

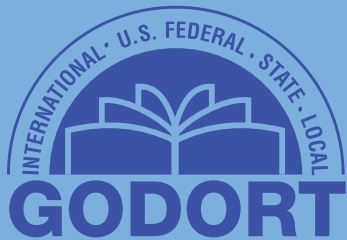
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- “Who are ‘We the People’?” Pilot Survey Investigating Government Information Professionals: A Conversation

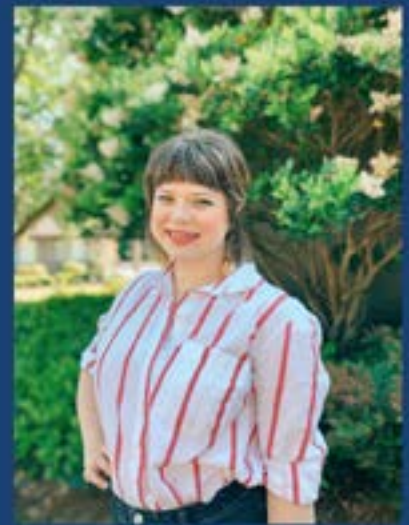
DttP

Documents to the People

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2020 GODORT AWARD WINNERS



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Documents to the People

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About the Cover: GODORT Award Winners—The winner of the 2020 ProQuest/GODORT/ALA "Documents to the People" Award is Jacquelyn Daniel, Reference and Government Documents Librarian at the Atlanta University Center Robert W. Woodruff Library. The 2020 W. David Rozkuszka Scholarship is awarded to Samantha Reardon of Atlanta, Georgia. Samantha is currently attending Valdosta State University working toward obtaining her master of library science. In addition to pursuing her education, she is employed at Kennesaw State University as the Government Documents and Monographs Associate. The 2020 Margaret T. Lane/Virginia F. Saunders Memorial Research Award is awarded to the authors of the article "Toward a Shared Agenda: Report on PEGI Project Activities for 2017–2019," published via the Educopia Institute website at <https://educopia.org/pegi-toward-a-shared-agenda/>. The authors are Dr. Martin Halbert, Roberta Sittel, Dr. Katherine Skinner, Deborah Caldwell, Marie Concannon, James R. Jacobs, Shari Laster, and Scott Matheson.

The coronavirus has disrupted one of the foundations of our democracy—voting. Several states delayed primaries during the shut-downs. Now states are expanding, or hindering, voting options so that citizens may vote safely during this pandemic. Pew Research polled registered voters and found that 63percent were uncomfortable voting in person because of the coronavirus outbreak.¹ Unfortunately how citizens can vote safely during this time is falling along partisan lines.

I live in Texas, and our law requires an excuse to vote absentee. These excuses include being away from your county on Election Day and during early voting, are sick or disabled, are 65 years of age or older, or are confined in jail, but eligible to vote.²

Texas' Republican Attorney General Ken Paxton is not in favor of mail-in voting and is fighting counties, individuals, and civil rights groups trying to expand absentee (mail-in) ballot options. Texas held primary elections early in March, but in some races there are run-off elections that were to be held in May, that are now postponed until July. Mail-in voting seems like an obvious solution to allow people to vote safely by avoiding the need for social distancing and cleaning of voting machines while voting in person. Some Texans thought Texas law would allow people fearing contracting the coronavirus as a reason to vote by mail. The Election Code defines "disability" to include "a sickness or physical condition that prevents the voter from appearing at the polling place on election day without a likelihood of needing personal assistance or of *injuring the voter's health*." (Sec. 82.002) (italics mine). In April, a state judge ruled that people could request a ballot by mail as fear of contracting a virus with no herd immunity or vaccine as a disability according to the Texas Election Code.³

Paxton's office issued a letter saying that fear of catching the virus did not qualify as a disability and a month later requested the Texas Supreme Court to order election officials in counties that were allowing the expanded mail-in voting to follow his interpretation of requirements for absentee voting.⁴ In May a federal district judge agreed that the state's failure to provide a safe option to vote by mail during the pandemic to voters under 65 violates the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment and the 26th Amendment's protections against voting restrictions that discriminate based on age. "One's right to vote should not be elusively based on the whims of nature," the justice wrote. "Citizens should have the option to choose voting by letter carrier versus voting with disease carriers." But days later

the Fifth Circuit Court temporarily blocked the expansion of voting by mail.⁵

Texas Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick also weighed in, saying "There is no reason—capital N, capital O—no reason that anyone under 65 should be able to say I am afraid to go vote. . . . This is a scam by the Democrats to steal the election."⁶ Patrick stressed that mail-in voting was more susceptible to fraud and added, "when you have an opportunity to steal a vote, the democrats will take advantage of it."⁷

This is deeply disturbing. Claiming they are trying to prevent voter fraud, republican government officials are not taking steps to protect the health of citizens trying to exercise their right to vote. Trump at a news conference in May said, "We don't want to have vote by mail," but then went on to say since he votes in Florida it was reasonable for him to vote by mail.⁸ Tweeting about California's move to mail-in ballots, Trump called mail-in voting "substantially fraudulent" and caused Twitter to apply a fact-check to his tweet, leading Trump to threaten social media companies with new regulations or shut-downs.⁹ The Republican Party sued California Governor Gavin Newsom alleging his executive order "deprives Californians of their constitutional right to vote by making fraudulent voting inevitable." This order was suspended by a California judge, but state lawmakers are advancing bills that would mandate what Newsom ordered for the upcoming election.¹⁰

Another safety issue concerns election workers. Most election workers who oversee the voting in person are usually retirees who fall under the CDC's "people who are at higher risk for severe illness."¹¹ The NCSL reported that more than 200,000 polling places and 600,000 poll workers operated on Election Day in 2018.¹²

The fight over mail-in voting is not just happening in Texas. When Michigan mailed out absentee voter applications in May, Trump (who originally thought they were mailing out ballots) threatened to cut federal funding to Michigan.¹³ In April, the Wisconsin legislature went before the Wisconsin Supreme Court who ruled to block Governor Tony Evers's executive order suspending in-person voting, causing election officials to have to prepare in-person polling places and protect voters and workers hours before balloting was scheduled to begin.¹⁴ The court ruled, "the question presented to this court is whether the Governor has the authority to suspend or rewrite state election laws. Although we recognize the extreme seriousness of the pandemic that this state is currently facing, we conclude

that he does not.”¹⁵ The confusion of how to vote led to another Wisconsin case going up to the US Supreme Court where the focus was on whether a district court should have intervened so close to the election to relax the deadline for casting absentee ballots. More voters requested absentee ballots and election officials needed time to count them. The district court allowed a deadline extension where mail-in ballots received by April 13 could still be counted, even if they were postmarked after the day of election, April 7. The Supreme Court held that courts should not alter election rules on the eve of an election. Justice Ginsberg, as part of the dissent wrote, “The Court’s suggestion that the current situation is not ‘substantially different’ from ‘an ordinary election’ boggles the mind.”¹⁶ Law professor Stephen Pershing said of this ruling, “the Supreme Court’s decision in *RNC v. DNC* is, to put it politely, paradoxical. It violated the Court’s professed non-intervention value in order to enforce it. And it required thousands of voters to risk their and their fellow citizens’ health in order to avoid complete disenfranchisement. In both respects the ruling effectively tainted an election in order to save it.”¹⁷

Some states have already have all-mail elections: Colorado, Hawaii, Oregon, Utah, and Washington have voting primarily conducted by mail. Other states have been able to move to mail-in elections. You can track those through BallotPedia—https://ballotpedia.org/All-mail_voting. Nevada held an all-mail election for their June primary in spite of court challenges.¹⁸ A federal court ruling blocked a South Carolina requirement that forced people who vote absentee to obtain a witness signature.¹⁹

Voting by mail does have issues. Jacqueline De Leon of the Native American Rights Fund noted that many homes on reservations have “not-traditional addresses” that the postal service does not deliver to, so they would be disenfranchised by an all vote by mail system. She went on to explain that rural post offices do not provide a decent substitute as PO boxes require a fee, are limited in number, and are often far from Native American communities. She did point out that Washington State came up with a solution to this problem that tribes may designate tribal buildings where tribal members may register, pick up, and drop off ballots.²⁰ The concept of “leakage” is another potential problem when voting by mail and was discussed by political science professor Charles Steward. He explained “leakage” has the potential to occur in between all the steps involved in voting by mail. Votes can be “lost” when voters request a ballot and do not receive one, ID validation is incorrect, and by not mailing the ballot.²¹

Much of this partisan bickering stems from the belief that mail-in voting favors particular demographics, yet research

shows voting by mail does not seem to favor one party over another.²²

Those states that attempted voting by mail are assessing their elections. The Wisconsin Election Commission’s report on the April 2020 election stated,

The April 7, 2020 election introduced countless challenges that Wisconsin clerks successfully overcame, enabling a record number of voters to cast their ballots through the absentee process. Moreover, the final election data conclusively indicates that the election did not produce an unusual number unreturned or rejected ballots. Despite the overwhelming success of absentee voting as a whole, the experiences leading up to Election Day were not trouble-free and illuminated several critical areas for improvement.²³

Maryland also had issues that need to be addressed before the November election and recommended a hybrid mail-in system.²⁴ These assessments only emphasize the need for states to spend the time before the November election on how to deal with these issues, rather than in courts fighting against safe and convenient voting. On a broader level, these battles between executive, legislative, and judicial branches are showing how partisan politics interferes with governance and citizen rights during a world-wide crisis.

I hope you are able to vote easily and safely. I understand that we need to follow laws to make sure elections are held legally and to get legitimate results, but this must be done in conjunction with safety. If you do have to choose between your safety and the safety of others, and exercising your right to vote, remember the officials who were not willing to find compromises to enable safe voting alternatives and vote accordingly.

For more info, see <https://electionlab.mit.edu/elections-and-covid-19>.

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From the Chair

Susanne Caro



Greetings members,

The last few months have been mentally and emotionally draining for many of us. The murder of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and too many others at the hands of police and the lynching of

Ahmaud Arbery has rocked the nation. Protests for justice are met with more police violence.

The Government Documents Round Table condemns the institutionalized violence, terror, and suppression of Black Americans and People of Color. We endorse the Black Caucus of the American Library Associations' Statement Condemning Increased Violence and Racism Towards Black Americans and People of Color (<https://www.bcala.org/statement-condemning-increased-violence-and-racism-towards-black-americans-and-people-of-color>).

I encourage members to take a focused look at systemic racism in our government and institutions at all levels. Ask yourself what can I do in the coming weeks, months and years to prevent injustice? Are you willing to tear down flawed structures to build a more equitable society? What in GODORT needs to be dismantled to make our organization more equitable, diverse, and inclusive?

