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DttP

Documents to the People

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Editorial Staff:
Please see the wiki for full contact information: wikis.ala.org/godort/index.php/*DttP*_Editorial_Staff_and_Column_Editors.

Lead Editor:
Greg Curtis, University of Maine; (207) 581-1681; DttP.editor@gmail.com

Editors:
Sonya Durney, Portland Public Library; (207) 871-1700; durney@portland.lib.me.us
Sonnet Ireland, University of New Orleans; (504) 280-7276; sebrown3@uno.edu
Elizabeth Psyck, Grand Valley State University; (616) 331-8674; psycke@gvsu.edu

Reviews Editor: Paula Webb, University of Southern Alabama, pwebb@southernalabama.edu

Advertising Editor: Gretchen Gould, University of Northern Iowa; (319) 273-6327, gretchen.gould@uni.edu

Advertising: Inquiries about advertising may be addressed to the Advertising Editor. Please see wikis.ala.org/godort/index.php/*DttP*_Advertising_Rates for rates and publication schedule. *DttP* accepts advertising to inform readers of products and services. *DttP* will adhere to all ethical and commonly accepted advertising practices and will make every effort to ensure that its practices in relation to advertising are consistent with those of other Association publications. *DttP* reserves the right to reject any advertisement deemed not relevant or consistent to the above or to the aims and policies of ALA.

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Editorial Production: ALA Production Services — Troy D. Linker, Chris Keech, Tim Clifford, Kirstin Krutsch, and Chelsea McGorisk.

Columnists:

By the Numbers
Susan Metcalf
Western Carolina University
metcalf@e-mail.wcu.edu

Tina Plottel
George Washington University
tplottel@gmail.com

Documents Without Borders
Cyril Emery
United Nations Commission on International Trade Law
cyril.emery@uncitral.org

Federal Documents Focus
Rebecca Hyde
Univ. of California San Diego
rhyde@ucsd.edu

Lucia Orlando
Univ. of California Santa Cruz
luciao@ucsc.edu

Get to Know . . .
Julia Stewart
Southern Methodist Univ.
julia@smu.edu

Spread the Word
Melanie A. Blau-McDonald
Southwest Ohio and Neighboring Libraries Consortium
melanie@swonlibraries.org

State and Local Documents Spotlight
Dan Stanton
Arizona State University
danton@asu.edu

DttP

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About the Cover:
In honor of the Senate passing the 19th amendment June 4, 1919.

"Suffragists" march in October 1917, displaying place cards containing the signatures of over one million New York women demanding the vote."

Editor's Corner

Welcome to Summer

Greg Curtis

Welcome to the summer issue of *DttP*. I think we have an interesting issue for you this time. More on the features in a bit, but, first, we have some new names on the masthead, so introductions are appropriate.

Welcome to Dan Stanton as the new State and Local columnist. As many of you may know, Dan is with Arizona State University. He may be reached at danton@asu.edu.

Welcome, also, to our new advertising editor Gretchen Gould. Gretchen is with the Rod Library at the University of Northern Iowa. Gretchen may be reached at gretchen.gould@uni.edu. We are very lucky and thankful to have both on board. They bring a wealth of experience and enthusiasm to their roles.

With this issue we continue the series of articles on promoting electronic government documents by Scott Casper. If you missed the first part of Scott's series, it appeared in the spring issue. We continue with a feature on documents making the news stream. We often say that government information impacts all citizens and Sims Kline's reviews of *New York Times* news articles demonstrates this. We conclude our feature articles this time with Marsha West's piece on classified information, information policy, and WikiLeaks. The issue concludes with a review of *Homesteading on the Pajarito Plateau, 1887–1942*—a discussion of the changes occurring in northern New Mexico in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century.

It's time once again to think about the student papers issue. As many readers know, we have a tradition of presenting the best student papers submitted from graduate library and information science students on the topic of government related information. We are continuing the student issue this year and the best papers will appear in the winter issue of DttP. Requirements and how to submit may be found in the advertisement in this issue. Please consider contacting those you know in graduate programs and encourage them to start working on a topic.

I hope you enjoy the summer weather while reading the summer issue.

Greg Curtis
dttp.editor@gmail.com

ERIC, and NBII and NTIS, oh my! Thoughts on open access for Canada and the United States

Barbara Miller

In January at ALA's Midwinter meeting, many units of ALA were concerned about the ongoing and escalating problems with open access in Canada. As many of you know, Canada has recently engaged in open access initiatives such as the creation of Pub Med Central Canada, which has joined with the United States National Institutes of Health in providing open access databases for federal agency-sponsored research formerly only accessed through private journals. However, several recent Canadian government initiatives have worked in the opposite direction. Canadian government agency websites are disappearing at an alarming rate, and one source indicated the ultimate goal was to reduce to only six sites. The reduction was described as "an economy move." Further, it was declared that materials would only remain online for two years, with no mention of archiving. Although several libraries have recently connected to the LOCKSS system, the ability to archive agencies' electronic materials has been severely curtailed. In addition, federal librarians are being restricted in their ability to connect with other libraries, and statements were made by government officials discouraging their participation in professional meetings—even on their own time—thus further reducing their ability to get information out.

At Midwinter, GODORT worked on a resolution asking responsible Canadian government agencies for restoration of possibly lost Canadian depository materials (we have about forty Canadian depositories in this country) and about considering of the economic impact that loss of access to Canadian government materials could have on the economy of the US border states that depend on nearby Canadian communities for commerce, and so on. During this process, GODORT garnered the support of the ALA International Relations Committee (IRC) and approached the Committee on Legislation. In the end, because of government protocol, it was decided to send a letter from ALA's Washington Office to the Canadian Library Association (CLA) and to key US government agencies instead of issuing a resolution. This is being done, and the IRC is working on further action as we speak. The Federal Librarians Round Table (FAFLRT) is also following Canadian developments closely, as many federal libraries in the United States are facing loss of staff and hours due to sequestration. GODORT has offered to work with these groups toward common goals with open access for Canadian government information.

Many librarians are viewing this Canadian debacle as concerned citizens viewing problems in another country, removed from US concerns. But, Canada is not a police state. It has long followed the US lead in encouraging open access. And it partners with the United States on initiatives such as the aforementioned PubMed Central consortium. How did this happen to Canadian open access, and more importantly, can it happen here in the United States? You bet! It can happen, and it is happening.

The US Congress created a boon to open access by making it mandatory by law that all articles funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) dollars, American tax payer money, be released into an open access database, PubMed Central, after they had appeared in costly private academic journals. It was a hard fight and Congress resisted several attempts by publisher lobbyists to reverse the decision. As mentioned, PubMed Central is now an international consortium joined by PubMed Central Canada and Pub Med Central Great Britain. Building on this open access initiative, the Obama administration issued an executive order to create open access to articles funded by National Science Foundation (NSF) and several other large government agencies with extramural funding over $100 million per year. Again, great progress in open access, although Congress will still have to pass this as a law to prevent it disappearing in a new administration. So far, this progress was a similar progression to Canada. In the meantime, over the last several years we have seen many more databases made available open access on government websites. Witness the Department of Energy databases, the many CDC databases, National Centers for Health and Education Statistics, NASS, and the Government Printing Office's FDSys, which the GPO has recently confirmed it will keep open access. In spite of recession-related budget cuts, US agency open access initiatives seemed to be proliferating, and librarians and their patrons have taken advantage of easy access to millions of articles formerly available only in costly databases or microfiche sets many could not afford. The more people who see the research the faster scientific research advances.

