Welcome to the San Francisco Bay Region Chapter website


Socializing Yourself and Your Organization

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2011/07/20110818/  July 12, 2011  Categories: Bayline, Chapter Programs & Events  Tags: events, professional development

The San Francisco Bay Region Chapter of SLA

presents

Socializing Yourself and Your Organization

with Scott Brown, Social Information Group

Where: Elephant & Castle Pub & Restaurant

424 Clay Street, San Francisco, CA, 94111

(415) 268-3900

http://www.elephantcastle.com/san_francisco

When: Thursday, August 18, 5:30 – 8:00 PM

Please join us as Scott Brown will present this overview session that will provide real-life examples of libraries and information professionals using social networking tools, and we examine the underlying principles that make these efforts effective.

You’ll get your questions answered, and you’ll come away ready to jump into social networking, for yourself or for your organization.

DEADLINE: Online registrations and mailed checks need to be received by August 12.

Online registration: Registration for Socializing Yourself and Your Organization

Note: You do not need a PayPal account to register through this PayPal-administered site.

Registration Form: Registration for Socializing Yourself and Your Organization

Thank you to Reprints Desk and WestlawNext for their generous sponsorship of this meeting.

Chapter Tour of The Bancroft Library at UC Berkeley


Chapter Tour of The Bancroft Library at UC Berkeley

Wednesday, September 21, 2011, 4:30 – 6:15 pm

http://bancroft.berkeley.edu/

Please join us for a special tour of one of the largest libraries of manuscripts, rare books, and unique materials in the United States!

University Archivist David Farrell will be our guide to the Bancroft. He will talk about the library’s history, show us
some of the collections, and describe the renovation that was completed in 2008.

**This tour is limited to 25 attendees. Register early!**

**DEADLINE:** Online registrations and mailed checks need to be received by September 16. Registration may be closed early if the 25 person limit is reached prior to the registration deadline.

Online registration: Registration for Chapter Tour of The Bancroft Library

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The Struggle for Freedom in Cuba’s Libraries


**The Struggle for Freedom in Cuba’s Libraries:**

**An Evening With Robert Kent**

**Thursday, October 20th, 6:00 – 8:00 PM**

**Ropes and Gray, Three Embarcadero Center, San Francisco**

An evening of discussion around the challenges faced by Cuba’s libraries, and the efforts of independent libraries in Cuba. Our discussion will be lead by Bob Kent, the co-founder of Friends of Cuban Libraries ([http://www.friendsofcubanlibraries.org](http://www.friendsofcubanlibraries.org)), who has been active for more than 20-years in issues concerning Cuban libraries and librarians. Bob is also a librarian with the NY Public Library.

Online Registration: Registration for Struggle for Freedom in Cuba’s Libraries

Note: You do NOT need a PayPal account to register through this PayPal-administered site.

Registration Form: Registration for Struggle for Freedom in Cuba’s Libraries

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New Member Dessert Reception


**LETTHEM EAT CAKE!**

**Second Annual New Member Dessert Reception**

**Thursday, November 10, 2011, 5:30-7:30 PM**

**The Mechanics’ Institute**

**57 Post Street, between Montgomery and Kearny, in San Francisco**

The event will be free for new and prospective members, students, and for seasoned members who bring along one or more prospective member. The fee for all others is $10.

Deadline for registration is Monday, November 7th

To register as a FREE attendee, please e-mail Amy Dabrowski at akdabrowski@gmail.com and include the information from the mail-in form

Online Registration: Registration for the New Member Dessert Reception

Note: You do NOT need a PayPal account to register through this PayPal-administered site.

Registration Form: Registration for Dessert Reception
The San Francisco Bay Region Chapter website

Categories: Bayline, Chapter Leadership
Tags: events, technology

May 2012 – Welcome to the San Francisco Bay Region SLA Chapter!

2011 Holiday Party

Categories: Bayline, Chapter Programs & Events
Tags: events

Greetings everyone,

If you’re like me, you can’t believe that Thanksgiving is right around the corner. And that means that the SF Bay Area Holiday Party can’t be too far off! Please join your friends, both old and new, as we gather to celebrate the season.

A wide variety of heavy hors d’oeuvres, including vegetarian options, will be served, and a cash bar will be available.

Cost: $20 per person

Registration Deadline: Online registrations and mailed checks need to be received by Thursday, December 1.

Registration is CLOSED

Two additional items:

1. Everyone will receive a ticket for 1 free soft drink, wine, or beer. Add that to the tasty treats that are going to be available

and can you really afford NOT to attend?!?

2. We welcome a new sponsor, FirstRain, and would like to thank them for their generous sponsorship of this event.

FirstRain is a B2B software analytics company whose Business Monitoring Engine™ helps Marketing, Sales, Finance and Knowledge Management professionals ensure they never miss critical events impacting their industry, company and business. FirstRain’s patented semantic categorization technology instantly cuts through the clutter of consumer Web content, delivering only highly relevant content from the Business Web to individuals, teams or whole enterprises. Learn more at: www.firstrain.com

Registeration Form: 2011 Holiday Party Mail-in Registration Form
Intersect Alert November 20, 2011


Freedom of Information

CIA Sees “Little Likelihood” of Finding Docs on Secrecy Reform
“There is “little likelihood” that the Central Intelligence Agency will be able to produce any records documenting the CIA's implementation of the Fundamental Classification Guidance Review that each classifying agency is required to conduct, the Agency said last week. The Fundamental Classification Guidance Review (FCGR) was ordered by President Obama in his December 2009 executive order 13526 (section 1.9) as a systematic effort to eliminate obsolete or unnecessary classification requirements. It is the Obama Administration’s primary response to the problem of over-classification, and it has already achieved some limited results at the Department of Defense and elsewhere. But it can’t possibly work if agencies don’t implement it. And so far there is no sign of any such implementation at CIA, despite the fact that compliance is not optional.”

Broad Spectrum of Interests Urge Super Committee Transparency
“A bipartisan assembly of groups representing a variety of interests—from a conservative government watchdog to a supporter of women’s rights to social security advocates—today sent a letter to the twelve members of the Joint Committee on Deficit Reduction asking them to post their recommendations for trimming at least $1.2 trillion from the federal budget online for 72 hours prior to a committee vote. The breadth of groups that joined the letter demonstrates that Super Committee transparency is an issue that matters to every American.”

Growing Support for Online Release of Agency Reports
“A bill to make federal agency reports to Congress available to the public online has garnered bipartisan support in the House, a companion bill in the Senate, and the thumbs-up from the Government Printing Office and transparency advocates. The Access to Congressionally Mandated Reports Act would gather together all reports to Congress from federal agencies in one place. It requires that they be published online by GPO in bulk, in open formats, and in a timely fashion, so that people can easily learn about the work of the federal government. As things currently stand, the reports are scattered about online, in the infrequent circumstance when they can be found at all.”
http://sunlightfoundation.com/blog/2011/11/growing-support-for-online-release-of-agency-reports/

AP Impact: Right-to-know laws often ignored
“The promise is magnificent: More than 5.3 billion people in more than 100 countries now have the right – on paper – to know the truth about what their government is doing behind closed doors. Such laws have spread rapidly over the past decade, and when they work, they present a powerful way to engage citizens and expose corruption. However, more than half the countries with such laws do not follow them, The Associated Press found in the first worldwide test of this promised freedom of information. And even when some countries do follow the law, the information unearthed can be at best useless and at worst deadly. Right-to-know laws reflect a basic belief that information is power and belongs to the public. In a single week in January, AP reporters tested this premise by submitting questions about terrorism arrests and convictions, vetted by experts, to the European Union and the 105 countries with right-to-know laws or constitutional provisions.”
http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/A/ACCESS_DENIED?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT

Romney staffers wiped out records in ’06
“Just before Mitt Romney left the Massachusetts governor’s office and first ran for president, 11 of his top aides purchased...
their state-issued computer hard drives, and the Romney administration’s e-mails were all wiped from a server, according to interviews and records obtained by the Globe. Romney administration officials had the remaining computers in the governor’s office replaced just before Governor Deval Patrick’s staff showed up to take power in January 2007, according to Mark Reilly, Patrick’s chief legal counsel. As a result, Patrick’s office, which has been bombarded with inquiries for records from the Romney era, has no electronic record of any Romney administration e-mails, Reilly said.”