As library professionals and government information specialists we provide our communities with the tools to reach representatives, access laws, and navigate the paths toward real change. We are especially well positioned to serve voters. The coming election promises to be contentious and fears of widespread disenfranchisement in November are well-founded. States formerly covered by the Voting Rights Act closed 1,688 polling places between 2012 and 2018. In Texas, fear of

contracting Covid-19 is not a valid reason to vote by mail. We know voting is how the People are heard, and change is realized, that is why GODORT supports voters rights.

Our 2020 ALA Annual Conference program Civic Duty? Libraries and the Disenfranchised—<https://godort.libguides.com/civicduty>—brought experts together to discuss major issues related to disenfranchisement and voter rights resources for libraries. This panel is the beginning of a longer, continuing conversation led by incoming GODORT Chair Lynda Kellam, Deborah Caldwell, and Kian Flynn. The Education Committee launched the Voting and Elections Toolkits—<https://godort.libguides.com/votingtoolkit>—a resource that provides important voter information for each state, and the District of Columbia. This tool for libraries includes registration and identification requirements, mail-in ballots, and other resources. Please share this resource with libraries in your state.

It has been a year of upheaval. As I step down as chair I am grateful for the work of our members, committees and volunteers. I am thankful for those who have stepped forward to serve in the coming year and I look forward to supporting your goals.

Susanne Caro (susanne.caro@ndsu.edu), Government Information Librarian

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Interview with Incoming GODORT Chair— Lynda Kellam

Favorite spot in Ithaca, New York

My favorite spot is my second floor porch looking out over the Fall Creek neighborhood. It is just a great place for people watching. I also love Ithaca Falls and Six Mile Creek. So much natural beauty here.

Favorite pastime/hobby

I am a big music fan so I guess my hobby is listening to music and collecting records. And yes I still have CDs. :) But my real hobby should be finishing my PhD. At least that is what my advisor would say.

Favorite TV shows

My favorite older shows are *X-Files* and *Community*. I also really like Hulu's *The Great* about Catherine the Great. I was a *Game of Thrones* fan but I disowned that last episode.

Favorite book

Kafka on the Shore by Murakami. I love magical realism and the imagery and story have always stayed with me.

Favorite Government Document

My favorite government document is probably the *Congressional Record*. It may seem dry, but as a historical document, it is priceless. I've used it since the 1990s when Bob Gaines at UNCG taught me how to use it for a paper on the normalization of relations with Vietnam. I've also used it for multiple projects for my PhD.

Favorite movies

No Man's Land. It is about the Bosnian War and its impact on three soldiers who get stuck in the middle. It is a smart film that deals with both the futility of that war and the international response and of war in general.

On your reading list now

I am currently reading *Arc of Justice* by Kevin Boyle. It was recommended to me when I was studying for my comprehensive exams in American history.

Music on your phone

Tons of it. I listen to many types of music. I just love music. I probably need more classical music.

Favorite drink

Bourbon sour.

Favorite type of food

All types (really). My favorite international cuisine is Mexican, but good Mexican food doesn't exist in Ithaca.

Favorite conference city

I love going to Chicago. Great food and always fun even when we got nineteen inches of snow one year!

Favorite vacation spot

I love the Outer Banks of NC. I miss going there and hope to get back soon.

Historical figure you'd like to meet

I would love to meet Ida B. Wells. As the key anti-lynching advocate, she traveled internationally to bring attention to the issue and the rights of African Americans. She was also an inspiring orator so I would love to see her in action.

Pet peeve

I can be annoyed by sarcasm or negativity mainly because I try to stop myself from going down that road. It can be a needless spiral sometimes and brings down creative efforts.

What inspires you about your job?

In my current position I am more involved in project management and being able to see a project from conception to closing is quite inspiring. I am also inspired by the work we are doing at CISER on the Freedom on the Move (<https://freedomonthe.move.org/>) database of runaway slave advertisements and other projects to promote data access and use.

Tales from the Trenches—Part 3

Here are more stories and tales as told by government information professionals as part of the “Who are ‘We the People?’” survey conducted by Kenya Flash and Dominique Hallett.

The ALA Government Documents Round Table in the 1970s lobbied for the inclusion of Congressional committee prints in the depository library program and their chair was hired by the Joint Committee on Printing and she used their arguments to convince Congress to provide them to the libraries and the public.

I put together a Martin Luther King event, collaborating with Indiana Humanities, in April of this year. I introduced our guest panel and many attendees to the resources available in govinfo regarding Dr. King, including the establishment of the King holiday. All were interested and had no idea the primary documents were available online. All were pleased and said they would use govinfo in the future.

When I started working in my college library in 1986, there was a gentleman who would regularly come into the library and use our print government information (data, I believe). Thirty-two years later, I’m a librarian in that library and the same gentleman still comes in to get that data by using our computers.

At a previous position in a depository library, we had a woman come in to use the USGS topographic maps. Her nephew had gone missing while hiking in the mountains in Colorado and she wanted to see what the terrain looked like and whether or not she could figure out the route he might have taken. Unfortunately, the story does not have a happy ending; her nephew’s body was found some time later. But that story has always underscored how important it is to provide access to government information in all formats as well as professionals that know how and where to find it.

A student came to my office door and said, “I need to see the Constitution. I suppose you have a copy of it.” My response was, “yes” and I showed him where it was. He was thrilled.

Years ago a WWII veteran spent a long summer afternoon with us poring through volumes of the *U.S. Army in World War II*.

He found just enough detail to follow his division and unit through their campaigns, and you could see his eyes well with tears at times as the memories flooded back. It was a powerful reminder that government information can be central to the lives we live, and not only in the context of citizens’ engagement.

I am brand new to government docs so I don’t have any favorite stories yet, but any time I’m able to help someone by using government information I do feel a sense of accomplishment.

One of our staff members started partnering with the special collections unit to bring government documents into their popular library instruction sessions. During one class with prospective first generation Native American students, she showed off an early Serial Set volume that dealt with the “Ghost Dance,” an outlawed Native American religion from the late 1800s. One of the students got very excited and shared a video of his grandfather actually doing a “Ghost Dance” in the 1960s. It was just a remarkable moment of recognition and connection between a student and a sometimes “dry” government document. It’s still a special story because everyone in the room could tell that a very significant connection had been made.

My favorite document was really my first. It was a volume of the *Medical and Surgical History of the War of Rebellion*. This one included a small envelope of scabs. The story is a bit long, the FBI and the CDC got involved. I ended up doing some research for the CDC. I loved the research, learning more about the government and as a result I went to school to become a librarian. It was my introduction to government information and I’ve never turned back. I also know more about smallpox than the average person.

This is ancient history at my previous employer, but a faculty researcher was looking for a specific piece of census data. He was unable to find it, but I was able to identify where in the Census Bureau the data was held and arranged for him to get the information.

When shifting our government documents collection with the help of the entire reference librarian staff, many librarians commented on how much awesome information they never knew existed was in the government documents collection.

I just like the unusual items the depository has, like a book written by Teddy Roosevelt about bear hunting.

Watching the eyes of students and scholars light up when you're able to show them every hearing, in print, of the House Committee on Un-American Activities... or a full printing of the *Congressional Record*.

No specific story, but because we have such a vast historical collection, we'll often showcase the older stuff. Five years ago about this time, I displayed the *Presidential Papers* of JFK, specifically his last speech before he was assassinated. That kind of brings history alive and we get lots of interesting comments.

There was a man looking for his brother's testimony in the *Congressional Record* about the Vietnam War. He had heard stories that his brother had testified before Congress. The depository libraries that he visited only had the Permanent Bound Edition and his brother's testimony was not in there. He had the citation but it was not included in the bound volume. Our library still has the daily edition of the CR. I was able to send the requestor a copy of his brother's testimony. It was only a few lines, so I guess it was deleted from the permanent edition. I cannot explain how elated this brother was to get this information. His brother was not just telling a tall tale about testifying before Congress, he actually did!

One day, not long after the 9/11 terror attack, Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Venom Response Team Captain Al Cruz came to the library requesting to see a book in our government document collection. The book is titled *Venomous Snakes of the Middle*

East (D 5.208/2:SN 1). He explained that he was asked by the US Southern Command to develop antivenin for our troops. Normally, government documents are room-use only, but we made an exception and lent him the book. He did return the book and he said it was invaluable.

For the Homecoming Parade in October 2018, my students took pictures of our Gov Docs collection and printed them out and used them to decorate our banner for the parade. I dressed up in an Uncle Sam costume and the Gov Docs students represented the library in the parade.

I found the posters and maps to be my favorite, there is one that is Space Force 2000 and it looks really neat with the astronaut.

There are many ways in which government information has helped people document changes. One that inspired me early in my career came about with helping a researcher who wished to document landform changes near Scranton, Pennsylvania. Being able to provide access to numerous editions of 7.5-minute topographic maps helped show the filling of a valley with waste rock and dirt from local coal mines and the subsequent development of the newly-flattened areas with schools and shopping centers.

Kenya Flash (kenya.flash@yale.edu), Political Science, Global Affairs & Government Information Librarian, Yale University, and **Dominique Hallett** (dhallett@astate.edu), Government Information and STEM Librarian, Arkansas State University.

Reviews

Marolda, Edward J., and R. Blake Dunnavent. 2015. *Combat at Close Quarters: Warfare on the Rivers and Canals of Vietnam*. Washington, DC: Department of the Navy. 82 pp. <http://purl.fdlp.gov/GPO/gpo58688>

The “Brown-Water Navy” in Vietnam gained fame by numerous books, such movies as *Apocalypse Now*, and the Presidential candidacy of Senator John Kerry, a “swift-boat” veteran. Commendably, this compact and lavishly illustrated history begins with an executive summary of riverine operations from the French Indochina War to the withdrawal of the United States Navy in the 1970’s. Subsequent chapters describe the major campaigns, milestone by milestone.

The Navy had conducted coastal and riverine warfare, yet arrived in Vietnam oddly unprepared in what we now call best practices. At first, the Navy adapted French naval tactics from the earlier conflict, establishing the River Patrol Force (RPF) to protect the sea route to Saigon (now Ho Chi Minh City). Later, the RPF interdicted war supplies and supported infantry assaults in the Mekong Delta and elsewhere, acting, as it were, as floating helicopters. River Patrol Force’s Operation Game Warden evolved into the Army-Navy Mobile Riverine Force and its wider-ranging Operation SEALORDS.

The iconic swift-boats arrived late in the conflict, and supplemented many older or retrofitted craft. The Navy updated its equipment, even anchoring ships and barges into floating bases for rest and refit. Throughout, sailors faced intense combat, exhausting tropical conditions, and underwater mines as ingenious and deadly as booby-traps on land. Each chapter alternates between

command-level decisions and hair-raising accounts of surface-level combat.

