column appeared in the Fall/Winter 2003 issue and covered born-digital state and local information. In the following issues, I grappled with data sources, homelessness, copyright, and featured reports by colleagues on cataloging tools and collection development for local government information. This column has given me the opportunity to explore topics that I deal with on a regular basis as a state and local government information librarian. I hope, dear readers, you have found them useful in your work as well. While you won't see me on the pages of the Roundup, I am around and always willing to discuss, debate, and find solutions for state and local government AND nongovernment information.

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Tech Watch

Government and Web 2.0

Valerie D. Glenn

In previous Tech Watch columns we have discussed various Web 2.0 tools, and how libraries and librarians can use them for professional purposes. What we haven't discussed is how governments and elected officials are using them to connect with constituents in a new way.

Throughout the 2008 U.S. presidential campaign there was a lot of buzz about the use of Web 2.0 technologies—particularly the use of social networking and Web 2.0 tools to gather support for candidate Barack Obama. Now that Obama is president, he has raised expectations of executive branch agencies, calling on them to make government more transparent, more participatory, and more collaborative.[1]

During the presidential transition, the launch of change.gov allowed citizens to comment on what they thought

priorities of the Obama administration should be, by adding to a Citizen's Briefing Book on various administration initiatives. Obama's use of YouTube to broadcast his president-elect and now presidential weekly messages has been a good start, but his transition from candidate to elected official has not been without some rough patches, transparency-wise. For example, the White House has launched a blog, but has disabled the comments feature. Citizens are invited to submit comments to the Office of Public Liaison (www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/opl). (The Office of Public Liaison is listening and responding, however—soon after it was launched, the comments were capped at five hundred characters. Now comments are allowed, up to five thousand characters.) This is not to say that other executive branch agencies haven't already been using these tools to various degrees, as a way to engage in fruitful discussions with the public. For example, both the Transportation Safety Administration and the Environmental Protection Agency allow comments on their blogs, and both have Twitter accounts (as do many other agencies).

While it is nice to see the White House and other executive agencies using new-ish technologies to communicate with citizens, a more substantial change is occurring in Congress. Earlier this year, the House of Representatives changed its rules to allow members to use tools such as YouTube, Twitter, and Facebook to communicate directly with constituents. (This was after several members, including Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, had already been using the tools.) There are now official YouTube hubs for both the Senate (www.youtube.com/SenateHub) and the House of Representatives (www.youtube.com/HouseHub). Each member of Congress can have his or her own YouTube channel, and there is a representative and senator of the week—where the member can post a video asking for comments on a particular issue. These are promising changes, but not all members have taken advantage of these opportunities. For example, in my state of Alabama, only two of nine members have their own YouTube channels, and the only member of the delegation with a Twitter account is using it in his campaign for governor.

The uneven adoption and use of Web 2.0 tools is not limited to the federal government, or North America. States such as Maine and Virginia offer some different ways to find out information from government agencies and officials. Maine is using more of the traditional approach, designed to provide information to citizens, via Twitter updates (twitter.com/www_maine_gov) and podcasts for downloading. Virginia has gone further, and has more interaction with citizens via Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube (www.virginia.gov/cmsportal3/stay_connected_4096/index.html). Other states, if they have a presence on any of these sites, post updates and alerts that are more informational in nature and have not yet decided to open the other channels of communication. Some international governments have launched projects designed specifically to gather feedback on government initiatives. For example, Archives New Zealand has its draft *Digital Continuity Strategy* available for editing and commenting at wiki.archives.govt.nz/w/Digital_Continuity_Strategy. The UK's "Show Us a Better Way" initiative (www.showusabetterway.co.uk) was a competition in which citizens were asked to submit their ideas for what to do with government data. The winners were then given funding to further develop their ideas.

A great contrast in the use of the same tool by similar agencies can be found by visiting the Twitter pages of the Shawnee, Oklahoma Police Department (twitter.com/ShawneePD) and the Portland, Oregon Police Bureau (twitter.com/PortlandPolice). The ShawneePD account is used primarily to post police calls received, including the type of call and the address. The alerts helpfully link to a Google map of the location. The Portland police account provides a more human side to the police bureau. Rarely are police calls themselves posted. Instead, there are posts about criminal justice issues such as drunk driving, sex offenders, MySpace, and so on, and the background image is of a police officer in a local parade. Not surprisingly, the ShawneePD account follows 2 Twitter users, while the PortlandPolice account follows 433.

How can citizens determine whether or not their opinions are likely to be heard? There are many clues. One factor that cannot be overlooked is the content. If the tool is being used primarily as another way to publish press releases, that will quickly become obvious. Another indicator is whether comments are allowed on blogs. Finally, study whether the Twitter account follows lots of people, or just a few. By following those who are following you, you can see when they respond to something that you've posted. An easy way to determine how engaged government agencies are is to check their following to follower ratio. The closer it is to one to one, the more engaged they are.

Whether or not these tools are an effective way for governments to engage in dialogue with their citizens remains to be seen. Currently, results are mixed—some agencies and officials are using these new tools as a way to broadcast their messages in a different environment, rather than receiving feedback on various initiatives. Ultimately, the tools will only be effective if

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Looking for an Automobile?

Let the Government Help you Deal with the Dealer

Paula L. Webb

My little Neon has been with me for more than five years. It has earned the 123,000 miles on the odometer. The engine was replaced when water got sucked up into the air intake valve. The front end needed a lot of work when someone pulled out in front of me years ago. I have worn out one set of struts, four sets of tires and have had endless oil changes. The little Neon has held out through a lot, but I cannot help but long for a new car.

I know what I want: shiny, fast, and flashy. I know what the environmentalists say I should want: hybrid, fuel-efficient, and to reduce my carbon footprint. However, I know what I can afford, and a flashy hybrid does not come anywhere near it. I have studied the ads in the local newspaper. I watched the "amazing deals" in the commercials. I have seen the blinking signs at the car lots on my way to and from work. Instead of luring me into their lots with their advertising, I am confused and overwhelmed.

The librarian in me hesitates. The questions run through my mind: Are the car salesmen experts? Can they tell me which Toyota gets the best gas mileage? Can they show me which Nissan is the safest? Will they tell me which Ford is the toughest or will they try to push me toward a car just to get it off their lot? Where can I go to find this information now, before I start bargaining?

U.S. Transportation Secretary Mary Peters said "Knowing how many horses a car engine has is important, but knowing how safe a car is before you even step into a dealership ought to be essential. We want to make sure consumers can easily take safety into consideration when choosing a new vehicle, along with price, fuel efficiency, size, and the color they like best."[1] Fortunately, the Federal Citizen Information Center (FCIC), the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have created resources and searchable databases to help answer my automobile questions.

Federal Citizen Information Center (www.pueblo.gsa.gov)

The FCIC is the first logical step in searching for consumer automotive information. They provide guides on many topics, including automobile purchases. The guide I begin my search with is titled *Buying a Used Car: Finding the Best Used Car*. I have always thought getting a car a few years old instead of a brand new car was more practical, but I do know it comes with risks. By reading this publication, I have discovered information that could keep me from getting burned. One tip that caught my attention was, "Check the Sources. Buying through the classifieds? Check the name on the title and match it to the name on the seller's driver's license. Many individuals disguised as private sellers are actually unlicensed, unregulated curb stoners, who may pass problem cars on to unsuspecting buyers."[2] The FCIC provides a variety of other useful guides such as *How to Get a Great Deal on a New Car* (www.pueblo.gsa.gov/cic_text/cars/cardeal/cardeal.pdf) and *9 Ways to Lower your Auto Insurance Costs* (www.pueblo.gsa.gov/cic_text/cars/autoinsu/autoinsu.pdf).

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (www.nhtsa.dot.gov)

With any automobile, one major consumer concern is safety. The U.S. government created the NHTSA to address this concern. The NHTSA's mission is very simple: "Save lives, prevent injuries and reduce economic costs due to road traffic crashes, through education, research, safety standards and enforcement activity."[3] The NHTSA website has a wealth of information regarding all things pertaining to automobile safety. You can discover the most recent vehicle survivability results, travel mileage schedules, and reports about the future of traffic safety. They also have a website dedicated to teen drivers, child seat "ease of use" ratings and a link about speed-related information. While the NHTSA's resources seem endless, I want to

focus on a specific database called Safercar.gov to help me find my future automobile. Safercar.gov clearly states its purpose as being "the nation's premier source of vehicle safety information from the government, serving the public interest."[4]

Safercar.gov provides safety ratings for passenger cars, pickups, sport utility vehicles, and vans going back to 1990. This searchable database gives the consumer the NHTSA's New Car Assessment Program results. While this database is a useful resource, it is not comprehensive. "Every year the agency chooses those new vehicles which are predicted to have high sales volume, those which have been redesigned with structural changes, or those with improved safety equipment. This allows us to provide star rating results that best represent what is actually being purchased in the marketplace. These vehicles are purchased from dealerships from across the country, just as you the consumer would. The vehicles are not supplied directly to NHTSA by the manufacturer, a common misperception."[5] The vehicles are then tested at a variety of labs all over the United States, including two rollover test labs in Ohio and California.