Then what happened? Sequestration! How ironic that, at the same time the United States is realizing more open access to the national and international community with PubMed Central, federal agencies and Congress are taking down more and more databases. First, the *US Statistical Abstract* disappeared, fortunately Proquest/Bernan took it over. Then the National Biological Information Infrastructure (NBII) database, a complex amalgam of several databases from several government and private sources, disappeared so fast that no one, not even the complex University of North Texas digitization concern, could archive it all. During Midwinter, GODORT's Federal Documents Task Force organized a subcommittee to work on requesting development of a protocol for decommissioning databases, so that more databases such as the *Statistical Abstract* and the NBII would not be suddenly removed from agency websites without sufficient time to archive. While this committee has been engaged, GODORT asked the Washington Office to keep track of any huge cuts in federal agencies that might result in a database shutdown, to give us a longer warning before any more databases come tumbling down. They have not found any likely suspects as yet. But guess what? While we are working on the protocol request, the government now has a new way to tango. While we worry about severe agency cuts due to *sequestration*, which by current definition means freezing or taking away assets due to insufficient funding, we are suddenly facing database shutdown for another reason—another definition of *sequestration,* meaning to separate or hide from view (think jury sequestration). These databases, such as ERIC, and now the NTIS Technical Reports database, with millions of titles, have been taken away by congressional action and separated from US taxpayers, due to "possible leakage of confidential information." In other words, these databases will be "hidden from view" or unconnected to the public, until such time as "someone" can go through all the titles and verify whether there is a security breach in the information contained therein. And just how long would it take an army of researchers to go through the millions of reports included in these datasets? And, I might add that many of these titles have already been available for decades, so what difference would a supposed "breach of security" make at this point? And where would this army of researchers come from, given that the various government agencies are reducing staff in droves due to budget cuts driven by the "other" definition of *sequestration*? Obviously this could not happen in our lifetime. But we can fight the fight in our lifetime; we have done it before.

Many of us remember the knee-jerk reaction of the Environmental Protection Agency, in the post-9/11 atmosphere, who announced they would close all their libraries in wake of budget cuts and security reasons. GODORT worked very hard to get them to "see the light" of making all federal libraries stay open and provide open access and thankfully many of the libraries (though sadly not all) were restored. Many other websites that were taken down during this period have been restored and then some, with ALA members leading the fight for restoration. Are we now back where we started after 9/11? At the time I remember creating a thirty-page document listing all the material disappearing in the name of "national security." Will we face this again? While our "conflicts" overseas seem to be winding down, the government seems to be restoring the post- 9/11 "national security" lingo as an excuse to cut valuable material and separate it from the American public. It is critically important that we step in now to fight the open access wars on all fronts. We fought hard post 9/11 and had a great deal of success. The time is now to fight again, and I invite all interested ALA units to join with us. We will not become complacent. Let's remember to keep up with watchdog sites such as FAS Secrecy News and Openthegovernment.org, and to fight the fight for open access for the United States AND Canada. The time is NOW.

State and Local Documents Spotlight

Preservation of IGO Documents in a Digital Environment

Dan Stanton

As we all know, intellectual access is one of the hallmarks of librarianship. We organize and provide access to information about information so that users can evaluate the utility of making the effort to actually examine the material. No library can have everything, but the ability to search and identify useful materials from afar makes the quest infinitely more manageable. If a publication sits on the shelf uncataloged, does it make a sound? In government documents circles this issue is a constant source of concern and significant attention is given to pre-1976 federal publications; already in existence, but unknown or unknowable unless physically stumbled upon. There is also the issue of fugitive documents, those current or recent publications released into the wild with little or no concern for the long-term value or greater good that comes through processing the material through the FDLP. For state and local government documents, the information is just as valuable, but dedicated systems approaching the levels of the FDLP, are rare or non-existent. In fact, I have heard it said that at the local level, all government documents are fugitive. Oh, Madison!

At Arizona State University (ASU), our state and local documents collections (AZDOCS) are fully cataloged, and had been since before I came on board in 2000. When I started as the Arizona local documents librarian, I visited county seats, city halls, and other jurisdictional offices around Arizona soliciting publications. As time went on, it became obvious to me that what we were providing was an important and unique service; we often had more documents than the agencies themselves. It also became obvious that I actually had one of the easiest parts of the whole process—get stuff and bring it back to our library. Left to me, our collection would be nothing more than a bigger version of what I had seen in local public libraries—great information, if you were lucky enough to stumble across the uncataloged publications in a vertical file, a degree or two beyond "scattered." We *had* the material, yes; but the real value was making it easy for people to discover what we had. Fortunately, the ASU Libraries saw the value in this, supporting both the acquisition and cataloging of state and local Arizona documents.

In the beginning (at least as far back as I can find info —1977) there was KWOC. KWOC stands for Key Word Out of Context, a method of indexing by alphabetically listing keywords pulled out of the title. This indexing system was applied to the nascent Arizona documents collection, while the shelving system was through call numbers based on provenance. State agency call numbers reflected agency names, while local call numbers all began with "X" followed by code for the level of government. This was how things operated for the next ten years.

As library technology began to take off in 1987, Carl Cross, an experienced cataloger, was assigned to the AZDOCS. Within a year ASU was awarded Library Services and Construction Act (LCSA) funds so that ASU, the University of Arizona, Northern Arizona University, and the state library could catalog retrospective holdings of Arizona documents for inclusion in the OCLC database. At this point there were only approximately 500 Arizona Documents with usable records from our own catalog from other library locations. There were also very few records available for copy cataloging, and those required editing to meet ASU's standards. The rest of the materials required original cataloging. Out of this process, new procedures for AZDOCS classification began to be developed, with a finished manual published in 1993.[1]

Over the years, there have been some adjustments (Carl now recommends using the LC Cutter table for unlimited expansion, for instance), but Carl has been *the* person responsible for original cataloging of our Arizona Documents. Through the serial title changes and agency name changes, Carl has been there performing the meticulous authority work that allows each item to be distinguished from and/or related to every other item in the Arizona Documents collection. I have assisted researchers from far and wide who have come to our library to use our Arizona Docs collection, and who knows how many more items have been copied or lent to other libraries through interlibrary loan.

Currently there are close to 20,000 records identifying material in the Arizona Documents location. Of these, nearly 19,000 are print and nearly 2,000 are electronic (with some overlap), and about 16,000 are monographs and 3,650 are serial titles. We've got maps, videos, graphics, and even a score! And all of these, aside from continuing serials, were worked on by Carl at one time or another. In addition, he has shared his expertise with others to the benefit of all. In 1996, he worked on a project to catalog state documents for the state library, and in March 2013 he finished cataloging 456 digitized Open-file Reports from the Arizona Geological Survey (repository.azgs.az.gov/facets/results/og%3A103), making these reports available from the ASU Libraries' online catalog. In addition, Carl has been a driving force in our continuing quest to bring our Arizona Documents collection completely into the electronic