Justice Department’s New FOIA Regulations: Still Worse than Reported

“Since the last time we wrote about the DOJ’s newly proposed FOIA regulations, as part of signing on to EPIC’s comments on the proposed rule, not a whole lot has changed. The DOJ sent a letter to respond to Congressional concerns about their lying about the existence of records. The letter hardly paints a clear picture, but basically says that the DOJ will withdraw a section of the proposed regulations, but that their conduct won’t change, and that they’ll continue to mislead requesters about whether records exist or not. Unmentioned in the letter, however, are all the steps backward on FOIA that the DOJ is proposing in their rules. In a package completely at odds with President Obama and Attorney General Holder’s public FOIA rhetoric, the new DOJ rules throw up new roadblocks and hurdles to requesters, and generally make it easier to deny requests.”

Suburban libraries worry about the effects of Chicago library cuts

“Cuts to the Chicago Public Library’s budget may reverberate through the suburbs, where many Chicago residents use local libraries through reciprocal borrowing privileges. Some suburban librarians expect those cuts, if they go through, to not only reduce the number of hours Chicago branch libraries are open, but also reduce the number of books Chicago libraries buy and the ability to get borrowed books back after Chicagoans return them. All three possibilities could affect how well also-burdened suburban libraries perform, they said.”

PolitickerUSA is the best way to track politicians’ tweets

“Following politicians on Twitter can be as boring as watching paint dry on some days, but a new app pulls together tweets from both parties, and shows a whole host of trends about what they’re tweeting about. PolitickerUSA is a simple app that displays tweets from every politician that uses the Twitter platform. At the very least, the service is the best social list of every U.S. Senator and Representative on the web. You can watch tweets fly by in real-time, or you can filter them by your favorite politico.”

A Year Later, Little Progress on Digitizing Legislative Documents

“A year ago today, Congress’ Joint Committee on Printing directed that three sets of vital legislative and legal documents be published online “as quickly as possible.” We’ve reviewed how well that order was implemented, and the results are not encouraging. Of the three documents, there’s only apparent progress on one. The vital documents are the Constitution Annotated, the Congressional Record, and the Statutes at Large. The Government Printing Office is responsible for publishing them, and shares that responsibility to a certain extent with the Library of Congress and its subsidiary agencies, the Congressional Research Service and the Law Library of Congress. These agencies are custodians of America’s heritage, and have an important obligation to make it available to every citizen. Here’s how they’ve performed.”

Open Government Leaders Support Funding for Key Transparency Initiatives

“OMB Watch and the Sunlight Foundation today released an open letter to the U.S. Senate supporting continued funding for the Electronic Government Fund’s important transparency projects. The letter echoes the Obama administration’s policy statement issued Nov. 10. The letter calls for full funding for the E-Gov Fund, which pays for flagship projects such as USAspending.gov and Data.gov.”
http://www.ombwatch.org/node/11911

Digital History

Internet Access

Reports and Prepared Testimony From SOPA (Stop Online Privacy) House Judiciary Committee Hearing & Additional Resources

Intellectual Property Issues
Righthaven Case Ends in Victory for Fair Use

“In a victory for fair use, the publisher of the Las Vegas Review-Journal, Stephens Media, filed papers yesterday conceding that posting a short excerpt of a news article in an online forum is not copyright infringement. The concession will result in entry of a judgment of non-infringement in a long-running copyright troll case that sparked the dismissal of dozens of baseless lawsuits filed by Righthaven LLC.”
https://www.eff.org/press/releases/righthaven-case-ends-victory-fair-use

International Outlook

Researchers work to build a national online library to house Canada’s history

“Across Canada, efforts are being made to digitize some of our oldest and more important historical documents so they can be preserved indefinitely and accessed online by anyone across the country, or even around the world. While those working behind the scenes are pleased with the progress to date, they can’t help but look a little jealously at what’s happening down south and across the Atlantic. Governments in the United States and the European Union have committed significant budgets to building online libraries to digitally showcase their most important historical artifacts. Similar work is happening in Canada but it’s being done — with less funding — by researchers, schools and a non-profit group called Canadiana, which is trying to spearhead a national archive.”
http://www.macleans.ca/article.jsp?content=e14487580

Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety.

The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.

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Intersect Alert November 27, 2011


Freedom of Information

Maryland Register reverses decision to charge consumers for real-time information

“The Maryland Register, a state news publication that provides updates on state regulations, legal opinions and hearings, has reversed a decision to charge consumers for its real-time, online news. The policy reversal came after two articles and a legislative inquiry highlighted a new annual fee for consumers to view information the same day it was published.”

Global Studies Highlight U.S. Transparency Strengths, Weaknesses

“Several recently published studies compare the policy and practice of transparency in the United States and other countries. Such studies provide useful measures of U.S. openness relative to real-world conditions, in addition to highlighting global best practices and alternative approaches. The U.S. ranked in the middle range in the studies, demonstrating how other countries have met the challenges of 21st-century transparency while the U.S. has lagged in some areas.”
http://www.ombwatch.org/node/11918

White House inaction stalls FOIA recommendations

“Recommendations for improving how agencies handle governmentwide Freedom of Information Act requests have been awaiting approval at the Office of Management and Budget for more than nine months, the director of the office that wrote the recommendations told Nextgov.”
http://www.nextgov.com/nextgov/ng_20111121_1823.php

Public Policy

Toronto library board leaves room for more staff cuts

“Earlier this week, the Toronto Public Library Board made clear its opposition to reducing hours and closing branches, but left itself open to additional staff, collection, and programming cuts.”

Internet Access

Anti-piracy bill meets Web-freedom backlash

“A bill moving through Congress is intended, on its surface at least, to do something relatively simple: Crack down on the illegal pirating of movies, music and other copyrighted material. But a major online backlash has evolved, with everyone from lawmakers to Web-freedom advocates to some of technology’s biggest players calling it a greedy and dangerous overreach that could have a chilling effect on free speech and innovation.”
Intellectual Property Issues

Why SOPA and PROTECT-IP Are So Hard to Kill
“Last week an unprecedented coalition of tech companies, internet users, and public-interest groups came together to fight legislation that would give corporations and the government new powers to censor the internet. The numbers are impressive — in just one day more than one million emails were sent to Congress and 88,000 phone calls were placed to representatives. But despite this viral, grassroots effort, the special interests behind the bills are still winning. They have spent years working behind the scenes on Capitol Hill to assemble an extensive, bipartisan network of powerful lawmakers, and they are perfectly positioned to see the bills be approved and signed into law this session.”