Safercar.gov provides ratings for frontal crashes, side crashes, rollovers, seat belts, head restraints, air bags, driving safety, and any other important safety information for both the driver and the passenger of each automobile tested. Rollover information happens to be particularly important to me as a consumer. My Neon gets 4 out of 5 stars for not rolling over. What about a 2008 Smart Fortwo car? It only gets 3 stars out of 5 for rollover, so I am not comfortable with considering this car for purchase. I would not have known this without Safercar.gov.

In addition to informing you about the safety rating of an automobile, the NHTSA gives you all the recall information. By searching Safercar.gov's Defects and Recalls database you can check on the recall history of a car you currently own or are thinking about purchasing.[6] When you limit your search by the year, make, and model you will see all the recalls and the steps to take to get the problem fixed. Only recently has the NHTSA unveiled a new public database, Early Warning Reporting—Data Search (EWR), that allows consumers to look up the number of alleged deaths, injuries, and property damage associated with passenger vehicles.[7] This information is also linked into the Safercar.gov website. It is important to remember that the list of vehicles in the EWR is not extensive; it focuses only on those with reported problems.

Department of Energy (www.doe.gov)

In addition to a safe car I want a fuel-efficient car, but what does this really mean? Is it more important how many miles per gallon a car gets in the city as opposed to the highway? Should I keep my Neon until a car is developed that runs on something other than gas? Is oil from corn really that big of a deal? The DOE has a website called FuelEconomy.gov that can help answer these questions. A good place to begin finding information on this site is the Find and Compare Cars database. This resource gives you information about cars from 1985 to the present. You can search by class, model, and MPG. You can also do a side-by-side comparison of two automobiles. I decided to find out more about my little Neon. I selected the year, the make, and the model using the simple search screens provided. I found out my car gets 21 miles per gallon in the city and 28 on the highway. I was also able to find the annual petroleum consumption, annual tons of CO2 emitted, and the air pollution score.

What if I wanted to know more about E85 fuel? I can go to the DOE's site about ethanol. I discovered the reference "E85" means the fuel is 85 percent ethanol and 15 percent gas. I can get an income tax deduction if I purchase a car that uses E85. If you do not know what vehicles are available, this government resource informs you of which automobiles use E85. Currently there are more than thirty vehicles using E85 fuel. Much like the Find and Compare Cars database, you can compare E85 automobiles to find one to suit your needs.

Environmental Protection Agency (www.epa.gov)

The EPA also has a ranking system for automobiles. Their goal is to assist consumers looking for vehicles that are more environmentally friendly and to do this they created the Green Vehicle Guide. You can "use this guide to choose the cleanest and most fuel-efficient vehicle that meets your needs. Low emissions and good fuel economy are both important for the environment."[8]

The Guide allows you to search by vehicle, vehicle type, or for the greenest vehicles according to your state. Under the greenest vehicles category you are given a choice of SmartWay or SmartWay Elite. What exactly does this terminology mean to the consumer? SmartWay is a designation earned by vehicles that score a six or better on each of the air pollution and greenhouse gas scores and achieve a combined score of at least thirteen. Higher air pollution scores indicate vehicles with reduced levels of emissions that cause smog and health problems. Higher greenhouse gas scores indicate vehicles with reduced levels of emissions that cause greenhouse gases and have improved fuel economy.[9] I searched for the 2008 greenest vehicle in Alabama using the SmartWay box and was given an extensive list that began with an Acura TSX and ended with a Volvo V50. However, when I checked the SmartWay Elite box,

my results were limited to two automobiles—the Honda Civic and the Honda Civic Hybrid.

I now wonder if my little Neon could be considered a green vehicle. To find out, I searched for my car by vehicle make and model. According to this guide, it rates a two out of ten (ten being the best) under air pollution score, but redeems itself with a seven out of ten for greenhouse gases. I am unsure why, but this report also tells me my passenger volume and my luggage volume. Maybe they want me to know I have a lot of extra room for plants and such. An automobile I have considered test driving is the 2008 Dodge Caliber. How does it compare to my Neon? The Caliber does have a better air pollution score with a six, the greenhouse gases score is the same as my current car, with seven out of ten. In addition, the Caliber produces only 5.29 pounds of smog per year. By the way, the Dodge Caliber has much more passenger volume and luggage volume. If I got this vehicle, I would have more space to haul more plants.

Conclusion

A lot of information is available to the consumer when it pertains to purchasing a vehicle. Each agency has a separate goal—the DOE wants the consumer to know about fuel economy, the NHTSA wants everyone to know about the safety of a vehicle, and the EPA wants you to know about greener automobiles—but they are unified in one goal. Each government agency is responsible for supplying life-saving information—the sort of information you would not receive if you just walked into a car dealership or looked at the classifieds.

While I have yet to replace my little Neon with a newer automobile, the time will one day come. When it does, I know I can turn to the government resources I have just researched to help me find the best vehicle possible, for as much money as I want to spend.

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TECH WATCH, *continued from page 14*

both governments and their citizens use them to communicate.

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U.S. Government on Twitter: twitter.pbwiki.com/USGovernment.

State and Local Governments on Twitter: newthinking.bearingpoint.com/2008/11/20/govtwit-directory/#state.

Government 2.0—Best Practices Wiki: government20bestpractices.pbwiki.com.

Social Media and Web 2.0 in Government: www.usa.gov/webcontent/technology/other_tech.shtml.

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A Law Library Development Project in Iraq

Looking Back Two Years Later

Kimberli A. Morris

Sometimes you get a chance to work on a project so complex, even you don't come to fully understand its impact until years later. At least that has been the experience for me regarding the opportunity I had to work in Iraq with the International Human Rights Law Institute (IHRLI) from February 2004 to January 1, 2006. As I reported in a previous essay, IHRLI, an institute of the DePaul University College of Law headed by Cherif Bassiouni, received a United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Higher Education and Development (HEAD) contract to work with three Iraqi law schools.[1] The contract was initially proposed as a three-year plan to help Iraqi law schools overcome the effects of more than twenty years of economic, physical, and intellectual isolation. The complete project included a program for clinical legal education, curriculum reform, rule of law, and library and educational technology.

All of the goals for the program were extremely ambitious. The situation of the law schools in Iraq really didn't allow for anything smaller in scope. Three law schools were selected—one each from the three major geographic regions of Iraq. The following is a contemporaneous description of the project. It was written about midway through the actual time spent in-country; however, at the time we thought the program was just about to end.

Perspective While In-Country

The overall objective for the library component of the program is to assist each of the three Iraqi colleges in restoring and upgrading its library and research technology support services. The project is intended to provide technical assistance in library planning and management techniques, critical assessment of existing needs, and support for library acquisitions. Also, collaborative relationships among the libraries are to be promoted in order to enhance services at each school.

Implementation is proceeding in four phases:

- physical plant renovations;
- equipment procurement and installation;
- staff training and development; and
- acquisitions and collections development.

Accomplishing this in three geographically dispersed schools is a logical plan, but a very ambitious one.

Perhaps as an omen of things to come, even before I was hired the program had changed one of the participating schools for security reasons. It still covers the three major geographic regions: the University of Baghdad Law School in the central region, the University of Basra Law School in the heavily Shiite south, and the University of Sulaimaniya Law School in the Kurdish northern region. Each school faces a slightly different set of challenges.

The law school at Baghdad is the oldest of the three schools. After looters burned the law school's collection of textbooks, the dean had the library doors welded shut and then bricked over. Through his quick thinking and the work of the staff, the majority of the collection is battered but intact. However, they did lose their card catalog and shelf list.

The library at the University of Basra Law School suffered the worst instances of looting and physical destruction. Because of Basra's strategic location, it has, in every war, taken a heavy beating. The library staff and law faculty saved as much as they could by taking books to their homes, but they were able to save only about a third of the collection. In addition, all financial support to the law library in Basra has been cut off since 1985.

