

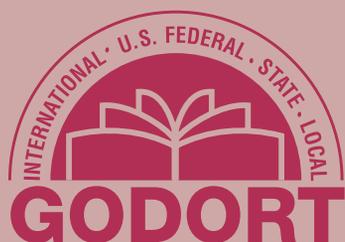
## In This Issue

- Estimating the Value of a Depository Collection
- The Fight Against Enzy: US Libraries During the Influenza Epidemic of 1918
- Small-Scale Digitization Projects For State and Local Publications

# DttP

## Documents to the People

Spring 2021 | Volume 49, No. 1 | ISSN 2688-125X



AD TK

*DtP: Documents to the People* (ISSN: 2688-125X) is published quarterly in spring, summer, fall, and winter by the American Library Association (ALA), 225 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 1300, Chicago, IL 60601. It is the official publication of ALA's Government Documents Round Table (GODORT).

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

#### Editorial Staff:

Please see the website for full contact information: <https://journals.ala.org/index.php/dtp/about>.

#### Lead Editors:

Laura Sare, Texas A&M University Libraries; (979) 458-2200; [DtpEditor@gmail.com](mailto:DtpEditor@gmail.com)  
Jennifer Castle, Tennessee State University; (615) 963-5207; [jcastle@tnstate.edu](mailto:jcastle@tnstate.edu)

#### Editors:

Benjamin Grantham Aldred, University of Illinois at Chicago; (812) 320-0926; [baldred2@uic.edu](mailto:baldred2@uic.edu)

Susanne Caro, North Dakota State University; (701) 231-8863; [susanne.caro@ndsu.edu](mailto:susanne.caro@ndsu.edu)

Julia Ezzo, Michigan State University; (517) 884-6387; [julia@msu.edu](mailto:julia@msu.edu)

Megan Graewingholt, CSU Fullerton Pollak Library; (657) 278-3094; [mgraewingholt@fullerton.edu](mailto:mgraewingholt@fullerton.edu)

Kathy Hale, Pennsylvania State Library; (717) 787-2327; [kahale@pa.gov](mailto:kahale@pa.gov)

Dominique Hallett, Arkansas State University; (870) 351-2807; [dhallett@astate.edu](mailto:dhallett@astate.edu)

Sonnet Ireland, St. Tammany Parish Library; (985) 646-6470, x10; [librarysonnet@gmail.com](mailto:librarysonnet@gmail.com)

Angela J.A. Kent, Texas State Library and Archives Commission; (202) 744-5058; [angela.aranas@gmail.com](mailto:angela.aranas@gmail.com)

Richard Mikulski, Portland State University; (503) 725-9939; [richard.m.mikulski@pdx.edu](mailto:richard.m.mikulski@pdx.edu)

Larry Schwartz, Minnesota State University Moorhead; (218) 477-2353; [schwartz@mnstate.edu](mailto:schwartz@mnstate.edu)

Claudene Sproles, University of Louisville; (502) 852-6076; [claudene.sproles@louisville.edu](mailto:claudene.sproles@louisville.edu)

**Reviews Editor:** Emily Alford, Indiana University; [alfordem@indiana.edu](mailto:alfordem@indiana.edu)

**Advertising Editor:** Alicia Kubas, University of Minnesota Libraries; 612-624-1865, [akubas@umn.edu](mailto:akubas@umn.edu)

**Advertising:** Inquiries about advertising may be addressed to the Advertising Editor. *DtP* accepts advertising to inform readers of products and services. *DtP* will adhere to all ethical and commonly accepted advertising practices and will make every effort to ensure that its practices in relation to advertising are consistent with those of other Association publications. *DtP* reserves the right to reject any advertisement deemed not relevant or consistent to the above or to the aims and policies of ALA.

**Distribution Manager:** ALA Subscription Department, 225 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 1300, Chicago, IL 60601; 1-800-545-2433, press 5; fax: (312) 280-1538; [subscriptions@ala.org](mailto:subscriptions@ala.org)

**Subscriptions:** *DtP* is accessible to ALA/GODORT members on a per volume (annual) basis. For subscriptions, prepayment is required in the amount of \$35 in North America, \$45 elsewhere. Checks or money orders should be made payable to "ALA/GODORT" and sent to the Distribution Manager.

**Contributions:** Articles, news items, letters, and other information intended for publication in *DtP* should be submitted to the Lead Editor. All submitted material is subject to editorial review. Please see the website for additional information: <https://journals.ala.org/index.php/dtp/about/editorialPolicies#focusAndScope>.

**Indexing:** Indexed in Library Literature 19, no. 1 (1991) and selectively in PAIS 33, no 1 (2005). Library, Information Science & Technology Abstracts (2004). Full text also available in HeinOnline 1, no.1 (1972).

**Editorial Production:** ALA Production Services—Tim Clifford and Lauren Ehle.

#### Columnists:

Documents Without Borders

Jim Church

Doe Library

University of California, Berkeley

[jchurch@library.berkeley.edu](mailto:jchurch@library.berkeley.edu)

Not Just in English

Jane Canfield

Pontifical Catholic University of

Puerto Rico

[jcanfield@pucpr.edu](mailto:jcanfield@pucpr.edu)

Get to Know . . .

Megan Graewingholt

CSU Fullerton

[mgraewingholt@fullerton.edu](mailto:mgraewingholt@fullerton.edu)

# DtP

Documents to the People

Spring 2021 | Volume 49, No. 1 | ISSN 2688-125X

## Columns

2 Editor's Corner—Laura Sare

4 From the Chair—Lynda Kellam

5 Get to Know . . . Laura Baker—Megan Graewingholt

7 Reviews

*Constitution Illustrated*—Gwen Sinclair

*RIGHTS! Civil and Human Rights Law Portal*—Dominique Hallett

## Features

9 Estimating the Value of a Depository Collection

*Elizabeth Psyck*

12 The Fight Against Enzy: US Libraries During the Influenza Epidemic of 1918

*Lorri Mon*

18 Small-Scale Digitization Projects For State and Local Publications

*Andrew Lopez*

---

**About the Cover:** "Card Punch Operators 2," Records of the Bureau of the Census, National Archives Pieces of History, NARA Record Group 029, <https://prologue.blogs.archives.gov/card-punch-operators-2/>.

To make democracy representative, our electoral process contains two related concepts: “electoral equality”—an individual’s vote should count the same as every other individual’s vote, and “representational equality”—elected representatives should represent approximately the same number of people.

To achieve the two above concepts, the Decennial Census, apportionment, and congressional redistricting are interrelated processes that occur every ten years. Article I, Section 2 of the US Constitution stipulates that congressional representatives be apportioned to the states based on population. Apportionment, also known as reapportionment, allocates the number of seats in a legislative body to account for population changes. Population grows at different rates across a state as well as population redistribution between the states create the need for reapportionment. The US House of Representatives currently has a total of 435 seats, and each state has one House seat and additional seats are distributed proportionally among the states according to state population size.

Redistricting is the process by which new congressional and state legislative district boundaries are drawn. Deadlines to complete redistricting vary by state, but it needs to be completed before elections, and November 8, 2022 will be the date of the first federal elections using new districting lines. Local legislative bodies must redistrict as well. The Supreme Court has ruled that any public elected body elected from districts must assign population to those districts equally—including entities such as councils, school districts, water improvement districts, and utility districts. Redistricting data includes the Census Bureau count of population broken out by race and ethnicity, counts for persons 18 years or older, down to the census block level, but can include other information such as election data, demographic data from other sources, and public input.<sup>1</sup> State legislatures are responsible for redistricting state legislative and congressional districts and many delegate this authority to a board or commission. You can find what your state does here <https://www.ncsl.org/research/redistricting/2009-redistricting-commissions-table.aspx>.

This process may face some disruptions. In 2020 the Decennial Census count faced delays due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and accepted responses until October 15.<sup>2</sup> On December 30 the Census Bureau posted a press release with an update on the 2020 Census. The release implied that the Census Bureau would miss the traditional December 31st deadline

of an accurate state population count, and that it would be made available in early 2021.<sup>3</sup>

Public Law 94-171 requires the Census Bureau to create and deliver to states data to conduct legislative redistricting, with a statutory deadline of April 1, 2021.<sup>4</sup> The potential delay of apportionment data delivery has raised some concerns about possible effects on congressional redistricting in states with constitutional or statutory redistricting deadlines in 2021.

Another issue that may affect redistricting is the case before the Supreme Court concerning President Trump’s memorandum to exclude unauthorized immigrants from the 2020 Census totals.<sup>5</sup> Traditionally the decennial census counted all persons including all US citizens, lawfully present aliens and unauthorized aliens.

Electoral votes are also allocated among the States based on the Census. Every state is allocated a number of votes equal to the number of senators and representatives in its US Congressional delegation—two votes for its senators in the US Senate plus a number of votes equal to the number of its Congressional districts.

See the allocation for your state here: <https://www.archives.gov/electoral-college/allocation>.

There is much more to learn about the processes of reapportionment and redistricting, including drawing district maps to avoid gerrymandering. Included below are a listing of resources to find more information.

## Notes

1. National Conference of State Legislatures, *Redistricting 101*, February 27, 2019, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JxC9nJnLPzk&feature=youtu.be>.
2. “Ross v. National Urban League,” *SCOTUSblog*, <https://www.scotusblog.com/case-files/cases/ross-v-national-urban-league/>.
3. “Census Bureau Update on 2020 Census,” Census Bureau, <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2020/2020-census-update-apportionment.html>.
4. “Decennial Census P.L. 94-171 Redistricting Data,” Census Bureau, <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial-census/about/rdo/summary-files.html>.
5. Michael Wines, “A Census Case That Goes to the Heart of American Democracy,” *New York Times*, November 30, 2020, <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/11/30/>

us/scotus-census.html; Donald Trump, *Memorandum on Excluding Illegal Aliens From the Apportionment Base Following the 2020 Census*, July 21, 2020, <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/07/23/2020-16216/excluding-illegal-aliens-from-the-apportionment-base-following-the-2020-census>.

### Further Resources

*Apportionment and Redistricting Process for the U.S. House of Representatives*, CRS Report, [https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/R/R45951#\\_Toc21686917](https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/R/R45951#_Toc21686917),

*Apportionment and Redistricting Following the 2020 Census*, CRS Report, <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/IN/IN11360>,

*Constitutionality of Excluding Aliens from the Census for Apportionment and Redistricting Purposes*, CRS Report, <https://www.everycrsreport.com/reports/R41048.html>,

Justin Levitt, *All About Redistricting*, <https://redistricting.ills.edu/>,

USC Annenberg Center, *The ReDistricting Game*, <http://www.redistrictinggame.org/>.

Brennan Center for Justice, *Redistricting*, <https://www.brennancenter.org/issues/gerrymandering-fair-representation/redistricting>.

## Join GODORT!

Become part of the Government Documents Round Table (GODORT)!

Membership in ALA is a requisite for joining GODORT.

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

For information about ALA membership see <http://www.ala.org/membership/joinala>.

For information about GODORT visit <http://www.ala.org/rt/godort>.