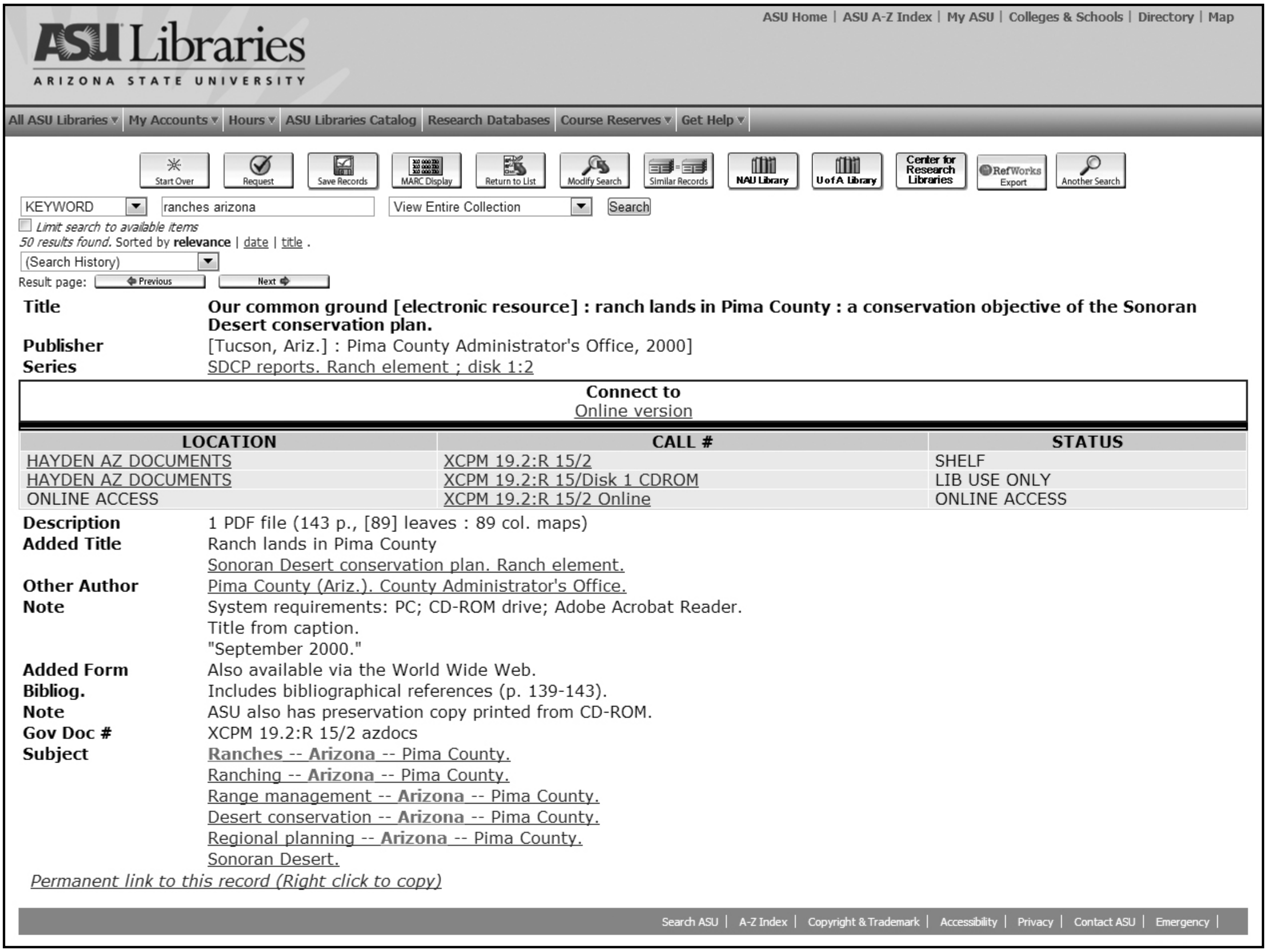

Figure 1. Catalog access to support locating Local and State publications.

age. Our desire to maintain the comprehensive level of collection has unfortunately not been matched by our ability to store and access born digital documents, until now. The State and Local Arizona Documents (SALAD) project (repository.asu.edu/collections/16) is just coming online after years of false starts and setbacks, and once again Carl is at the forefront of making it work, adjusting his cataloging process, troubleshooting, and making revisions in the workflow until we, at last, have a product that does what we need it to do, discoverability through the ASU Libraries online catalog, and accessibility through the ASU Libraries Digital Repository.

In conclusion, I would like to show an example (Figure 1) of the level of cataloging that the ASU Libraries, through Carl, has supported. This screenshot is part of what Carl identified as one of his most challenging collections, the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan (www.pima.gov/cmo/sdcp/). While we first began getting these documents in print, the project quickly switched to electronic and we received ten different series issued on thirty compact discs. Through his work, hundreds of incredible documents related to the history, culture, flora, fauna, and future of this unique area were made available to researchers and libraries around the world.

Again, in some ways the "getting" is the easy part. The value is in the intellectual access. Thank you to Carl and to other catalogers who make this valuable information accessible. And thank you to the Arizona State University Libraries and other institutions that continue to support state and local documents collections.

Reference

1. Elsa Black, and Carl Cross, *Arizona Documents Classification System* (Phoenix, Ariz. : Arizona Dept. of Library, Archives and Public Records, 1993), tinyurl.com/arbtmbp.

Federal Documents Focus

Document Librarians Tour of Chicago

Rebecca Hyde and Lucia Orlando

Chicago is a city rich with culture and history. In honor of ALA Annual, this column highlights a few places with a connection to government information in and around downtown Chicago. These landmarks house federal government offices, can claim a place in political history, or mark the location of events that helped spark changes in federal government policy and law. They all are within walking distance of the GODORT hotel (Sheraton Chicago Hotel), or are easily accessible by public transportation. There is so much of interest to see in Chicago, but maybe a few of these will help you travel off the beaten path and infuse a little bit of government related history into your stay. We've created a public **Google Map** as a companion to this column at bit.ly/16sch3s. On it you will find all the sites mentioned, plus some landmarks like the GODORT hotel and the convention center. None of these locations are in "bad areas" of town, but please remember to use common sense and listen to your instincts. Take a friend along and don't walk anywhere you feel uncomfortable, especially at night.

While everyone else is out wandering the shops along the Magnificent Mile, take a moment to head west along the Chicago Riverwalk to the **Clark Street Bridge**. The bridge marks the location of the **Lager Beer Riot** of 1903, which is credited with changing the political landscape of the city. The unrest began after protesters of German and Irish descent rallied against efforts by the anti-immigrant mayor and city council to dramatically increase the cost of liquor licenses and curtail beer sales on Sundays. A crowd of protesters mobilized in an attempt to free a number of pub owners on trial for ignoring the ban. The mayor ordered the Clark Street drawbridge raised until the city's police force was in place. He subsequently authorized the police to attack the rioters, which quickly ended the protest and resulted in one death and sixty arrests. The event galvanized the immigrant population to participate in city politics and resulted in the mayor and city council members' landslide defeat in the next round of elections (bit.ly/WEBndK).

The Clark Street Bridge is only a ten minute walk along the Riverwalk from the site of the 1860 Republican Nominating Convention. On southeast corner of Lake Street and Wacker Drive you'll find the site of **The Wigwam**, where Abraham Lincoln was nominated for President. The Wigwam was built as a temporary meeting structure in 1860. Two stories tall with enough room for 12,000 people, it served as the location for many other political meetings during the early 1860s before it was turned into retail space and eventually torn down sometime in the late 1860s (bit.ly/ZIjdnW). Look for the Commission on Chicago Landmarks plaque marking the location, which was designated a City of Chicago Landmark in 2002 (bit.ly/ZKu6I7).

Just a short ten minute walk away, on Des Plaines Street between Lake and Randolph you'll find the **Haymarket Memorial**, a sculpture commemorating the Haymarket Riots that took place near this site on May 4, 1886, as part of nationwide wide labor protests in support of the eight-hour work day. Although the meeting started peacefully, a bomb thrown into a crowd of policemen sparked off violence that eventually ended in the trial and execution of four protest leaders, despite insufficient evidence for conviction. These events helped to inspire the celebration of International Workers Day or "May Day" on May 1 (bit.ly/151iJLj). The site was designated a Chicago Landmark in 1991(bit.ly/15MHexS) and the city erected a statue in honor of the workers in 2004 (bit.ly/12Tti7E). For those GODORT members who are also beer enthusiasts, head a block further west on Randolph for a drink at the **Haymarket Pub & Brewery**, 737 W. Randolph (bit.ly/YnHz7k), to celebrate the eight-hour work day.

The **Old Courthouse** at 54 West Hubbard Street is just a fifteen minute walk from the GODORT hotel. The grand old building is a state historic landmark that presently houses law offices. In the summer of 1924 it played host to another famous event: the Leopold and Loeb murder trial. The story of two highly educated young men from wealthy families who set out to achieve the perfect murder riveted the nation. Their defense attorney Clarence Darrow captivated the attention of the public by relying on expert testimony of psychiatrists, which helped introduce ordinary citizens to the concept of abnormal psychology (bit.ly/13SCUPN).

On your way back to Michigan Avenue, take a minute to find the former location of the jazz club **Bert Kelly's Stables** at 437 Rush Street, one block west of Michigan Avenue. This prohibition era club was known for great jazz and illicit alcohol, and was reputed to be a favorite hangout of John Dillinger (bit.ly/Yqh1za). The building is presently home to **Phil Stefani's Steakhouse**. Stop in for a drink or just admire the woodwork of the original bar that is still used to serve up interesting beverages (bit.ly/Wlh8zm).