The concluding chapters recount the Vietnamization program as the Navy withdrew, and the budgetary circumstances that unraveled its hard-won successes. The authors conclude that the “Brown-Water Navy” sailors and commanders, notably Admiral Elmo Zumwalt, Jr., fought and functioned, for the most part, effectively. Much of the experience informed and supported successful operations on the Tigris and Euphrates rivers during the Iraq War.

This booklet is aimed at naval officers facing possible future riverine warfare. For general audiences, it is a bit heavy on military acronyms and other technical details, but still useful as an introduction to general histories or memoirs of naval combat in Vietnam.—*Carl Olson, Librarian at Towson University*

Whitby, Andrew. 2020. *The Sum of the People: How the Census has Shaped Nations, from the Ancient World to the Modern Age*. New York: Basic Books. 368 pp.

When I first received a gracious invitation to examine *The Sum of the People: How the Census has Shaped Nations, from the Ancient World to the Modern Age*, I have to admit I was a bit skeptical as to author Andrew Whitby’s intent to talk about the census as both a concept and an historical narrative spanning a timeline, as the subtitle indicates, “from the Ancient World to the Modern age.” Would the work be just another brief commentary on our current US 2020 Census, or would it digress into a study of enumeration as a tool used by statisticians to merely count human bodies

and their geographic location—lacking a human narrative or historic context?

I was pleasantly surprised to discover that Whitby’s efforts to discuss everything from King Ariantas—leader of the nomadic Scythians (who lived in Central Asia)—and his efforts to count the Scythian population by requesting members bring arrowheads to him to a spirited discussion of Palestinian census activities in the Israeli occupied areas of the West Bank and Gaza produce interesting narrative. Whitby’s identification of the Census as a “vast and intrepid undertaking. . . . To count is to have value, to matter” becomes a platform for a well-written, condensed version of the history of mankind.

In *The Sum of the People* prologue, Whitby acknowledges that he has selected mere snapshots of census activities through the ages, “tracing it backward from its present incarnation: an attempt to count everyone, everywhere.” Yet, it is Whitby’s up-front honesty with the reader that the story is a mere handful of thousands of census moments (some significant, many routine) that keeps the reader engaged, asking the question, “What interesting little bit of census knowledge will Whitby transform into an interesting history lesson that both teaches and entertains?”

While *The Sum of the People* chooses to emphasize many early US census strategies and events, it is the discussion of such significant historical census exercises as the Biblical census in Bethlehem where Jesus, Mary, and Joseph were counted; Hitler’s Third Reich and Arian Master Race census efforts prior to World War II; and the global census activities that took place in post-World War II Russia, China, and India that offer surprising

insight into the social, political, and economic climates of the time periods.

It is also one of the rare times when Whitby's annotated footnotes offer almost as much engaging content as the main narrative. For example, a footnote discussing how to count African Americans during an expanded 1890 US Census includes an excerpt from Kenneth Prewitt's *What is Your Race?: The Census and Our Flawed Efforts to Classify Americans* (Princeton, NJ: University Press, 2013) that could be an interesting parallel discussion in its own right to today's US 2020 Census citizenship question. The passage reads, "Be particularly

careful to distinguish between blacks, mulattoes, quadroons, and octoroons. The word 'black' should be used to describe those persons who have three-fourths or more black blood . . . and 'octoroon', those persons who have one-eighth or any trace of black blood. In fact, these fine-grained, pseudo-scientific categories proved useless for any purpose and were never tabulated." Again, it is at these moments that Whitby's narrative becomes a mini-world history textbook that reads like a well-crafted historical novel.

It is gratifying to know that *The Sum of the People* includes an index. That

feature, in my view, makes it required reading for world history, sociology, and economics courses starting at the secondary high school level into graduate studies curriculums at the college/university level. Even without the useful index, *The Sum of the People: How the Census has Shaped Nations, from the Ancient World to the Modern Age* is a comprehensive census history primer and really good read.—Tom Adamich, Professor and Technical Services/Reference Librarian, Monroe County Community College, Monroe, Michigan; President, Visiting Librarian Service

Reforming Crown Copyright in Canada

Amanda Wakaruk

The public domain status of US federal government works has been a point of envy for librarians working in Commonwealth countries for more than a century.¹ Absent of the constructed barriers of copyright controls, anyone is able to freely reproduce, share, and build upon US federal government publications. This results in greater distribution, and thus greater visibility and impact, for the expertise of federal employees including scientists, policy analysts, and statisticians. It also helps prevent copyright chill, which occurs when legitimate rights are not exercised due to a fear of infringement, real or imagined.²

Conversely, copyright controls over Canadian government publications were added to the *Copyright Act* of 1921, having been essentially ‘copied and pasted’ from language in the 1911 UK legislation.³ Section 12 provides the government with control over the re-use and distribution of government works, despite the fact that the production of such works does not require the economic incentivization that the Act was designed to provide. Furthermore, any necessary non-economic controls are now rendered via the *Access to Information Act*, enacted more than 30 years ago (in 1983), and the Treasury Board Secretariat *Policy on Communications and Federal Identity*.⁴

For the past 100 years, Canadians have had to ask for permission to re-use and distribute government works or risk facing a claim of copyright infringement. Even if we can ignore the fact that there are no morally compelling arguments for the government to profit off works paid for by the populace, we might at least reasonably expect that the administration of such controls would be in the public interest. Unfortunately, evidence to support this stance is lacking.

Prior to November 2013, the granting of permissions to use government publications was managed by a centralized service known as “Crown Copyright and Licensing” (CCL). The cessation of this service, and subsequent downloading of this function to federal ‘author’ agencies, was one of many cutbacks and closures that negatively affected access to government

information in Canada between 2010-2015.⁵ While far from acting as a preventative for copyright chill, CCL did provide a centralized point of contact for users. Its closure exacerbated confusion around Crown copyright, as staff in author agencies rarely received the necessary training and many requests were for materials produced by agencies that no longer existed (i.e., no ‘author’ was available to provide permissions). To make matters worse, web-based government content was being removed without comprehensive archiving and alternative access points. More egregiously, requests from librarians to capture and redistribute these materials via web-based platforms were often ignored and sometimes denied.⁶

Government information librarians and libraries outside of government agencies have been acting as stewards of government information in service to democratic nations for generations. In Canada, the mishandling of Crown copyright is preventing these efforts and potentially enabling an environment of censorship.

Evidence and arguments against the need for Crown copyright, as well as examples of the barriers created by the current regime in Canada, were collected and presented to the House of Commons as an official petition in October 2017, with almost 1,500 verified signatories (almost three times the required threshold for tabling in parliament).⁷ The petition asked that copyright controls be removed from government works made available to the public. The government responses to the petition cited concerns related to cost recovery as well as accuracy and quality.⁸ This is a confusing response for those familiar with copyright, as accuracy and quality are not included in the bundle of rights provided through copyright legislation. Furthermore, the very nature of cost recovery implies that such publications could be made available without barriers once the costs were recovered. The government responses, submitted in December 2017, also noted the upcoming statutory *Copyright Act* review, where parliamentarians would have an opportunity to review all provisions of the statute.

Copyright Act Review of 2018 / 2019

In March 2018, the House of Commons Standing Committee on Industry, Science and Technology began its scheduled review of the *Copyright Act*. The committee received written submissions and oral testimony from invited experts and interested members of the public on a wide range of issues. At least twenty-one of the 192 written submissions asked that Crown copyright be abolished or reformed. In addition, nineteen witnesses made statements or fielded questions from Members of Parliament about Crown copyright during the committee's proceedings.⁹

Multiple associations from the library and archival communities weighed in on the issue of Crown copyright as part of the review. Here are the related recommendations from the three largest of such organizations:

Canadian Federation of Library Associations (CFLA, formerly Canadian Library Association), <https://www.ourcommons.ca/Content/Committee/421/INDU/Brief/BR9921734/br-external/CanadianFederationOfLibraryAssociations-e.pdf>

Recommends that Parliament eliminate Crown copyright on all publicly accessible government works or make those works openly licensed by default and examine section 12 to clarify the need for Crown copyright in other government works.

Canadian Association of Research Libraries, <https://www.ourcommons.ca/Content/Committee/421/INDU/Brief/BR10003061/br-external/CanadianAssociationOfResearchLibraries-e.pdf>

Recommendation: Take steps towards the waiver or elimination of Crown copyright by consistently applying an open license regime to Crown material, or by amending the Act to effectively abolish Crown copyright.

Canadian Council of Archives, <https://www.ourcommons.ca/Content/Committee/421/INDU/Brief/BR10008890/br-external/CanadianCouncilOfArchives-e.pdf>

At a minimum, we recommend that the Act be amended immediately to establish that copyright in Crown works lasts for fifty years from date of creation, regardless of whether or not they are published. We further recommend that the federal government commission a comprehensive study that will identify the ways that Crown copyright is currently addressed by various levels of government, identify the many problematic issues, explore the solutions adopted by other countries, consult with stakeholders, and recommend appropriate measures that will transform this outdated provision into a measure that serves the public interest in the digital age.

There is no question that librarians and archivists played a major role in the proceedings related to Crown copyright, although not all were practising government information professionals. For example, Kelsey Merkle, a librarian by training but representing Creative Commons Canada testified that, "Canada should reform Crown copyright regime, because all Canadians should have the right to access and reuse, without restriction, work produced by their government. Canada should place these materials directly into the public domain at the time of publishing."¹⁰ Also, both Jean Dryden, copyright consultant and independent scholar and Nancy Merrelli, special copyright advisor to the Canadian Council of Archives, noted the long-standing demand for reform of this provision, dating back to at least the 1970s.¹¹

As with all things, timing can be important, and this seemed true on at least two points related to the *Copyright Act* review. First, the United States-Mexico-Canada trade agreement, which includes a chapter dealing with intellectual assets and copyright, was in the midst of heated negotiations (and later signed in November 2018). The trade agreement requires increased alignment on copyright provisions in Canada and the US, including the length of copyright terms (Canada will need to lengthen its term by 20 years to comply). However, there remains a radically different approach to the treatment of copyright in government works in the two countries, one that disadvantages Canadian government publications. While the real-world effects of this disconnect were noted by Wikimedia Canada during parliamentary proceedings and more broadly by both the Canadian Association of Research Libraries and the Canadian Association of Law Libraries in their written submissions, no mention of this incongruity was mentioned in the final parliamentary report.¹²

Secondly, parliamentarians and other interested parties working on the final report were writing in anticipation of a Supreme Court of Canada decision, *Keatley v. Teranet*, that would address Crown copyright as it relates to the transfer of ownership in land surveys submitted to the government. This would be the first time in the court's history to interpret section 12 of the Act. Unfortunately, the court decision was released *after* the parliamentary report as the latter was drafted with assumptions about the former, resulting in what appears to be contradictions in the report itself, as shown in these paragraphs leading up to the recommendation:

The *Keatley Surveying* case reveals that Crown copyright serves two distinct functions. The first function is to assert ownership over works prepared and published by or under the direction or control of

Canadian governments. The second function allows Canadian governments to disseminate works they do not own for policy purposes, sometimes through private-public partnerships, and without having to request the authorization to do so. Section 12 of the Act must therefore be reviewed with both functions in mind.