WIPO: Great progress at library days
“Three additional working days of WIPO’s Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR) ended yesterday in Geneva with great progress made regarding copyright limitations and exceptions for libraries and archives. Delegates from WIPO’s 184 Member States committed themselves to a thorough examination of the problems facing for libraries and archives, and ended with an agreement for further work.”

International Outlook

Libya welcomes banned books
“Libya marked the end of the Gadhafi-era blacklist Monday with a ceremonial unbanning of books in the former regime’s most storied public library.”

South African Bill Poses Grave Threat to Press Freedom
“Today, the South African parliament is expected to pass one of the most draconian secrecy bills in world. Known as the “Protection of Information bill”, its main purpose seems to be protecting government officials from scrutiny while preventing the public from accessing important information.”

Northern Exposure: Unmasking Online Spying in Canada
“The Canadian national anthem proudly honors “The True North strong and free!” Yet Canadians face an imminent round of frightening online spy proposals that threaten long held civil liberties and privacy rights. Public Safety Minister Vic Toews has insisted that he won’t budge in his support of online spying legislation despite heavy criticism from privacy watchdogs. We last discussed the former online spying bills (C-50, C-51 and C-52) Canada’s majority Government sought to advance in October. Collectively called the “lawful access” bills, these measures are essentially a backdoor for law enforcement to easily access personal information. While Public Safety

Canada has defended the bills, stating they would enable authorities to protect Canadians from “criminal and terrorist activities” without “infringing on the rights of law abiding Canadians,” the outcry over this legislative mandate has been considerable.”
https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2011/11/northern-exposure-unmasking-online-spying-canada

Brazil Takes Steps on Truth, Human Rights, and the Right to Know
“On November 18, 2011, Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff signed two major pieces of legislation: the Law of the Truth Commission (Lei da Comissão da Verdade) and the Law of Access to Public Information (Lei da Acesso à Informação), making Brazil the 89th country in the world to enact a freedom of information law. These laws are interconnected and mark an important step in bringing Brazil into the modern world by finally opening a window of public scrutiny on its dark past.”

From the UK: MPs to investigate library closures
“As campaigners up and down the country fight to keep their local libraries open, the Culture, Media and Sport select committee has announced the launch of an inquiry into library closures. The library inquiry, the first since 2005 when the committee highlighted “a service in distress”, will investigate whether planned library closures across the UK are compatible with the 1964 Libraries and Museums Act and the Charteris report. The libraries act requires councils as part of their statutory duty to provide a “comprehensive and efficient” library service, while the Charteris report was a government-initiated investigation which found that Wirral council’s plans to close libraries in 2009 breached its statutory duties.”
http://www.guardian.co.uk/books/2011/nov/24/mps-library-cuts-select-committee

European Commission will adopt measures for an open data strategy
“The European Commission will adopt on the 29 November an Open Data Strategy which means a set of measures aimed at increasing government transparency and creating a €32 billion a year market for public data. The measures include a modification of the existing Directive on the re-use of public sector information and the deployment measures such as a creation of open data portals at European level.”

Statistics Canada to make all online data free
“All of Statistics Canada’s standard online products, including the census, socioeconomic and geographic data, will be offered to the public for free starting February 2012, Embassy has learned. . . The letter acknowledged the impact the change would have on businesses. But the purpose of making all these products free, it said, is “to provide users with maximum benefit from statistical information about Canada’s economy and society.””
Intersect Alert December 4, 2011

Freedom of Information

Secret Fed Loans Gave Banks $13 Billion
“The Federal Reserve and the big banks fought for more than two years to keep details of the largest bailout in U.S. history a secret. Now, the rest of the world can see what it was missing. . . A fresh narrative of the financial crisis of 2007 to 2009 emerges from 29,000 pages of Fed documents obtained under the Freedom of Information Act and central bank records of more than 21,000 transactions. While Fed officials say that almost all of the loans were repaid and there have been no losses, details suggest taxpayers paid a price beyond dollars as the secret funding helped preserve a broken status quo and enabled the biggest banks to grow even bigger.”

New FOIA Dispute Tracking System Launched by National Archives FOIA Ombudsman
“The National Archives Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) – the federal Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Ombudsman – launched a new online case management system on November 28. The new OGIS Access System (OAS) will manage the requests for assistance that FOIA requesters and agencies bring to OGIS. This tool will both streamline OGIS’s work and increase transparency of its operations.”

Senate adopts Leahy transparency amendment to defense bill
“The U.S. Senate Thursday adopted an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) authored by Senator Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.) to limit an overbroad legislative exemption to the Freedom of Information Act. The amendment was adopted unanimously. The Senate will vote on final passage of the NDAA later this evening. Leahy’s amendment adds a public interest balancing test requiring the Secretary of Defense to consider whether the disclosure of critical infrastructure information would reveal vulnerabilities that would result in harm to government property or facilities, and whether the public interest in the disclosure of this information outweighs the government’s need to withhold the information.”

California Newspapers Fight Legislature’s Stiff-Arm
“In advance of a Friday hearing on the media’s right to information about legislative spending, newly filed court documents claim the Legislature routinely responds to requests for information by releasing “limited information” that is “woefully incomplete” and “misleading at best.” The Los Angeles Times and Sacramento Bee sued the Legislature in August, claiming that lawmakers consistently block newspapers’ attempts to glean information about the Assembly’s spending.”
http://www.courthousenews.com/2011/12/01/41856.htm

Promises, Promises: Records shielded by candidates
“Romney’s selective policy toward public access and preservation of his executive records raises stark questions about how transparent his administration would be if he were to become president. He’s not alone. Other leading candidates for the presidency — incumbent Barack Obama and Texas Gov. Rick Perry — have touted their commitment to transparency. But their administrations also have been selective at times in the records they disclose. They have limited, stalled or denied access when it suited their purposes.”
http://old.news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20111201/ap_on_el_pr/us_campaigns_transparency

Senate Finally Publishes Its Spending Online, But Could Do Much Better
“At long last, the U.S. Senate has begun online publication of how it spends money on itself — barely meeting the statutory deadline. The House of Representatives began publishing its statement of disbursements online in November 2009 per then-Speaker Pelosi’s directive; the Senate belatedly followed suit after Senator Tom Coburn’s amendment to the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act in July 2009 finally kicked in, two years later.”

Extreme Secrecy on Bush & Cheney Records
“A reporter sued the National Archives and Records Administration for refusing to release information about how former President George W. Bush and Vice President Dick
Cheney tried to shape public opinion during their time in office. John Cook, a reporter for Gawker Media, made modest requests, which the government rejected. He did not seek government records, but records of who sought records.”
http://www.courthousenews.com/2011/12/01/41846.htm

Cablegate One Year Later: How WikiLeaks Has Influenced Foreign Policy, Journalism, and the First Amendment

“One year ago today, WikiLeaks started publishing a trove of over 250,000 leaked U.S. State Department cables, which have since formed the basis of reporting for newspapers around the globe. The publication has given the public a window into the inner workings of government at an unprecedented scale, and in the process, has transformed journalism in the digital age. In recognition, WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange was just awarded Australia’s version of the Pulitzer Prize, in addition to the Martha Gellhorn journalism prize he won in the United Kingdom earlier this year. As Salon’s Glenn Greenwald observed, “WikiLeaks easily produced more newsworthy scoops over the last year than every other media outlet combined.” Yet at the same time, the Justice Department has been investigating WikiLeaks for criminal violations for doing what other media organizations have been doing in the U.S. for centuries—publishing truthful information in the public interest. Here is a look at Cablegate’s impact on journalism surrounding six countries central to U.S. foreign policy, and why it is vital for the media to stand up for WikiLeaks’ First Amendment right to publish classified information.”
https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2011/11/cablegate-one-year-later-how-wikileaks-has-influenced-foreign-policy-journalism

Public Policy

Obama wants better digital archive of federal records

“The process of archiving government data, decisions and deliberations is set for a major overhaul. President Obama on Monday ordered agencies to make wider use of digital-based record-keeping systems in what aides promise will be the most significant change to government archiving since Harry S. Truman’s presidency.”