After you've visited Dillinger's favorite hangout, stop by **The Everett M. Dirksen Federal Building and Courthouse** at 219 South Dearborn Street, home to the Chicago's FBI field office from 1964 to 2006 (1.usa.gov/13VSLgs). Completed in 1964, the Dirksen Building is part of a trio of federal buildings designed and built by minimalist architect Mies van der Rohe in downtown Chicago to consolidate over thirty federal agency offices from various locations across the city (1.usa.gov/YaPdj9). Inside, you'll find **The Courthouse Café** is a great place to stop for breakfast or lunch during the week (1.usa.gov/Y9C7pj). WiFi is free, and so is the side of history. (Menu from Chicago Menupages: bit.ly/Zmy1Zr.)

If you love monetary policy and beautiful buildings then consider going out of your way to visit the **Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago**. The building is located at 230 South LaSalle Street in the financial district, which is about fifteen minutes by bus or thirty minutes on foot from the GODORT hotel. The building was originally constructed in 1922 by Graham, Anderson, Probst and White (bit.ly/ZxNBjl). The firm also designed other iconic Chicago buildings like the Merchandise Mart and Wrigley building (bit.ly/13UmaHJ). The massive entrance is punctuated with five brass doors banded by six Corinthian columns that soar sixty-five feet up the edifice. The scale of the public entrance exudes wealth, power, and dignity and ensures the building's ability to hold its own architecturally with the surrounding private financial institutions.

If possible, try to visit the building on a weekday in order to tour the **Money Museum** located on the first floor. The museum is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. with guided tours offered at 1 p.m. or by prior appointment for groups (bit.ly/YYLIyy). Get in touch with your inner avarice while you view the Million Dollar Cube, have your picture taken with a suitcase full of one million dollars, and leave with a free bag of shredded dollar bills. Exhibits include a historical currency display of all monetary denominations circulated in the United States, as well as a counterfeit station that shows how to spot a fake along with details about the security features used in our printed currency. Of course, this is in addition to information about the functions and responsibilities of the Federal Reserve System. Don't despair if you can't attend in person, the museum also offers a virtual tour of the most popular exhibits on their website at bit.ly/12N9liY.

The most far-flung of our government-related tourist attractions is the former location of **The Chicago Coliseum**. The Coliseum stood for over eighty years at 1513 South Wabash and for the first couple decades of the twentieth century it was Chicago's largest meeting place. The Coliseum hosted every Republican National Convention between 1904 and 1920, plus the Progressive Party Convention that nominated Theodore Roosevelt in 1912 (bit.ly/XtXfcg). Although the Coliseum was torn down in 1982, it is remembered by the **Coliseum Park** just across the street from the original location. There are several public transportation options, including the #3 Michigan Ave. bus that will drop you off just a block from the park.

These landmarks just scratch the surface of what Chicago has to offer, but they give insight into Chicago's influence on our government and social policies. To learn more about historical and artistic sites in Chicago, including those with a government connection, the authors suggest browsing the Encyclopedia of Chicago (www.encyclopedia.chicagohistory.org). Stash this article in your tote bag and impress all your colleagues with your special documents librarian knowledge of the city during this year's ALA or any other time you visit the Windy City!

Classified Information Policy, Government Transparency, and WikiLeaks

Marsha West

Secrecy and the correct classification of government documents are essential to the operation of any government. For over fifty years, executive orders have been the primary mechanism through which government information is classified in the United States. Congress has enacted few, if any, federal statutes that outline how government information is created or shared. More often than not, Congress has been more than willing to leave classified information policy in the hands of the executive branch. In the past three years, leaked government cables from the rogue journalism web site WikiLeaks prove that there are serious security issues surrounding classified government information, as well as issues relating to the accurate classification of the information itself. When classified information standards are applied in inconsistent ways, national security within the government and the free flow of information to the American people is compromised.

Executive orders

Currently, the executive order that specifies national security classification is Executive Order 13526. However, executive orders that outlined national security classification policies began in the 1940s with the Franklin D. Roosevelt administration.[1] Since then, presidents have regularly issued executive orders that have modified national security classification standards used by executive agencies. The bulk of these executive orders have defined: who in the federal government can classify information; what levels of classification and which classification markings may be used (e.g., top secret, secret, or confidential); who can access classified information; and how and when classified information can be declassified.[1] Additionally, security classification is expensive. In 2010, the federal government spent over $10 billion dollars on government security classification costs.[2]

Federal statutes

Congress has also enacted statutes that standardize the creation, sharing, and criminalization for disclosing classified government information. In 1994, Congress enacted the Counterintelligence and Security Enhancement Act of 1994 that directs the president to abide by certain standards when creating classified information policies in executive orders.[3] In 2010, President Obama signed into law the Reducing Over-Classification Act. The main goal of this act was to promote information sharing with state, local, tribal, and private sector entities and to provide training and incentives to encourage accurate classification of information by federal employees.[4] One federal statute criminalizes the gathering and transmitting of defense information when the intention is to injure the United States or aid a foreign nation.[5] Another statute criminalizes the disclosure of classified information.[6]

How information gets released to the public

The primary means by which US citizens can request federal government information is through the federal Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Enacted in 1966, FOIA allows any person the right, enforceable in court, to obtain access to federal agency records. President Obama's administration has directed federal agencies to apply a presumption of openness in responding to FOIA requests. Additionally, the attorney general has called on agencies not to withhold information just because it technically falls within a FOIA exemption and has encouraged agencies to make discretionary releases of records.[7] Despite this new era of openness and government transparency, FOIA restricts access to classified government information authorized under Executive Order 13526 and defers to the declassification standards within the executive order.[8] Declassification is the process by which classified information becomes declassified. Executive Order 13526 outlined three methods in which classified information can become declassified: automatic declassification, systematic declassification, and mandatory declassification review.

Automatic declassification

Under Section 3.3 of Executive Order 13526, classified documents automatically become declassified after twenty-five years.[9] Yet, this does not mean that all classified information may be released after twenty-five years. An agency head may choose to exempt documents which may be automatically declassified if they fall within nine exceptions.[10] For example, if an agency head can prove that a classified document would reveal the identity of a confidential human source the document may stay classified.[11] Also, the director of the National Declassification Center may choose to delay automatic declassification for up to five additional years if the format of the classified information makes the review for possible declassification exemptions more difficult or costly.[12] Moreover, prior to automatic declassification, another agency may need to review the classified documents before they are released in case the classified documents fall within one of the nine exceptions.[13]

Under Section 3.3 of Executive Order 13526, agencies who wish to seek an exception from automatic declassification need to submit a request to the Information Security Oversight Office director at least one year before the classified documents are subject to automatic declassification.[14] If the director approves the request, the classified documents may stay classified for fifty years from the original date it became classified.[15] The agency also has the option of classifying documents up to seventy-five years from the date it became classified under extraordinary circumstances.[16]

Systematic declassification

Systematic declassification refers to the review for declassification of classified information contained in records that have been determined by the Archivist of the United States to have permanent historical value.[17] If an agency seeks to exempt classified information, it must submit a request to the director of the Information Security Oversight Office and the Interagency Security Classification Appeals Panel will adjudicate the request.[18] If the Interagency Security Classification Appeals Panel approves the request, the information may remain classified for fifty years.[18]

Mandatory declassification review

Mandatory declassification review, specified in Section 3.5 of Executive Order 13526, sets forth standards in which a classified document may become declassified when a specific request for the classified documents is made. First, the requester must describe the classified document with sufficient specificity to enable the agency to locate it with a reasonable amount of effort.[19] The information being requested also cannot be exempted from search, review, publication, and disclosure under the federal Freedom of Information Act or the subject of pending litigation.[20] Information that was originated by the incumbent president or the incumbent vice president; the incumbent president's White House staff or the incumbent vice president's staff; committees, commissions, or boards appointed by the incumbent president; or other entities within the Executive Office of the president that solely advise and assist the incumbent president is also exempt under Executive Order 13526.[21]

Interestingly, Executive Order 13526 allows tremendous discretion on the part of the Archivist of the United States and agency heads to develop procedures to process requests for the mandatory declassification review of classified information. Executive Order 13526, Section 3.5 (b) allows the Archivist to, ". . . review, downgrade, and declassify papers or records of former Presidents and Vice Presidents under the control of the Archivist pursuant to 44 U.S.C. 2107, 2111, 2111 note, or 2203."[22] It also allows agency heads to develop and administrative an appeals process for appealing a denial of a mandatory review request and for notifying the requester of the right to appeal a final agency decision.[23]