The rationale under which Canadian governments would exercise copyright over publicly funded works they prepare and publish in the public interest is questionable at best. The current web of licensing agreements, orders, policies, and standing practices certainly does not promote the dissemination of these essential works. Exercising copyright over governmental publications created in the public interest should be the exception rather than the rule.¹³

Committee Report No. 16 (Final report of the *Copyright Act* review of 2018/2019)

The report prepared by the lead parliamentary committee tasked with reviewing the *Copyright Act* was tabled on June 3, 2019. It clearly acknowledges that, on the issue of Crown copyright, “no witness supported its continuation, at least in its current form—a rare point of consensus.”¹⁴ In contrast to what parliament heard and summarized, however, the associated recommendation states that the Government of Canada should improve existing Crown copyright management practices by continuing to work with the current Open Government program. To date, this program has resulted in relatively few government publications receiving an open license and the assigned license is decidedly less open than the increasingly adopted Creative Commons attribution license.¹⁵

More confounding, however, was that the section of the recommendation related to legislative change sought only to protect the government itself from potential litigation:

That the Government of Canada introduce legislation amending the Copyright Act to provide that no Canadian government or person authorized by a Canadian government infringe copyright when committing an act, either:

- Under statutory authority; or
- For the purpose of national security, public safety, or public health.¹⁶

It is worth noting that no witness or brief submitted to the committee raised the need for increasing the protections

available to the government in this area. For those who have felt the chill of Crown copyright in the field, this extension of government control certainly seems to run counter to the final statement of this section of the report, “That the Crown exercise copyright protections that are reasonably in the public interest.”

Surprisingly, the parliamentarians’ commentary on Crown copyright did not end with the main section of the report. Appended to the report were dissenting and supplemental reports issued independently by the two main opposition parties in Canada at the time, the Conservative Party of Canada and the New Democratic Party, who are known to sit at opposite ends of the political spectrum on most issues. In this case, both reports asked for the abolishment of Crown copyright.¹⁷

Keatley v. Teranet 2019 SCC 432

The Supreme Court of Canada’s decision in *Keatley v. Teranet* was delivered on September 26, 2019.¹⁸ The court was unanimous in affirming that the copyright in the land surveys submitted to the government, in this case, belong to the government. While it is not the court’s role to question the assumptions upon which legislation is based, it is their role to interpret existing law and their treatment of section 12 bolsters the case for reform.¹⁹

The *Keatley v. Teranet* decision is unanimous but provides both majority and concurring opinions. That is, the highest court in Canada is split on how to interpret section 12, especially as it relates to the scope of Crown copyright. Specifically, there is disagreement about the criteria that should inform decisions about whether or not Crown copyright exists in a given work. The court also notes the antiquated nature of section 12, with the majority decision including the statement, “Parliament is of course free to consider updating the provision in its current review as it sees fit” (para 90). As noted by law professor Jeremy de Beer, “That language, combined with the Court’s quote about this legislative monstrosity, is about as blunt as judges can be about the need for statutory reform.”²⁰

Indeed, it seems reasonable that if the country’s top jurists cannot agree on the scope of Crown copyright then it is in the public interest for legislators to recraft this outdated legal provision. In short, the court decision supports a review and reform of the Crown copyright regime in Canada. And at least some parliamentarians agree.

Next Steps in Advancing Change in Crown Copyright

At the same time as the parliamentary report was being drafted in April 2019, a long-serving member of the committee and opposition Member of Parliament, Brian Masse, New

Democratic Party, attempted to elevate the Crown copyright issue by tabling Private Member's Bill C-440 in the House of Commons, which sought to effectively abolish Crown copyright. Bill C-440 was re-introduced to parliament in February 2020 as Bill C-209. Working together on a very short timeline, librarians and archivists representing three different national organizations participated in a press conference in support of Bill C-440, on Parliament Hill in Ottawa.²¹

While it is unsurprising that the 2019 Bill did not pass, it is interesting to note that the previous introduction of a Private Member's Bill seeking to abolish Crown copyright, in 1993, was tabled by former Minister of Justice Robert Kaplan while his party, the Liberal Party of Canada, sat in opposition.²² It seems that only the party in power, both today and historically, is reluctant to reform Crown copyright.

In response to the parliamentary report, the Copyright Committee of the Canadian Federation of Library Associations (CFLA) drafted a letter to federal ministers responsible for copyright in August 2019. The open letter was titled, "Next steps in advancing change in Crown copyright" and asked that the Government of Canada, "consider alternatives to the recommendation regarding Crown copyright that is proposed in the INDU [parliamentary] report." Specifically, the CFLA and eight other signatories recommended further study and the "implementation of appropriate amendments that will transform this outdated provision in a way that serves the public interest in the digital age."²³

In October 2019, Canadians re-elected the political party that led the 2018 / 2019 review of the *Copyright Act*. In December, the Liberal Party of Canada's leader, who also serves as Prime Minister, drafted mandate letters for their appointed Ministers. These letters encourage the Ministers of the Departments of Canadian Heritage and the (renamed) Department of Innovation, Science and Industry to work together to review the *Copyright Act*, language that implies an ongoing commitment to work started during the 2018 / 2019 review.²⁴

At the time of writing, a CFLA working group dedicated to Crown copyright reform continues to meet with government employees at federal ministries responsible for copyright administration. A long-overdue reappraisal of Crown copyright has been taking place in Canada because of the persistent efforts of copyright and government information professionals, frustrated and then bolstered by a case heard by Canada's highest court of appeal.

We are hopeful that permanent legislative change is forthcoming, so that the work of Canada's cultural memory stewards is no longer hampered or prevented by unnecessary copyright controls. It serves all librarians to remember that copyright

legislation is a mediating factor between creators and users and, as US librarians well know, it is also legislation that is subject to lobbying pressure and, at times, exploitive overreach. If there is a warning lesson to be learned from the work of Canadian librarians and archivists, it is to understand the value of and be ready to defend the public domain status of federal US government publications.

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Copyright Librarian, University of Alberta.

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Kaboom! Volcano Hazards Mitigation as Government Information

Ben Chiewphasa

Preparation for an imminent volcanic eruption relies on strategic communication between experts and the general public, ongoing scientific research and monitoring, and government assistance. Should one falter, lives are at stake at the most critical moment, whether it involves inescapable pyroclastic flows or perhaps plane engine shutdown from volcanic ash. Throughout history, legislative concerns surrounding volcano hazards have been built around the notion of proactiveness, yet financial and resource support oftentimes reflect a tendency towards reactiveness. The following document examines the legislative evolution of volcano hazards mitigation that has extended its reach well into 2020. In addition, an overview of the United States Geological Survey's Volcano Hazards will be followed by an evaluation of government databases for finding historic and current volcanic data and information.

Exploring volcanic hazards mitigation through a government information lens corresponds with taking a hard look at relationships between multifaceted stakeholders. Hazards produced during volcanic eruptions such as lahars (a violent mudflow or debris flow mixed in with pyroclastic material) and airborne ash are not concerned with political boundaries and commonly transcend dividing lines on a global scale. The 2010 eruption of Iceland's Eyjafjallajökull volcano, for example, savagely impacted air travel by closing a large airspace in Europe during April 15–21, resulting in more than 100,000 cancelled flights that affected 7 million passengers.¹ Unsurprisingly, volcano hazards mitigation is oftentimes an international effort, providing a rich array of international documents and data. For example, volcanic ash advisory messaging is produced by nine Volcanic Ash Advisor Centers stationed in eight countries.² Different countries also have different philosophies on how to handle and mitigate volcanic risk. Some nations put volcanologists at the forefront of decision-making, whereas the United States relies on the United

States Geological Survey (USGS) for providing up-to-date alerts and statuses, keeping the public informed, but also delivering invaluable data to government stakeholders for further action.

Prepping for volcanic eruptions and anticipating or mitigating volcanic risks is not a straightforward feat. Attempts to reduce risk can cause consequential disruption in our society, such as evacuating densely populated urban sprawls, or allowing people to return to their homes when “the coast is clear”—or so it seems. Planning for volcanic hazards is tasked not only by expert volcanologists, but also by governmental representatives and public officials who oftentimes make the final call; a decision that could be a matter of life, death, or long-term tarnishing of credibility and public trust, especially for those vigilant about scientific accuracy.

According to the 2018 National Volcanic Threat Assessment by the USGS, eighteen volcanoes in the United States are listed in the “very high threat” category and thirty-nine were listed as “high threat.”³ The risks certainly exist and although government-funded research has persisted for many decades, legislation that attempts to modernize and financially support volcano monitoring and hazards mitigation programs generally gain traction only when catastrophic or significant eruptions unfold. The following document will first examine the history of volcano hazards mitigation within United States legislation, provide an overview of the Volcano Hazards Program (a key entity in hazards assessment and monitoring—both nationally and internationally),⁴ and will review access to volcano data captured, produced, and made available through USGS, NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration), and international affiliates.