# From the Chair

Lynda Kellam



The following were the Chair's remarks at the GODORT General Membership Meeting on January 14:

Welcome GODORT members, guests, and hopefully some future members. My name is Lynda Kellam. I am the Chair

of GODORT and in my daily life the Senior Data Librarian at the Cornell Institute for Social and Economic Research. I begin this meeting by acknowledging that Cornell and Ithaca, NY are located on the indigenous lands of the Cayuga Nation and we recognize the indigenous peoples who have and continue to live here. I have a few prepared remarks and I know this might be unprecedented in GODORT, but I hope you will have patience with me as I believe this is necessary.

Members of the Social Responsibilities Round Table founded the Government Documents Round Table in 1972 as an organization devoted to the problems related to government publications. At the first meeting, they created the slogan "Documents to the People" to signify that the mission of this organization is to ensure public access to government information. While some of us do not formally work with government documents, we are part of GODORT because we believe in the importance of access to and preservation of government information in all its forms. The spirit of those pioneers continues in the work we do today.

We come together as GODORT during a difficult time for our country and for ourselves as individuals. As government information librarians I think it's fair to say that we are more engaged with the workings of government than most. And this past week, this past year has been challenging.

Last week a violent insurrection and an act of domestic terrorism led by white supremacists and our President desecrated one of the symbols of our nation, led to the death of six people including Liebengood's suicide, and threatened the lives of our leaders. Moreover, we watch the news in anticipation over what is to come this weekend and beyond. And I am saddened to see that a week that should be celebratory, with both our inauguration and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's birthday, has become one filled with fear.

The past eleven months we have faced a pandemic that has touched the lives of everyone. We have watched our loved ones

fall ill, or ourselves have been afflicted. All through this we have tried to maintain some normalcy while being called on to do the impossible (although wearing a mask is NOT one of those impossible things). I hope that in our work lives we have (I have learned) to be more patient with each other, to make expectations more realistic, and to remember that we are all humans facing overwhelming challenges.

I realize that you all are quite familiar with our nation's issues and I don't want to set a somber mood. But it seems disingenuous not to acknowledge our realities. My goal this year has been to maintain a sense of community despite our distance, and I have been heartened this week and this year by the community we are building together in GODORT.

Through our Friday chats, started by past-Chair Susanne Caro, we have come together for both formal discussions on government information as well as chats about cats. Our committees have accomplished quite a bit despite the difficulty of the past year. And we have engaged both our members and the wider librarian community on important topics like voter engagement and disenfranchisement.

This week you've given each other advice on ways to cope with challenges at work, you've developed innovative ideas, and you've celebrated each other along the way. Through job changes, retirements, illnesses, caretaking, social distancing, zoom schooling, and new lives being brought into the world, we have supported each other. This is what GODORT has meant to me over this past year and I hope that you have experienced some of that community too. I know that there is more that we could be doing, more that we can do. And we will. But we should also celebrate what we have built together. We have a difficult road ahead as a country, but I am comforted by your community. I look forward to working with you all in 2021.

**Lynda Kellam** (lmk277@cornell.edu), Senior Data Librarian, Cornell Institute for Social and Economic Research

"From the Chair" is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License.



# Get to Know . . . Laura Baker

Megan Graewingholt

Change, often said, is inevitable, while growth is optional.<sup>1</sup> Originating in Government Documents, Laura Baker, User Experience and Assessment Librarian, has witnessed considerable change in her career and in the library profession. After more than twenty years at Abilene Christian University (ACU) Library, her position has grown to embrace assessment, promote library technology, and support accessibility of government documents through digitization.

Laura began her career as a Government Documents Librarian straight out of library school. In her words, “I thought it was great experience, since all the functions of the rest of the library were contained in government documents.” Despite title changes over the years, Laura still enjoys working with government documents and promoting their use. With the current movement towards weeding and born-digital documents, government information work is now “more about where you can find something and how patrons can access it.” In this sense, documents digitization and library assessment can go hand in hand.

When it comes to evaluating collection use, librarians everywhere are beginning to see significant focus on data-driven decision making, especially with the increasing demand for library space. In Laura’s role in library assessment, her aim is “to determine how well we are meeting the needs of our users. What kind of role do we play and what difference do we make in the teaching and learning process?” While usage data can be helpful in managing collections, she affirms that the center of assessment sits at the ability to gather essential data to tell the story of the library and underscore its value to ourselves and others. While occasionally it can be challenging to think that everything has to be quantified, “If measurement and data can shine a light on that story, I would like to know that my efforts are spent in an area that’s making a difference.”

In her role as User Experience and Assessment Librarian, Laura witnessed first-hand the benefits of incorporating technology into library spaces in ACU Library’s makerspace. With a background in computers, she enjoys seeing how technology can interface with library work and create new forms of learning. The ACU Maker Lab thrives as a center of innovation covering a seven-thousand-foot library space with over twenty-three hundred registered users.<sup>2</sup> Its technology not only

supports course curriculum, but formed a community of creators among campus clubs and intermural sports teams. It also demonstrated to Laura how technology can help to empower libraries that don’t have a huge staff or a large budget. For many librarians in government documents, staffing and funding can be substantial hurdles in participating in digitization and preservation projects.

Many GODORT members may remember Laura from her recent virtual poster presentation at the fall 2020 Federal Depository Library Conference. Her poster, entitled “No IR? No Problem: The Resourceful Librarian’s Guide to Archiving Digitized Government Publications with the Internet Archive,” illustrates how librarians with or without an institutional repository can still participate in digitization and preservation programs. This project came from her own experience working with the Internet Archive to help make government documents more accessible for patrons. As Laura pointed out, “It’s not as completely intuitive as one might think. I’ve learned a little bit working with it that I wished I had known getting started... how to put things up,

the different metadata fields and what they mean. Being able to promote the tool and at the same time saying here’s how you can use it most effectively can be a benefit for everyone.” Professional conferences frequently feature presentations from amazing institutions and librarians conducting large-scale digitization programs. Like many, Laura wondered what role she could play. “I’m so excited to be able to find some way we could participate in some small manner and if enough libraries do it, hopefully that will just grow the access even more.” Along these lines, even by engaging in small-scale projects, the Internet Archive allows for smaller libraries, with or without an institutional repository, to get involved in documents digitization to support government document discoverability and use.

When it comes to promoting government documents, Laura says, “We spend a lot of time trying to convince people that government documents have good information. I think the real barrier that is keeping so many people from using documents is not the quality of the content, it’s what you have to do to find it.” Being inclusive, adaptable, and incorporating government information in the searching users are already doing can help to break down some of these barriers. Providing online



Laura Baker

versions of print government documents has been especially essential during the pandemic, when patrons cannot come to the library in person. Rather than just emailing copies of scanned documents, uploading them to the Internet Archive allowed additional online availability. As Laura notes, “It’s just a little bit of extra work to put it up, since the scanning is being done already. Then, hopefully anyone else that needs it can have access to it, too.” This process became particularly helpful when providing materials for courses using government documents in course assignments. Moreover, when it comes to making decisions for weeding documents from collections, digitization can increase the use of material that otherwise may be sitting on shelves. As Laura reiterates, “Being in the place where people look matters for access.” In this regard, digitization and assessment can help to create a more accurate and comprehensive usage story through data.

As a future research interest, Laura is curious how librarians and educators are using government documents within the digital humanities. As Laura states, “Government documents could be used a lot more in history projects and all kinds of research projects in the digital humanities. This may be a new future for government publications and to get researchers more familiar with our collections.” Undeniably, digital humanities projects are another new frontier to explore when promoting and using government information. If one thing is clear, in spite of a rapidly changing environment, librarians like Laura are admirably growing the profession by telling the story of documents collections and expanding their visibility and use.

## Notes

1. John C. Maxwell, *15 Invaluable Laws of Growth: Live Them and Reach Your Potential* (New York: Center Street, 2012), 85-86.
2. “ACU Maker Lab,” Abilene Christian University, <https://makerlab.online/>
3. Laura Baker, “No IR? No Problem: The Resourceful Librarians Guide to Archiving Digitized Government Publications with the Internet Archive” (poster presented at the Federal Depository Library Conference, Virtual Presentation, December 2, 2020). <https://www.fdlp.gov/file-repository/outreach/events/depository-library-council-dlc-meetings/2020-meeting-proceedings/2020-fall-federal-depository-library-conference/virtual-poster-presentations/4526-no-ir-no-problem-the-resourceful-librarian-s-guide-to-archiving-digitized-documents-with-the-internet-archive/file>

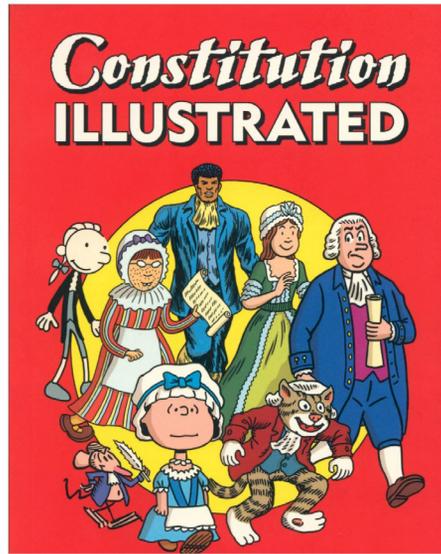
**Megan D. Graewingholt** (mgraewingholt@fullerton.edu), Social Sciences and Government Documents Librarian, Paulina June and George Pollak Library, California State University Fullerton

# Reviews

Sikoryak, R. 2020. *Constitution Illustrated*. New York: Drawn & Quarterly. 118 pp.

Fans of comics and cartoons will revel in the creative deployment of characters from the funny pages throughout *Constitution Illustrated*. Artist R. Sikoryak is a contributor to *The New Yorker* and *The New York Times Book Review* and is the author of several illustrated books. In his latest work, he has concocted an ingenious ploy to enliven the text of the Constitution. Each page features a different section of the Constitution being recited by cartoon characters. Sikoryak has imitated the style and borrowed the characters of dozens of cartoonists. Readers will find favorites both classic and contemporary, from Bud Counihan's *Betty Boop* and Chester Gould's *Dick Tracy* to Alison Bechdel's *Dykes to Watch Out For* and Harvey Pekar's *American Splendor*. Aficionados will have fun figuring out the artist being imitated on each page, and a helpful index provides a key to the source of each drawing for those who aren't able to recognize the myriad cartoonists represented.

Each phrase or sentence of the Constitution appears in a speech bubble spoken by a different character. By carefully selecting just the right cartoon characters to portray the words in each section, Sikoryak has created a set of light-hearted tableaux to help readers engage with this weighty text. So, for example, Bugs Bunny stands on a staircase, waving goodbye to a departing Daffy Duck as Daffy recites Amendment XX, which outlines the terms of the president and vice president. Olive Oyl and Popeye, standing aboard a ship, are spitting mad as they take a turn with Article I, Section 9, regarding taxation, while a



(Left) Artist R. Sikoryak enlivens a founding U.S. document with 4. (Right) Characters from *Batman & Robin Adventures* illustrate Amendment XIV, Section 3, (Image Copyright R. Sikoryak, Used with permission from Drawn & Quarterly)



nonplussed Bluto awaits payment on the dock. To illustrate Article III, Section 3, which concerns treason, Sikoryak placed Boris and Natasha in 18th century garb, awaiting the verdict of bewigged and robed judges Rocky and Bullwinkle.