WikiLeaks and leaked "secret" cables

WikiLeaks, a controversial website founded by self-proclaimed Internet activist Julian Assange in 2006, has published thousands of secret documents. The web site supposedly received thousands of documents per day when it was in operation. Initially, WikiLeaks was treated as a mere nuisance until 2010 when army intelligence analyst Private Bradley Manning allegedly downloaded 260,000 US diplomatic cables and passed them onto WikiLeaks for publication.[24]

In 2010, prominent U.K. newspaper, *The Guardian*, released a Wikileaks cable that illustrates one of the overarching debates of the WikiLeaks scandal: national security versus government accountability and transparency. The cable is classified as

"CONFIDENTIAL" and describes how a US government contractor, DynCorp, paid for bachabazi parties with US government funds.[25] In the cable, Atmar, the Afghani interior minister, urges the US State Department to quash any reports of the bachabazi parties because he fears that lives will be endangered.[26] At bachabazi parties, young boys dress as girls and dance at weddings and private parties for men which eventually culminates in the boys being auctioned off to men who have sex with them.[27] According to the US State Department, bachabazi is a form of commercial prostitution and child sex trafficking.[28]

Over-classification and executive orders

One of the issues of using executive orders to define classified information policy is that more persons may have the power to classify documents than is truly necessary. For example, during the Clinton administration, President Clinton issued Executive Order 12958, which gave just twenty officials, including the president, the power to classify documents as top secret, meaning their disclosure would likely "cause exceptionally grave damage to the national security" of the United States.[29] But, the order also allowed those twenty selected officials to delegate their authority to 1,336 others.[30]

President Obama has tried to limit this sort of classification delegation with Executive Order 13526. The order states, "Delegations of original classification authority shall be limited to the minimum required to administer this order. Agency heads are responsible for ensuring that designated subordinate officials have a demonstrable and continuing need to exercise this authority."[31] Still, the executive order gives the agency heads incredible discretion regarding who may classify information.

Executive Order 13526 does appear to set up many safeguards or controls for the over-classification of information. It states that persons with classification authority must receive training in proper classification (including the avoidance of over-classification) and declassification at least once a calendar year.[32] The training has to include instruction on the proper safeguarding of classified information and on the sanctions in the executive order that may be brought against an individual who fails to classify information properly.[33] Overall, however, the classification of government documents appears to be left at the subjective opinion of the person reviewing the document. It is not apparent if any entity is actually auditing federal agencies to ensure that government officials are actually receiving the required once per year training.

Yet, the DynCorp leaked cable seriously calls into questions what types of communication are classified as top secret, secret, and confidential under executive orders. Executive Order 13526 states that information cannot be classified as confidential to, ". . . prevent embarrassment to a person, organization, or agency" or to, "conceal violations of law, inefficiency, or administrative error."[34] Yet, the DynCorp leaked cable suggests that the cable was classified as confidential precisely to protect Afgani politicians who attended bachabazi parties thrown by DynCorp. On its face, the information in the cable does not seem to pose a grave danger to national security.

Ways to prevent over-classification and improve security of government information

Elizabeth Goitein, who codirects the Liberty and National Security Program at the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University School of Law, and J. William Leonard, who was the director of the Information Security Oversight Office, suggests a three-pronged approach to ensure accountability and consistency in the current information classification system.[35]

First, classifiers need to be able to articulate why they are classifying government information. Goitein and Leonard note that e-mail and word processing programs on classified computer systems generally include drop-down menus that allow officials to classify documents.[36] These programs could easily be modified to include prompts that request basic information about the classification decision, including the national security harm that could result from disclosure. [37]

Secondly, agencies should conduct "spot audits" by selecting classifiers at random and reviewing samples of their decisions.[38] An office that operates independent of the agency should conduct the audits. [39] The auditors could use the classifiers' explanations but they should also have access to any agency information they deem necessary to evaluate those explanations.[40] Thirdly, there needs to be accountability for persons who continually classify data incorrectly.[41] A person who performed poorly on an audit needs to be subjected to a repeat audit—preferably ever six months.[42] If the person continues to improperly classify information, action needs to be taken beginning with remedial training with accompanying notes in the person's personnel file and culminating in revocation of the person's classification authority if they continue to classify documents incorrectly.[43]

OpenTheGovernment.org's position on government classification and security is that security measures could be greatly improved by heightening the security of computer information systems and physical areas that house computers with classified information.[44] OpenTheGovernment.org pointed out that the fact that Bradley Manning was able to walk out of a supposedly secure area with a trove of national security information on a CD is "unconscionable."[45] They also suggest that the government should ensure that, ". . .any security measures implemented are platform, issue and personnel neutral to the greatest extent possible. In other words, there should be no possibility for selective application for political purposes. If information or materials require the highest security, that security must apply in all situations."[46]

OpenTheGovernment.org also states that the government could reduce over-classification by pushing for a Fundamental Classification Guidance Review which is required by Executive Order 13526.[47] This section of the executive order requires every agency to review the original classification and to determine if the information should still be classified under the parameters of the current executive order.[48] The executive order also requires agency heads to send the classification guidance review to the director of the Information Security Oversight Office who will release the unclassified version of this report to the public.[33] OpenTheGovernment.org states that, "The disclosures on WikiLeaks prove that much of what the government says is classified is not much of a secret at all. This over-classified information clogs our systems and prevents us from protecting the real secrets nearly as well as we should."[49]

Conclusion

The Wikileaks scandal of 2010 helped bring information classification and the security of government information to the forefront of the Obama Administration's agenda to improve government transparency. The leaked classified cables illustrated that there needs to be additional measures and controls developed to guarantee that government information is being classified correctly and that government computers that contain classified information are secure. Goitein and Leonard provide insightful and reasonable auditing procedures that could be enacted to make sure that classifiers are properly trained and held accountable for their classification of information. The actual government computer systems and areas that house these systems obviously need to be protected also-as evidenced by the Bradley Manning incident. Reasonable precautions and procedures would ensure that government information can be shared within government agencies and with the American people to provide greater transparency that the Obama administration seeks for American citizens.

Marsha West, M.L.I.S., J.D., Law Library Intern, William Mitchell College of Law, west.marsha.j@gmail.com

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Promoting Electronic Government Documents

Part Two: Interconnection

Scott Casper

Government documents, at all levels, are moving to electronic or electronic-only at an ever-increasing rate. What is a librarian to do when the government documents are no longer physical books in hand to use in their own promotion anymore? This is the question I asked myself after having the pleasure and honor of being asked to speak about promoting electronic government documents at the University of Illinois at Springfield's conference, On The Front Lines: Engaging Our Communities. This is the second part of the presentation.

Though my perspective is from a public library, I have sought and gained input from several members of NIDL—Northeastern Illinois Depository Librarians—including academic and law librarians for their perspectives. But it does not really matter anymore what type of library one is from or whether a library is a depository for physical books anymore. The really important thing—the reason I felt this subject was so relevant for the conference—is that so much government information is online these days that the Internet has become one huge government depository. We are all depository librarians—some just with more legal obligations than others—simply by virtue of having a computer that can access the web.

Let us begin this time by reviewing what our starting goals were from part one. The Depository Library Council decided, back in 2006, on seven starting goals "for the library community and government information providers":

1. Respond to or anticipate US citizens' need for government information when and where it is needed by providing multiple access points to a network of experts.
2. Provide access to information in appropriate formats.
3. Ensure continuing access to digitally available government information.
4. Provide excellent training to deepen and expand knowledge of government information resources.
5. Provide high quality descriptive tools for access to all FDLP . . . publications, portals, and information products.
6. Enhance collaboration or coordination of effort among federal depository libraries, non-depository libraries, the GPO, agencies, and cultural memory organizations that deal with Internet resources.
7. Expand awareness of both the FDLP and government information generally via excellent public relations and marketing.[1]

Last time, we talked about LibGuides as a means of directing patrons to government documents. Even if not planning to make one's own LibGuide, one can always share preexisting ones that meet local needs. There are ways to share a LibGuide. One can link to them from one's website, link to them on a blog, or Tweet them. Of those three options, I am going to devote some time discussing the option of blogs. Though hypertext links can allow a librarian to link to government documents content from virtually any social media content provider, blogs arguably allow the greatest range of expression in promoting those links. And what one can do with a blog has expanded over time. Below are some examples of local NIDL library blogs and how they use interconnection.