Legislative Snapshot of Disaster Relief

Since volcanic disaster mitigation falls under the umbrella of natural hazards policies and legislation, it is important to

understand how the federal government handles and interprets the concept of disaster relief. The time between 1803 and 1950 saw the rise of 128 separate laws that handled disaster relief in a very siloed and cumbersome manner. In hindsight, there was no single comprehensive legislation that streamlined disaster relief—Congress had to pass separate laws to provide federal funding for each major and sporadic disaster. To offset inefficiencies, Congress would end up passing the Federal Disaster Relief Act (Public Law 81-875) in 1950, authorizing the President to provide supplementary federal assistance via state governors' requests after the declaration of major disasters. The act ultimately helped streamline disaster relief but its other intent was to “supplement the efforts and available resources of the State and local governments.”⁵ Essentially, the federal government was solely designated as a supporting entity for state and local governments rather than being placed in the front-lines—an issue linked to congressional debates on disaster relief rationalization. On one hand, natural disasters can be interpreted as unforeseen acts of Mother Nature. Realistically, natural disasters consist of complex interactions between the economic, social, and natural world; rather than interpret natural disasters in this light, Congress instead viewed natural disasters solely as unpredictable acts of nature. This interpretation justified the underfunding of the Presidential Disaster Relief Fund during the 1970's because budgeting for the unpredictable was deemed an impossible undertaking.⁶ Legislation regarding disaster relief was brought into the forefront of public interest via the Disaster Relief Act of 1974 (Public Law 93-288), a bill introduced on February 26, 1974 by Senator Quentin Burdick. Many agencies had their hands tied in disaster relief, so the act attempted to unify the great cause by establishing “a program of disaster preparedness that utilizes services at all appropriate agencies (including the Defense Civil Preparedness Agency)” and also states that “the President shall insure that all appropriate federal agencies are prepared to issue warnings of disasters to State and Local officials.”⁷

Volcano Hazards Legislation

The Federal Disaster Relief Act of 1974 is considered to be monumental for its role in hazards mitigation as it relates to volcanic eruptions; the Director of the USGS had been assigned the responsibility to issue disaster warnings “for an earthquake, volcanic eruption, landslide, or other geologic catastrophe” (1974 Disaster Relief Act 42 U.S.C. 5201 et seq.).⁸ The act had maintained a two-part orientation linked to a 1950 statute (later to have been superseded by the 1974 legislation): (1) federal assistance is meant to supplement state and local recovery efforts and relief; (2) federal assistance is enacted through presidential

declaration only after a gubernatorial request was made.⁹ In 1988, the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Stafford Act) would amend the Disaster Relief Act of 1974, authorizing the President to directly issue major disaster declarations and enabling federal agencies to assist local and state government overwhelmed by large-scale catastrophes.¹⁰ Declarations are issued only after the occurrence of natural catastrophes as defined by 42 U.S.C. 5122(2): “including any hurricane, tornado, storm, high water, wind-driven water, tidal wave, tsunami, earthquake, volcanic eruption, landslide, mudslide, snowstorm, or drought” or “regardless of cause, [after a] fire, flood or explosion.”¹¹ The Stafford Act amendments were largely driven by hurricane disasters rather than volcanoes—in particular, the wake of Hurricane Katrina in August 2005 raised concerns and questions on how the government ultimately handled the historic tragedy. Via the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006 and the Security and Accountability for Every Port Act of 2005 (SAFE Port Act), Congress expanded the pre-disaster authority of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to ensure future effectiveness of disaster preparedness.¹²

Talks of modernizing and enhancing volcano early detection and monitoring protocols and systems began to take shape in the 111th Congress. Introduced by Senators Lisa Murkowski and Mark Begich on April 2, 2009, the National Volcano Early Warning and Monitoring Systems Act (S.782) was largely a response to the end of supplemental funding (\$2.7 million per year from fiscal year 1996 through fiscal year 2008) for volcano monitoring dictated by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).¹³ Funding cuts to volcano monitoring coincidentally aligned with 2007's expiration of FAA's tax structure at the time; this gave room for the fiscal year 2008 President's budget to propose a restructuring of FAA's financing system that puts greater emphasis on aviation user fees instead of excise taxes.¹⁴ Also coincidental was FAA's five-year budget plan (fiscal year 2008 through fiscal year 2012) for the National Airspace System, highlighting zero dollar allocation in volcano monitoring for fiscal year 2009-onward. Amid looming financial overhauls, FAA's reprioritization of projects and investments appeared to have left little space for volcano hazards monitoring and mitigation.¹⁵ However, due to the very real threats of volcanoes to aviation, Senate bill 782 would go on to garner the support of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, but would fail to gain any further traction.¹⁶ In hindsight, the bill attempted to establish a USGS-based program tasked with monitoring and studying volcanic activity as a form of pre-disaster assessment. Also important was the S.782's noble intent “to warn and protect people and property from undue and avoidable harm

from volcanic activity.¹⁷ The bill was later reintroduced as S.566 in the 112th Congress.¹⁸ Through a statement on introduced bills and joint resolutions on March 14, 2011, volcanic hazards detection was deemed critical for freight and passenger aircraft safety due to the urgency of over thirty active volcanoes in Alaska.¹⁹ The act would end up losing traction yet again and reemerge as S.2056 in the 114th Congress in alignment with growing advocacy and support from the Department of the Interior. Each iteration of the National Volcano Early Warning and Monitoring System (NVEWMS) Act evolved to focus on the USGS' National Volcano Early Warning System (NVEWS), a blueprint for updating existing monitoring networks to ensure that all active volcanoes in the United States and Territories are monitored appropriately.²⁰

Hawaii's Kilauea would unleash an impressive torrent of ash that flew more than 30,000 feet in the air in the morning of May 17, 2018.²¹ For the next couple of months which felt like an eternity to Hawaiian locals, series of endless eruptions would mercilessly destroy over 700 homes up through August.²² Coincidentally, Senate lawmakers had convened the same day as the initial eruption to vote on the 115th Congressional iteration of the NVEWMS Act and passed the bill via unanimous consent. The bill was eventually consolidated into larger legislation: The John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act (S.47). Unlike past versions of the NVEWMS, S.47 would swiftly pass through Congress and get signed into law (Public Law 116-9) by President Donald J. Trump on March 12, 2019.²³ Five bills later—introduced in nearly every congressional session by Senator Murkowski—an early warning detection protocol and system is in place. Fifty-five million dollars are to be distributed over fiscal years 2019 through 2023 in order for USGS to strategically implement and sustainably support NVEWS.²⁴ The System's intent is to modernize, organize, unify (into a single system), and standardize the monitoring systems already in place which include the Alaska Volcano Observatory, Cascades Volcano Observatory, Yellowstone Volcano Observatory, California Volcano Observatory, and Hawaiian Volcano Observatory. Funding will also be allocated towards a grants program that supports research in volcano monitoring technology and science.²⁵

It is important to remember that the timely rise of NVEWS is not indicative of the dawn of volcano hazards mitigation in our government. Rather, NVEWS is part of a greater initiative involving volcano safety—a complex and intricate system encompassing multiple agencies beyond the USGS including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Department of Homeland Security (DHS), FAA, and NOAA. NVEWS itself falls under the USGS' Volcano Hazards Program umbrella.

Volcano Hazards Program

Federal funding for studies related to active volcanoes was established in 1924 and primarily focused on understanding Hawaii's Kilauea and Mauna Loa volcanoes. Consequently, the USGS' Hawaiian Volcano Observatory (HVO) acted as the epicenter for advances in volcano monitoring techniques, technology, and best practices from the 1920's through the 1970's.²⁶ HVO's acclaim was made possible by its early research commitments to volcano hazards mitigation and its close proximities to active volcanoes, resulting in valuable lessons learned.²⁷ Today, the HVO's mission largely expanded to the Volcano Hazards Program (VHP) whose mission is to “lessen the harmful impacts of volcanic activity by monitoring active and potentially active volcanoes, assessing their hazards, responding to volcanic crises, and conducting research on how volcanoes work.”²⁸ It was largely the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act that solidified VHP's role, mission, and emphasis on volcano hazards mitigation. Modern VHP functions can be traced to the May 18, 1980 Mount St. Helens eruption, as the data collected from this unanticipated event—through monitoring and describing the eruption—provided an invaluable wealth of knowledge. The Mount St. Helens' eruption also led to an increase in funding for the VHP alongside the establishment of Washington's Cascades Volcano Observatory (CVO).²⁹ VHP's increased funding in reaction to catastrophe eerily mirrors the underlying rationale for Congress supporting the NVEWMS Act—via its integration with the John D. Dingell Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act—recently in 2019.³⁰

Volcano Disaster Assistance Program

The infamous catalyst for an international volcano crisis management initiative under the VHP umbrella, otherwise known as the Volcano Disaster Assistance Program (VDAP), can be traced to the calamitous mudflow triggered by the Nevado del Ruiz eruption in Armero, Colombia.³¹ Geologists stationed near Nevado del Ruiz in November 1984 monitored increasing levels of seismic activity, with earthquakes up to magnitude four. The events that transpired on the night of November 13, 1985 would be horrific—Nevado del Ruiz erupted and ejected 3.5×10^{10} kilograms of tephra (ejected volcanic particles), triggering a mudflow that would devastate the city of Armero and kill more than 25,000 civilians in the surrounding area.³² What made this incident particularly tragic was how it all could have been avoided. The Colombian government had received multiple warnings and sound advice by multiple volcanological organizations but decided not to evacuate the area despite the suspicious levels of volcanic activity detected two months prior to the eruption.³³

A more streamlined system of communication between government officials and volcanologists could have been more conducive for warnings that get properly interpreted and acted upon in a timely manner.³⁴ At the end of the day, a proper warning did not reach the people of Armero in time. The tremendous death toll yielded a new respect for volcanic sites all over the world, especially those that are prone to lahars as a result of hot pyroclastic flows initiated by the rapid melting of ice and snow.³⁵ On December 11, 1985, President Ronald Reagan would sign “a joint resolution reaffirming the friendship of the people of the United States with the people of Colombia following the devastating volcanic eruption of November 13, 1985.”³⁶ What eventually resulted was the establishment of the VDAP, a well-equipped professional team composed of volcanologists and hydrologists who respond to requests made by foreign officials and governments asking for scientific and technical assistance during volcanic crises. VDAP scientists have provided their services in Latin America, southwest Pacific, Africa, and Alaska.³⁷ In particular, the VDAP have responded to over seventy major volcanic crisis at more than fifty volcanoes worldwide, strengthening their response capacity in at least twelve countries since 1986.³⁸

Finding Current VHP Data and Information

Today, data collected by the VHP is invaluable for assisting scientists in interpreting volcanic behavior, forecasting imminent eruptions, and identifying community impacts—all of which help reduce volcanic risks.³⁹ Information regarding the current activity levels of volcanoes monitored by the VHP is made freely available through the US Volcanoes and Current Activity Alerts.⁴⁰ Their website’s homepage emphasizes an interactive map and easily-navigable interface where users can filter and find active volcanoes based on region (i.e., CA-NV, Mariana Islands, ID-WY, etc.), status (i.e., “Elevated,” “Normal,” etc.), or activity alerts (i.e., notices for aviation, current messaging from the Volcano Notification Service, etc.). Users can closely monitor specific volcanoes by navigating to specific Volcano Pages. Alaskan volcano data and information is managed by the Alaska Volcano Observatory, whereas other volcanoes fall within the greater VHP authority.