The University of Sulaimaniya Law School is the newest of the schools, actually only a few years old. It is located in the semi-autonomous Kurdish region and therefore did not have to

deal with looting. The books that it does own are in excellent condition; however, it just does not have many books at all. The law school was established during the sanctions period and the law school had no access to outside materials—not even to other materials located elsewhere in Iraq. The biggest physical challenge in Sulaimaniya is the space constraints.

The security situation and travel restrictions have slowed all aspects of the program. At times, progress is so slow that it is hard to see at all. Slowly, however, progress is being made.[2]

Looking Back After Two Years

By the time I left Iraq on New Year's Day 2006, the library portion of the program had lasted just shy of two years. This is not to say that we had received two years of funding. Rather, USAID had done periodic "no cost" extensions to allow for the slowness caused by the security situation. My understanding is that none of the HEAD programs were actually *funded* by USAID past the first year.[3] Despite this, we did in fact substantially complete all four implementation phases for these three law schools.

Physical plant renovations in all three locations included installation of adjustable steel shelving meeting ANSI standards, air conditioning equipment to maintain both temperature and humidity, and large generators to ensure that all of the equipment could be run. Library equipment was purchased and installed, including computer workstations for both staff and patrons, microform readers and cabinets, printers, scanners, and Ariel interlibrary loan (ILL) software from Infotrieve to allow the start of ILL document sharing.

Staff training had taken place on multiple levels—in-house training with me at each library, and two separate, sequenced sessions on using OCLC to catalog their collections. The latter sessions took place in Amman, Jordan, and brought in experts from Arabian Advanced Systems, Zayed University in Dubai, the American University in Cairo, and the University of Pennsylvania. The logistical hurdles involved in getting the Iraqi librarians to Amman and coordinating the training are still frankly mind-boggling to me. A great number of the librarians were women and so needed the permission of the responsible male in their life to attend.[4] Next, everyone needed two sets of permission letters from the dean of their law school, one showing that they needed to travel on school business to Baghdad to obtain their visas or passports, and a second showing that they then needed to travel to Amman on school business for the library training. These letters also had to be approved by each university president.

Then we needed to bring everyone from Basra and Sulaimaniya to Baghdad via AirServe, an airline that operates for humanitarian organizations. Flights from Basra and Sulaimaniya don't operate on the same days, meaning that everyone had to be put up in a safe hotel. Getting people into and out of the Baghdad airport was a logistical adventure of its own. On the first trip I was located in Baghdad and could help, but by the second trip I was no longer headquartered in Baghdad and was not allowed to leave the airport compound. Juggling AirServe schedules, visa and passport issues, travelling with some people who had never left their country before, negotiating the training with OCLC, making sure there was enough cash on hand to cover necessary expenses and unforeseen emergencies, making sure everyone got the appropriate-length visas while in Amman . . . well, they just do not teach you about that in library school!

Giving credit where credit is due—Arthur Smith from OCLC and William J. Kopycki from the University of Pennsylvania were the drivers of the U.S.-side planning of the training events. And I don't think I could have accomplished anything while in Iraq without Z., my translator, office administrator, and general right-hand man for everybody in the project. The fact that we were able to arrange not only the first such training event but also a second advanced cataloging event almost qualifies as a modern miracle. I think the training opportunities and the chance to interact with both the trainers and the other Iraqi librarians made these trips one of the major successes of the library program overall.

The program supplied each law library with a copy of the *Arabic Subject Headings Thesaurus*, the Dewey Decimal Classification schedule, the Arabic AACR2, and with OCLC Connexion software and accounts. OCLC on its own extended the accounts for at least one year beyond the subscription period purchased through the program.

Lastly, on the acquisitions front, online databases, major microform collections, and both western and Arabic-language hard copy materials were purchased for each institution. More importantly, connections were reestablished between the library staff and major legal book vendors both within Iraq and within the region.

As I left Iraq, I felt that the library program had been a very narrow success. There were some major disappointments—things that I was sure we should have been able to accomplish were left undone. And the successes, while real, were barely a drop in the ocean of what was needed. One of my biggest regrets was that we were not able to get the Iraqis into the United States for the annual conference of the American Association of Law Libraries. I went into full details in my blog at the time.[5] At the time, I thought that particular endeavor was a complete failure—the biggest failure of the

program. Actually, though, that ended up being a watershed in my relationships with the librarians. I ceased being an outsider and was considered much more a colleague—someone they could work *with*. Now I think that the biggest failing of the program was that it ended. The program did a lot of good, and provided access to both materials and training that otherwise would not have been available for perhaps years. The Iraqis made impressive improvements. Government funding sources don't seem to want to make multiyear commitments, but you can't overcome twenty years of isolation in two years. A different model is needed.

Looking Forward

At the risk of being eminently prepared to fight the previous war, I do think that my experience in Iraq yields some lessons learned worth noting. Two years later, I'm able to see more of the whole of the project and its actual impact as opposed to the intimate details and the desired impact. Two observations jump out at me at this point. The first observation applies generally to library development initiatives—these kinds of projects by nature are, and actually *should be,* decentralized, flexible responses to local needs. A second observation applies specifically to law library and rule of law initiatives, and that is that any law library development program that is going to support rule of law needs to have a strong government documents component.

In post-conflict or post-disaster situations there is always going to be a trade-off between coordinated response and rapid response. Much of the literature analyzing library development in Iraq laments the lack of coordination in the various programs. Jeff Spurr from Harvard has a great amount of experience in assisting libraries in post-conflict situations, and his are some of the most passionate calls for coordination in library development initiatives. He states, "Coordination and control are the bywords that should govern all outside assistance to Iraqi academic libraries."[6] While I like the coordination aspect to an extent, I couldn't disagree more with the control aspect. Academic law libraries are a narrowly focused, highly specialized category of special libraries. Placing the category of academic law libraries into a post-conflict situation narrows that focus even further. Then, limiting your concern to academic law libraries, in a post-conflict situation, in Iraq, you might suppose you had narrowed your category about as far as it could be narrowed. And even so we found that the needs of the three libraries we worked with were very different. They needed different things, and different strategies were required to work effectively with the library personnel in each location.

I find, then, that to expect funding agencies to come together and map out a fully coordinated library development agenda that addresses the needs of all libraries in a country, whether academic, medical, public, or school library, to be impracticable in the extreme. If library development projects continue in the aid paradigm—where donor nations give assistance to recipient nations—then I can't think of a more offensive approach than having the donor nations control what the recipient nations receive. It is amazing how quickly a patronizing tone can creep into even the best-intentioned program.

Even the coordination aspect has some troubling implications. First, Spurr seems to lay the requirement of coordination on both the funding agencies and on the library profession. For the funding agencies, as I stated above, I just don't find that realistic. I do agree that coordination of programs for library development is a responsibility of the library profession as a whole. Sadly, post-conflict librarianship has become enough of a common endeavor that there has been at least one "best practices" manual published on the topic.[7] And yet, as interested as I am in the topic, I could not tell you the one place or even the few places to go to find the current library development projects in process. This is coordination I would like to see. Not a top-down, imposed coordination on libraries receiving assistance, but a crowd-sourced clearinghouse of current projects, best practices, and basic components of library development. Indeed, Spurr mentions the IraqCrisis discussion list as the closest thing there was to a coordinating body for library development in Iraq. This precoordination does rest squarely on the shoulders of the library profession. This approach avoids the waste of duplicated efforts across projects, while still allowing local needs to drive the specific details and timing of each individual project.

As noted above, my second observation is that any law library development program that is intended to support rule of law needs to have a strong government documents component. You will notice that my brief overview of the goals of the IHRLI project and its results makes no mention of any government documents components. Looking back, this is a major flaw in the design of the program. Defining what exactly "the rule of law" means has filled volumes and volumes. My favorite definition is one I find clear and succinct: "The Rule of Law means equality before the law and a system of government constrained by the law."[8] It seems so obvious that systematic collection and storage of the documents produced by a government, and then making those documents available to the governed, is a necessary prerequisite for establishing the rule of law—so obvious that it should go without saying. But it went without saying in the design of the IHRLI project. And then when we did have a chance to work collaboratively with the

Iraq National Library and Archive, it was deemed to be out of the scope of our project and we were not allowed to expend funds in that manner. That was a flaw in the design, but it was also a failure on my part to argue effectively to the funding agency about the obvious ways such collaboration supported our project. At the time, I considered this something extra that would have been nice, but not really part of my core objectives. Looking back, I consider this a glaring missed opportunity.

Putting my two lessons learned together, I propose that it is part of our professional responsibility as librarians to start putting together a crowd-sourced clearinghouse of current international government documents projects, best practices, and definitions of what the basic components of government documents library development would be. I'd also like to see our professional associations get back into the business of funding library development projects. That is the only way I see to fund the kind of long-term development relationships that have the time to do more than just slap a bandage on the problem.