The book includes articles and amendments that were subsequently modified or repealed, thereby adding to the cartoon character tally. Happily for the reader, this means that Homer Simpson ushers in Prohibition with Amendment XVIII, while characters from *Pearls Before Swine* celebrate its repeal under Amendment XXI. A notes section at the book's end lists the revisions and a chronology provides the dates of the Constitution and its amendments. A brief bibliography concludes the volume.

*Constitution Illustrated* is certainly not the first book to take a well-known text and set it to cartoons. R. Crumb, for instance, illustrated *The Book of Genesis*, which features the complete text of the first book of the Old Testament accompanied by his lurid drawings. Sikoryak previously published *Terms and*

*Conditions*, based on the iTunes Terms and Conditions agreement, in which Steve Jobs pops up as a character in various comics and graphic novels. One hopes that we can look forward to more of these types of text/comics mashups by Sikoryak or other artists. *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* by Roz Chast, anyone?—Gwen Sinclair ([gsinclair@hawaii.edu](mailto:gsinclair@hawaii.edu)), Chair of Government Documents and Maps, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Library.

## ***RIGHTS! Civil and Human Rights Law Portal***

On September 1, 2020, LLMC, a nonprofit Minnesota-based consortium of law libraries, launched the open-access portal RIGHTS! (<http://www.llmc.com/rights/home.aspx>). If you are looking for primary materials such as current constitutions, human/civil rights acts, Non-Governmental Organizations' websites, advocacy organizations, and other resources specifically dealing with injustices regarding marginalized parties, this is the place to look. Their

stated mission is preserving legal titles and government documents, while making copies inexpensively available digitally through its on-line service, LLMC-Digital (<http://www.llmc.com/about.aspx>). The original intent was to focus on primarily US and Canadian sources, as seen by the dropdown navigation on the left of the site, but the site also includes other international sources. The page opens at the “Civil and Human Rights Law Portal—Global,” which includes links to various government organizations, judicial information, non-governmental organizations, research and education resources and various documents from different countries. The RIGHTS! site can also be reached through the parent page (<http://LLMC.com>) with the link to RIGHTS! Located in the right-hand column. The RIGHTS! Portal is

sponsored by the Vincent C. Immel Law Library at Saint Louis University.

To move into the sections on the United States or Canada, there are drop down navigation boxes on the left of the page. The user may select either of these two countries, and from there, select a state or province to find more specific information. Each of the country pages include the same category breakdown seen on the “Global” page: Gateways, Governmental Organizations, Judicial, Non/Intra-Governmental Organizations, Research and Educational Resources, and Documents. When the user selects a specific province or state, the page then moves to a more limited list with some of these categories.

Overall, this is a well-organized site with large amounts of useful information, but its biggest drawback is navigation. The only way to return to the

“Global” information is with the back button on the browser. Also, once you select a specific province or state, it is difficult to switch to the other country successfully. You are dependent on the browser buttons more than the navigation dropdowns, as they don’t seem to work quite as expected.

This site is excellent for browsing, but I was unable to find a way to search for a specific agency or government organization. Currently, this is not a problem as there are only the three options: Global, Canada, and United States, so finding what you want is not difficult. As this site expands in scope, hopefully expanded navigation will follow. —*Dominique Hallett (dhallett@astate.edu), Government Information and STEM Librarian, Arkansas State University*

# Estimating the Value of a Depository Collection

Elizabeth Psyck

In the fall of 2018, I was asked to calculate the value of Grand Valley State University's (GVSU) general collection (defined as everything except Special Collections and University Archives) as part of risk mitigation planning and updating insurance coverage. Records indicated that our collection's value was last calculated 11 years earlier, and we lacked both written documentation and institutional memory regarding the process used to calculate that value. While there is a fairly significant body of knowledge around calculating the value of monographs, I struggled to find guidance on calculating the monetary value of FDLP collections. There is a robust body of scholarship on promoting the intrinsic value of being a member of the FDLP to library administration and other stakeholders, but very few of them focus on detailed financial benefits of tangible collections.

## Existing Guidance

FDLP guidance is very clear that depository collections "must be included in the insurance coverage for the library's collections."<sup>1</sup> Since all depository libraries share this requirement, I decided to reach out to colleagues.

In October 2018, I sent a message to GOVDOC-L asking how other depositories had calculated their value. Unfortunately, the only advice I received was to review the list's archives for previous conversations on the topic. A search of the archives for the word "value" in the subject line returned 67 results, two of which were related to my email. The oldest relevant result was from March 8, 1999, when Mary Fetzer of Rutgers University, who faced the same challenges I did.<sup>2</sup> She shared a summary of responses that included a method for calculating price per page, using the CIS price list for portions of the collection, and a reference to a 1980 *DttP* article.<sup>3</sup> A few months later, in September 1999, Julia F. Wallace announced that the Depository Library Council was taking up the issue in order to give the depository library community "some basic numbers."<sup>4</sup> On

January 25, 2001, Mary Redmond followed up with a rough draft of what would become "Resources on Costs of Replacing a Federal Document Depository Library Collection."<sup>5</sup> Additional requests for information on how to calculate the monetary or replacement value of documents collections would be posted in October 2005, January 2009, January 2014, and August 2015.<sup>6</sup> Of these later posts, only the one from January 2009 provides any information on a process for assigning value. Items were assigned generic prices ranging from \$10 for a map up to \$50 for a VHS tape or DVD. Undoubtedly, some posts are missing, particularly replies sent off list, but the consensus seemed to be that Redmond's "Resources on Costs of Replacing a Federal Depository Library Collection," from 2001, is the most up to date resource on calculating the value of a depository collection.

Needless to say, there have been significant changes in the Federal Depository Library Program since 2001, particularly in the number of types of documents available in physical formats. A modernized process would not only acknowledge the variety of formats and inflation, but also the relative difficulty in procuring replacement documents. Based on personal experience, not all documents distributed via the FDLP are available for purchase at the time of distribution, let alone several years later. We recently ran into this problem when a national park map loaned to another library was lost in transit. While there are commercial replacements and electronic versions available, we were not able to purchase a true replacement.

## Process and Limitations

Since the depository collection was a small part of the overall collection I was working with, and there was a hard deadline, I had limited time to work on estimating the value of our government documents. I was not able to design and develop a fully new process, or collect a significant amount of new information, which would be required to update some of the methods

described in the literature. In order to identify the best course of action, I reviewed what collection data was easily available through our ILS.

GVSU's print documents collection is fully cataloged, which made identifying the number of titles quite simple. Additionally, since all of our government documents are housed in an Automated Storage and Retrieval System (ASRS), each individual item has an assigned barcode which allowed me to estimate the number of individual items with a fairly high level of accuracy. For a library that is not able to quickly pull these statistics from their ILS, one could estimate the number of items per linear foot for sections of the collection. These numbers may vary widely, as they do in general collections. For example, Bureau of Mines bound volumes will have fewer items per linear foot than maps from the National Park Service. I would recommend measuring items per linear foot in three areas: one that tends to have very small items, one with medium sized volumes, and one with larger bound volumes. Once you have a rough idea of how many items per linear foot there are for different SuDoc classes, you can estimate how many of your ranges have publications of different sizes and do some simple math. This would be a great project for student workers, who could take measurements and notes about item density while shelving.

Estimating the number of different types of materials (e.g., microfiche, media, monographs, serials, maps, etc.) will depend on how your library has organized your collection. At GVSU we had government document specific location codes for the general depository collection, maps, media, and microfiche. I was able to estimate the number of each type of item at the same time I ran queries to estimate the number of items overall. If your library uses the same location code, you may be able to use the item type or notes field to identify this information. If your items are interfiled with the rest of the collection and do not have a note, you can search GPO in the publisher field. Be aware that this is an imprecise method that will almost certainly return false positives and miss a significant number of items. When in doubt, talk with whomever manages library systems or is responsible the cataloging.

One thing I was not able to consider in my calculations was the age of an item. Due to ILS migrations, the earliest item creation date we have is June 21, 2008. Most of our physical collection was acquired before then. It is possible, in most cases, to pull publication year from the MARC record using field 264 \$c (or field 260 \$c for pre-RDA records), but variable formatting requires any data to be cleaned before it is used for analysis. For example, years may be displayed as follows: 1978, c1978, ©1978, [1978], [1978?], <c1978>, etc. (This may not be the case with your collection.) There are three ways to handle the age

of materials when calculating the value of a collection (NB: this is about a collection rather than an individual item), which method you choose will primarily depend on local policies and procedures. The first option is to ignore age and value all documents roughly the same. This is an inexact method that assigns the same value to a book regardless of if it is from 1890 and includes illustrated plates or if it is an annual report published last year. This method assumes that over an entire collection, the extremes will even out, producing an average value. The second option is to assume that documents depreciate and become less valuable as time passes. While this might undervalue some historic materials, it is a common formula in insurance and risk management, so you should check with whomever manages the library's insurance coverage to see if this is local practice. If it is, there will most likely be a formula that you can use (e.g., after 5 years an item has decreased in value by 50%). Finally, you can assume that older materials are more valuable than newer ones, which would be the reverse of the second option.

Ultimately, I based the value of each item on the work done in 1999 by Michael Cotter of East Carolina University, updating the prices using the Bureau of Labor Statistics CPI Inflation Calculator.<sup>7</sup> (See table 1.)

I did not adjust prices by age or perceived value of individual items, nor did I differentiate between items that are held in the general collection and those in Special Collections. (Depository items located in Special Collections at GVSU are predominantly items covered under shared housing agreements that require them to be stored in Special Collections.) In the original estimates, Cotter separated out CD-ROMs, National Archives film and other film. To update the formula, I collapsed that category into the more general "Media," which included CDs, VHS, DVDs, etc. The number of items in the depository collection was estimated by running lists in Sierra, using location codes to identify depository materials by type (e.g., WWG for electronic government documents, MIG for print documents

**Table 1. Item Cost Estimate**

Format	Cotter's Estimate	Updated for Inflation
Bound Documents	\$13.00	\$28.00
Maps	\$10.00	\$15.00
Fiche	\$0.25	\$0.50
CD-Rom	\$19.00	
National Archives Film	\$34.00	
Other Film	\$50.00	
Media		\$30.00

in the ASRS at our Allendale campus, and STG is for items in the ASRS at our Grand Rapids campus). Using a basic Excel formula, I calculated the value of the collection based on the number of items and the updated table cost. Ultimately, our depository collection was estimated to be worth \$1,131,682.50.

## Alternatives

Given the time constraints of this project and a relatively high tolerance for error, the method I chose was acceptable. If a more detailed or accurate estimate was needed, there are other ways to determine value. For recently received tangible items, searching the US Government Bookstore would help approximate replacement costs for items that are available for sale. For items that are no longer available for sale, an estimate of per item cost, based on similar items, could be made. For parts of the collection that are particularly important, replacement costs could be estimated by searching for the same (or similar) items on used book sellers' websites. For example, as of December 19, 2019, Bureau of Mines Bulletin 156, *Petroleum Technology* No. 44 from 1918 is available for \$10, plus \$3.99 shipping from Alibris. For items that are available as reprints, digitized collections, or from vendors, estimated value or replacement cost can be calculated using information provided by the vendors. For example, price quotes from Bernan, ProQuest, or HeinOnline would help to estimate replacement cost for access, if not the physical objects themselves.