White House blog – We Can’t Wait: Bringing Records Management into the Twenty-First Century
NARA Press Release

Digital History

The Digital Public Library of America Program on WAMU Public Radio

“It’s something of a dream for many: to digitize and make accessible the vast number of books, documents, artifacts, photos, videos, and other materials housed at thousands of different institutions across the country. The Digital Public Library of America is working on making it a reality. We explore a collaboration between libraries, museums, and archives – including the Library of Congress and the Smithsonian – that aims to put it all online.”

Tennessee State Library and Archives painstakingly saves old state Supreme Court records

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https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2011/11/cablegate-one-year-later-how-wikileaks-has-influenced-foreign-policy-journalism

Intellectual Property Issues

EU law precludes the imposition of an injunction by a national court which requires an internet service provider to install a filtering system with a view to preventing the illegal downloading of files

“Such an injunction does not comply with the prohibition on imposing a general monitoring obligation on such a provider, or with the requirement to strike a fair balance between, on the one hand, the right to intellectual property, and, on the other, the freedom to conduct business, the right to protection of personal data and the freedom to receive or impart information.”
https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2011/11/cablegate-one-year-later-how-wikileaks-has-influenced-foreign-policy-journalism

EFF Seeks to Widen Exemptions Won in Last DMCA Rulemaking

“The Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF) urged the U.S. Copyright Office today to renew and expand the critical exemptions to the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA) granted last year in response to EFF’s requests to protect the rights of American consumers who modify electronic gadgets and make remix videos.”
https://www.eff.org/press/releases/eff-seeks-wide-exemptions-won-last-dmca-rulemaking

When Even The Librarians Are Against SOPA...

“Supporters of SOPA keep trying to pretend that the only people who could possibly be against the bill are those who profit from infringement. That’s crazy. The concern here has nothing to do with infringement, but how SOPA is ridiculously overbroad, and will create massive problems and liability for activities that most people consider perfectly reasonable and
legal. I’d love to see how the defenders of SOPA try to tar and feather the American Library Association, the Association of Research Libraries and the Association of College & Research Libraries who have written a letter warning about SOPA, with particular concern on the new “felony streaming” parts of the bill — the ones that backers don’t fully understand themselves. The libraries highlight two key concerns.”

SOPA on the ropes? Bipartisan alternative to ‘Net censorship emerges

“The Senate’s PROTECT IP Act and the House’s Stop Online Piracy Act (SOPA) are so noxious that even the Business Software Alliance has serious reservations, and SOPA’s main backer had to take to the virtual pages of National Review today to quell a growing revolt among his conservative colleagues about “regulating the Internet.” Whatever you think of the legislation, it unquestionably represents a sea change in the US approach to the Internet, one which explicitly contemplates widespread website blocking and search engine de-listing. . . One promising alternative was unveiled today by a bipartisan group of 10 senators and representatives. It ditches the “law and order” approach to piracy and replaces it with a more limited, trade-based system. And the legislators behind it have put out a draft of the idea for public comment before they even begin drawing up actual legislation.”


Privacy Concerns

Cyber Intelligence Bill Threatens Privacy and Civilian Control

“A bill unveiled yesterday by Reps. Mike Rogers (R-MI) and C.A. “Dutch” Ruppersberger (D-MD), the Chairman and Ranking Member of the House Intelligence Committee, would authorize Internet service providers and other companies to share customer communications and other personally identifiable information with governmental agencies. The intent of the bill is to enhance information sharing for cybersecurity purposes, a goal that CDT strongly supports. However, we have four main concerns with the specifics of the Rogers-Ruppersberger bill”


International Outlook

Croatian Transparency Activist Marko Rakar Making Waves Again

“Two days ago, Marko Rakar, Croatia’s leading transparency activist (and frequent PDF conference speaker), made front-page news there with a massive new data release: All the public procurement data for government spending since July 1, 2009, in easily searchable form. It’s being called the “Croatian WikiLeaks.” In all, there are about 58,000 individual contracts covering more than 13,000 companies in the database, which allows you to see which agency ordered what goods and services, and who received each contract. A search by contractors shows their overall procurement record (how many contracts, what type of contract, what amount of money is involved and to whom was sold goods and services). The database, which is modeled on FedSpending.gov but in some ways more detailed, also allows a user to see how dependent a company is on government contracts. This information was theoretically already available on official government websites, but it was essentially useless.”


Canadian libraries thriving in ebook era

“It’s a sunny fall afternoon — likely one of the last warm days this year — yet Montreal’s largest library is buzzing. The Grande Bibliothèque’s rows of sofa chairs and sleek desks are packed with people tapping on laptops, flipping through magazines, and yes, even reading books. Despite the rise of smart phones and ebook readers, many Canadian libraries are busier than ever. And the renaissance may be due in part to the very technology that was expected to threaten their existence. Across the country, library usage is up 45 per cent over the past decade, from 16.6 to 24.1 transactions on average per capita, according to a recent report prepared by Lamos Research for the Canadian Urban Libraries Council. Much of that growth has been driven by digital information.”


Government and Drug Cartels Both Threaten Freedom of Expression in Mexico

“Freedom of expression continues to come under attack in Mexico. This week, Mexican President Felipe Calderon announced that his government is exploring “all options to proceed legally against those who have denounced the government in international forums and in the courts.” This announcement came in response to a complaint filed by Mexican activists and signed by over 23,000 Mexicans, in International Criminal Court last week, demanding that the court investigate alleged human rights violations by the army and the police as part of the state’s war against the drug cartels. Reports indicate that the Calderon government is considering legal action not just against Netzei Sandaval, the human rights attorney who filed the complaint with the ICC in the Hague, but also against the 23,000 individuals who signed their names to the petition online. “This is deeply troubling, as it could result in a profoundly chilling effect on political speech in Mexico.”


Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety.

The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations
Intersect Alert December 11, 2011

December 11, 2011 Categories: Intersect Alert Tags: freedom of information, government, intellectual property, international outlook, internet access, libraries, privacy, public policy, social media

Freedom of Information

DoJ’s updated FOIA policy emphasizes customer service
“The Department of Justice is putting greater emphasis on customer service in its updated policy for responding to Freedom of Information Act requests. Most requests at DoJ are referred to another agency, based on where the documents originate. The updated FOIA policy states the department must advise the FOIA requester that their request has been referred and provide the name of the agency to the requester with that agency’s FOIA contact. When it receives a referred request, an agency should immediately assign the request a tracking number — in addition to the original tracking number — and send the FOIA requester an acknowledgment of receipt. The agency should also provide a telephone number or Internet service for the requester to track the FOIA status of the records. The guidance states the original date of the request should be used — not the date an agency received a referral.”
http://www.federalnewsradio.com/?nid=145&sid=2658831

When Does Public Disclosure Make Secrecy Moot?
“The U.S. State Department insists that the publication of many thousands of classified diplomatic cables by WikiLeaks does not alter their classification status. In response to a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit filed by the American Civil Liberties Union for 23 of the cables, the Department of State this week released redacted versions of 11 of them and withheld the other 12 in their entirety — even though the full text of all of them is readily available online. In principle, the question of whether unauthorized disclosure of classified information is tantamount to declassification of that information is not new, although the WikiLeaks case presents it with new force.”