Soon there will be a law library designer/documentalist for UNDP/Sudan heading off to Juba in Southern Sudan. "Among other responsibilities, the expert will be expected to design layout of library facility, review of existing classification system for cataloguing of all laws, legal materials, books, journals, magazines, assist in the preparation of bibliographic summaries, train MoLACD library staff on how to administer and manage the library, and draft library usage policy for review by MoLACD leadership."[9] This person will be overwhelmed with all that needs to be done, and the short six-month time period in which to do it. I'd like for this person to have the support of the entire library profession. I've also seen a renewed civilian interest in working with Iraq development now that our military involvement may be winding down. So perhaps soon we may be able to participate in project design or assisting librarians there as well. Not many of us are in the position to be able to pick up and go for six months or two years or more to practice our vocation internationally. But we are in the position to act as a clearinghouse of resources, information, and expertise to those who are able to take such positions. Then they can use their time and expertise in selecting the appropriate resources and adapting them to meet the need "on the ground"—wherever that ground might be.

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Improving Declassification

A Report to the President from the Public Interest Declassification Board—A Review with Commentary[1]

Bill Sleeman

It is in the national interest to establish an effective, coordinated, and cost-effective means by which records on specific subjects of extraordinary public interest that do not undermine the national security interests of the United States may be collected, retained, reviewed, and disseminated to Congress, policymakers in the executive branch, and the public—Public Interest Declassification Act of 2000 (P.L. 106-567)

It has been a tough eight years for advocates of open access to government information. Transparency, accountability, and declassification have been thwarted at nearly every turn by the executive office, federal agencies, and Congress. Examples of this pattern include: a refusal to allow the public to see pictures of military caskets being returned from Iraq, falsifying scientific data that provides proof of global warming, and the outright refusal of the vice president of the United States to abide by the laws that govern retention of his official records.[2]

Most readers would agree that there are genuine military and diplomatic reasons why some information, however important to understanding history, must remain classified for a sometimes extended period of time. However, the wholesale approach in *official* Washington of blocking almost all access has only served to breed mistrust and cynicism rather than foster the open government that our nation and its citizens require if they are to be full participants in our shared governance. Often when these hidden documents are released, they prove to be remarkably mundane and/or occasionally salacious, but rarely have they been shown to contain information that after twenty-five years was critical to national security. An excellent example of this is the extraordinarily rich trove of historical documentation released in 2007 known as the Family Jewels.[3] Upon their release this collection of sources served to demonstrate that much of what had been blocked from access was less about protecting intelligence assets and more about failed policies and avoiding embarrassment to the officials involved.

Excessive secrecy can also have an adverse effect on our nation's ability to engage effectively in foreign relations during the transition between presidential administrations. This challenge is explored across several presidential transitions by Eric Alterman in his book *When Presidents Lie*. One of the most intriguing examples is the lack of accurate knowledge that President Truman possessed about the Yalta agreements even as he was struggling to come to grips with the final days of World War II.[4]

There are many reasons why declassification should be viewed by politicians and policy implementers as an important public good. As most government information librarians already know, an important factor is ensuring accountability of government officials. This is a position shared by no less an unlikely champion, if only in theory, than former Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld. In a letter to the *Wall Street Journal*, Rumsfeld wrote, "I have long believed in the importance of granting the public greater access to information about their government—the good and the bad."[5]

Certainly the work of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States (9/11 Commission) has demonstrated that access to core documentation, when made available, can not only shed light on a historical moment for future researchers, but can also lead to substantive changes that benefit our nation. Declassification can also help unite disparate views around the necessity of some political or military action by our nation's leaders. Former CIA agent and historian William Daugherty made this very point in his writings about covert operations. Daugherty states that, absent clear communication with the public, we are "more likely to hear about the CIA's failures (real or otherwise) than [the public] is of the Agency's success."[6]

The Public Interest Declassification Board (PIDB), created

during the final months of the Clinton administration, was intended to: (1) answer these sorts of challenges, (2) create transparency, (3) develop programs that facilitate declassification, and (4) foster in government the idea that declassification is a public good that serves citizens and policy makers. Despite these well-intentioned goals the board was not put into action until well into the administration of George W. Bush. Even then real action on activating the PIDB came only when it was politically expedient to do so. Consequently the board got off to a very slow start—the initial appointments and funding were held up until 2004. Since then, the board has been working away with little fanfare, little money, and even less support to fulfill its mandate to craft a process for systematic and responsive declassification of intelligence materials.[7]

The PIDB Report

In December of 2007, the PIDB released its first public report outlining a series of detailed recommendations and supporting comments that the members believe will be responsive to the needs of history, the needs of American citizens, and the needs of the intelligence community.

The report, generally overlooked by the mainstream media, coming as it did around the Christmas holiday, is an important contribution to our understanding of what could be done to improve declassification and accountability in the federal government. While there is likely quite a bit for the leadership of the next administration to read, for a new president who many believe has won his position by calling for a change in how the federal government operates, the 2007 report of the PIDB should be near the top of the pile of books on his nightstand.

The report begins with an introduction that includes a "Brief Historical Perspective on Declassification Activity in the U.S. Government." What will be most intriguing to government information professionals is the exhaustive listing of previous efforts to review access to government information. Certainly, there has been an extensive and often ineffective effort to improve access from inside the government. This section of the report touches on some important developments, including the public outcry in the research community over the National Archives and Records Administration's (NARA) decision to let some federal agencies *reclassify* already released material. However, this section of the report lacks any sense of anger or even incredulousness over the magnitude of the reclassification efforts that took place during the administration of President George W. Bush. This is not unexpected given the board's dependence on the executive office for its very being, but it is still disappointing. The next section provides an excellent summary of "What the Declassification System Looks like Today." The section highlights many of the challenges created by an ever-increasing pattern of overclassification, the expansion of the number of individuals with classification authority, and the creation of any number of secret but unclassified (SBU) categories of documentation.

The next section begins with a brief essay on "What the Declassification System Must Look like Tomorrow" as agencies develop their response to both mandatory declassification and special cases/requests for specific declassifications outside the twenty-five-year rule. The section recommends a focus on electronic communication and preservation of both content and systems of presentation and delivery as well as enabling compatibility across agencies and systems. This is then followed by a summary of the fifteen larger declassification issues, each with anywhere from three to five specific recommendations on how to improve declassification. In many ways, the report is similar to earlier efforts such as the 9/11 Commission recommendations and the *Final Report of the Kennedy Assassination Records Review Board* (which, like the PIDB, also came into being during the Clinton years).[8] In particular, the report of the Kennedy Assassination Records Review Board shares with the PIDB a commitment to improving access to presidential records—a category of documentation that has recently seen particularly egregious efforts to block access and thus accountability.[9] While there has been some dissatisfaction expressed that the PIDB's focus on electronic records overemphasizes the containers rather than preserving the content, the introductory portion of the report remains a careful consideration of the overall declassification landscape.[10]

This review will briefly consider four of the recommendations from *Improving Declassification: a Report to the President from the Public Interest Declassification Board* as illustrative of the overall report. The sections chosen for consideration out of the fifteen different areas were selected because they represent recurring challenges in the government information community. Access to presidential records has been a challenge across administrations and political leanings and with recent changes to Executive Order 13233 (*Further Implementation of the Presidential Records Act*), it remains an area of considerable concern. The re-review of classified information experienced a significant resurgence during the administration of President George W. Bush. The inability to gain access to the President's Daily Brief (PDB) for investigators was a challenge during the Iran–Contra investigation and continued to be a challenge right up to the work of the 9/11 Commission. Finally, a greater use of professional historians to assist in identifying classified

records of historical value was urged in the *Moynihan Report*, and, while still viewed as an intrusion by agency professionals charged with classifying records, this approach was used with some success by both the Kennedy Assassination Records Review Board and the Nazi War Criminal Records Interagency Working Group.[11]

Issue 3: Expediting the Declassification of Presidential Records

This portion begins with an overview, familiar to most readers, of the presidential library system and how records were generally treated before the *Presidential Records Act* (P.L. 95-591).

The board next moves to a larger discussion of how NARA reviews and declassifies presidential materials. The issuance of Executive Order 13233 has put presidential records at the front of the library and historical community's advocacy agenda in a way that these materials have not been since perhaps the end of the Nixon administration. Amazingly, the introductory portion of this section completely ignores the dissension sowed by that particular order. The absence of any mention of this may simply be a decision to avoid becoming too political, particularly as the report was delivered to the same president who revised the executive order. This portion of the report concludes by pointing out correctly that the presidential libraries and NARA are constrained and understaffed, making a wholesale revision of the process for review and declassification of this material appropriate.