Alert levels made visible on the US Volcanoes and Current Activity Alerts have a variety of colors and terminology, depicting ranked levels of concern. Different colors are used to inform the aviation sector about airborne hazards, whereas ranked terms are meant to inform people on the ground about volcano statuses.⁴¹ According to the USGS, ground-based volcano alert levels and aviation specific color codes commonly move up or down in conjunction with one another (i.e., “Watch” term with an orange color, “Warning” term with a red color, etc.).⁴²

There are also alternative ways to obtain VHP-produced volcano alert notifications beyond their interactive map. VHP issues different types of notifications that reflect specific information needs, ranging from Volcano Activity Notices (messaging related to significant volcanic activity such as airborne ash, lahars, lava flows, etc.), status reports, and scheduled updates churned on a daily, weekly, or monthly basis.⁴³ These notifications are made publicly available through their website, social media outlets, and the USGS Volcano Notification Service, an email subscription service.⁴⁴ Users wanting to look up past volcano updates can search in their archive.⁴⁵

NOAA’s Government Data and Information

Beyond USGS and VHP, NOAA also assimilates and archives volcano data that supports mitigation, research, response, and planning. The Volcano Location Database, for example, houses over 1,500 volcanoes where users can search on a variety of parameters ranging from geography, volcanoes’ morphology/type, time or eruption, and more.⁴⁶ Alternatively, their “Significant Volcanic Eruption Database” lists over 500 volcanoes that are considered to be “significant” if they fulfill at least one of the following criteria: “caused fatalities, caused moderate damage (approximately one million dollars or more), with a Volcanic Explosivity Index (VEI) of 6 or larger, caused a tsunami, or was associated with a major earthquake.”⁴⁷ The Significant Volcanic Eruption Database has similar advanced search parameters as the Volcano Location Database, but there are more options such as filtering by damage in millions of dollars, number of deaths, and whether or not the volcano was associated with a tsunami or earthquake. Users are also able to download data as tab-delimited files for further data analysis, manipulation, and visualization. NOAA’s Natural Hazards Interactive Map is another worthwhile resource to explore as it provides users with an interactive map similar to the USGS VHP’s US Volcanoes and Current Activity Alerts; unlike that map, however, NOAA’s encompasses volcanoes from all over the world.⁴⁸

Various international government agencies alongside NOAA provide worldwide coverage of Volcanic Ash Advisories (VAA). Nine Volcanic Ash Advisory Centers (VAAC) were created throughout the world in response to the International Civil Aviation Organization’s (ICAO) call for a system that keeps aviators informed of volcanic hazards. The NOAA Satellite and Information Service manages a portal to all nine VAAC offices’ VAA messages.⁴⁹ NOAA also oversees the Volcanic Ash Advisory Database that houses legacy VAA messages issued by the Washington VAAC, encompassing a broad spectrum of information ranging from pilot reports, reports composed by

volcanic observatories, surface weather observations, satellite imagery, and content produced by news media outlets.⁵⁰

Conclusion

Recent national and international emergencies, brought to the forefront of news/media outlets and government officials, are firm reminders of the destructive and erratic nature of volcanoes. The resurgence of both federal and international support for volcano hazards mitigation is, therefore, reassuring. In fact, a technical background paper for the United Nation's Office for Disaster Risk Reduction proudly mention open access journals and reports as catalysts for the sharing of knowledge—specifically, knowledge derived from episodic emergencies; this is critical to an effective and global progression towards reducing volcanic disaster risk.⁵¹ The difficulty of forecasting eruptions, coupled with economic and community impacts (oftentimes across national boundaries), make volcanic hazards a worthwhile example when exploring the complexities of government information dissemination.

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“Who are ‘We the People’?”

Pilot Survey Investigating Government Information Professionals: A Conversation

Kenya Flash and Dominique Hallett

At the fall 2017 Federal Depository Library Program conference, a chance conversation regarding government information librarians’ average salaries evolved into a survey to learn who is working with government documents. In the course of the conversation, it became apparent the roles and duties of government information professionals were shifting. After some consideration, the authors determined that the best course of action would be to ask government information professionals about their perceptions of who they are and what they consider the future of government information librarianship to be.

Initially, the results of this survey were intended to be published as a peer-reviewed journal article. However, now it will be a conversation about the difficulties we encountered with the survey design and software, our experiences, the outcomes, and other problems we encountered along the way. The authors developed questions and solicited additional questions from other government information professionals and used the Qualtrics platform for the survey.

While developing the survey, the authors and their colleagues identified several unique groups for whom specific concerns would need to be addressed separately; these groups included vendors and government employees, and library affiliated professionals. Additional designations within library-affiliated professionals needed to reflect those who had supervisory roles and those who worked at depository libraries. These groups were identified based on certain assumptions. These include the impression that the needs and expectations of those not affiliated with libraries are different from those who were, and that the level of engagement of supervisors, nonsupervisors, and depository coordinators would be different. Overall, the authors wanted to develop a more comprehensive view of the world of government information professionals.

The survey was distributed through several government documents listservs and various other individuals and entities.

The listservs included FDLP Webmaster (the official FDL listserv), GOVDOC-L (discussion forum about government information and the Federal Depository Library program), the International Association for Social Science Information Services and Technology (IASSIST) and various other individuals and entities.

Results

Of the 417 surveys started, 284 were completed; the information that follows is gleaned from those completed surveys. The authors identified flaws within the survey design and implementation as results were being examined. While the validity and reliability of the numbers are in question, we believe there is still insight to be gained. The initial section of the survey focused on demographics. The results reflected general perceptions of librarianship: 208 females, 63 males, and 3 nonbinary persons completed the survey. Seven persons selected “prefer not to say” and 3 left that question unanswered; 247 identified as white, 13 Black or African American, 5 Asian, and 13 other.

We then inquired who had received a master of library science or master of library and information science degree. The results were separated into two groups: vendors/government employees, and those affiliated with libraries.

The authors were curious about the number of professionals who had the opportunity to take government information courses and how many took advantage of this opportunity. So they asked the questions “Did your program MLS/MLIS program offer any coursework specifically focused on gov docs/gov info?” and “Did you take any courses related to gov docs/gov info?” which revealed some noteworthy results (see tables 1 and 2). It appears that most knew their program offered such coursework (around 64 percent), but roughly half attended gov docs/gov info courses as a part of their studies.

Another revealing question was “How many years have you been working with government information?” Almost 30

Table 1. MLS/MLIS Degree Statistics

	Degree Status	Total	Female	Male	Non-Binary	Prefer Not to Answer
Vendor/Government Employee	MLIS - NO	11	9	2	0	0
Vendor/Government Employee	MLIS - YES	7	5	2	0	0
Library Affiliate	MLIS - NO	49	37	11	0	1
Library Affiliate	MLIS - YES	219	162	48	3	6

Table 2. MLS/MLIS Coursework in Government Information

	Was Course-work Offered?	Total	Female	Male	Non-Binary	Prefer Not to Answer
Vendor/Government Employee	No	6	4	2	0	0
Vendor/Government Employee	Yes	3	3	0	0	0
Vendor/Government Employee	Unsure	9	7	2	0	0
	Did You Take Coursework?	Total	Female	Male	Non-Binary	Prefer Not to Answer
Vendor/Government Employee	No	9	7	2	0	0
Vendor/Government Employee	Yes	9	7	2	0	0
	Was Course-work Offered?	Total	Female	Male	Non-Binary	Prefer Not to Answer
Library Affiliate	No	65	50	13	0	2
Library Affiliate	Yes	169	122	41	1	5
Library Affiliate	Unsure	30	24	4	2	0
	Did You Take Coursework?	Total	Female	Male	Non-Binary	Prefer Not to Answer
Library Affiliate	No	138	105	29	2	2
Library Affiliate	Yes	129	93	30	1	5

percent of our respondents have been working in gov docs/gov info for more than 20 years! (See figure 1.) This is amazing. It appears that once you come into the fold, you tend to stay with it, which is wonderful news for the profession. This is the highest percentage category. The second highest category is the newcomers to the profession with 0–3 years of experience at almost 23 percent. These numbers will be interesting to watch in the future.

We think the results of the questions “Do you foresee yourself remaining a documents librarian for the next 5 years?” and “Do you foresee your library remaining in the FDLP for the next 5 years?” might be worthy of further exploration. While most respondents plan to remain a documents librarian (52.8 percent), 32.7 percent were unsure.” We suspect this might be due to the changing nature of libraries and library work in general but this needs to be explored in a future study. Many respondents have had a title or role changes in the past 5 years (57.2 percent, while 42.8 percent responded that

their role/title has not changed). These changes may reflect the large percentage of “maybe/unsure” respondents in the previous question.

For the second question regarding remaining in the FDLP for the next five years, 86 percent said “yes,” 13.2 percent said “maybe/don’t know,” and 0.9 percent said “no.” These numbers appear to bode well for our profession as government information professionals. This could indicate the overall value seen in being a member of the depository library program, another area worthy of study.

Other Fascinating Information Gleaned from the Survey

There was at least one respondent from every state, as well as Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands, and Washington, DC. Additionally, almost 95 percent of government information collections are mixed between print and electronic, with only 1.7 percent representing physical only, and 0.8 percent representing

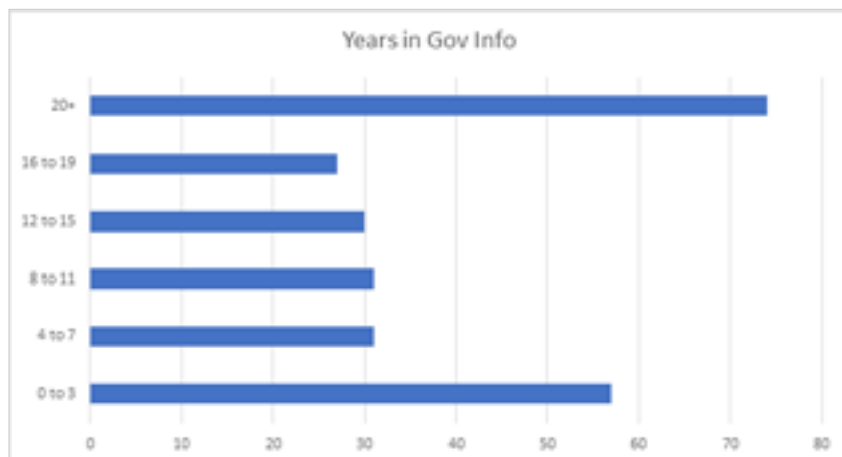


Figure 1. Years in Gov Info

electronic only. Over time, this will be an interesting data point—to identify whether more libraries are becoming electronic-only depositories. Of those completing the survey, 81.8 percent identified as selective depositories with 16.9 percent as regionals and 1.3 percent as court depositories. This came as no surprise, but it is good to have confirmation to support preconceived ideas.