The *Rinn Law Library Blog* from DePaul University is a really nice blog, particularly in terms of deliberately covering a broad range of federal, state, and local government issues. The librarian who works on this includes law school related events, legal issue in the news, legal research sources and tools, access to government information at all levels, and issues in legal education and the practice of law. The wide range of topics actually serves a purpose, as most hits to the blog come from Google searches for specific topics. The more topics one covers, the greater the number of hits from search engines will be.[2]

This is an example of adapting old practices to newer technology, as the blog grew out of a monthly newsletter the librarians used to do. It started out with four contributors, though right now it is down to one with other staff just suggesting topics. This blog has been around for several years now and the idea for it actually came from the director who looked for volunteers to get it up and run and maintain it. Writing a new post can take anywhere from two hours for a new story to six hours for one that really takes a lot of research. Daily posting has been impossible for a staff of one blogger because of the length of research time required.

That all begins to explain how to go about making a government documents blog, but despite all the work that such a blog requires, it is still only the minimum amount of effort on promotion, without interconnectivity. A blog, without interconnectivity, is like an uncharted island in a vast ocean, which can only be found by pure happenstance. The more obvious direction of interconnection is from *in* the blog to *out*, as is accomplished by hypertext linking away from the blog to elsewhere on the Internet, but blogs also interconnect from *out* to *in* via sharing. Again, this is an old practice adapted to newer technology. One can still share the old-fashioned way by recommending and showing a physical book to someone. One can share a website by printing out a page from it and handing it to a person. But, online, there are a slew of new tools for sharing, mainly through social media sites. The *Rinn Law Library Blog* alone can be shared via subscription to RSS feed, shared on Twitter, on Digg, and even Trackback makes it easier for anyone else to link to this blog. Bear in mind, though, that none of these were actually chosen by the blogger, but settled on by the IT person who set up the blog. During this discussion of sharing blog posts, bear in mind that this is something one may have to negotiate with one's own IT person, or department head, or whoever may actually get to make these decisions.

An even better example of interconnectivity is the Moraine Valley Community College blog.[3] There are eight ways to share blog posts listed on the blog—not dispersed around the page like on the *Rinn Law Library Blog*, either—but all grouped together in one row of icons. But giving others the ability to share one's blog is just the second step in promotion. Waiting for others to get around to linking to one's blog from outside the blog may not happen on its own. To take it one step further, one must link into the blog from outside the blog, using one's own social media. Moraine Valley Community College does this, linking to its own blog posts on its own Facebook and Twitter presences.

For the most part, I have wanted to stay away from adding government websites to this discussion, but I cannot resist mentioning the White House website. The White House gets this issue of online connectivity. Its main page lists nine ways of sharing posts, all in one box together.[4] Some of these ways of sharing are different from those used on both the DePaul blog and the Moraine Valley Community College blog so that, between the three sources named, there are no less than seventeen different ways to subscribe to or share government information online in total. The point of this mathematical exercise is not to stress the importance of being on top of the biggest trend in social media. The point is that, by broadening one's presence in social media, one will reach people who use this and not that, or people more likely to check their account here before their account there. Going back to the earlier simile of an unconnected blog being like an island in the ocean, one's goal should be to make sure the island is noticed by using interconnectivity to book as many cruise ships to the island as possible, or turn the surrounding waters into busy shipping lanes.

At the risk of stretching a simile to the breaking point, what if one books a bunch of cruise ships, but still no one takes the cruises? Interconnection is just the second step. A third step would be marketing one's own interconnectivity as a product to draw the attention of an audience.

The third and final library blog that will be looked at here is from the Illinois Institute of Technology. The blog in question is called "Gov Docs Guy," which is impossible to miss because this title is "stamped" onto every page of the blog, in what appears to be red ink.[5] Further, this "stamp" can be found on the same librarian's Twitter posts as well.[6] This is an excellent example of personal branding, "the process whereby people and their careers are marked as brands" and "success comes from self-packaging."[7] And consider this argument,

> "[O]ne approach to branding that can be given better articulation is identifying the library staff itself, our human dimension, as the library's brand. Indeed, the library staff could be thought of as a living brand because it is our personalized attention to information education that makes our service unique."[8]

Even those who are not government documents librarians, but perhaps work with these sources above and beyond what is required of them by their duties, could benefit from this branding; becoming known as the "gov docs person" in their library. At the least, it helps call attention to having (or knowing where to find) these sources. At best, it helps personalize a member of the library staff and promotes both the library *and* government documents.

It is time to review the starting goals again. What do these blog examples accomplish? Goal #1, responding to and anticipating local users' needs, is achieved by a blog, particularly the "responding to" part, given the blogger's ability to communicate directly back with users in the comments section. Goal #5, "high quality descriptive tools," certainly sounds like a blog. Surely a major goal accomplished is #7, as blogs "expand awareness of government information" via "excellent public relations and marketing" in the ways just discussed. This is about pushing a product, with electronic government documents being the product. Two other goals, though, require additional analysis.

Starting goal #2 is about providing information in "appropriate formats." To illustrate this, look back at the *Rinn Law Library Blog* and the February 2012 coverage of the topic of cameras in the courtrooms. A Google search on the subject of "cameras in Illinois courtrooms" turns up a list of hits starting with news sources like NBC and the *Chicago Sun Times*.[9] Indeed, this result is not that different from the February 6 blog entry that cites the *Chicago Tribune* as one of its sources.[10] But, back up to the February 1 entry on the same topic and the some of the sources cited include an Illinois Supreme Court press release and no less than three Supreme Court cases, all available online.[11] While newspaper articles can be informative, the government documents librarian can go one better and cite authoritative government sources. Better still, online government documents will always be freely accessible, never forcing a reader to deal with a maximum number of cite views, or whatever other restrictions newspapers will come up with online.

A starting goal that bugs this author about blogs, though, is #6, "enhancing collaboration or coordination of effort." At the risk of digressing into a personal rant, it seems that this is the most crucial use of a blog. Look anywhere else in the blogosphere and one sees bloggers conversing with each other, linking back and forth to each other's blogs. That is not happening locally with government documents bloggers, and this is one thing they can all do better. If one of these blogs cited above brings up a topic of value to one's own local patrons, draw their attention to it online. Start a conversation about it and how it applied to their situation, either in one's own social media presence, linking back, or on the blog itself. But, most importantly, no one should be shying away from discussing government documents with government documents bloggers, certainly not government documents librarians. There is no need to limit this discussion strictly to government documents librarian; no other type of librarian should perceive a territorial boundary here. There are no boundaries anymore. We are all government documents librarians now. Government documents can be the Rosetta Stone, if you will, that lets us all talk to each other equally.

Scott Casper, Government Documents Librarian, Poplar Creek Public Library, Streamwood, IL, scasper@poplarcreeklibrary.org.

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Announcing the 8th Annual Cover Contest

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Lead Editor Contact Information:

Greg Curtis
Lead Editor
207-581-1681
dttp.editor@gmail.com

Documents in the News

A Review of Articles in the New York Times

Sims D. Kline

Information consultant Peggy Garvin's comments on "The Government Domain: Government Documents in the News" recite a familiar litany:

> "According to a Congressional report . . . "
> "In an official statement released today . . . "
> "A new government report reveals . . . "
> "A major reform bill moving through Congress . . . "[1]

When a librarian receives a question from a patron who has read or heard these phrases in a news report and would like to obtain the text of the document itself, the information retrieval challenge begins in earnest. The scope and significance of US government documents in news reports is widely understood. What is not so well elaborated is how the publications are specifically referenced in news reports and significant implications and trends in linking this information to the primary sources.

For this study, articles published in the print national edition of the *New York Times*, March 1–March 31, 2012, were examined. All news stories referencing US government documents, reports, press releases, and statistical charts or graphs were reviewed. Quantitative and qualitative results were compiled, along with information obtained from interviews with a number of the reporters who wrote the stories. Comparisons with the hard copy and online editions of the newspaper were made, with particular reference to linked information sources.