This last statement leads to the board's first recommendation, that the archivist of the United States, in order to maximize staff and minimize costs, establish a centralized National Declassification Center near Washington where all presidential records that are still-classified and require review would be housed. Once declassified either by the archivist or by virtue of the twenty-five-year rule, the records would then be released to the individual presidential libraries. The same recommendation also proposes that all still-classified presidential records be held at this new location indefinitely. This is not unlike the approach taken by the JFK Assassination Records Review Board through its creation of the *JFK Collection* intended to bring together the disparate resources at one location for review and declassification.[12] Given the pace at which records are produced in the modern presidency, and the multiplicity of formats in which these records appear, bringing these records together in one location seems less like a viable solution than a knot in an otherwise functional (although admittedly not optimally efficient) network of archives, presidential librarians, and professional archivists. Perhaps in response to this proposal

Figure 1. The Fifteen Issues as defined by the PIDB

Issue 1	Understanding What the Declassification System is Accomplishing
Issue 2	Prioritizing the Declassification Review of Historically Significant Information
Issue 3	Expediting the Declassification of Presidential Records
Issue 4	Preserving a Capability Within Agencies to Review Records Less Than 25 Years of Age
Issue 5	Bringing Greater Uniformity, Consistency, and Efficiency to the Declassification Process
Issue 6	Expediting the Declassification Reviews of Multiple Equity Documents
Issue 7	Performing Declassification Reviews Involving Special Media and Electronic Records
Issue 8	Re-Reviews of Previously Disclosed Information
Issue 9	Dealing with Other Exempted Information and the Delays Entailed in Archival Processing
Issue 10	Exercising Discretion for Disclosure in Exceptional Cases
Issue 11	Removing an Impediment to Comprehensive Review
Issue 12	Expanding the Uses and Roles of Historians and Historical Advisory Boards
Issue 13	Clarifying the Status and Treatment of Formerly Restricted Data
Issue 14	The Handling of the President's Daily Brief
Issue 15	Declassification Reviews of Certain Congressional Records

NARA issued a call on March 24, 2009, for ideas on how they might redesign the work of the presidential library system, seeking community input on "alternative models for presidential libraries" that might include expediting declassification.

Realizing that the first recommendation is not likely to bear fruit (after all a similar center was proposed by the Moynihan Commission on reducing government secrecy in 1997) the board follows up with a "if not that, why not this" approach. Thus their third recommendation is that presidential records should be processed in a similar way as are the documents made available for the *Foreign Relations of the United States* volumes. This is a process that makes review and declassification of historically significant material for reproduction in that series a priority for review by all affected agencies. Moving on to their final recommendation, the board suggests that NARA look to augment the staffing in the presidential libraries system in order to move along the processing of classified information. This is certainly something that the library and archival community would like to see. But after years of advocating on behalf of increased funding for NARA, this proposal seems no more likely to happen than Congress appropriating money for NARA to create a new facility with adequate staff to centralize the declassification as proposed in recommendation one.

Issue 8: Re-Reviews of Previously Disclosed Information

An equity issue arises when one agency's document includes classified information from another agency. The question of whom or what agency should have the ability to declassify and make publicly available information that comes from another agency is difficult to balance. The board clearly recognizes the importance of this issue to individual government entities but also realistically questions the value and the message that the federal government sends when it tries to reclassify already released information that is twenty-five years old or older. The board members also wisely point out that, given current staffing and funding challenges at NARA, to require their staff to participate in a review and reclassification project across collections and agencies only delays progress on new declassification efforts. The recommendations in this section of the report recognize the importance of some level of review in order to ensure that other agencies' needs are considered. Still, there is the conundrum of having the lead agency review and recommend on domestic secrecy issues regarding the documents that directly affect that agency's activities. This creates an obvious conflict that a better-staffed, better-funded NARA, with a commitment to declassification as a core function, could avoid.

Another challenge with any re-review is what to do about the content already released and what sanctions, if any, there should be? The PIDB recommendations do address the "criminality" issue. The report strongly recommends that any decisions to re-review and remove from access already declassified and released material include a statement that would absolve researchers of any criminal liability for use of the material. While this is a welcome addition to the discussion it really doesn't change the fact that once information has been properly reviewed and released, trying to pull it back in and control it is next to impossible; attempting to do so is a waste of time, effort and money while doing little to improve national security.[13] These sorts of re-reviews should be taken only when, as the PIDB writes in the section summary, "there is a clear indication (and subsequent showing) that the benefits to our national security are worth the costs."[14]

Issue 12: Expanding the Uses and Roles of Historians and Historical Advisory Boards

This particular section looks at how the few agencies that do employ trained historians to facilitate declassification make use of their staff. The board looks to the U.S. Department of State's use of historians to produce the *Foreign Relations of the United States* (FRUS) series as a successful model to consider for other agencies holding classified information. In fact, FRUS staff members were invited speakers at the September 9, 2006, public meeting of the board. At that time Edward Keefer, general editor of the FRUS series, expressed his belief that the dire consequences that are often claimed will result from the release of classified information rarely happened. When such a release did generate any interest, at its worst "it created a few days of news."[15] If the model of the FRUS were employed across agencies it would likely be an asset to NARA, which has said repeatedly that it lacks the staffing for such review and publication. One has to wonder why it is then that an effort to create additional historical advisory boards, as proposed by the PIDB, is not more aggressively supported. The specific recommendations that the board offers to put this into action include:

- a call to amend Executive Order 12958 to require the creation of historical advisory boards within departments that have significant classification activities;
- that the executive office require affected agencies to hire the appropriate number of historians to prepare records for release or to create histories of the agency based on records of the agency; and
- that these histories, if that is the approach pursued, should be reviewed like other classified content for release to the public twenty-five years after the last date of the documents included and not twenty-five years from the publication date of the history.

One challenge with this type of approach is determining what will be of historical value to future scholars. While it is not possible to answer this question fully, having professional historians who understand both the content and the trends in historical research could make a real difference in preserving and releasing important documentation.

Issue 14: The Handling of the President's Daily Brief

The PDB or President's Daily Brief is prepared by the intelligence community, delivered by a briefer usually associated with the CIA, and is one of the most protected and highly classified documents in Washington. In fact, for many years most of official Washington, including members of Congress, did not even know that the PDBs existed. While individual, and arguably historically, important PDBs have been released over the years—most recently the infamous August 6, 2001, PDB that described potential terrorist attacks within the United States—

they remain, for the most part, a closely guarded secret.[16] Their absence from the overall historical record prevents journalists, historians, and policy experts from a complete understanding of what a president (and his advisors) knew and when.[17]

To deal with this the board offers three simple recommendations:

- the president should clarify if he/she will continue to make a policy statement that all PDBs, past and future, are protected under the broad concept of *executive privilege;*
- the president should direct that all PDBs be retained by the executive office (they are not currently) as presidential records subject to the *Presidential Records Act*; and
- the president should direct that PDBs that were not part of the presidential materials sent to individual presidential libraries be forwarded for review and possible declassification.

While each of these recommendations is well-founded, they are, of all the recommendations put forth by the board, the least likely to be put into place. The PDB remains an important executive prerogative. Declassifying PDBs on any type of regularized schedule would mean, to some extent, giving up a considerable amount of control over foreign policy decision making. Additionally, there may be some truth to the charge that regular declassification of this material could over time change the nature of the content. The compiling agency (CIA) might choose to present the best possible face for the president (or the agency) and his advisors, rather than outline the actual cold and perhaps frightening choices that the president faces. The CIA is so committed to retaining the secure nature of this information that former CIA director George Tenet continued to block access to all PDBs—even those more than twenty-five years old.[18]

Concluding Thoughts

In a June 2008 online commentary in the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, historians Martin Sherwin and Lee White responded to the changes wrought by Executive Order 13233:

> It is in the nature of the political process of governments that much of what we believe about contemporary decisions will be revealed by historical research to have been incorrect, or at best, partially correct. And I submit that our democracy cannot remain robust without the constant historical auditing of our government's behavior.[19]

While responding to a different, although related issue, Sherwin and White's comments accurately reflect the situation overall. Access to information from all branches of the federal government, including judicial information and records, has never been more constricted and the efforts to block access have never been more purposeful than they have these past eight years.