Massachusetts opens long-hidden Romney archives
“Massachusetts will make available to the public hundreds of boxes of documents from Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney’s term as governor that have long been locked away, the state said Tuesday. The same agency that is opening the files said it would not pursue an inquiry into the purge of electronic records at the end of Romney’s term. The moves come after disclosures that Romney had authorized the purging of emails and other closely-held electronic records at the end of administration. The decision by the Massachusetts Secretary of the Commonwealth will ultimately make available more than 460 boxes of documents stored since 2006 in the state archives in south Boston. They were closed to public inspection because of legal uncertainty over the impact of a court ruling that said Massachusetts governor’s records were not subject to disclosure.”
http://old.news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20111206/ap_on_el_ge/us_romney_transparency

Visualizing Similarities and Differences in the OGP Action Plans
“On September 20, 2011 the Open Government Partnership launched with a series of meetings highlighting the transformative nature of open governance. So far, the eight governments that serve as the OGP Steering Committee have submitted their plans. These countries, representing a range of different cultures and histories, have come together in a tribute to the power and importance of transparent and accountable government. The plans cover a variety of complex and important issues. We have created tag clouds based on the text of each plan that we hope will provide some insights into the similarities and differences between them. We realize that tag clouds only provide surface-level information, but in this case we found them to be a good way to start thinking about the

Obama’s Open Government Directive, Two Years On
“Tomorrow is the two year anniversary of the Open Government Directive (OGD), the signature transparency policy issued by the Obama administration on December, 2009. . . The transparency issues facing the administration, both before and after the 2009 policy, fall well beyond the control of the OGD, which is, after all, an OMB memo. Nevertheless, the OGD is Obama’s single broadest attempt to create transparency across the executive branch, and the most high profile attempt to live up to Obama’s campaign rhetoric on transparency. So to mark the two year anniversary of the OGD, we decided to look at implementation of the Open Government Directive. Since much of the OGD is written in broad, aspirational language, we decided to review how well agencies have lived up to the commitments they created for themselves in their open government plans. The OGD required agencies to publish these plans, which were all posted and revised during 2010, and often included deadlines and goals for agencies to release data and tools. . . The results are decidedly mixed.”
http://sunlightfoundation.com/blog/2011/12/07/obamas-open-government-directive-two-years-on/
National Archives works on declassifying massive backlog of documents
“The Air Force’s “Reports on Soviet Air Power and Strategic Nuclear Weapons,” about 2,500 pages in all, were produced between 1952 and 1955 — but not until earlier this year were 2,210 pages made public. The release is part of a massive effort at the National Archives and Records Administration to clear a backlog of nearly 400 million pages of material that should have been declassified a long time ago. . . The nearly 400 million pages of material had already been reviewed by the department or agency that produced them. But they could not be released until every other agency whose information might be contained in a document had also looked at them and signed off on a declassification decision. That process proved to be a bureaucratic stovepipe through which nothing much moved. To cut through the mountain of paper, the NDC has introduced a risk-management approach to the documents. Instead of attempting to look at every document, all the relevant agencies agreed to look at a small sample of a particular series. If the reviewers, drawn from all agencies, decide by looking at the sample that the earlier agency review was a good one, then the remainder of the documents that the agency had cleared is made public.”

California – Yee Bill Would Require Public E-data to Be Access-Friendly
“Senator Leland Yee (D-San Francisco/San Mateo) has announced legislation he will introduce next month to bring citizen access to government information into the 21st Century by requiring public documents and data that are electronically available to be user-friendly and searchable by commonly used software.”
http://www.calaware.org/blog/watchdog-site-offers-1k-for-best-san-francisco-ethics-app/

In #HackWeTrust – The House of Representatives Opens Its Doors to Transparency Through Technology
“Yesterday, members of the House of Representatives hosted a ground-breaking public discussion on how to give the public better access to congressional information. Around 300 developers, policy wonks, hill staffers, and others crowded into the Capitol Visitor Center to discuss how to use technology to make the legislative branch more open, transparent, and accessible. The event was sponsored by Majority Leader Eric Cantor and Minority Whip Steny Hoyer.”
Library of Congress to receive entire Twitter archive
“The Library of Congress and Twitter have signed an agreement that will see an archive of every public Tweet ever sent handed over to the library’s repository of historical documents.”
http://www.federalnewsradio.com/?nid=247&sid=2658996

Intellectual Property Issues

New Anti-Piracy Proposal Shows There’s a Better Way
“Sen. Ron Wyden and Rep. Darrell Issa today unveiled a legislative proposal which shows that effective anti-piracy measures need not risk extensive collateral damage. The Wyden-Issa discussion draft appears to focus carefully on true bad actors – sites whose function and purpose is to foster large scale infringement. And once bad actors are identified, it takes the “follow the money” approach of cutting them off from payment and advertising networks, thus starving them of their financial lifeblood. The draft bill therefore avoids the serious pitfalls of SOPA and PIPA, the legislation being aggressively pushed by rights holders.”
http://www.cdt.org/blogs/david-sohn/812new-anti-piracy-proposal-shows-there%E2%80%99s-better-way

An Alternative to SOPA: An Open Process Befitting an Open Internet
“The truly frightening legislative proposals known as SOPA and PIPA continue to loom in Congress, promising to put a big lump of coal in the stocking of every Internet user. So we were glad to learn that a bipartisan group of congressional representatives has come together to formulate a real alternative, called the OPEN Act, as well as a real process for including the Internet users and innovators it may affect.”
https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2011/12/alternative-sopa-open-process-befitting-open-internet

Google Plans to Seek Books Lawsuit Dismissal
“After a so-far fruitless three-year effort to settle the case, Google and the plaintiffs suing it for alleged book-related copyright infringement apparently are moving away from seeking a friendly solution. Google has notified the court that it intends to file a motion to dismiss the lawsuit filed against it by authors and publishers in 2005, in which they allege copyright infringement stemming from Google’s wholesale scanning of millions of library books without the permission of copyright owners. Google also told the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York that it will request as well the documents.”
http://www.pcmag.com/article/245501/google_plans_to_seek_books_lawsuit_dismissal.html

RIAA and AAP File Amicus Brief in Righthaven Appeal
“The Association of American Publishers and the Recording Industry Association of America have decided to cozy up to a copyright troll, filing an amicus brief in the Ninth Circuit appeal of Righthaven v. Hoehn. The Hoehn case is one of many decisions where a district court dismissed the case brought by copyright troll Righthaven. Indeed, Righthaven has lost on the merits every single time a court has considered its arguments (before six judges and counting). In Hoehn, the court correctly found both that Righthaven did not own the Las Vegas Review-Journal news article at issue and that his use was a fair use under copyright law. The AAP and RIAA do not weigh in on Righthaven’s sham copyright assignment from Stephens Media, the publisher of the Review-Journal. Rather, they devote their brief to civil procedure, arguing it was error for the court to even consider whether the use was fair.”

Internet Access

The New Digital Divide
“Increasingly, we are a country in which only the urban and suburban well-off have truly high-speed Internet access, while the rest — the poor and the working class — either cannot afford access or use restricted wireless access as their only connection to the Internet. As our jobs, entertainment, politics and even health care move online, millions are at risk of being left behind.”