You may work in a library that has an established process for estimating value or replacement cost, in which case you could modify that process. While government publications are a unique collection, they share certain attributes with special collections and archives as well as general collections. Like archival collections, some depository items may be irreplaceable or prohibitively expensive to replace, alternately, they may be unexpectedly inexpensive. Like general collections, items may be available to repurchase, either as a new copy or as a reasonably priced used book. By blending already existing processes, you can develop documentation specifically for government publications.

## Conclusion

When I started this project, I struggled to find any sort of explicit guidance on how to calculate the monetary value of a depository collection. How do you put a price on something you do not, and sometimes can not, purchase? The method I settled on was good enough for my institution's needs, but I am confident that there are more accurate, alternative ways to make the same calculations. Ultimately, my goal in publishing this article is to provide the resource I was looking for and I hope

that by sharing my experience, other libraries will come forward and the depository community can work collaboratively to create a stronger, more robust, valuation process.

For information regarding estimating the value of general library collections, I recommend the following ACRL SPEC Kit: Martin, Susan K., and Association of Research Libraries. *Insuring and Valuing Research Library Collections: A SPEC Kit*. Washington, DC: Association of Research Libraries, Office of Leadership and Management Services, 2002. <http://hdl.handle.net/2027/mdp.39015052311175>.

**Elizabeth Psyck** (psycke@gvsu.edu), Government and Open Collections Librarian, Grand Valley State University

## Notes

1. Karen Sieger, "Physical Facilities and Collection Maintenance," <https://www.fdlp.gov/requirements-guidance/guidance/22-physical-facilities>.
2. Mary Fetzer, "Assessing Value of Documents Collections," GOVDOC-L Archives, March 8, 1999, <http://gvsu.edu/s/1nv>.
3. Sandra K. Faull, "Cost and Benefits of Federal Depository Status for Academic Research Libraries," *DtTP: Documents to the People* 8, no. 1 (January 1980): 33–39.
4. Julia F. Wallace, "Cost and Value of Documents Collections," GOVDOC-L Archives, September 4, 1999, <http://gvsu.edu/s/1ns>.
5. Mary Redmond, "Re: Depository Collection Value," GOVDOC-L Archive, January 25, 2001, <http://gvsu.edu/s/1np>; Redmond, Mary. "Resources on Costs of Replacing A Federal Document Depository Library Collection," *Administrative Notes: Newsletter of the Federal Depository Library Program* 22, no. 16 (November 15, 2001): 4–6, <http://gvsu.edu/s/1nq>.
6. Linda Johnson, "Value of Collection & Insurance," GOVDOC-L Archives, October 6, 2005, <http://gvsu.edu/s/1no>; Andrea Craley, "Question on How to Assign Monetary Value to FDLP Collections," GOVDOC-L Archives, January 8, 2009, <http://gvsu.edu/s/1nu>; Suzanne Caro, "REFQ: Replacement Value," GOVDOC-L Archives, January 16, 2014, <http://gvsu.edu/s/1nt>; Helen Murtagh Sheehy, "Value of Depository Collections," GOVDOC-L Archives, August 19, 2015, <http://gvsu.edu/s/1nr>.
7. Redmond, "Resources on Costs of Replacing A Federal Document Depository Library Collection."

# The Fight Against Enzy

## US Libraries During the Influenza Epidemic of 1918

Lorri Mon

*In 2020, a pandemic of the COVID-19 novel coronavirus struck worldwide, rapidly becoming the most devastating since the 1918 global influenza pandemic. As librarians confronted entirely new challenges in how to safely manage libraries during the COVID-19 crisis, a common question was, “what happened in libraries during the 1918 influenza pandemic?” This article explores that question through the lens of government documents and news articles of the 1918-1921 time period, seeking to understand what happened then in libraries nationwide, and what we might learn from it today.*

**T**hief River Falls and Moorhead Hit by ‘Enzy,’” a news article in the *Duluth News Tribune* in Duluth, Minnesota announced on October 10, 1918.<sup>1</sup> With 150 cases of influenza and two deaths reported locally, the board of health stepped in to close the public library as well as all public schools, theaters and churches. For many libraries nationwide, October 1918 was the first crisis point in the influenza epidemic. A wave of closures nationwide included libraries in Asheville, North Carolina (October 5); Olympia, Washington (October 7); Tulsa, Oklahoma, Pueblo, Colorado, and Lexington, Kentucky (October 8); Grand Forks, North Dakota, Redwood City, California and Belleville, Illinois (October 10); Los Gatos, California (October 11); Fort Wayne, Indiana, Mountain View, California and Berryessa, California (October 12); Albany, Oregon (October 17); and San Francisco, California (October 18).<sup>2</sup>

The influenza epidemic of 1918 first hit the United States in March 1918 at Camp Funston in Fort Riley, Kansas.<sup>3</sup> A year earlier, the United States had entered World War I with declarations of war against Germany and Austria-Hungary following President Woodrow Wilson’s speech to a joint session of Congress on April 2, 1917.<sup>4</sup> The 1918 pandemic’s first wave in the US thus hit young men crowded into barracks in World War I training camps, and spread onward to local civilians. Testifying at a September 28, 1918 US Senate hearing, US Surgeon General Rupert Blue reported, “35 States have been invaded

by the disease,” specifically naming Alabama, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, and West Virginia, and also describing an “epidemic” level of influenza outbreak in localities including Florence, Alabama; Lonoke County in Arkansas; Key West, Florida; Portland, Maine; Portsmouth, New Hampshire; Raleigh and Wilmington, North Carolina; and Portsmouth and Norfolk, Virginia.<sup>5</sup> At Boston, Massachusetts, the Surgeon General reported 618 deaths from influenza and 197 deaths from pneumonia occurring within just the ten-day period of September 16 to September 26, 2018.<sup>6</sup>

The hearing also included an article from the Department of the Navy’s Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, describing how the disease progressed with onset of chills, severe headache, and body aches, or at times beginning with nausea, vomiting and abdominal pain, and an early onset of fever, frequently with a later onset of “a bad cold in the head with raw throat and dry cough.”<sup>7</sup> Testifying about his experience in the US Navy Medical Corps, Lt. Commander J. R. Phelps noted that the influenza peaked from the eighth to the twelfth day, after which reporting of pneumonia occurred, followed by deaths coming in and increasing from the fifteenth to the twentieth days, with a forty day cycle overall.<sup>8</sup>

### Closing the Libraries

Many communities around the country already knew about the influenza outbreak before it reached their own areas. For example, in Palm Beach, Florida, on September 27, 1918, the local newspaper reported on 6,139 new cases of influenza and 723 new cases of pneumonia in the military deployment camps,

with 170 deaths, as well as 50,000 cases of Spanish influenza in Massachusetts, noting also that all theatres and places of amusement had been closed.<sup>9</sup> As the pandemic began to hit local communities, state and local boards of health often issued the orders to close places of public assembly including libraries, schools and churches, although in some cases local officials, such as the city mayor in consultation with the library board, issued closure orders.<sup>10</sup>

One of the immediate management issues for libraries was what to do about books already checked out, especially any books coming due for return while the library was closed. Many libraries dealt with this by extending due dates and/or eliminating fines. For example, in Grand Forks, North Dakota, all who had checked books out were invited to keep them until the quarantine was lifted, being assured by the librarian that “no fines for overtime will be collected.”<sup>11</sup> In other places such as Pueblo, Colorado, a recall of all library books was issued, with those who had checked out books before the quarantine being asked to return them.<sup>12</sup> At some libraries, the librarians continued to work during the period of closure to the public. In Superior, Wisconsin, librarians worked on repairing books and taking inventory during the quarantine shutdown.<sup>13</sup> However, in all working scenarios—whether libraries continued to have staff on site, or held temporary open hours for the recall of all books before closing down, or completely closed down until the quarantine was officially lifted—library staff eventually faced a problem of what to do about returned books which may have come from a household afflicted with influenza.

In Tulsa, Oklahoma and Olympia, Washington, janitors were in charge of fumigating both the library building and any returned library books.<sup>14</sup> Fumigants in use at the time included sulphur and formaldehyde.<sup>15</sup> Tulsa’s library held special open hours from 9 a.m. to 12 noon for the janitor to accept book returns, explaining to the public that the request for returning all books at once in response to the quarantine order was “in order that all germs may be exterminated” since “disease has been known to be transmitted” by books.<sup>16</sup> Superior, Wisconsin’s library workers who continued working through the shutdown placed returned books coming in from homes known to have had influenza on a separate shelf to be “thoroughly fumigated.”<sup>17</sup> In Boise, Idaho, where the public library reopened on November 25, 1918 after a 30-day quarantine shutdown, those returning books were asked to report whether the books were coming from a household with influenza, and if so, those books were sent to the city fumigator along with books returned from hospitals.<sup>18</sup> In Duluth, Minnesota, after reopening, those who returned library books from a household with influenza were asked to wrap the book in paper first, and

write clearly on the outside of the package the name of the person who checked the book out.<sup>19</sup>

## Other Closure Issues

Because closing down libraries, churches, schools and other public gathering places had also removed many important ways that informational materials were distributed to the public, officials needed new ways to disseminate information about influenza safety measures to people as they quarantined in their homes. The Department of the Navy’s Circular 1 with brief and clear advice about influenza (e.g., “Cover the mouth with a handkerchief. Boil your handkerchiefs and other contaminated articles. Wash your hands frequently. Keep away from others as much as possible while you have a cough,” etc.) which the Surgeon General had mentioned in his Congressional testimony on September 28, 1918, was one of the key informational materials printed for public distribution.<sup>20</sup> In Montgomery, Alabama, local boys and girls were asked to volunteer to help the Public Health Service distribute pamphlets about influenza, and in Kansas City, Missouri, the Boy Scouts were requisitioned to distribute educational literature on influenza to every home, and to post flyers in public places.<sup>21</sup> In Fargo, North Dakota, which was reporting 2,000 cases of influenza by October 10, 1918, many downtown area businesses began requiring employees to wear masks.<sup>22</sup>

Many libraries shuttered by influenza quarantines during October 1918 reopened again in November 1918, such as libraries in Tampa, Florida, Boise, Idaho, and Olympia, Washington, but some did not reopen until December 1918; for example, the public library in Virginia, Minnesota was closed for eight weeks until December 13, 1918, while Butte, Montana’s public library only reopened on December 19, 1918.<sup>23</sup> However, public libraries nationwide would unfortunately continue to experience closings and reopenings during local resurgences of the influenza epidemic over the next three years, from 1918 to 1920. In Virginia, Minnesota, the public library that had already been closed for eight weeks into mid-December 1918 was shut down again due to influenza during the first two weeks of February 1919.<sup>24</sup> The ongoing influenza pandemic also caused some libraries to modify their service models in ways that reduced public access to parts of the building, thus essentially enforcing what the librarians of the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic would later refer to as social distancing. In December 1918 the Butte, Montana public library upon reopening instituted a new policy of closed stacks for non-fiction, leaving only fiction books open for public browsing while all other books were accessed by request only.<sup>25</sup> In February 1920, the Colorado Springs public library stayed open during an influenza quarantine but only by

closing their public reading rooms and requiring people to pick up or drop off books and leave immediately, with no loitering or congregating in groups allowed—similar to what librarians of 2020 would describe as curbside pickup.<sup>26</sup>