Tom Blanton, director of the National Security Archive at George Washington University, in commenting on the report of the PIDB, cited inadequate funding and lack of political support for NARA as an important factor in limiting access.[20] That NARA is in a difficult position politically is an understatement. The lack of support for NARA to perform a critical task that its funding source does not value results—intentionally or otherwise—in fulfilling the goals of an executive office that is more interested in limiting access than ensuring informed oversight or historical accuracy. As has been pointed out by several different authorities in the past eight years, NARA simply lacks the political power to successfully stand up to the executive office.[21] Stronger laws and better funding as suggested by the PIDB and others would help ensure improved access to declassified documents.[22]

Equally telling will be the long-term result of President Bush's memorandum issued January 29, 2008, directing the heads of the relevant agencies to review the December 2007 report of the PIDB and indicate how to proceed in response to the recommendations. These recommendations, due back to President Bush by April 15, 2008, have not yet been disclosed to the research community.[23]

One shortcoming of the report is the lack of attention to twenty-first-century alternatives for accessing declassified content. The PIDB *Report* laments at several points in the document that the volume of declassification may still result in the content not being available to the public due to archival processing needs and lack of staff to do this work. However, the board fails to explore already proven alternatives such as mass digitization and the use of social web methodologies for providing subject or topical access. It is hoped that future work by the board will include a more detailed analysis of the implications and possibilities for these types of solutions.

There is little immediate chance of NARA receiving additional monies to provide the necessary support for and access to declassified materials. It is therefore more important than ever to urge that recommendations like those made by the PIDB that call on the affected agencies to perform an initial review and to recommend an enforceable oversight by disinterested professionals in instances where the agencies have failed to perform such a review be embraced and supported by the

library, archival, and historical communities.

The report of the PIDB is comprehensive and, in coming as it did, in an administration that has not valued public access to information, its very publication is a testament to the commitment of the board's members. Overall though, there is little here that is new. Perhaps that might be seen as a good thing and indicative that, after eight years of stifled access, the message from the academic and library community may finally be getting through. On the downside, many of the recommendations echo similar statements from earlier reports that were never implemented. There is so much that remains to be accomplished if we are to secure and to systematize access to the historical record held in classified documents by federal agencies. Still, the recommendations and their justifications are well thought out and clearly presented. If only half of the recommendations made are adopted and implemented then the board can be rightly proud of their effort and the American public will have greater access to the documentation necessary for understanding our history and government policy processes.

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Join Us in Chicago! GODORT Events at the 2009 Annual Conference

The 2009 GODORT Reception and Awards Ceremony will be held on **Friday** evening, July 10, at the Rooftop Garden at McCormick Place Convention Center. Please join us as we recognize this year's award winners:

- Andrea Sevetson, LexisNexis (James Bennett Childs Award)
- Daniel Cornwall, Alaska State Library (LexisNexis/Documents to the People Award)
- Eleanor Chase, University of Washington (Bernadine Abbott Hoduski Founders Award)
- Aimee Quinn, University of New Mexico (Catharine J. Reynolds Research Grant)
- Justin Joque, University of Michigan (W. David Rozkuszka Scholarship)

GODORT Program

Gov Docs Kids Group: Learn and Have Fun with Government Resources

Monday, July 13, 2009
10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

This program will help participants promote government information while engaging K–12 students in learning about history, culture, science, and government. Games, interactive activities, teaching aids, and lesson plans will be highlighted, along with exciting tools to enhance student learning. We will provide librarians with a collection of free government resources to advance their reference skills and aid in collection development decisions. We will focus on resources available at the Gov Doc Kids Group website, which includes primary source materials and links to U.S. government websites for kids.

Speakers: Nan Myers, Wichita State University; Antoinette Satterfield, Kansas State University; Carmen Orth-Alfie, University of Kansas; Tom Adamich, head of metadata services, Muskingum College Library.

A complete listing of GODORT activities at the annual conference is available on the GODORT wiki at tinyurl.com/annual2009.

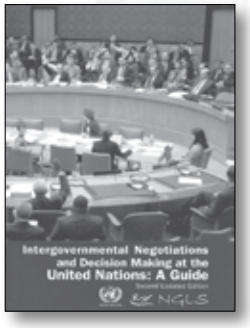
FEATURING

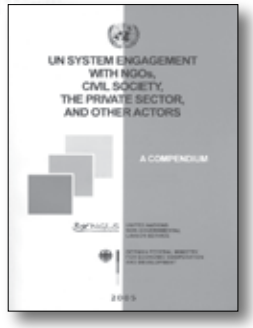
UNITED NATIONS PUBLICATIONS

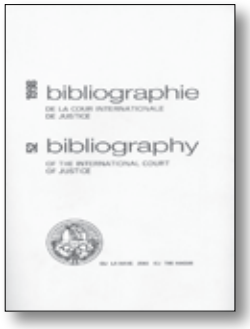
Year in Review 2008: United Nations Peace Operations

As the international community celebrated the 60th anniversary of United Nations peacekeeping during 2008, today's blue helmets found themselves over-stretched and confronted with numerous and increasingly complex operations all across the globe. This review explains the issues and operations which took place in 2008 and will take place in the future years.

Publishing Agency: United Nations
Sales Number: E.09.I.5 ISBN: 9789211011913 Pages: 52 Price: $10.00







Intergovernmental Negotiations and Decision Making at the United Nations: A Guide - Second Updated Edition

Publishing Agency: United Nations
Sales Number: E.08.I.23 ISBN: 9789211011784
Pages: 172 Price: $18.00

UN System Engagement with NGOs, Civil Society, the Private Sector, and Other Actors: A Compendium

Publishing Agency: United Nations
Sales Number: E.08.I.28 ISBN: 9789211011838
Pages: 260 Price: $5.00

Bibliography of the International Court of Justice

Publishing Agency: United Nations, International Court of Justice
Sales Number: ICJ865 ISBN: 9789210709729
Pages: 136 Price: $4.50

Industrial Development Report 2009: Breaking In and Moving Up - New Industrial Challenges for the Bottom Billion and the Middle-Income Countries

Publishing Agency: United Nations Industrial Development Organization
Sales Number: E.09.II.B.37 ISBN: 9789211064452
Pages: 160 Price: $50.00

Guidelines for Governments on Preventing the Illegal Sale of Internationally Controlled Substances through the Internet

Publishing Agency: United Nations Office at Vienna
Sales Number: E.09.XI.6 ISBN: 9789211482362
Pages: 24 Price: $13.00

Full Participation: A Comparative Study of Compulsory Voting

Publishing Agency: United Nations University
Sales Number: E.09.III.A.2 ISBN: 9789280811667
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Be Still My Heart

Reviewing my Two Favorite Classic Documents Texts

One of the recurring conversations on Govdoc-l is the question about "which textbook to use for the class I'll be teaching." While I really appreciate the contemporary texts, my long-held belief is that they really don't hold a candle to my favorite historical texts. Of course I recognize the completely different usage these get; I just don't see the more contemporary texts moving into the realm of these two giants:

- Anne Morris Boyd and Rae Elizabeth Rips, *United States Government Publications*, (New York, NY: H.W. Wilson Company, 1949).
- Laurence F. Schmeckebier, *The Statistical Work of the National Government*, Institute for Government Research, Studies in Administration (Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins Press, 1926).

Why do I love them? They are encyclopedic in their treatment of their subject and for the years between 1789 and their publication, they provide the most comprehensive information and lists of the material of any resource out there.

Boyd and Rips take a traditional documents text approach with chapters on printing and distribution of government publications, catalogs and indexes, congressional publications, laws and statutes, and then add chapters on the various departments (State, Treasury, Army, and so on) and subagencies. Each department chapter has sections on the history, organization and duties, publications, and publication lists. For each serial publication there is an annotation with the starting date and frequency. If the publication is monographic, such as the reference to the Hayden surveys (239), the publication dates are listed. The detail included on each publication listed makes this the veritable bible on all agencies and their major publications. Those with gaps in their knowledge of, for example, the Fish and Wildlife Service (Department of Interior), can find the current (in 1949) *Annual Reports*, as well as the fact that the *Reports of the Chief of the Bureau of Biological Survey* (1886–1939) and the *Annual Reports of the Fish Commission* (1873–1903) followed by the *Reports of the Commission of Fisheries* (1904–1939) were the predecessor publications (235).

In contrast to Boyd and Rips, Schmeckebier approaches the subject matter by topic with chapter titles such as: "Population in General"; "Negroes, Indians, Chinese, and Japanese"; "Dependents, Defectives and Delinquents"; "Labor and Wages"; "Women and Children"; to name a few. Within each of these he provides references to pages in other chapters where information may be found, he includes charts to indicate coverage over the years of the decennial census, and he details each of the agencies in which publications of interest are found. For example, the chapter Immigrants and Emigrants (87–105) source notes include the Immigration Commission, the Bureau of the Census, and the Bureau of Immigration where the annual reports were issued under the Treasury Department, Department of Commerce and Labor, and the Department of Labor, each of which were also noted as having other publications on the topic.