Promotional efforts by documents librarians utilizing newsworthy publications to increase awareness of the importance of federal publications are also reviewed.

Quantitative results

From the 103 articles selected for this study, quantitative results were:

- 58 articles referenced a federal agency, official, press release, report, or document in either the first or second paragraph.
- 39 articles referenced a federal document.
- 38 articles carried a Washington, D.C. dateline.
- 34 articles quoted a statement made by a federal official.
- 23 articles included a chart or graph from a federal agency.
- 14 articles, in the online edition of the newspaper, had links to a federal document or federal website.
- 13 articles referenced monthly economic statistics released by various agencies.
- By comparison to other news stories, the articles were lengthy, ranging from sixteen to twenty-four column inches.
- Only two of the articles included the specific title of a federal document.
- For each day in the study period, with two exceptions, there were one or more articles referencing a federal agency, official, press release, report, or document.

A chronological listing of the articles is available on archive.org.[2]

Content review

Typically, the initial reference to federal information that was included in the first or second paragraph of the article mentioned a report released, a study published, or an announcement made.

The economic data reported were related to consumer prices, housing, factory orders, trade statistics, retail sales, gas prices, and unemployment benefits. Other topics were diverse, indicating the scope of federal information: retirement, marriage trends, gun control, fluoridation, global warming, civil liberties, student loans, drug safety, school bullying, hate groups, veterans, nuclear fallout, cyber security, wetlands, clean water, radon, and obesity.

There was a consistent lack of the kind of bibliographic information helpful for locating the primary sources referenced. Subject terms, rather than title words, were included. Also, descriptions referred to analyses, projections, and reports from various agencies such as the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Environmental Protection Agency, and the Energy Department.

In many instances, the reference to a federal document or statistical release is included toward the end of the article. In the article "In Bonds, Bull Market for Firms," the first paragraph begins obliquely: "The Advance Auto Parts executives said the timing was right."[3] The article is about the firm's issuing ten-year corporate bonds to expand. Later in the article, the statement is made that "in a recent survey, banks reported to the Federal Reserve that they held $41.6 billion in corporate bonds, with maturities of more than a year, less than half as much a year ago."[4] There is no reference to a document, press release, or other specific source from the Federal Reserve.

Sources listed for the charts and graphs in the articles were US Senate, Oil Price Information Service, Labor Department, National Park Service, Federal Reserve, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Commerce Department, Current Population Survey, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Congressional Budget Office, Energy Information Administration, and Census Bureau.

Print versus online edition

The New York Times Co. has moved vigorously into digital subscriptions to the online edition of the newspaper. According to figures the company released in March 2012, "paid digital subscribers to the Web site, e-reader and other digital editions of the *Times* and the *Herald Tribune*" were 509,000.[5] A Datamonitor report on the company points out that it "is transforming from a traditional newspaper company to multiplatform organization primarily by strengthening the digital business."[6] The significance of this transformation is reflected in web users: "NYTimes.com reached 32.4 million unique visitors in the U.S. and 44.8 million unique visitors worldwide."[7]

Readers of the online edition, on the nytimes.com website, have one clear advantage over hard copy readers: There are embedded links to federal agency descriptions as well as links to documents referenced in the stories. Surprisingly, however, the number of links is comparatively few, given the number of articles and sources cited in the study period. The HTML texts of the *Times* on Lexis-Nexis, ProQuest, and EbscoHost, frequently consulted by library users, do not include embedded links.

Among the documents linked directly from the online edition, identified in the study period, were:

- The Dover Port Mortuary Independent Review Subcommittee, Final Report. Defense Health Board, Department of Defense, February 2012.[8]
- Boren Opposes USDA Proposal to Suspend Loans to Rural Homeowners with Energy Leases. Press release, U.S. Congressman Dan Boren, March 19, 2012.[9]
- Global Water Security: Intelligence Community Assessment. Office of the Director of National Intelligence, February 2, 2012.[10]
- FTC Issues Final Commission Report on Protecting Consumer Privacy. Press release, Federal Trade Commission, March 26, 2012.[11]
- Recent Developments in the Labor Market, speech by Ben S. Bernake. Press release, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, March 26, 2012.[12]

Other documents with embedded links were data reporting releases from the Bureau of Economic Analysis; Office of Inspector General in the Department of Housing and Urban Development; Census Bureau; Bureau of Labor Statistics; Congressional Budget Office; and Employment and Training Administration, Department of Labor.

An interesting—and possibly helpful—anomaly arises from the way the embedded links in the online edition operate. For example, the story "Claims for Jobless Benefits Decline to a Four-Year Low," published on March 30, has a link in the online edition to a data release from the Employment and Training Administration of the Labor Department. However, when a user retrieves this article in the online edition and clicks on the embedded link "Labor Dept said," the latest release from the agency comes up, not the one that relates to the information in the story published in March.[13] The user, therefore, gets the latest statistics from an embedded link in an older story, and can then backtrack to earlier releases from the agency.

The comparatively few specific document links included in the articles for the study raise the question as to why not more links? A case in point of a "missed opportunity" for linked information is the article "Oil Drilling in the Gulf Rebounds As Prices Promote Exploration," published on March 5: "The Energy Department recently projected that gulf oil production would expand from its 2011 level of 1.3 million barrels a day, still nearly a quarter of total domestic production, to two million barrels a day by 2020."[14] There is no link to the Department's projection, but there are generic links to BP, offshore drilling, President Obama, and Mitt Romney.[15]

However, an entirely different—and far more substantial—linking to primary sources is available in what the *Times* describes as the "document reader." The most impressive example of embedded "document reader" links is found in a special series, "Drilling Down," by Ian Urbina, an investigative reporter for the newspaper. Danielle Brian, in a blog for POGO: Project on Government Oversight, describes the trail of linked, online information, all of which is available with embedded links in the articles by Urbina in the series:

> One of the strengths of the *NYT*'s series was not only the journalism itself, but also the fact that the paper provided an online document reader. Readers

> could go through thousands of pages of documents for themselves and see that the documents were collected through a variety of means: FOIA, press releases, state open records laws, good old-fashioned gumshoe searching through local government records, and leaks from insiders. Together, this mosaic of documents revealed a different story from what was being said publicly by industry and its largely weak-kneed government regulators.[16]

An instructive example of the linked online document viewer is found in an article published on February 26, 2012, just prior to the study period: "Regulation Lax as Gas Wells' Tainted Water Hits Rivers." This article by Urbina introduces the series and includes links to thousands of documents.[17] In another article in the "Drilling Down" series, "U.S. Rejects Environmental Reviews on Mortgages Linked to Drilling," from March 23, the online link leads the reader to seventy-six page document reader.[18]

The importance of links in new stories was underscored recently in a report released on November 15, 2012, by nRelate, with findings from a Harris Interactive online survey. Among the findings from "Behavior Shift: Getting Content in Front of Consumers": "76% of U.S. adults clicked on links to related stories for more information" and "62% first look for traditional news stories versus images, videos, blog posts, or any other type of related content."[19]

Interviews with reporters

Six reporters whose stories are included in the study period were contacted and arrangements made to conduct brief telephone interviews about the reporters' information gathering approaches and sources to the federal information significant in their reporting. All indicated that their editors encourage reporters to include links to referenced information in the online edition of the newspaper. Often, however, deadline pressures prevent the reporter from including links. In some instances, depending on the story, an editor will add a link prior to publication of the story. Clearly, the newspaper is determined to add value to its online edition with links to documents, videos, other stories, and external content.

Investigative reporter Urbina characterizes the "multimedia" and "document reader" elements of the online edition as a key development in the ways news is delivered. "We set out to build a three-dimensional story," Urbina says about his series on coal and gas drilling.[20] According to the reporters, what is emerging is that, in effect, each story in the digital edition of the newspaper ultimately will incorporate three key elements of the Web: hyperlinked information, multimedia content, and user feedback.