## The War Effort and the Red Cross

Libraries at this time already had been serving as partners in a war effort spearheaded by the American Library Association and the YMCA to support military training camps with books and reading materials.<sup>27</sup> The librarian for the Indianapolis Public Library, Charles E. Rush, was on a leave of absence in November 1918 serving as assistant to the director of information of the Library War Fund, which raised money to build libraries in the camps, and library war service efforts were based at the Library of Congress in Washington, DC, under the leadership of Librarian of Congress Herbert Putnam.<sup>28</sup> Local libraries and librarians nationwide participated both in fundraising activities for the money needed to build the camp library buildings and furnish them with shelves and seating, and also participated in coordinating a campaign of collecting book donations for camp libraries which brought in over 3 million books, although influenza quarantine shutdowns of public libraries sometimes interfered with planned local fundraising events.<sup>29</sup> Library association meetings meanwhile were also sometimes shut down by pandemic outbreak quarantines, as happened when the Missouri Library Association and the North Dakota Library Association could not meet in October 1918, and the Montana Library Association could not meet in November 1918.<sup>30</sup>

Libraries joined forces with the Red Cross in local efforts to combat the influenza pandemic. Two public libraries in Duluth, Minnesota, and the Butte Public Library in Montana were among those opening Red Cross rooms for the public within the library.<sup>31</sup> Red Cross rooms were used for organizing distribution to the public of US Public Health Service literature on prevention and treatment of influenza, as well as for volunteer activities in sewing masks, bandages, and clothing to supply the troops.<sup>32</sup> In Canadian, Texas, the Red Cross took over the library building entirely in December 1918, converting it into a temporary hospital with a capacity for housing thirty influenza patients at a time, and when in 1919 the Red Cross launched efforts to open a library in its own Minneapolis headquarters, local public libraries in the Twin Cities and the local university library offered their help.<sup>33</sup>

## The End of the Battle

By the end of the pandemic, 50 million people were estimated to have died from influenza worldwide.<sup>34</sup> Total numbers for US

deaths from the influenza pandemic are difficult to determine as they were complicated by the extended timeframe and by war deaths and other pulmonary-related diseases such as tuberculosis. Influenza surveys conducted by the US Public Health Service from November 20, 1918 to February 21, 1919 surveyed 146,203 people in 12 US cities and township areas asking specifically if they or family members had been sick with influenza, pneumonia, or an illness they suspected to be influenza. There were 42,920 reported cases and 730 reported deaths, with one out of every three or four persons canvassed reporting influenza cases during this sampling period.<sup>35</sup> Data from hospital admissions of US-based Army troops for a similar timeframe showed 434,074 total admissions for influenza, bronchitis, bronchopneumonia, and lobar pneumonia during September-December 1918, and worldwide during September-November 1918 it was estimated that 20% to 40% of US Army and Navy personnel had fallen ill with either influenza or pneumonia.<sup>36</sup>

Outbreaks of the disease continued in 1919 and 1920, and so too did the war effort supporting US troops—although World War I had officially ended with Armistice Day on November 11, 1918, it took longer to demobilize and return troops from the military camps in the United States and worldwide. In January 1920, one of the deaths noted was Miss Edith Morgan, a former student of the University of Illinois Library School, who died in the influenza epidemic while involved in work supporting the war effort in Washington, DC.<sup>37</sup>

With the shifting away from war efforts to peacetime work, the American Library Association held a regional meeting in March 15-16, 1920 in Charleston, South Carolina with librarians attending from North and South Carolina, Florida, Georgia and Virginia to discuss the launch of a new effort, “Books for Everybody.”<sup>38</sup> This new effort shifted library resources, including books being returned from the demobilized camps, to supporting an estimated 60,000,000 people throughout the US who lacked access to free public libraries, accounting for more than 75% of the total US population.<sup>39</sup> This new plan would promote county libraries to increase local access, particularly in rural areas.<sup>40</sup> One effort using surplus books from camp libraries undertaken immediately after this meeting was announced on March 20, 1920 by Tampa, Florida’s public library, which launched a service of supplying and exchanging books for crews of merchant ships.<sup>41</sup> Books returned at the end of the war, which were estimated by October 1919 to be as many as 600,000 of the 2,500,000 books sent overseas which were returned in good condition, also would be offered to army post libraries for their permanent collections.<sup>42</sup> As efforts shifted to a peacetime focus, this closed the chapter on the fight of libraries to support the

country during the influenza epidemic in the United States and overseas.

## Summary

As seen through the lens of government documents and contemporary newspaper accounts, the experience of libraries during the pandemic of 1918 bears striking similarities to the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020. Libraries in 1918 faced quarantine closures which forced difficult decisions as to whether staff would work through the shutdown or stay at home, and also problems of how to handle contaminated materials, as well as limiting public access to buildings in response to orders from public health authorities. It is particularly instructive that the 1918 pandemic took years to resolve, with libraries still facing quarantine shutdowns into 1920. Most notably, this analysis suggests the importance of maintaining institutional memory of how libraries managed during the pandemic situation. Although a significant time may pass between worldwide pandemics, libraries as memory institutions should be prepared for similar crises in future.

**Lorri Mon** (lmon@fsu.edu), Associate Professor, Florida State University, School of Information

## Notes

1. "Thief River Falls and Moorhead hit by 'Enzy,'" *Duluth News Tribune* 153 (50), October 10, 1918, 5.
2. "Averting an Epidemic," *The Asheville Citizen*, October 5, 1918, 4; "Close Movies, Schools, Pool Halls in City," *Olympia Daily Recorder*, October 7, 1918, 1; "Many Victims of Influenza Here," *Tulsa Daily World* 15 (14), October 8, 1918, 1; "Library Closed During Influenza Epidemic," *Tulsa Daily World* 16 (14), October 9, 1918, 6; "May Return Books to Public Library," *Pueblo Chieftain*, October 8, 1918, 3; "State Health Board Issues Sweeping Closing Order in Fight on Spanish Plague," *The Lexington Herald* 281, October 8, 1918, 1; "Health Officer Says Over Twenty Cases of Influenza Exist Here," *Grand Forks Daily Herald* 298 (37), Grand Forks, ND, October 10, 1918, 8; "Redwood Police Chief a Victim of Influenza," *San Jose Mercury Herald* 95 (105), October 13, 1918, 12; "Influenza Not to Be Serious Here, It is Thought Today," *Belleville News-Democrat* 63 (240), Belleville, Illinois, October 10, 1918, 1; "Los Gatos Board of Health Takes Action," *San Jose Mercury Herald* 95 (113), October 21, 1918, 3; "Closing Order Now in Effect," *The Fort Wayne News and Sentinel* 85 (244), October 12, 1918, 1; "Influenza Breaks Out at Mountain View," *San Jose Mercury Herald* 95 (105), October 13, 1918, 13; "Influenza Causes Library to Close," *San Jose Mercury Herald* 95 (106), October 13, 1918, 10; "Albany is Closed Town," *Morning Oregonian* 58 (18066), October 17, 1918, 6; "Libraries Closed, S.F.," *The Evening News* 168 (534), San Jose, California, October 19, 1918, 6.
3. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Influenza (Flu): 1918 Pandemic Timeline," <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/pandemic-resources/1918-commemoration/pandemic-timeline-1918.htm>.
4. "Joint Resolution Declaring That a State of War Exists Between the Imperial German Government and the Government and the people of the United States and making provision to prosecute same," 65th Congress, 1st Session, S.J. Res. 1, p.1. (April 2, 1917); "Joint Resolution Declaring That a State of War Exists Between the Imperial and Royal Austro-Hungarian Government and the people of the United States and making provision to prosecute same," 65th Congress, 2nd Session, H.J. Res. 169, (December 7, 1917).
5. "Suppression of Spanish Influenza: Hearing on H.J. Resolution 333, A Joint Resolution to Aid in Combating the Disease Known as Spanish Influenza," United States Senate Subcommittee of the Committee on Appropriations, 65th Congress, 2nd Session (September 28, 1918), 5–6.
6. "Suppression of Spanish Influenza," 6.
7. "Suppression of Spanish Influenza," 13, from "Influenza," Department of the Navy, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, Division of Sanitation, Circular No 1., Washington, DC (September 26, 1918).
8. "Suppression of Spanish Influenza," 15.
9. "Fifty Thousand Cases of Spanish influenza in Massachusetts," *The Palm Beach Post*, September 27, 1918, 3.
10. "State Health Board Issues Sweeping Closing Order in Fight on Spanish Plague," *The Lexington Herald*, 281, October 8, 1918, 1; "Albany is Closed Town," *Morning Oregonian*, , 58 (18066), October 17, 1918, 6; and "Library Closed During Influenza Epidemic," *Tulsa Daily World*, 16 (14), October 9, 1918, 6.
11. "Health Officer Says Over Twenty Cases of Influenza Exist Here," *Grand Forks Daily Herald* 298 (37), Grand Forks, ND, October 10, 1918, 8.
12. "May Return Books to Public Library," *Pueblo Chieftain*, October 8, 1918, 3; also "City Briefs," *Pueblo Chieftain*, October 14, 1918.
13. "Library Takes Precaution to Prevent Influenza," *Duluth News Tribune* 50 (170), October 28, 1918, 4.