While most texts leave the reader snoozing, for those with a need to know these books really shine with their details. For example, years ago I was looking for nineteenth century immigration statistics (pre-Immigration and Naturalization Service, INS) and in Boyd and Rips the chapter on the Department of Justice (DOJ) gives the organization of the INS noting

> under the act of March 3, 1933, and an executive order August 10, 1933, the Immigration and Naturalization Service was formed through the consolidation of the former

> Bureaus of Immigration and of Naturalization. Reorganization Plan V effective June 14, 1940 transferred the Service from the Department of Labor to the Department of Justice (197).

On the page following the history of the organization, in the annotation for the *Annual Report of the Commissioner* I find where the nineteenth century statistics are hidden:

> The Immigration Bureau issued annual reports from 1892–1932. Previous reports on immigration were made from 1820–1869 through the Secretary of State, and from 1869–1891 in the annual reports on Foreign Commerce and Navigation by the Statistics Bureau of the Treasury Department (198).

For historical information, Boyd and Rips is the publication that pointed me to the very important Immigration Commission *Reports*—forty-one volumes of information on immigrants along with statistics (200). While Boyd and Rips pointed me to the reports and gave a brief description, Schmeckebier goes into exhaustive detail about the importance of these reports (95–103), listing not just the titles of each of the volumes but also discussing some of the most useful tables in each of the volumes.

While Schmeckebier's chapter on immigration was extremely useful, the chapters on race and gender made the text invaluable to me and to the countless students to whom I recommended the volume. For example, the discussion on Indians (73ff) details statistics in the various censuses, but also notes that the:

> reports of the Bureau of the Census and of the Office of Indian Affairs do not agree, and it is hopeless to attempt to reconcile them, owing to the lack of definition as to what constitutes an Indian.
>
> Each census enumerator would use his own judgment as to who should be considered an Indian, while the officers of the Indian Service would be guided by a legal determination where the rolls had been closed or by the general practice of the Service in other cases. The results of this are shown particularly in Oklahoma, where the Indian Service reports 119,255 and the Census Bureau 67,337 (75).

While the detail and approach that Schmeckebier provides makes it invaluable, Boyd and Rips provide value on a daily basis both at the reference desk and behind my own desk with the good solid discussions of agencies and their major series. I have spent countless hours reading this text to discover publications and history from such agencies as the War Relocation Authority, Department of State, Congress, and the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

Perhaps because of the nature of federal documents and how they are acquired, librarians are much more aware of current series because they are seen each time a depository shipment is opened. The historical documents sometimes may languish as we flounder trying to answer both reference and research questions. Both of the texts here give librarians the solid grounding for historical research, and each should be in your collection—if not in a treasured spot on your own shelves.
—*Andrea Sevetson*

Index to Advertisers

The Interview: Amy West, Incoming GODORT Chair (2009–2010)

Each year we ask our incoming GODORT Chair a few questions so you can get to know a bit more about his/her likes and dislikes.

Favorite spot in Minneapolis:
My neighborhood (Seward) in the morning in early spring. That's June for everyone else. Every morning's walk is a little garden tour.

Favorite pastime:
Knitting for the last few years.

Favorite TV shows:
Firefly, *Closer* (despite her accent), *Project Runway*, *My Name is Earl*

Favorite book:
Well, it's not really my favorite—there's lots tying for first—but based on number of times reread, *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* by Douglas Adams.

Favorite movies:
Most recent favorite is *Children of Men*. Also have an inexplicable affection for *Independence Day*.

On your reading list now:
Last Colony by John Scalzi; *Caryatids* by Bruce Sterling; (rereading) *Glasshouse* by Charles Stross; *Here Comes Everybody* by Clay Shirky; *Something to Tell You* by Hanif Kureshi.

Favorite coffee drink:
Double espresso over ice with a little cream.

Favorite type of food:
Fried chicken. Wish it were salad, but, hey, I'm from Alabama.

Favorite conference town:
Chicago has the best combination of good food and maximum baseball opportunities.

Favorite vacation spot:
Beaches. Any beaches, although the warmer, the better.

Historical figure you'd like to meet:
I don't want to meet one particular person so much as I wish I could travel in time and observe events personally. I'd want to be invisible though because I don't want to change history, just see it for myself.

Pet peeves:
I'm easily irritated—this could take awhile. In a relevant spirit of the question: using technology badly. Get it right or don't do it at all.

What inspires you about your job:
Working with so many other folks so dedicated to public access to government information.

GODORT Councilor's Report—ALA Midwinter Meeting

Denver, Colorado, January 25–28, 2009

Highlights of: ALA Council/Executive Board/Membership Information Session, ALA-APA Council Information Session, ALA-APA Council, ALA Executive Board Candidates Forum, ALA Council I-III

Midwinter Meeting Council sessions and related events were fast-paced and exhilarating. Events of interest to GODORT members and other government information specialists and advocates are outlined below. Of particular note, Council adopted the *Resolution of Appreciation for Gil Baldwin*, GODORT and MAGERT member, and recent retiree of the U.S. Government Printing Office.

Tom Blanton, director of the National Security Archive at George Washington University, will be the president's program speaker at the ALA Annual Conference in July 2009. Blanton's talk will be on access to government information.

ALA Executive Director Keith Michael Fiels summarized his extensive *Report to Council and Executive*

Board, the ALA Executive Board's *Action Summary* since the 2008 Annual Conference, and the *2009 Midwinter Meeting Implementation Report on ALA Council Actions Taken at the 2008 Annual Conference*. Highlights included news of ALA's collaboration with Univision Radio to have a first-ever public service announcement campaign targeting Hispanic and Latino populations, an update on the Office of Government Relations effort to communicate ALA's concerns to the Consumer Product Safety Commission and Congress about the *Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008* and its potential negative impact on libraries, H.R. 35, *Presidential Records Act Amendments of 2009*, and H.R. 36, *Presidential Library Donation Reform Act of 2009*. Fiels also described ALA's FOIA request to the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) upon discovering that Johns Hopkins University's School of Public Health had restricted the word "abortion" as a search term in the POPLINE database, which the school maintains. The request asked why the word was restricted and by whom. Fiels noted that Johns Hopkins University's dean of libraries had arranged for the restriction to be lifted prior to the formal request. The restriction revolved around USAID's policy that abortion is not considered a method of family planning, and the documents produced were perceived as advocacy materials and therefore inappropriate for federally-funded databases. Articles on abortion statistics, post-abortion care, and so on, are appropriate.

A number of actions were relevant to the depository and government information professionals' community, including ALA CD#53, *Resolution on Improving the Federal Depository Library Program and Public Access to Government Information*. Actions on other important resolutions, such as that on confiscation of Iraqi documents from the Iraq National Library and Archives and those in support of the National Agricultural Library and the *E-Government Reauthorization Act of 2007*, are described at ala.org/ala/aboutala/governance/council/councildocuments/2008annualcouncildocuments/CD53.doc.

Rodney M. Hersberger, ALA treasurer, led off ALA Council II with the treasurer's report, which contained revenue information for the organization, as well as budgetary details for the Washington Office (WO). In 2008, the WO's annual budget was just over $2.35 million and its Office of Information Technology Policy (OITP) received Gates and MacArthur Foundation grants of over $1.5 million. In addition to publishing, conferences/meetings, and grants, dues are another significant source of general revenue. Total dues increased slightly in 2008. Hersberger emphasized that $600,000 to $1 million in new revenue is required before each new budget is developed. He listed a number of themes for developing new revenue sources, three of which include turning more units into revenue-generating centers, defining unique assets that ALA has that can be turned into new businesses or revenue streams, and promoting an entrepreneurial environment. Council approved the FY09 programmatic priorities: diversity, equitable access to information and library services, education and lifelong learning, intellectual freedom, advocacy for libraries and the profession, literacy, and organizational excellence. These budget objectives have guided the preparation of the next fiscal year budget since FY2007.