Privacy Concerns

Governmental Tracking of Cell Phones and Vehicles: The Confluence of Privacy, Technology, and Law
“Technology has advanced considerably since the framers established the constitutional parameters for searches and seizures in the Fourth Amendment. What were ink quills and parchment are now cell phones and the Internet. It is undeniable that these advances in technology threaten to diminish privacy. Law enforcement’s use of cell phones and GPS devices to track an individual’s movements brings into sharp relief the challenge of reconciling technology, privacy, and law. . . This report will briefly survey Fourth Amendment law as it pertains to the government’s tracking programs. It will then summarize federal electronic surveillance statutes and the case law surrounding cell phone location tracking. Next, the report will describe the GPS-vehicle tracking cases and review the pending Supreme Court GPS tracking case, United States v. Jones. Finally, the report will summarize the geolocation and electronic surveillance legislation introduced in the 112th Congress.”

International Outlook

Indian Authorities Try (And Fail) to Make Tech Companies Block Politically Offensive Content
“The Indian Telecommunications Minister met on Monday afternoon with top officials of Internet companies and social media sites, including the Indian units of Facebook, Google, Microsoft, and Yahoo, to compel them to filter offensive content. The New York Times reported that Minister Kapil
Sibal met with executives to discuss the possibility for their companies to create internal mechanisms that would prevent any comments the state deemed “disparaging, inflammatory or defamatory” towards political and religious figures. The companies ultimately told Sibal that it would be impossible to put this in place, especially given the massive amount of data that they would have to oversee. In response to the companies’ position, Sibal declared that they would take policy measures to enact their strategy, though he wasn’t specific on what form this law would take. According to the New York Times, state officials there have already plans “to set up its own unit to monitor information posted on Web sites and social media sites.”


The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.

Rocky Mountain Chapter event

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2011/12/rocky-mountain-chapter-event/

December 12, 2011 Categories: Bayline, Chapter Programs
& Events Tags: events

What: Navigating Your Career Roadmap, Detours and Rough Roads

When: December 15, 2:00pm EST

Where: https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/941040761

Jill Hurst-Wahl will talk about career paths for information professionals and handling bumps in the road:

For more info: http://www.wearelibrarians.com/?p=546

Chapter Member Featured on “My SLA” Podcast

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2011/12/chapter-member-featured-on-my-sla-podcast/

December 14, 2011 Categories: Bayline, Chapter Leadership
Tags: member highlights

The San Francisco chapter is excited that one of our members, Tony Landolt, is being featured on SLA’s “My SLA” podcast. A link is below, and can also be found on the right-hand sidebar of our chapter site.

My SLA Podcast: Tony Landolt

Tony is a long-time chapter member, and is serving as Program Chair for our chapter in 2012. He is an employee of Reprints Desk, in which capacity I know he works with many of you. He has also been convener of the Baseball Caucus since 2000, and many of our chapter members also participate there. Congratulations to Tony for being featured on the podcast, and many thanks for all your efforts on behalf of the chapter.

Mimi Calter
Chapter President, 2012

Webinar: Expand Your Career Potential

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2011/12/webinar-expand-your-career-potential/

December 18, 2011 Categories: Bayline, Chapter Programs & Events
Tags: events, professional development

If you missed the professional development session that chapter members Deb Hunt and David Grossman did for us last year, you can catch them online!
Intersect Alert December 18, 2011


Freedom of Information

Senate stock holdings may get increased transparency
“A Senate committee passed legislation today prohibiting insider trading by lawmakers, and the legislation includes provisions to increase transparency regarding senators and Senate staff stock holdings. The bill would require all senators’ personal financial disclosure forms to be available online, according to The Wall Street Journal. The bill also applies to Senate staff. Currently, the forms are only available by going to the Office of Public Records in a Senate office building.”
http://www.legistorm.com/blog/senate-stock-holdings-may-get-increased-transparency.html

Government Transparency in 2011: Moving the Chains
“Heading into the holiday season, many Americans think not just of gifts and snowdrifts, but also of another winter tradition: football. As it happens, gridiron analogies are a good way to think about the year’s events in the arena of government transparency and right-to-know. In March, OMB Watch published an assessment of President Obama’s first two seasons as coach, which showed remarkable progress for Team Transparency. Throughout 2011, Obama and his staff made strong decisions, but there were also a few setbacks along the way.”
http://www.ombwatch.org/node/11931

New Report: Obama Administration Makes Transparency Gains; Challenges Remain
“Today Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW) and OpenTheGovernment.org released a joint report, Measuring Transparency Under the FOIA: The Real Story Behind the Numbers, analyzing the government’s Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) data for 2010 and how it compares to the previous administration’s data. The results paint a mixed picture, with agencies generally processing more requests more quickly, but also increasing their reliance on the FOIA’s nine exemptions to withhold more information from the public.”

House To Be More Open: OKs Online Publication Standard
“This morning, the House of Representatives took a tremendous step into the 21st century when the Committee on House Administration unanimously adopted “Standards for the Electronic Posting of House and Committee Documents & Data.” Taking effect on January 1, 2012, the resolution instructs the Clerk of the House to maintain a single website where the public can access all House bills, amendments, and resolutions for floor consideration in XML. In addition, committees will be encouraged to post their documents on that site in XML whenever possible — and searchable PDFs when not — with the expectation that mandatory publication requirements in XML will soon be imposed. The House will also store video of hearings and markups, and work to implement standards “that require documents to be electronically published in open data formats that are machine readable,” thereby enabling transparency and public review.”
http://sunlightfoundation.com/blog/2011/12/16/house-to-be-more-open-oks-online-publication-standard/

GRANT Transparency good, DUNS numbers bad
“In November, Rep. Lankford (OK) introduced the Grant Reform and New Transparency (GRANT) Act of 2011. The bill requires that all grant proposals and applications, in their entirety, be posted online, available as bulk data, and fully searchable. Awesome!”
http://sunlightfoundation.com/blog/2011/12/16/grant-transparency-good-duns-numbers-bad/

Transparency lags as Bradley Manning case opens
“After more than 18 months, the veil on the military’s case against Private Bradley Manning is set to be pulled back a bit Friday, as a public legal hearing gets underway into the evidence supporting charges that Manning leaked thousands of classified military reports and diplomatic cables to the online document repository WikiLeaks.”

Massachusetts Puts User-Friendly Checkbook Online
“Massachusetts officials are hopeful that an assortment of graphics will help users interpret the state’s spending data posted on a newly launched transparency website. The Massachusetts Open Checkbook, launched Dec. 5, is a result of legislation passed earlier this year that involved transparency guidelines.”
http://www.govtech.com/e-government/Massachusetts-Puts-
Data.gov Entering Phase Two of Worldwide Launch
“Data.gov was created as a way to make datasets generated by the executive branch of the federal government more accessible to the public. In an effort to encourage other countries to build their own data.gov websites, the U.S. has formed a partnership with the government of India with hopes of launching similar data.gov sites worldwide. Recently, the U.S. completed phase one of the plan by developing and releasing a new data management tool, which allows governments to upload, fact check, and manage the data.”

Making Public Data More Accessible on the Web
“Last year, we launched the Google Public Data Explorer, an online tool that organizes public statistics and brings them to life with interactive exploration and visualizations. Since then, we’ve added dozens of new datasets and received enthusiastic feedback from users around the world. Several data providers, such as the UN Development Programme and Statistics Catalunya, have even integrated the tool into their web sites. Today, we’re pleased to announce the next step in our public data effort- a completely revamped product featuring an updated look and feel, improved interaction modes, and a new visualization engine.”