14. "Library Closed During Influenza Epidemic," *Tulsa Daily World* 16 (14), October 9, 1918, 6; also "Close Movies, Schools, Pool Halls in City," *Olympia Daily Recorder* 18 (129), October 7, 1918, 1.
15. Tennessee State Library and Archives, "Disasters in Tennessee: Epidemic Scourges in Tennessee," RG 1, Department of Public Health Records, Kinyoun-Francis Sulphur Fumigator, 1917, <http://sharetn.gov.tnsosfiles.com.s3.amazonaws.com/tsla/exhibits/disasters/images/epidemics/SulphurFumigator.jpg>; also *The Saturday Evening Post*, B&B Formaldehyde Fumigator, April 20, 1918, [https://www.saturdayeveningpost.com/wp-content/uploads/satevepost/1918\\_04\\_20-064\\_SP-large.jpg](https://www.saturdayeveningpost.com/wp-content/uploads/satevepost/1918_04_20-064_SP-large.jpg); and "Six More Dead from Influenza," *Tulsa Daily World*, 14 (16), October 9, 1918, 1.
16. "Library Closed During Influenza Epidemic," *Tulsa Daily World* 16 (14), October 9, 1918, 6.
17. "Library Takes Precaution to Prevent Influenza," *Duluth News Tribune* 50 (170), October 28, 1918, 4.
18. "Ban Lifted on Some Boise Institutions," *Idaho Daily Stateman* 105, November 25, 1918, 5; also, "Fumigate Loaned Books," *Idaho Daily Stateman*, 107, November 27, 1918, 2.
19. "Influenza Ban Lifted: Library Will Open," *Duluth News Tribune* 50 (186), November 13, 1918, 4.
20. "Suppression of Spanish Influenza: Hearing on H.J. Resolution 333, A Joint Resolution to Aid in Combating the Disease Known as Spanish Influenza," United States Senate Subcommittee of the Committee on Appropriations, 65th Congress, 2nd Session (September 28, 1918), from "Influenza," Department of the Navy, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, Division of Sanitation, Circular No 1., Washington, DC (September 26, 1918), 12–13.
21. "Fighting Influenza—Free Pamphlets on Prevention of 'Flu,'" *The Montgomery Advertiser*, October 14, 1918; and "Big Hall a Hospital," *The Kansas City Star* 39 (21), October 8, 1918, 2.
22. "Health Officer Says Over Twenty Cases of Influenza Exist Here," *Grand Forks Daily Herald* 298 (37), Grand Forks, ND, October 10, 1918, 8.
23. "Library Will Open Today After Being Closed Recently," *The Tampa Morning Tribune*, November 11, 1918, 7; "Ban Lifted on Some Boise Institutions," *Idaho Daily Stateman* 105, November 25, 1918, 5; "Library Has Reopened," *Morning Olympian* 27 (205), November 15, 1918, 4; "Virginia Lifts Ban at Last; Churches, Library and Theaters to Open," *Duluth News Tribune* 50 (217), December 14, 1918, 4; and, "Public Library Opens for Business Today," *The Anaconda Standard* 30 (107), December 19, 1918, 8.
24. "Will Resume Story Hours at the Virginia Library," *Duluth News Tribune* 50 (278), February 14, 1919, 5.
25. "Public Library Opens for Business Today," *The Anaconda Standard* 30 (107), December 19, 1918, 8.
26. "Library to be Open During Closing Ban; Announce Regulations," *The Colorado Springs Gazette*, February 10, 1920, 5.
27. "Books for Soldiers Supplied by A.L.A.," *The Fort Myers Daily Press*, Fort Myers FL, November 6, 1918, 6.
28. Grace Julian Clarke, "Libraries' War Work Indorsed by Club Women: Members Looking Forward to Annual Meeting," *Indianapolis Star*, November 10, 1918, 33; Theodore Wesley Koch, "War Libraries and Allied Studies" (New York: G. E. Stetchert and Company, 1918), 8.
29. Koch, "War Libraries and Allied Studies," 6; "Wounded Soldiers Crave Good Books," *New York Times*, December 29, 1918, 45; "South Boise Obeys," *Idaho Stateman*, October 10, 1918.
30. "Library Meet Next Month," *Kansas City Star* 30 (30), September 3, 1919, 1; "Library Meeting Postponed on Account of Influenza," *Grand Forks Daily Herald* 37 (298), October 10, 1918, 3; "Postpone Library Campaign in City," *Daily Press*, Newport News, Virginia, February 3, 1920; and "Library Meeting Program Issued," *The Anaconda Standard*, 31 (74), November 16, 1919, 11.
31. "Peace Report Makes Worker to Slip COG; Red Cross Rooms in the Lincoln Library Remain Open," *Duluth News Tribune* 50 (183), November 10, 1918, 6; also "More Fiction is Read by Butte Youngsters," *The Anaconda Standard* 30 (245), May 6, 1919, 3.
32. Gordon Williams, "When the Spanish Flu hit Seattle 100 Years Ago, the Red Cross was there," American Red Cross Northwest Region, October 5, 2018, <https://redcrossnw.org/2018/10/05/when-the-spanish-flu-hit-seattle-100-years-ago-the-red-cross-was-there/>; "Vignette: Flu Epidemic," December 25, 2015, *Mill Valley Historical Society*, <https://www.mvhistory.org/vignette-flu-epidemic/>; and Jessie Kratz, (2020) "Wear a Mask and Save Your Life: the 1918 Flu Pandemic," *National Archives*, April 15, 2020, <https://prologue.blogs.archives.gov/2020/04/15/wear-a-mask-and-save-your-life-the-1918-flu-pandemic/>.
33. "Canadian Red Cross Takes Over Library as Hospital During Influenza Epidemic," *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, 38 (326), December 29, 1918, 5; April Dillon, "Hemp-hill County Library: About Us," October 31, 2012, <https://>

- harringtonlc.org/canadian/sample-page/; "Red Cross to Open Library," *Duluth News Tribune* 51 (161), October 12, 1919, 12.
34. National Archives and Records Association, "*The Deadly Virus: The Influenza Epidemic of 1918*," <https://www.archives.gov/exhibits/influenza-epidemic/>.
  35. Rollo Britten, "The Incidence of Epidemic Influenza, 1918-19\*: A Further Analysis According to Age, Sex, and Color of the Records of Morbidity and Mortality Obtained in Surveys of 12 Localities," *Public Health Reports* 47, no. 6 (February 5, 1932): 304–10.
  36. Britten, "The Incidence of Epidemic Influenza, 1918-19\*," 309–10; Carol R. Byerly, "The U.S. Military and the Influenza Pandemic of 1918–1919," *Public Health Reports* 125, Suppl 3 (2010), 82.
  37. *Illinois Libraries* (January 1920), 27.
  38. Regional Meeting of Library Association," *Tampa Morning Tribune*, March 13, 1920, 9; also "Will Press Books for Everybody Plan Throughout Country," *Tampa Morning Tribune*, March 23, 1920, Section Two.
  39. "Will Press Books for Everybody Plan Throughout Country," *Tampa Morning Tribune*, March 23, 1920, Section Two; also, "Books for All," *Daily Press*, Newport News, Virginia, March 30, 1920, 14.
  40. "Will Press Books for Everybody Plan Throughout Country," *Tampa Morning Tribune*, March 23, 1920, Section Two.
  41. "Tampa Library will Supply Ships Books When Exchanged Here," *Tampa Morning Tribune*, March 10, 1920, 3B.
  42. "A.L.A. Library Here to be Moved Away," *Daily Press*, Newport News, Virginia, October 19, 1919, 11.

# Small-Scale Digitization Projects For State and Local Publications

Andrew Lopez

There is no question that libraries of all sizes, no matter how small, have an important role to play in preserving and facilitating the discovery of government publications. This is especially true for documents issued at the state and local level, precisely because they are less-well known nationally and therefore less likely to be included in larger national digitization projects.<sup>1</sup> By focusing on what might as well be called *small* government publications, little libraries and small selective depository libraries can enter the digitization arena by undertaking small-scale digitization projects that, despite their diminutive scale, can achieve digital preservation successes in the range of minor to major. For inspiration, we should recall the hero of Robert Walser's now celebrated novel from 1909, *Jakob von Gunten*, who adopts the motto "To be small and to stay small."<sup>2</sup>

The reasons for this move towards digitization should by now be familiar to most government documents librarians and their library directors, but we can summarize them here. At the federal level, approximately 97 percent of all government information is now born-digital. No one knows how much born-digital government information has been created or where it all is, and almost all of it is now essentially fugitive—that is, it was not processed by the Government Publishing Office (GPO), and so it is not to be found in FDLP libraries, at govinfo.gov, or in LOCKSS-USDOCS, and is therefore at risk of being lost.<sup>3</sup> We are reminded of Robert Darnton's often-cited expression, "...all texts 'born digital' belong to an endangered species."<sup>4</sup> At the state and local level, the problem may be even more fractious. In 2005 the Library of Congress observed "...there has never been a national focus placed on how state libraries and archives can work together to preserve significant information."<sup>5</sup>

These are issues of digital preservation, rather than digitization per se, but the distinction between the two may be fuzzy at best.<sup>6</sup> When it comes to small-scale digitization, I certainly have digital preservation in mind. Susanne Caro reminds us, at the beginning of her handy guide, *Digitizing Your Collection*, why we need to be involved with digitization on some level.<sup>7</sup> Caro argues that library users increasingly *expect* library materials and information in general to be available digitally. Digitizing materials therefore serves to expand *access* by making them available online. Caro's third general reason for digitization, *preservation*, brings us right back to the risk of losing government information.

To counteract the problem of disappearing government information, two leading government information advocates, James A. Jacobs and James R. Jacobs, recommend a variety of simple strategies.<sup>8</sup> Three of their suggested strategies more or less inform the rationale at work in this article, which I have adapted for the purposes of small-scale digitization projects. They are:

- Keep track of your favorite agency's publications/data. Make sure those URLs are saved in the Internet Archive's Wayback Machine.
- Save documents to your library's web servers and upload them to the Internet Archive.
- Build digital collections that support the needs of communities you support.

By acting on any one of these strategies, or more if possible, essentially anyone can embark on their own endless adventure of preserving valuable government information while also making it more discoverable. The trick is:

- Begin monitoring the circulation of new, born-digital state/local government publications as a matter of practice;
- Be on the lookout for hidden treasures in your legacy print collection that are similarly at risk of being lost and/or in need of increased accessibility.

One needs to make sure those documents are cataloged in your library *and* captured in the Internet Archive.

## How to Save URLs and Upload Documents to Internet Archive

Saving URLs to the Wayback Machine and uploading documents to the Internet Archive is a good warmup exercise to practice before building your own digital collections. Of course, if you have an Internet Archive account, which you can create for free, when you save URLs to the Wayback Machine, you can also have them added to your collection, which is arguably one way to begin building your own digital collection. If we follow the principle of preservation that says to keep multiple copies of a single item in multiple different locations, then once you have saved important online documents to the Internet Archive, you might also consider printing them and adding a physical, cataloged copy to your library collections. Alternatively, if you find compelling physical documents in your library collection, and you obtain copyright permission (more about this later), you can scan and upload them to the Internet Archive; just remember to add a link for the digital copy to your library catalog, and ideally WorldCat as well, to enhance discoverability.

But what documents will you save? State and local government documents are notoriously difficult to find and access, as Shari Laster and Aimée Quinn have noted in their article on capturing local government publications.<sup>9</sup> Through some combination of directly following the activity of your state or local government, reading about them in select news sources, managing email and web alerts, as well as following the activity of advocacy organizations, and social media accounts, you should be able to identify important state and local government publications that are endangered precisely because they were born-digital. Depending upon an assessment of their importance, some of these may need to be cataloged and preserved. To save a copy of these kinds of publications in the Internet Archive's Wayback Machine, follow these steps:

- Copy the URL of the publication to be saved
- Direct your web browser to the Wayback Machine (<https://archive.org/web/>)

- Paste the URL into the box called Save Page Now
- Click on the button called Save Page

Now you have created a backup copy of the document, which you just saved to the Internet Archive. When and if its originating URL stops working, you can paste the broken URL into the Wayback Machine and voila, you can access the saved version. To see examples of some of the state and local documents I have been saving in the Wayback Machine, please consult the resources section at the end of this article. It is important to recall, "The average life of a Web page is about a hundred days."<sup>10</sup>

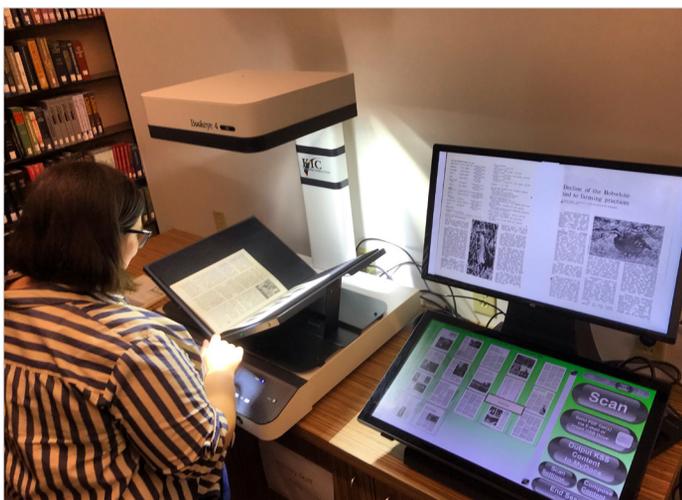
## From Saving Links to Building a Digital Collection

We do not need anyone's permission to save a URL in the Wayback Machine. But when it comes to scanning physical documents in our collections, that is when copyright comes into play because state and local government publications generally do have some form of copyright protection.<sup>11</sup> The process of cultivating the habit of saving links and documents to the Internet Archive over the course of several years began changing my perception of the value of my library's legacy print collection. Confronted with its relative rarity and inaccessibility, I increasingly found myself compelled to want to digitize more of our state and local documents than I had noticed before I began saving URLs.