The *Freedom to Read Foundation* (FTRF) *Report*, given by chair Judith Platt, highlighted two court cases of particular interest to the government information community. These were the U.S. Supreme Court's January 21, 2009, denial of the government's petition for review of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit ruling, its second, against the *Child Online Protection Act*, and the Second Circuit Court of Appeals decision on the unconstitutionality of aspects of the National Security Letters' (NSL) gag order in *John Doe and ACLU v. Mukasey* (formerly *ACLU v. Gonzales*). The burden of proof is on the government to demonstrate the gag order requirement related to the likelihood of harm or criminal interference, and the court recommended that the government establish a "notice procedure" to communicate to NSL recipients that they have the right to request a judicial review. Also, FTRF has filed an *amicus curiae* brief along with other organizations on the ruling regarding *Wilson v. McConnell*. As most of you will recall, this involved whether or not the CIA could prohibit former operative Valerie Plame Wilson from mentioning in her memoir the pre-2000 dates of her service. As those dates appeared in an unclassified letter to her, which subsequently was introduced at House hearings, read into the *Congressional Record*, and made available on the web, the brief stressed that the rationale for the restraint was no longer valid and that the CIA should have been required by the federal district court to show that its concerns outweighed Wilson's and Simon & Schuster's First Amendment rights.

FTRF has a Developing Issues Committee, and this committee identified a number of issues to be addressed in the future. White papers will be prepared as a means of exploring these. The themes, each of which touch upon

government information directly or indirectly, are: overzealous government regulation affecting access to information; extensive government warrantless searches of electronic devices; how the Internet has influenced collection development, including authentication, access, and ownership in the twenty-first century; Internet filtering and censorship in foreign countries, and the role of U.S.-based corporations and service and database providers in facilitating this; the ownership and control of electronic information resources as this relates to access and removal of information from electronic resources; and last but not least, minors' Internet use in academic libraries.

Not to be missed, the FTRF's 40th anniversary will be celebrated at the Annual Conference in Chicago. Tickets for the Sunday, July 12, 2009, gala event, which will be held in the Modern Wing of the Art Institute of Chicago, are on sale now and can be obtained by calling (800) 545-2433, ext. 4226, or via the ALA's Annual Conference registration website.

After discussion and the adoption of a few amendments, Council adopted the Core Competencies of Librarianship, and then undertook more extensive review and discussion of the *E-Member Participation Report*. In its report, the task force developed a broad, generous description of "e-participation," identified the relevant provisions of the ALA Constitution, Bylaws, and Policies, and offered sixteen recommendations. Recommendations one through four were approved at Council II, and a revised recommendation four, along with recommendation five, was approved during Council III. Recommendations six through sixteen were referred to the ALA Executive Board to investigate general options for Council's consideration. The executive board will report at the Annual Conference in Chicago. The final report is now accessible at www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/governance/council/councilagendas/mw2009agenda/2009mwagenda.pdf.

Kendall Wiggin, Committee on Legislation (COL) chair, reported that the committee had determined that it should be increased from ten to fifteen members. Action items *Resolution Commending President Barack Obama on His Commitment to Openness and Transparency in Government* and *Resolution in Support of the Reauthorization of the Library Services and Technology Act* were adopted. Wiggin indicated that COL and the OITP Advisory Committee had submitted a paper, "Opening the Window to a Larger World," to the Obama transition team, and he thanked Council for having a town hall at which ALA members had the opportunity to voice their ideas as to what the association should be communicating to the new administration. COL will be forwarding these additional comments to the new administration.

As GODORT members are aware, at the 2008 Annual Conference, Council referred the *Resolution on Improving the Federal Depository Library Program and Public Access to Government Information* to COL. COL asked WO to continue their advocacy through the Depository Library Council and other "federal libraries" to increase public access to government information. COL also asked its Government Information Subcommittee (GIS) to plan an ALA-wide conversation on government information at the 2009 Annual Conference. This ALA Washington Office meeting, "Government Information: A Topic for All Librarians," will be held Friday, July 10, 2009, from 8 a.m. to noon. All ALA units are invited to participate, and all levels of government information will be under consideration. At one of its sessions, GIS generated questions for distribution to the units and round tables in order to encourage discussion prior to the meeting. A white paper will be prepared following the annual conference.

COL's Subcommittee on E-Government Services met once to further develop the draft of its e-government services toolkit. The subcommittee expects to introduce a completed toolkit at a WO breakout session at the 2009 Annual Conference.

More detailed coverage of all Council Midwinter Meeting actions is available on the ALA website at tinyurl.com/cg9529.

—Mary Mallory, GODORT Councilor

Editor's note: This is a condensed version of the original report. See the GODORT website for the complete report.

GODORT Needs a Fresh Logo!

With the ALA's website implementation of the Collage content management system, GODORT webmanagers were surprised to find that the GODORT logo adopted in 1991 was not available in a scalable electronic format. GODORT's logo was the winning entry in a contest announced by the GODORT Ad Hoc Committee on the 20th Anniversary in the June 1991 issue of *DttP*. The "Open Book" logo was designed by Courtenay Diederich and was submitted by Jack Carey, director of communications for the Congressional Information Service. This logo specifies all levels of government information activity encompassed by GODORT: international, U.S. federal, state, and local. The book or document in the logo is open, suggesting access.

Today, GODORT needs a logo that's scalable and web-ready. As before, our round table turns to its membership for creative designs that reflect our government information ideals. Our goal is to implement a design that works on the web and in print. While the judging panel cannot accept cocktail napkin doodles, it will be happy to evaluate your vector EPS (Encapsulated PostScript) file or a 300 dpi TIFF/Photoshop/EPS file on its support of GODORT's purpose, reflecting all levels of government information activity, originality, and artistic merit.

Entries should be submitted via e-mail to the GODORT webmanagers (godort-web@googlegroups.com) for consideration by December 1, 2009. Submission guidelines are as follows:

1. Designs must support GODORT's purpose and reflect all levels of government information activity (international/foreign, U.S. federal, state, and local). Designs will be judged on originality and artistic merit.
2. Designs may be submitted by anyone. There is no limit on the number of designs submitted by each contestant.
3. Each entry must be submitted as either a vector EPS (Encapsulated PostScript) file or as a 300 dpi TIFF/Photoshop/EPS file.
4. The winning entry will be featured in *DttP* along with an interview of the person who submitted it.
5. Entries must be received by December 1, 2009, with the winning entry to be announced following the Midwinter Meeting.
6. Entries should be emailed to godort-web@googlegroups.com with the subject line "GODORT logo contest entry" and each entry must include the following information:
   a. name of contestant and contact information, including:
      i. title and institution (if applicable)
      ii. mailing address
      iii. e-mail address
      iv. telephone number
   b. the attached file with the logo design as explained in #3 above.

NOTE: If none of the entries sufficiently illustrates the judging factor, the judges' panel reserves the right not to make an award.

GODORT shall acquire the prominent exclusive rights to use the winning design in any form, at any time, and in any manner without any additional consideration. As a condition for entry, each contestant shall agree that, upon notification that his/her design is the award winner, the entire right, title, and interest to the design shall vest in GODORT or its assigns.

GODORT reserves the right to modify the winning design to make it more suitable for issuance in graphic form. GODORT is not responsible or liable in any way for loss or damage to or from the entry design submitted. This competition is subject to all local, state, and federal laws and regulations, including trademark, copyright, and patent laws.

The guidelines are also available on the GODORT wiki at snipurl.com/logocontest.

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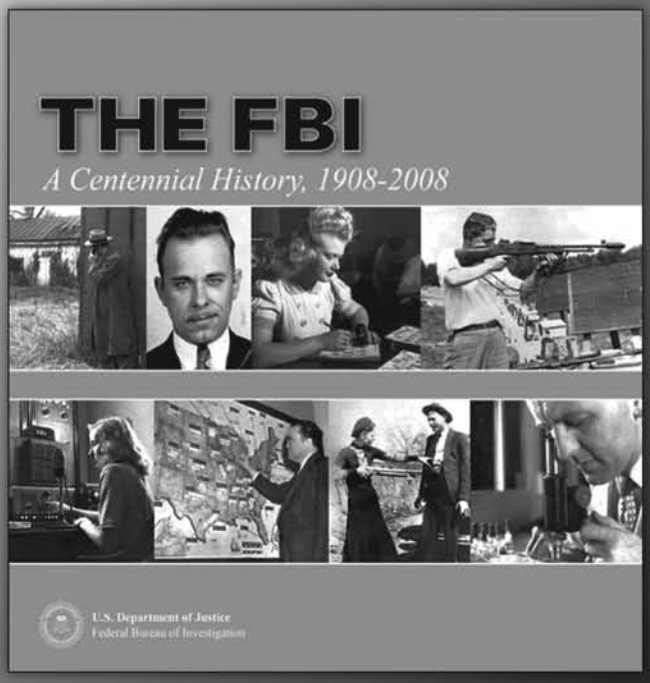

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