Floyd Norris, chief financial correspondent for the *Times*, has a regular column on Saturdays, called "Off the Charts." Norris says that he gets his data not only directly from federal websites but also from sources like Haver Analytics, an economic research firm.[21] The company website states that "Haver Analytics is the premier provider of time series data for the global strategy and research community . . . Haver Analytics maintains 200+ databases from over 1200 government and private sources."[22] In general, clients of this company are corporations, government agencies, other research firms, and news organizations.

Documents librarians and newsworthy documents

Documents librarians are keenly aware of the importance of newsworthy documents as well as the occasional difficulty for patrons of locating quickly the primary source referenced in the news media. To determine the extent of "documents in the news" as a promotional vehicle in libraries to increase awareness and use of federal publications, an inquiry was made on govdoc-l:

> Do you currently have a documents-in-the-news promotional approach to interest your users in U.S. government publications? If so, does your approach include displays of recent publications? Listings on your library's website? Electronic or hard-copy newsletters highlighting documents? Email alerts to specific individuals or departments? Other approaches? Feedback from users? If you do not have a documents-in-the news approach, did you have one previously? How was it set up and how did you use the approach? Feedback from users?[23]

Responses were received from librarians at Bowling Green University, College of William and Mary, Southern Illinois University, University of Montana, University of North Texas, University of Tennessee-Knoxville, University of Wisconsin-Madison, University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, and Washington State Library. Additional information was received from Columbia University, the University of Michigan, University of Missouri, and Samford University. At one time Columbia and Michigan maintained extensive current listings of documents in the news.

"Almost all of the Documents in the News sites that were available a few years ago seem to be gone now," Bobby Griffith at the University of North Texas Libraries reported.[24] This is a discouraging trend, but it may be the result of significant changes in the availability of government information on the Internet and users' information behavior.

At the University of Montana, Susanne Caro lists and provides links to newsworthy documents in a blog and on the library's website. A recent blog post on "Government News for Montana: Recently Published Government Information, sponsored by the Mansfield Library at the University of Montana, with support from Montana government information professionals" refers to "Alcohol and Obesity" and links users to a document published in November 2012 by the National Center for Health Statistics, "Calories Consumed from Alcoholic Beverages by U.S. Adults, 2007–2010."[25] The library's webpage "New Government Documents: Review of New Government Documents" recently linked users to publications from a Congressional subcommittee, a "Book of the Week" from NASA, and a 240-page document from the National Reconnaissance Office of the Department of Defense.[26]

An enterprising group of library science students at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, the "Government Info Student Interest Group" (GISIG), publishes blog and twitter announcements of their chosen "Doc o' the Day." Within their tumblr blog is a section "In the News." A recent post, headlined "Prevent Another Deepwater Horizon," links to a rulemaking entry on regulations.gov.[27] GISIG's blog banner declares: "Government Information Student Interest Group W-Madison, School of Library & Information Studies -- Because EVERY librarian is a gov info librarian!"[28]

Other promotional, regularly updated listings are: "Documents Headliners," University of Tennessee-Knoxville; "Documents in the News," Washington State Library; "Government Documents in the News," University of North Texas; "Featured New Documents," Southern Illinois University; "Government Documents" (blog), Samford University Library; and "Documents in the News" (hardcopy bulletin board), Bowling Green University.

Swem Library, College of William and Mary

Alan Zoellner, English subject librarian and government information librarian in the reference department at the Swem Library, College of William and Mary, is clearly the top blogger among librarians highlighting documents in the news. In August 2011 Zoellner posted his 10,000th entry for his series "New and Noteworthy."[29] The latest links to his blog are listed on the webpage for the Government Documents department of the Swem Library. As if this were not a sufficiently prodigious task, Zoellner has also developed a formidable category system with RSS feeds to alert users to relevant publications. More than 180 categories are provided for the user to select.[30] In addition, each week Zoellner sends an e-mail to other librarians at the College with a listing of documents he has identified that week as noteworthy. A recent e-mail included 33 entries, each with links to the primary source. The timeliness of these listings is impressive. Zoellner's November 16 e-mail listing, for example, links to a Congressional Research Service report released the same week.[31] His sources include not only a number of federal agency websites, which he visits regularly, but also other sources such as DocuTicker.

Further research

Initially, this study was planned to review 31 consecutive television news broadcasts on the "CBS Evening News" to determine the frequency and scope of federal documents referenced in the stories. However, the print versus online edition of the *New York Times*, given the more in-depth coverage and linked sources, provided a more workable and richer content database. Because most Americans get their news from sources such as network and cable television, digital magazines and newspapers, links in social media, and radio, it would be useful to know the extent to which these sources reference government documents and to what extent the primary sources are linked. For some time, the television news archive at Vanderbilt University was the main source for broadcast television research. The television archives at the University of Minnesota, the Internet Archive, and individual networks can also be accessed, although often at fairly high cost to the researcher, depending on the scope of the project. Some colleges and universities have subscriptions to these services, permitting affiliated individuals to have access more reasonably.

Conclusion

There continues to be a lively interest for "documents in the news." Even with the phenomenal array of online content now available, easily navigated links to the underlying sources of this information are only just emerging. Still, the persistent, painstaking work of librarians with a passion for expanded current awareness of government publications and the desire to connect users effectively with authoritative information will continue to be significant and worth the effort. The most successful documents librarianship, as with most of the other challenges facing librarians today, will be the expansion and enhancement of the synergy between information, technology, and the user.

Sims D. Kline, Research Librarian, Stetson University, skline@stetson.edu.

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Review

Homesteading on the Pajarito Plateau, 1887–1942. Judith Machen, Ellen McGehee, and Dorothy Hoard. (Cultural Resources Report No. 313) Los Alamos, NM. Los Alamos National Laboratory. 2012. vi, 122 p. : ill. ; 24 x 31 cm. [no SuDoc available] Free.

[Available from Los Alamos National Site Office, National Nuclear Security Administration, Dept. of Energy. 505-667-6819]

In 1942, a wartime US government decided to conduct part of its secret Manhattan Project on a lonely stretch of mesas in northern New Mexico. At the time, it paid the mostly Hispanic farmers, who had homesteaded on the sparse Pajarito Plateau, substantially less for their property than it did the few Anglo ranchers in the area. When the Department of Energy (DOE) created a compensation fund for the heirs of the homesteaders in 2004, the DOE also agreed to write a history of the homesteaders on the plateau. Machen, McGehee, and Hoard provided the descendants of those farmers with a chronicle of the Pajarito Plateau homesteads, the trials unique to homesteading in the arid West, and the changing nature of the world that surrounded the farms between the late 19th century and the Second World War.

The authors begin setting the scene by detailing the Homestead Act of 1862, the history of homesteading in the United States, and the drive to populate the western United States. While some homesteaders were Easterners who went West to claim their land, the majority of the families whose lives are recorded on the plateau were already residents of the area claiming parts of the plateau being used for grazing by the existing community. The second chapter deals with these differences in culture and in place, the traditional Spanish land use customs of the people residing on the plateau, and the unique challenges inherent in the landscape.

The book then goes on to discuss the interplay between the people and individual personalities, the harsh nature of the unforgiving terrain, and the community support structures the Hispanic families were able to maintain on the plateau. The development of roads, railroads, technological advancements, and economic opportunities is detailed along with descriptions of the actors, place, and even architecture. Individual entries for each of the homesteading families supported by Land Office records, accounts of forest rangers, letters, photographs, and oral histories succeed the more general history. The report ends with an ambiguous accounting of the accomplishments of the land project. Can the homesteading of the Pajarito Plateau be counted a success and if so, for whom?

This well-researched history highlights the hard-won successes, and sometimes well-fought failures, of a people who worked doggedly and adapted to surmount poor climate conditions, difficult terrain, occasionally ill-considered policy, and rapidly changing culture and technology. While the individual family narratives can be slow for a casual reader, the many maps and photographs provided and the fascinating nature of the times do much to hold one's attention. Residents of the area will also be pleased to note geographic locations based on modern landmarks. While it will be of particular interest to the people of the region and their descendants, anyone can gain a better understanding of the challenges of homesteading in the arid West from this report.

Andrea L. Wright,
Technology/Information
Resources Librarian,
University of South Alabama
Biomedical Library,
awright@southalabama.edu

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Greg Curtis
Lead Editor
207-581-1681
dttp.editor@gmail.com