A variety of environmental issues in the news kept catching my personal and professional attention:

- The so-called blight in the form of apparently messy front yards;
- The rising costs of hauling trash and recyclables across the state and beyond;
- The effects of impervious surfaces and stormwater runoff; and
- The dangers of unchecked carbon emissions from increasing vehicle miles traveled by cars and trucks in the state.

Eventually I determined that all of these issues were addressed in a little-known state periodical entitled *Citizens' Bulletin* (1973–1991).<sup>12</sup> There was virtually no information online about this publication. After reflecting on its potential research value, as well as its potential significance to our institutional history, I spoke with colleagues who expressed interest in learning more about it, as it seemed like a good fit for our library's already solid holdings in environmental studies.<sup>13</sup> It



Connecticut College student Rachel Haines (class of 2020) scans an issue of *Citizens' Bulletin* in Shain Library.

was clear enough that I needed to contact the publisher to see if I could have their permission to move forward with digitizing it. As our librarian who fields copyright questions suggests, “you need to figure out who holds the copyright, get in touch with [them], and ask!”<sup>14</sup>

With a few emails and a phone call, the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) gave their permission to digitize their legacy publication and post it online in the public domain.<sup>15</sup> So I convened a small team that in one summer scanned and digitized the whole series in a user-friendly and publicly accessible format that is now available in the Internet Archive.<sup>16</sup> Generally speaking, there were 11 issues per year for 18 years (October 1973–June 1991), and each issue had about 20 pages. That makes for an approximate total of 3,960 pages. We found that we could easily scan about four issues per hour (80 pages), which meant that we should have no problem scanning the whole thing in one summer.

It turns out, however, that our library’s print holdings of *Citizens' Bulletin* only go back to 1979. Having received permission from DEEP to digitize the entire print run meant we would need to find the rest of the back issues in another library. Fortunately, according to WorldCat both the Connecticut State Library and UConn’s Library hold collections of back issues, and the State Library was happy to let us scan from theirs. So began the effort to scan the State Library’s issues from 1973 to 1979, and Shain Library’s issues from 1979 to 1991.

Our digitization team consisted of myself; Lori Looney, Technical Services and E-Resources Specialist; and Rachel Haines, a senior in the Connecticut College class of 2020. I knew Rachel as an outstanding student prior to formally working with her, and I knew she loved reading and writing. When

I heard there was an opportunity to hire her for special projects, we met and discussed the possibility of her contributing to the *Citizens' Bulletin* digitization project. Her enthusiasm for the project was wonderful and it resonates with Josh Sopiartz’ observation “...that library student employees are eager for higher order work assignments and experiences.”<sup>17</sup>

Rachel and I shared the job of scanning every issue on either a Scannx Book ScanCenter 6167 flatbed scanner in readable (OCR) form at the Connecticut State Library, or a KIC Bookeye 4 V2 scanner set to 400 DPI at our own Charles E. Shain Library. We named the files with numerical values for year and month and loaded them all into a shared drive where they were sorted chronologically. Then Lori and I went through the process of uploading them and cataloging them in the Internet Archive. Once you have uploaded 50 items or more, Internet Archive lets you request to have the items turned into a collection.<sup>18</sup> The benefits of building a collection are numerous. These include, for example, bringing all individual issues of a periodical together visually, where their contents can be seen, searched, and/or browsed. Take a look at The Magazine Rack on the Internet Archive for thousands of examples. Without a collection, there would be no obvious way to search an entire periodical in one click.

## Introducing *Citizens' Bulletin*<sup>19</sup>

*Citizens' Bulletin* was a monthly publication (11 issues per year) of the newly formed Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (CT DEP) that was established in 1971. Significantly, like CT DEP, which in 2011 became CT DEEP, the *Bulletin* also began in the heyday of environmentalism in 1973, just three years after the first Earth Day.<sup>20</sup> The reason this start date is significant is because that was the year of a major international oil crisis that fueled an explosion of creative environmental thinking in North America.<sup>21</sup> That environmental thinking is well documented in library catalogs nationwide, and, as we struggle to respond to the threats of climate change on the 50th anniversary of the first Earth Day, it remains no less relevant today. In October 1973, the inaugural issue of *Citizens' Bulletin* laid out the publication’s mission: “...to give you the information you need to participate in decisions affecting the quality of our environment.”<sup>22</sup>

Following Rachel Carson’s 1962 publication of *Silent Spring*, and fresh on the heels of the 1968 circulation of the influential Earthrise photos of planet earth from outer space, the environmental movement, and, in turn, the pages of *Citizens' Bulletin*, present us with an inspiring array of new ideas about how to live on a changing planet.<sup>23</sup> From air pollution, cars, and land trusts, to recycling, solar energy, and wetlands

protection, virtually all of the major environmental issues and policies of today can be traced back to the now decades-old pages of *Citizens' Bulletin*, which here in Connecticut gives us a local, on-the-ground view of these global issues. By digitizing it, we are providing access to a state document that provides the critical context we need to confront the energy and environmental challenges before us.

### Building Local Interest and Community Support

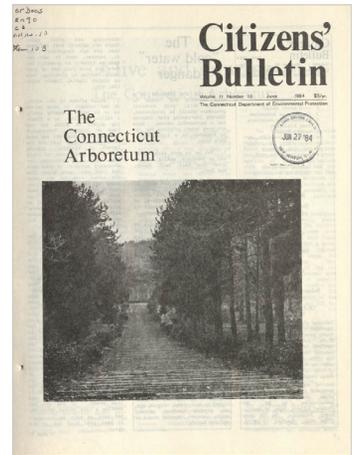
One of the three main strategies listed above for counteracting disappearing local government information is to build digital collections that support the needs of our communities. Susanne Caro adds that “One of the most important issues to consider when looking for a collection to digitize is if the material is unique, rare, or of strong local interest.”<sup>24</sup> Digitizing *Citizens' Bulletin* was compelling for us not just because our library already has special collections with strong environmental themes, but also because *Citizens' Bulletin* itself reflects those collections and enriches the institutional history they record.

In fact, environmental conservation efforts at Connecticut College are documented in the pages of *Citizens' Bulletin*. In addition to a cover story on The Connecticut [College] Arboretum in the June 1984 issue that makes the College's presence in the *Bulletin's* history explicit, wetlands protection is a topic addressed throughout the *Bulletin's* history, from the first issue to the last, leaving the College's role implicit throughout.<sup>25</sup> The implicit role can be understood better by recognizing the environmental leadership of Connecticut College Professor Emeritus William Niering (1924-1999), who was an internationally recognized expert on the ecology of wetlands and tidal marshes, and who advocated for the passage of landmark legislation to protect Connecticut's wetlands, no doubt adding to the local inspiration that gave rise to *Citizens' Bulletin* in the first place.<sup>26</sup>

Niering testified publicly in support of Connecticut's 1969 Tidal Wetlands Act that helped raise national awareness about the importance of protecting wetlands.<sup>27</sup> In 1972, just a year before the launch of *Citizens' Bulletin*, Niering advocated for the passage of the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Act (IWWA), considered by the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) to be one of

the top 40 environmental accomplishments of the past 40 years.<sup>28</sup> In celebrating the 50th anniversary of this Act (in 2019), DEEP paid special tribute to Niering's “significant contributions to the study and understanding of wetlands systems.”<sup>29</sup>

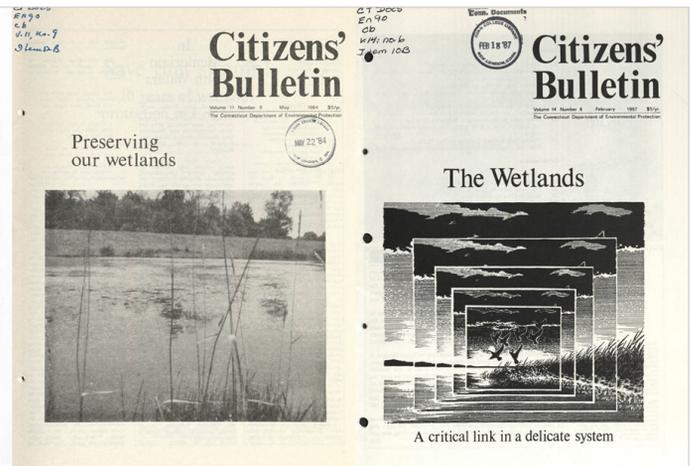
In 1987, when the IWWA was amended, just a few years before the *Bulletin* would cease publication, Niering testified again on behalf of wetlands protection.<sup>30</sup> Hence, important wetlands legislation that was championed at Connecticut College pervades the entire print-run of *Citizens' Bulletin*. Over the years, there were cover stories on wetlands in the March 1976, December 1977, January 1978, May 1984, and the February 1987 issues, which all bear a trace of Niering's impact.<sup>31</sup> Not only did the *Bulletin* share Niering's advocacy for wetlands protection, it also promoted some of his collaborative Arboretum publications by featuring them within its pages.<sup>32</sup>



The June 1984 issue of *Citizens' Bulletin* features a cover story on The Connecticut [College] Arboretum.

### Thinking Globally and Acting Locally

What environmentalism and small-scale digitization projects have in common is that they both require a creative and engaged response to the world around us. Environmentalism was the result of people thinking and acting differently about the quality of their environment. As we read above, the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection was formed



Wetlands were an important and regular focus in the pages of *Citizens' Bulletin* as can be seen, for example, in the cover stories on wetlands in the March 1976, May 1984, and February 1987 issues.

as a result of people taking to the streets for demonstrations to mark the first Earth Day in 1970. Prior to the existence of laws protecting the environment, grassroots movements coordinated by volunteers demanded the attention of governments. In response, governments passed environmental protection laws, such as the clean air and water acts, and they created state publications like *Citizens' Bulletin* to communicate these new developments.