Public Policy

Appropriations bill hikes e-government fund
“A joint House and Senate 2012 appropriations bill splits apart two funds that promote transparency initiatives, the e-government fund and the Federal Citizen Services Fund, a victory for champions of digital open government. The conference bill appropriates $12.4 million to the e-government fund, up from $8 million in 2011. That figure appears to be a compromise between a House figure of about $15 million for e-gov and about $6 million in the Senate version. Because the e-gov fund had been combined with the Federal Citizen Services Fund in both chambers it’s impossible to provide precise funding levels. White House officials and transparency advocates had criticized combining the two funds, saying that would water down e-gov’s mission of promoting Web-based transparency across government and possibly endanger specific e-gov projects such as Data.gov, a repository for federal data sets, USAspending.gov, which tracks spending trends, and the Federal IT Dashboard, which drills down into information technology spending.”
http://www.nextgov.com/nextgov/ng_20111215_5991.php

California Senate President Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg wants digital library of free textbooks
“Senate President Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg announced today that he will push for legislation to create an open online source library to reduce the cost of course materials for college students across the state. The Sacramento Democrat framed the proposed project as an effort to lower costs for students struggling to cope with higher fees and tuition rates at California’s public colleges and universities.”

Nixon’s Presidential Library: The Last Battle of Watergate
“Should the National Archives be in the business of presenting objective public history at the nation’s presidential libraries? Or should the private organizations that fund many of these institutions be able to lionize their man in the White House? In an exclusive from the upcoming issue of Miller-McCune magazine, learn how the fractious new partnership between the Archives and the foundation intent on rehabilitating Richard Nixon’s legacy has become the issue’s bellwether.”

The Future of the FDLP: From Conversation to Confrontation
“Recent discussions about the state of the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) and the responsibilities of regional depository libraries have morphed from a conversation into a politicized confrontation. Sadly, this threatens to negatively affect not just depository libraries but all libraries and users who rely on a robust FDLP for long-term free access to government information. While the issues are clear, the confrontation has muddied the waters considerably. We once had a cooperative discussion of how to balance existing legal requirements with a shared goal of moving to a better, digital FDLP. We now have personal attacks on the leaders of the Government Printing Office (GPO) and the FDLP, suggestions to change the legal foundation of the FDLP (USC Title 44), and arguments that are focused on the narrow agenda of a few large research libraries. These divisive, dramatic tactics impede finding common solutions to shared problems.”

With Mid-Year Cut, California Reduces State Funding for Libraries to Zero
“California Governor Jerry Brown announced Tuesday a mid-year, $16 million cut to state library funding, which essentially eliminates all remaining state funding for the California Library Services Act (CLSA), the California Library Literacy and English Acquisition Service, and the Public Library Foundation (PLF). Last year the programs received $30.4 million. The budget Brown first proposed in January called for this very scenario: the elimination of all state funding for library programs. But the legislature and Brown compromised and agreed to a budget, signed June 30, that cut funding 50 percent. But now even that money is gone, as California, with its zero funding, has topped Texas, where Governor Rick Perry and the legislature in July cut state funding for library services by 88 percent.”
Intellectual Property Issues

An Open Letter From Internet Engineers to the U.S. Congress
“Today, a group of 83 prominent Internet inventors and engineers sent an open letter to members of the United States Congress, stating their opposition to the SOPA and PIPA Internet blacklist bills that are under consideration in the House and Senate respectively.”

SOPA Goes Through Staged Compromise, Still Censorship
“The notorious internet censorship bill known as SOPA is going to mark-up in the House Judiciary Committee on Thursday, and ahead of the meeting the committee chairman, Rep. Lamar Smith [R, TX], has pulled a neat little trick. Smith has come out with a manager’s amendment that eliminates the most insanely unconstitutional elements of the bill, leaving behind an expansive censorship system for the government and the entertainment industry that is meant to seem reasonable by contrast. It’s a common trick among experienced legislators. Load your bill up with every crazy provision and hand-out its extreme stuff out at some point in the legislative process to supporters could possibly dream of, and then take some of the contrast. It’s a common trick among experienced legislators. Load your bill up with every crazy provision and hand-out its supporters could possibly dream of, and then take some of the extreme stuff out at some point in the legislative process to make it look like you’re being an honest broker. In this case, Smith is scaling back SOPA so that it looks more like the already-draconian Senate bill it was built off of, the PROTECT-IP Act. It changes a bill with a 1% favorability rating among OpenCongress users into a bill with a 2% favorability rating. Progress!”

Letter from Library Copyright Alliance in Support of OPEN Act Draft
“I write on behalf of the Library Copyright Alliance (LCA), which consists of three major library associations—the American Library Association, the Association of College and Research Libraries, and the Association of Research Libraries—that collectively represent over 139,000 libraries in the United States employing over 350,000 librarians and other personnel. We welcome your release of a discussion draft bill to address the problem of foreign infringing websites. Your effort to make the discussion draft available to the public for comment represents a positive model for public participation in the legislative process. Also, substantively, the draft bill represents a measured approach to enforcement of US copyrights on the global Internet.”

International Outlook

Unveiling the European Open Data Strategy
“Yesterday the European Commission announced the creation of an Open Data Strategy, a set of measures aimed at increasing government transparency. The announcement follows similar moves from the UK and France, the latter launching its national open data portal just last week. The Open Data Strategy will make a general rule that all documents made accessible by public sector bodies can be re-used for any purpose, commercial or non-commercial; data will be provided in commonly-used, machine-readable formats, to ensure data can be effectively re-used.”

Access to Information and Targeted Transparency Policies
“In the last 10 years, the Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) region has witnessed rapidly increasing growth in the number of countries having sanctioned access to information laws. This phenomenon has coexisted with scenarios of political and economic crises, as well as corruption scandals affecting central government and legislative and judicial branches. Although these scenarios have led to growing disenchantment with politics, to indignation, and to mass social mobilizations, they have also opened a very important debate about the need to monitor compliance with international standards in matters of transparency and access to information. Moreover, they have sparked discussion about the most efficient ways of promoting the design and implementation of new tools to strengthen good governance in the key areas or sectors of public resource management. This paper hopes to contribute to this debate, by posing the dual question of why and how access to information can be used to prevent and control corruption.”

UK ICO clarifies law on information held in private email accounts
“The Information Commissioner’s Office (ICO) has today published new guidance making it clear that information concerning official business held in private email accounts is subject to the Freedom of Information Act. Information Commissioner, Christopher Graham said:’It should not come as a surprise to public authorities to have the clarification that information held in private email accounts can be subject to Freedom of Information law if it relates to official business. This has always been the case – the Act covers all recorded information in any form.’”

Toronto library board rejects mayor’s demand for 10% budget cut
“Toronto’s library board has voted to reject Rob Ford’s demand for a 10 per cent cut, marking a clear split between the mayor and the board he chose to head one of the city’s largest agencies. In an 8-5 decision, directors thwarted a proposal from board chair Councillor Paul Ainslie to exact savings by carving 7 per cent of the hours from 56 branches – a motion supported by the mayor’s office that would have shed $5.1-million from the library budget.”
Intersect Alert January 1, 2012

January 1, 2012 Categories: Intersect Alert Tags: freedom of information, government, intellectual property, public policy

Freedom of Information

2011 in Review: Four Cases That Promoted Transparency in 2011

“2011 was an important year for court decisions interpreting the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). The Supreme Court issued two decisions that promoted government transparency and limited the scope of FOIA exemptions, while two district courts addressed how the government administers FOIA. All of those decisions will help shape FOIA to the benefit of the public.”
https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2011/12/four-cases-promoted-transparency-2011

Public Policy

What’s in store for government IT in 2012? One expert weighs in.