When Asked about Position Titles, Here are a Few Things We Found

1. 89 of the respondents had the word “government” somewhere in their title
2. 167 had no mention of government or documents in their titles
3. 32 of the respondents’ titles focused on government documents/information alone
4. 21 had some attribute to technical services in their title
5. 10 had “cataloger” in their title
6. 43 included the term “reference” in their title
7. 171 had “librarian” in their title

The three longest titles listed were: (1) “Government Information Librarian for State, Local, British, and International Documents; Environment and Population Studies Subject Specialist; and Head of Social Sciences Group” (2) “Assistant Professor of Library Sciences Technical Services and Government Information Librarian and liaison to Education and Counseling/Psychology,” and (3) “Library Resources Manager; and Digital Library Resources Coordinator; and Government Information Coordinator; and State Documents Librarian.” The variety of responses demonstrates that working with gov docs/gov info is as diverse and unique as each of our titles.

Bad News about the Survey and Lessons We Learned

Both authors were asked whether this survey was simply for government documents librarians or if those who used government information extensively in their work could also take the survey. This should have been an indication that there were potential flaws in our survey clarity. We also realized that there was a problem early in the evaluation stage. The Qualtrics logic we used to delineate vendor and government employees from library affiliated personnel did not work the way we anticipated. Vendors responded in the library affiliated employee section and vice versa. We later attrib-

uted this to the fact that we did not make the question “are you a: vendor, government employee (not working as a librarian), library affiliated government information professional” mandatory in the logic process. Subsequently, if someone skipped answering this question, they were presented with duplicate questions. This was an issue in the questions regarding MLS/MLIS degrees and questions about coursework, training opportunities, and others. This caused the survey to be unnecessarily long and repetitive. For this, we sincerely apologize. However, we appreciate those who persevered and completed the entire survey. We are working to correct the problems we encountered with skip logic and blocks.

There were also challenges in the ways we faceted the questions. This presented issues in questions 30, 34, and 44. In question 30, which focused on the percentage of time dealing with government information, individuals provided their own percentages; this led to results far below 100 percent and some above 100 percent. While this could have provided insightful information had it worked as intended, we came to realize this question does not tell us much about government information professionals, but more about the library profession as a whole. For this reason, the question will be omitted from future surveys and replaced with a multiple-choice question asking about time spent dealing directly with government information.

The next major faceting issue was with question 34, which asked: “Are you a supervisor with regard to government information personnel?” Somehow both the authors and the testers missed that this should have been a yes/no question, not five choices ranging from “definitely yes” to “definitely not” with “might or might not be” as the middle choice. The authors take full responsibility for missing this error. The question will be clarified and made into a yes/no question in the future.

We noted in question 44 that the, “Type of library (academic, law, court, public, other)” multiple-choice selections did not include an option for “Public,” so we think people may have marked “other” as their choice. However, we were informed that agency librarians have also marked “other.” In the future, we will be sure to include the appropriate options and do a better job of proofreading.

A final issue we found was with Qualtrics itself. A key lesson is to identify early in your project if there are any upgrades the software may be going through and/or have planned, and ask how this may affect your project. During our project, Qualtrics had a major upgrade, which impacted the way we were able to utilize its analytical features and forced us outside of the tool.

These were the challenges that we identified in our study, and while the results are interesting, it would be hard to generalize about this data with all the issues presented. As a result, we have decided to consider this a pilot survey. It will serve as a means to hone and improve our methods and questions. We

are hoping to add an additional researcher and a consultant to the project and to reach out to people with more Qualtrics and survey building experience for future study iterations. We close this pilot having learned to ensure we are aware of any updates to the survey analysis tool, to properly engage our audience, and to ask relevant and pertinent questions. We thank you for joining us in this initial process. Despite the problems we encountered, the learning experience has been valuable, and we look forward to engaging you—the government information professional—with an improved survey in the next year to help identify “Who are ‘We the People?’”

Kenya Flash (kenya.flash@yale.edu), Government Information Librarian, Yale University, **Dominique Hallett** (dhallett@astate.edu), Government Information Librarian, Arkansas State University.

Appendix. Copy of Survey Questions with Duplicate Branched Questions Removed

Testing something Who are “We the People”? A look into the world of government information professionals

Start of Block: Default Question Block

Q1 [Standard Consent Form]

Agree	Disagree
-------	----------

Skip To: Q2 If PARTICIPATION Your participation in this survey is voluntary. You may refuse to take part in the... = Agree

Skip To: End of Survey If PARTICIPATION Your participation in this survey is voluntary. You may refuse to take part in the... = Disagree

Q2 Gender?

Male	Female
Non-Binary	Prefer not to answer

Q3 Ethnicity

Hispanic or Latino	Non-Hispanic or Latino
--------------------	------------------------

Q4 Race

White

Black or African American

American Indian or Alaska Native

Asian

Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander

Other _____

Q5 State/Territory/Region _____

Q6 Are you a: vendor, government employee (not working as a librarian), library affiliated government information professional?

Vendor

Government employee (not working as a librarian)

Library affiliated government information professional

End of Block: Default Question Block

Start of Block: Librarian/Retired

Q25 Do you have your MLS/MLIS?

Yes	No
-----	----

Q26 Did you program offer any coursework specially focused on government documents/government information?

Yes	No	Unsure
-----	----	--------

Q27 Did you take any coursework specifically focused on government documents/government information?

Yes	No
-----	----

Q28 Have you had any training outside of your current institution related to your government documents/information role? Please describe (ie. Webinars, conferences, library school) _____

Q29 Have training opportunities increased/decreased for you in the last 5 years regarding government information?

Increased	Decreased	Stayed the same
-----------	-----------	-----------------

Q30 What percentage of your time do you deal with the following (if 0, put 0)

Government documents/government document-related: _____

Public services (reference and instruction) : _____

Technical services : _____

Outreach/community engagement : _____

Marketing/social media : _____

Technological pursuits : _____

Management/supervising : _____

Data/data sets : _____

Assessment : _____

Collection development : _____

Other : _____

Total : _____

Q31 What is your title/position? _____

Q32 Has your title or role changed in the last five years?

Yes	No
-----	----

Q33 Are you full time or part time?

Full Time	Part Time
-----------	-----------

Q34 Are you a supervisor with regard to government information personnel?

Definitely yes

Probably yes

Might or might not

Probably not

Definitely not

Q35 Has this changed in the past 5 years? If so, how? _____

Q36 Years working with government information?

0-3	8-11	16-19
4-7	12-15	20+

Q37 Do you foresee yourself remaining a documents librarian for the next 5 years?

Yes	Maybe/Unsure	No
-----	--------------	----

Q38 How do you foresee your role changing? _____

Q39 Is your library a depository?

Yes	No
-----	----

End of Block: Librarian/Retired

Start of Block: Depository Questions - transition question

Q40 Are you the depository coordinator?

Yes	No
-----	----

Q41 How many years have you been a coordinator? _____

Q42 How long has your library been a depository? _____

Q43 Is your library a regional, a court, or a selective depository?

Regional	Court	Selective
----------	-------	-----------

Q44 Type of library (academic, law, court, public, other)

Academic

Law

Court

Law

Other

Q45 If you are Academic, are you tenure track?

Yes	No
-----	----

Q46 What is your faculty rank (if applicable)? _____

Q47 How many library personnel in your library work directly with government documents/information? _____

Q48 Do you have a physical, electronic, or mixed collection?

Physical	Electronic	Mixed
----------	------------	-------

Q49 Do you work in a main library or a branch library? _____

Q50 Do you foresee your library remaining in the FDLP for the next 5 years?

Yes (1)	No (2)	Maybe/Don't know (3)
---------	--------	----------------------

Q51 Why or why not? _____

End of Block: Depository Questions - transition question

Memorial Resolution for Peter Leo Kraus

WHEREAS, the American Library Association (ALA) and the academic library community lost a valued member on April 5th, 2020, with the death of Peter Leo Kraus;

WHEREAS, he was member of ALA GODORT for nearly 25 years;

WHEREAS, he was an active member of the Utah Library Association GODORT and participated in advocacy activities;

WHEREAS, he served on government relations committees during his time as an academic librarian at The Research Libraries of The New York Public Library;

WHEREAS, he worked at the J. Willard Marriott Library at the University of Utah for over twenty years;

WHEREAS, during his library career and changing library responsibilities, he promoted the use and importance of government information and data to the students, staff, faculty of the University of Utah and citizens of Utah;

WHEREAS, he used his knowledge of government to teach Utah Academic Library Consortium directors, about the

legislative process, resulting in dramatic budget increases;

WHEREAS, he served on faculty senate committee for community and government relations at the University of Utah;

WHEREAS, he regularly published on a wide variety of topics including running for elected office;

WHEREAS, he put his knowledge into the practice civic engagement, working for political candidates, serving on the Utah Humanities Council for two years, and in 2014, and 2018 and ran for a House Seat 40 in the Utah Legislature;

WHEREAS, he continued his education internationally through study at St. Stephen's House at the University of Oxford, UK, Pusey House in Oxford;

WHEREAS, he was widely recognized for his expertise and valued research support to faculty and graduate students in the Departments of Political Science & Public Administration, History and was a pioneer of the Block U program as implemented at the David Eccles School of Business.

WHEREAS, he was a founder of the "DOCMAPS CIT" (Government Documents and Maps College and Interdisciplinary Team) at Marriott Library.

WHEREAS, he tirelessly advocated for the Marriott Library specifically as well as all libraries and their important role in higher education;

RESOLVED, that the American Library Association (ALA), on the behalf of its members:

1. recognizes the contributions of Peter Leo Kraus to the field of librarianship, and to the specialty of government information;
2. mourns the loss of a mentor whose exchange of professional knowledge crossed national and international boundaries;
3. extends its sincerest sympathy to his family, friends, and colleagues at the University of Utah, and the J. Willard Marriott Library.