Small-scale digitization projects provide an opportunity for individuals and organizations to carefully monitor the state and local publications that makeup their own unique milieu, and to capture, catalog, and preserve some portion of those documents in ways that support their communities. Something like the civic energy that motivated the environmental movement can be directed towards protecting at-risk documents born in the fragile digital system that is our information environment. Such efforts can be small-scale and diffuse complements to the larger, national (and international) digitization projects taking place. The easiest way to get started is by saving an individual link in the Wayback Machine. It might not seem like much at first, but as my latest literary love Robert Walser would say, “everything small and modest is beautiful and pleasing.”<sup>33</sup>

## Resources

Examples of some of the state and local documents I have saved in the Wayback Machine include the following (please note I also include the publications of local and state nonprofits that receive financial support from the government):

- State of Connecticut Solid Waste Management Plan, 2006 (<https://tinyurl.com/yanj3oe3>)
- Plan of Conservation and Development, City of New London, Connecticut, 2007 (<https://tinyurl.com/ybgtcn9s>)
- Fort Trumbull Vision, 2011 (<https://tinyurl.com/ya4kwpm>)
- Nourishing Change: The New London County Food System Baseline Report, 2013 (<https://tinyurl.com/y8cqu929>)
- SEAT Bus Study: Final Report, 2015 (<https://tinyurl.com/yc3b2p83>)
- Community Connectivity Program: New London: Route 32 (Mohegan Avenue) Road Safety Audit, 2016 (<https://tinyurl.com/y7n2xnfq>)
- Resource Assessment on the Economic Viability of the Millstone Nuclear Generating Facilities, 2017 (<https://tinyurl.com/y9pbqssy>)

- Connecticut Transportation by the Numbers: Meeting the State's Need for Safe and Efficient Mobility, 2017 (<https://tinyurl.com/ycvxx7ht>)
- New London Downtown Transportation and Parking Study, 2017 (<https://tinyurl.com/yadm63ll>)
- Southeastern Connecticut Regional Bike and Pedestrian Plan, 2019 (<https://tinyurl.com/y9nlmywk>)
- Building Connections: Hodges Square Village, New London, CT, 2019 (<https://tinyurl.com/ydf4bxot>)

**Andrew Lopez** (alopez6@conncoll.edu), Research Support Librarian, Connecticut College

## Notes

1. Big Ten Academic Alliance, “Google Book Search Project: Government Documents,” Big Academic Alliance, March 2013, <https://tinyurl.com/y9kbgvkl>; Heather Christenson, “Building a US Federal Government Documents Collection in HathiTrust,” *Collaborative Librarianship* 28, no. 3 (2016): 124–29, <https://tinyurl.com/ya9lr2o3>. Heather Christenson, “HathiTrust U.S. Federal Documents Program Update,” *DttP: Documents to the People* 48, no. 1 (Spring, 2020): 6–7, <https://tinyurl.com/y7zmtnvu>.
2. Benjamin Kunkel, “Still Small Voice: The Fiction of Robert Walser,” *The New Yorker*, July 30, 2007, <https://tinyurl.com/yahkov2o>.
3. James A. Jacobs, “Born-Digital US Federal Government Information: Preservation and Access,” Center for Research Libraries: Global Resources Collections Forum, Leviathan: Libraries and Government Information in the Era of Big Data, Chicago, March 17, 2014, <https://tinyurl.com/y9ykj23a>.
4. Robert Darnton, *The Case for Books: Past, Present, and Future* (New York: PublicAffairs, 2009), 37.
5. Library of Congress, Preservation of State Government Digital Information: Issues and Opportunities: Report of the Library of Congress Convening Workshops with the States, October 2005, <https://tinyurl.com/y8qbqjnf>. See also Library of Congress, Preserving State Government Information, <https://tinyurl.com/yaxy9fzb>.
6. Trevor Owens, “All Digital Objects Are Born Digital Objects,” Library of Congress, May 15, 2012, <https://tinyurl.com/ycrzgw2l>.
7. Susanne Caro, *Digitizing Your Collection: Public Library Success Stories* (Chicago: ALA Editions, 2016), ix–xii.

8. James A. Jacobs, and James R. Jacobs, "Government Information: Everywhere and Nowhere," Livestream web-based presentation to Government Publications Librarians of New England (GPLNE), October 24, 2017, *Free Government Information*, updated April 7, 2020, <https://tinyurl.com/y8vrxcvj>.
9. Shari Laster and Aimée C. Quinn, "Capturing the Moment: Local Government Publications," *DttP: Documents to the People* 44, no. 2 (Summer 2016): 10–11, <https://tinyurl.com/y8wx76hq>.
10. Jill Lepore, "The Cobweb: Can the Internet be Archived?," *The New Yorker*, January 19, 2015, <https://tinyurl.com/lyckdswl2>.
11. See Caro, "Digitizing Copyrighted Materials," 25–49. See also Brett Currier, David Hansen, and Anne Gilliland, "Copyright and the Digitization of State Government Documents: A Preliminary Analysis," University of Texas Arlington Research Commons, 2015, <https://tinyurl.com/ybce9828>. For those interested in getting involved with advocacy around the copyright of state documents, please see Free State Government Information (FSGI), <https://tinyurl.com/yawtfsc2>. The April 27, 2020, US Supreme Court decision in the case of *Georgia v. Public.Resource.Org, Inc.* ruled in favor of state publications belonging in the public domain. See Ben Amata, "Win for Public Domain Information," *Free Government Information*, April 30, 2020, <https://tinyurl.com/lyb5goabj>.
12. Like many periodical publications, *Citizens' Bulletin* went through a number of name changes over the course of its 18 years in print—*DEP Citizens' Bulletin* (October 1973–December 1975), *Citizens' Bulletin* (January 1976–June 1988), and finally *Connecticut Environment: The Citizens' Bulletin of the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection* (July 1988–June 1991). Along the way, the *Bulletin* endured several brief print stoppages and continued publication until its end in 1991 due to state budget cuts. We have chosen to refer to the publication in general as *Citizens' Bulletin*, since that name is present in each of the three variant tiles.
13. The Connecticut College Libraries' collections include the Linda Lear Collection of Rachel Carson Books and Papers; Nature Conservancy papers; Connecticut College Arboretum Bulletins and records; and the faculty papers of the ecologist William A. Niering, the conservationist Richard Hale Goodwin, and the ornithologist Robert A. Askins.
14. Fred Folmer, "Copyright Essentials: How Can I Ask Permission to Use Something?," *Copyright Resources at Connecticut College*, January 31, 2020, <https://tinyurl.com/lybh7gomv>.
15. Chris Collibee (Director of Communications, Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection), email message to author, January 8, 2019.
16. See the *Citizens' Bulletin* digitized collection here: <https://tinyurl.com/y7y8j9h3>.
17. Josh Sopiarz, "Enriching the Experience for Government Documents Student Workers," *DttP: Documents to the People* 44, no. 2 (Summer, 2016): 19–22, <https://tinyurl.com/lycdd5ykw>.
18. Internet Archive, "Collections: A Basic Guide," <https://tinyurl.com/ybvmhc9q>.
19. See the *Citizens' Bulletin* digitized collection here: <https://tinyurl.com/y7y8j9h3>.
20. See Connecticut, "History of Connecticut's Department of Energy and Environmental Protection," Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, <https://tinyurl.com/ybt4henu>.
21. A dynamic range of responses to the 1973 oil crisis was documented in the Canadian Center for Architecture exhibition and accompanying catalog *Sorry, Out of Gas: Architecture's Response to the 1973 Oil Crisis* (Montréal: Canadian Centre for Architecture, 2007). A companion website is available: <https://tinyurl.com/ydf2okou>.
22. Connecticut, Department of Environmental Protection, *DEP Citizens' Bulletin* 1, no. 1 (October 1973): 1, <https://tinyurl.com/yb4vpegr>.
23. Dennis Overbye, "Apollo 8's Earthrise: The Shot Seen Round the World: Half a Century Ago Today, A Photograph from the Moon Helped Humans Rediscover Earth," *The New York Times*, December 21, 2018, <https://tinyurl.com/yb7jrux3>.
24. Caro, *Digitizing Your Collection*, 3.
25. For the cover story on the Connecticut College Arboretum, see Connecticut, Department of Environmental Protection, *Citizens' Bulletin* 11, no. 10 (June 1984): 1, <https://tinyurl.com/y7vjn925>. Environmental conservation efforts at Connecticut College were also documented in Rachel Carson, *Silent Spring* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1962), see specifically page 312, where one of the notes for page 70 refers to an Arboretum Bulletin, and other notes refer to the works of William Niering and other Connecticut College faculty. For evidence of the college's implicit influence on the *Bulletin* via a focus on wetlands from the first issue to the last, see for

- example pages 2, 4, and 6 of the October 1973 issue (<https://tinyurl.com/ycnkuzxp>), while the entire issue of June 1991 was devoted to rivers and water (<https://tinyurl.com/y9kp84cz>).
26. William A. Niering, Lucretia L. Allyn Professor of Botany and Research Director of the Connecticut College Arboretum, Connecticut College, <https://tinyurl.com/y9vcnkr6>.
  27. On the Tidal Wetlands Act, see Connecticut, Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, "Living on the Shore: Tidal Wetlands," <https://tinyurl.com/y7z wj9qh>; Kenneth J. Metzler and Ralph W. Tiner, *Wetlands of Connecticut*, State Geological and Natural History Survey of Connecticut, US Fish and Wildlife Service National Wetlands Inventory, 1992, <https://tinyurl.com/yc 8gmr29>; Glenn D. Dreyer and William A. Niering, *Tidal Marshes of Long Island Sound: Ecology, History and Restoration*, The Connecticut College Arboretum, Bulletin no. 34, December 1995, <https://tinyurl.com/yxsb2znm>. For Niering's testimony, see Legislative History for Connecticut Act, Public Act 695, 1969, <https://tinyurl.com/y896o629>.
  28. On the IWWA, see Connecticut, Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, "Inland Wetland and Watercourses Act Enacted (1972)," <https://tinyurl.com/ydam65mz>. For Niering's testimony, see Legislative History for Connecticut Act, Public Act 155, 1972, <https://tinyurl.com/y8j8vt3u>.
  29. Connecticut, Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, "Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Connecticut's Tidal Wetlands Act," *Sound Outlook*, no. 62 (October/November 2019), <https://tinyurl.com/y9dxjwpu>.
  30. For Niering's testimony, see Connecticut General Assembly, *Public Hearings on Environment* (Hartford: Connecticut State Library, 1987), 323–32.
  31. Connecticut, Department of Environmental Protection, "Save Our Wetlands," *Citizens' Bulletin*, 3, no. 7 (March 1976): 1, <https://tinyurl.com/yb5hx7tr>; "The Army Corps, 404, and Wetlands," 5, no. 4 (December 1977): 1, <https://tinyurl.com/ycx eau8m>; "Wetlands Protection Increased," 5, no. 5 (January 1978): 1, <https://tinyurl.com/ydfgz zfy>; "Preserving Our Wetlands," 11, no. 9 (May 1984): 1, <https://tinyurl.com/y8b4karg>; "The Wetlands: A Critical Link in a Delicate System," 14, no. 6 (February 1987): 1, <https://tinyurl.com/yb362p2f>.
  32. Search the *Citizens' Bulletin* digitized collection for Niering or Arboretum Bulletin here: *Citizens' Bulletin*, <https://tinyurl.com/y7y8j9h3>. All Connecticut College Arboretum Bulletins have been digitized and are available online in the Digital Commons at Connecticut College, <https://tinyurl.com/y43cns5t>.
  33. Kunkel, "Still Small Voice."