Mover: Lynda Kellam, 607.255.1359, lmk277@cornell.edu

Seconder: Andie Craley, acraley@harford.edu

Final version: 6/9/2020

GODORT Annual Meeting Reports

Report of the GODORT Cataloging Committee Virtual ALA Annual Meeting

Met on Tuesday June 30, 2020,
11–12 PT / 12–1 MT / 1–2 CT /
2–3 ET

Andie Craley, Chair

1. January 22, 2020, Virtual Midwinter meeting minutes approved.
2. Library Services and Content Management Update (Stephen Kharfen, GPO)
 - a. Stephen to check with LSCM ILS Projects and Systems Unit and Outreach and Support to add more help resources like tutorials and webinars as part of the FDLP Academy to see they will include teaching help to use the CRS from the CGP.
 - b. Stephen said that GPO has no immediate short-term interest in the OCLC Member Merge Project
 - c. See FDLP 3R Project link: <https://www.fdlp.gov/project-list/the-new-version-of-resource-description-and-access-rda-gpo-s-preparations-and-impacts-on-the-fdlp-community>
3. Marcive Update (Jim Noel, Marcive, Inc. / CRDP)
 - a. Have been continuing the extension of the FTP file expiration to 45 days with an added 15 days to the expiration of all files in the system during the COVID-19 outbreak for libraries in the CRDP program and those with Marcivesubscriptions.
 - b. Have been holding onto records especially for print documents, since GPO has suspended physically shipments and shipping lists and many libraries were not opened to receive these shipments.
4. Library of Congress Update (Dawn Rapoza, LC)
 - a. Updates on BIBFRAME—<https://www.loc.gov/bibframe/docs/index.html>
 - b. Updates on LOC State Government Websites of the US Archives: <https://www.loc.gov/websites/?fa=partof:state+government+websites+of+the+united+states+web+archive&q>
5. PPM Chapter 14 Cataloging Committee 2019 Revision is NOT yet posted at the GODORT website
 - a. Chair Andie C. to send note to Vicki Tate with a few more corrections.
 - b. Chair Andie C. to ask Technology Committee to add the Cataloging Toolboxes Working Group names under the Cataloging Committee in the directory to show who is responsible and get them included on committee webpage.
6. Steering Committee Updates
 - a. Reminder of Western States Government Information Virtual Conference August 5-6, 2020—<https://www.colorado.edu/libraries/libraries/norlin-library/government-information-library/western-states-government-information>
 - i. Andrea Morrison and James Rodgers announced that the Indiana Government Information Day follows right after on August 6 and 7, 2020, is now open for registration: <https://www.in.gov/library/GID.htm#:~:text=Registration%20is%20now%20open%20for,earn%20LEUs%20for%20each%20session>
7. Updates on the 3 Cataloging Toolbox LibGuides—<https://godort.libguides.com/cataloging>
 - a. The Cataloging Toolboxes LibGuides need more volunteers for both the Cataloging Toolboxes for both International Government Information and for State Government Information . Approved updating this language for the Federal and International toolkits

“This Toolbox is currently under construction. We welcome your feedback and interest!”

The OECD Section of the International Toolbox is new and needs a volunteer editor.
 - b. Suggestion was made to include last update date on each Toolbox page
 - c. Simon Healey is continuing work with Accessibility with the WAVE Web Accessibility Tool and with Springshare as Ex Officiomember.
 - d. Jim Noel agreed to be a contact and editor for all 3 Toolboxes as Ex Officiomember.
8. RDA Cataloging Standard Update & CC:DA Report—RDA: Resource Description and Access (Andrea Morrison)
 - a. CC:DA is meeting July 9, July 13, and July 15 in 2-hour virtual sessions. Andrea M. is planning on attending these meetings and submitting a written report.

Meetings will be open to the public, but there will be limited space. <https://alcts.ala.org/ccdablog/?cat=33>.

- Thursday, July 9th: 3:00–5:00 Eastern/12:00–2:00 Pacific
 - Monday, July 13th: 2:00–4:00 Eastern/11:00am–1:00 Pacific
 - Wednesday, July 15th: 1:00–3:00 Eastern/10:00am–12:00 Pacific
- b. The beta RDA Toolkit, which will be official this fall on December 15, 2020: <http://www.rda-rsc.org/node/627>
- The Cataloger’s Learning Workshop offers free online training and education: <https://www.loc.gov/catworkshop/>
 - Library of Congress Subject Headings: Online Training: <https://www.loc.gov/catworkshop/lcsh/>
 - Preparing for the New RDA: RDA Toolkit Restructure and Redesign Project (3R Project) training on the new conceptual model, IFLA Library Reference Model, which replaces the FRBR family of models. “What is IFLA/LRM?": <https://www.loc.gov/catworkshop/RDA2020/index.html>
 - RDA Toolkit YouTube channel has many free training webinars, from RDA vocabularies, entities, concepts, and elements, to tours of the beta RDA Toolkit, <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCd5pa3AoQIr17wESE9YHcnw>
- c. OCLC Quality Control has posted June 2020 meetings on changes to Encoding Levels, see

https://help.oclc.org/WorldCat/Metadata_Quality/AskQC. Andrea M. reported that she can merge OCLC Connexion (WorldCat) duplicate bibliographic records that are provisional/brief monograph records to the GPO record. Stephen K. also confirmed that GPO reports duplicate records to OCLC formerging.

- d. Andrea Morrison will roll off as CC:DA liaison but will continue as chair of the working group for the 3 Cataloging Toolboxes and report back to the Committee. Still need a new CC:DA liaison for term 2020-2023.
9. Committee continuing work on organizing or promoting already existing webinars or tutorials on cataloging Federal Documents, on weeding SuDocs, etc. First working on a Survey to be sent out to solicit more feedback on types of topics attendees would be interested in.

Report of the GODORT Government Information for Children Committee Virtual ALA Annual Meeting

The GODORT Government Information for Children Committee concentrated its work this year on completing the migration of the GIC LibGuides from the former site hosted by the University of Central Florida to the GODORT LibGuides site. For 2020-2021, the committee looks forward to creating a Voter and Elections LibGuide aimed at students and children and to promoting the LibGuides, the Constitution Day Poster Contest, and the National History Day Poster Contest. At the virtual meeting for ALA Annual took place Monday, June 29,

3:30–4:15pm EDT, the committee reviewed the work on the LibGuides, discussed assigning a new representative to the Advisory Council for National History Day, and initiated discussion of the committee’s plans for the new year.

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Education Committee

At the summer virtual meeting, the Education Committee discussed ongoing work on the Voting & Election Toolkits <https://godort.libguides.com/votingtoolkit>. The toolkits will be continually updated through the 2020 fall election and members discussed how to best keep the guide accurate during a dynamic election season where states are dealing with COVID-19 closures. The guide has been viewed over 6,000 times and content has been reused by a dozen

librarians. The committee will continue promotion efforts into the fall.

The committee also discussed what new projects should be undertaken in the coming year. Support was expressed for developing a series of educational short courses on government information. The committee also agreed to coordinate the creation of a Racism in Government research guide, with help from broader GODORT membership. Further prioritization of projects will be discussed at follow-up committee meetings.—*Kian Flynn*

Awards Committee

GODORT honored the recipients of its 2019 awards at the virtual GODORT Awards Reception on Thursday July 2, 2020. Recipients of this year's awards are:

ProQuest/GODORT/ALA “Documents to the People” Award: Jacquelyn Daniel

Margaret T. Lane / Virginia F. Saunders Readex Memorial Research

Award: Dr. Martin Halbert, Roberta Sittel, Dr. Katherine Skinner, Deborah Caldwell, Marie Concannon, James R.

Jacobs, Shari Laster, and Scott Matheson for *Toward a Shared Agenda: Report on PEGI Project Activities for 2017-2019*, published at <https://educopia.org/pegi-toward-a-shared-agenda/>

W. David Rozkuszka Scholarship:

Samantha Reardon

The Awards Committee extends congratulations to the 2020 Awardees! For more information, please view the press release: <http://www.ala.org/rt/2020-godort-award-winners>.—*Laurie Aycock, Awards Chair*

GODORT invites nominations for 2021 Awards

“What a great project—I know I’ll be passing this information along to my colleagues!” “I wish I had thought of that research topic!” “I wouldn’t be where I am today if not for his mentoring and support!” “Wow, she knows everything about GODORT!”

If you have ever thought one of the above, then you know someone to nominate for an ALA Government Documents Round Table award!

Every year GODORT honors people who have made huge strides in the promotion and use of government information through its awards. There are now seven opportunities to nominate or apply, all described here: <http://www.ala.org/rt/godort/award-scommittee>, where you will also find links to all the nomination/application forms. The award information is also listed below, including a description of the Larry Romans Mentorship Award, awarded in conjunction with the Rainbow Round Table.

Please apply using the forms on the Awards page at <http://www.ala.org/rt/godort/awardscommittee> and send submissions to the Awards Committee Chair, Dominique Hallett, at dhallett@astate.edu.

Nomination forms and letters of support for GODORT awards are due Sunday, December 1, 2020. Nominations for the Larry Romans Mentorship Award are due by December 30th. Rozkuszka scholarship applications are due by March 1, 2021.

Thank you,
GODORT Awards Committee

Margaret T. Lane / Virginia F. Saunders Memorial Research Award

The Margaret T. Lane / Virginia F. Saunders Memorial Research Award is given annually to an author or shared among collaborative authors of an outstanding research publication (i.e., books, articles, occasional papers) in which government documents, either published or archival in nature, form a substantial part of the documented research. Preference may be given to publications published in library literature, but the award is not restricted to publications in library literature.

James Bennett Childs Award

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

ProQuest/GODORT/ALA “Documents to the People” Award

The ProQuest/GODORT/ALA “Documents to the People” Award is a tribute to an individual, library, institution, or other non-commercial group that has most effectively encouraged the use of government documents in support of library service. The award includes a \$3,000 cash stipend to be used to support a project of the recipient’s choice. This award is sponsored by ProQuest.

Bernadine Abbott Hoduski Founders Award

The Bernadine Abbott Hoduski Founders Award recognizes documents librarians who may not be known at the national level but who have made significant contributions to the field of state, international, local, or federal documents. This award recognizes those whose contributions have benefited not only the individual’s institution but also the profession. Achievements in state, international, or local documents librarianship will receive first consideration. The award winner receives a plaque.

NewsBank/Readex/GODORT/ALA Catharine J. Reynolds Research Grant

The NewsBank/Readex/GODORT/ALA Catharine J. Reynolds Award provides funding for research in the field of documents librarianship, or in a related area that would benefit the individual’s performance as a documents librarian or contribute to the field. This award, established in 1987, is named for Catharine J. Reynolds, former Head of Government Publications at the University of Colorado, Boulder. It is supported by an annual contribution of \$2,000 from the NewsBank Inc.

W. David Rozkuszka Scholarship

The 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 David Rozkuszka, former Documents Librarian at Stanford University. The award winner receives \$3,000. To apply, please visit <http://www.ala.org/educationcareers/scholarships>

Larry Romans Mentorship Award

The Larry Romans Mentorship Award is given annually by the Government Documents Round Table (GODORT) and the Rainbow Round Table (RRT)

of the American Library Association. The purpose of the award is to recognize librarians who, through their sustained mentoring efforts, have made a difference in our profession. Each year, the award will honor a librarian who has demonstrated excellence in the area of mentoring, who has successfully encouraged others to serve as mentors, and who has impacted the lives and careers of others through tirelessly devoting time, energy, and talent

toward helping others succeed in our profession. The award consists of a citation and \$1,000. The award will be presented at the GODORT Awards Program at the ALA Annual Conference. In addition, recognition of the recipient will also take place at beginning of the Stonewall Book Awards Program held at the ALA Annual Conference. To apply, please visit <http://www.ala.org/rt/glbtrt/award/larry-romans-nomination>