“What’s coming in 2012 is so obvious it can hardly be called a prediction: bigger data and smaller budgets. The idea of government agencies making IT investments to contend with the data explosion in a budget environment this tight may seem paradoxical, but it makes more sense than the alternative. So much sense that it just might happen.”
http://www.nextgov.com/nextgov/ng_20111227_9960.php

LSCM FY2011 Year in Review

“The 4th annual Library Services and Content Management (LSCM) Year in Review has been released. It addresses topics such as the Digitization Projects Registry, Needs & Offers 2.0, the GPO Access transition to FDsys, the Cataloging Record Distribution Project, the PACER: Access and Education Program, the FDsys Training Initiative, and more. Titled, LSCM’s Past, Present, and Future of Keeping America Informed: FY2011 Year in Review, this publication speaks to the roots of GPO and the FDLP, our present progress, and the future of the FDLP and the involvement of FDLP librarians in shaping that future.”
http://www.fdlp.gov/home/42-distribution/1146-vir11

Digital History

It’s Beginning to Look A Lot Like… Election Archiving

“The United States national elections are a year away, but the Library of Congress is already busy archiving presidential campaign websites and preparing to archive House and Senate campaign sites and more starting in March 2012. This actually isn’t the earliest we’ve started – for the 2008 archive we began a full nineteen months before the election.”

Intellectual Property Issues

U.S. Copyright Office Approves Fix for Sound Recordings

“The United States Copyright Office has recommended that pre-1972 sound recordings should be protected by federal copyright law in its Report on Federal Copyright Protection for Pre-1972 Sound Recordings. Currently, these older sound recordings are protected by state laws under which copyright exceptions such as library and archival preservation and fair use are uncertain. This uncertainty leads to caution on the part of music librarians and archivists to actively preserve sound recordings—some in fragile or obsolete formats and extremely rare. “

Public Domain Day 2012: Five things we can do in the US

“It’s New Year’s Day again, and in much of the world, this means another year’s worth of works enter the public domain. That’s a cause for celebration, as Europe and many other countries that have “life+70 years” copyright terms welcome works by James Joyce, Virginia Woolf, Jelly Roll Morton, and Elizabeth von Arnim into the public domain. The Communia Project’s Public Domain Day website focuses on works by these and many other authors that are entering (in many cases, re-entering) the public domain in “life+70 years” countries. Meanwhile, folks in Canada, New Zealand, and other countries that have held the line at the “life+50 years” terms of the Berne Convention can now freely enjoy the works of people like James Thurber, Ernest Hemingway, and H.D. There’s not so much excitement about Public Domain Day in the US, where no published works are scheduled to enter the public domain.
for another 7 years, due to a 20-year copyright extension enacted in 1998. But Americans don’t have to simply sigh and contemplate what might have been if our copyright terms hadn’t been extended. The new year still provides a number of important opportunities for Americans to improve access to the public domain.”

http://everybodyslibraries.com/2012/01/01/public-domain-day-2012-five-things-we-can-do-in-the-us/

Privacy Concerns

Appeals Court Revives EFF’s Challenge to Government’s Massive Spying Program
“The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals today blocked the government’s attempt to bury the Electronic Frontier Foundation’s (EFF’s) lawsuit against the government’s illegal mass surveillance program, returning Jewel v. NSA to the District Court for the next step. The court found that Jewel had alleged sufficient specifics about the warrantless wiretapping program to proceed. Justices rejected the government’s argument that the allegations about the well-known spying program and the evidence of the Folsom Street facility in San Francisco were too speculative.”


International Outlook

From Canada – Human Resources library closure part of troubling trend
“The announcement that the departmental library at Human Resources and Skills Development Canada will be closed in little more than a year is “a generic problem,” says the member of a group protesting recent cuts and changes to the Library and Archives of Canada. “The federal government is really cutting back on its obligations to provide library and archive services both for its own staff and for the public,” says James Turk, who is also executive director of the Canadian Association of University Teachers. “It’s going to do damage that’s not going to be reparable.” The HRSDC library, which operates out of Gatineau and Montreal, will be shut down and its contents relocated or sold, a departmental spokesperson said in an email.”


Take Action!

“Yes We Scan,” A Project to Bring the Library of Congress to the Internet
“The Center for American Progress’ John Podesta and open-government pioneer Carl Malamud are heading up a new effort called Yes We Scan: A call for the federal government to do a better job of digitizing all of Washington’s many cultural treasures, from the Library of Congress to the National Technical Information Service, and making them available online. In a letter addressed to President Barack Obama and posted yesterday, Malamud calls on the White House to conduct a comprehensive review of current archiving efforts and come up with a plan on how to proceed from there. . . A corresponding petition on the White House’s e-petitioning platform, We the People, has 373 signatures. If it gets 25,000 signatures before Jan. 20, the White House will be obliged to respond.”


Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety.

The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.

First Dinner Meeting of the Year!

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2012/01/first-dinner-meeting-of-the-year/ January 4, 2012 Categories: Bayline, Chapter Programs & Events Tags: events, librarians, social media

Google + = ?

presented by
Scott Brown
of Social Information Group

Google + is arguably the fastest-growing social networking tool out there. Not only has adoption of Google + soared, but features are also being added on an almost weekly basis. But is it useful? And if so, how? In this fast-paced session, you’ll get a crash course on Google + for finding information, as well as some best practices in using it to track companies and people of interest to you and your organization.

Our presenter for the evening will be Scott Brown, owner of Social Information Group (http://www.socialinformationgroup.com), an independent information practice that focuses on the effective use of social networking tools for sharing and finding information. He has over 20 years of experience in library and information...
organizations, in public, academic and corporate settings. The use of social networking has been an area of significant interest to our members, and we’re pleased to have Scott back again to discuss this hot topic.

This will be a joint meeting with BayNet.

**When:** Thursday, January 19, 2012, 5:30-8:00 PM

**Agenda:**

5:30 – 6:45 Registration, networking and appetizers

6:45 – 7:00 Announcements

7:00 – 8:00 Program with Q&A following

**Where:** Urban Tavern in the Cheval Room, 333 O’Farrell Street • San Francisco, CA 94102


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**EPA Releases 2010 Toxics Release Inventory National Analysis**

“The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is releasing its annual national analysis of the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI), providing all Americans with vital information about their communities. The TRI program publishes information on toxic chemical disposals and other releases into the air, land and water, as well as information on waste management and pollution prevention activities in neighborhoods across the country.”

[http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/A64903C5C1540CF38525797C0064E3F5](http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/A64903C5C1540CF38525797C0064E3F5)

**Intersect Alert January 8, 2012**


January 8, 2012 Categories: Intersect Alert Tags: freedom of information, government, intellectual property, public policy

**Freedom of Information**

**Effective January 1, 2012, Nevada Law Requires All Campaign and Public Official Finance Reports to be Filed Electronically with the Secretary of State’s Office; System Now Fully Operational**

“Secretary of State Ross Miller’s Elections Division today launched its enhanced online system for campaign and public official finance reporting. Effective January 1, 2012, all parties filing Contributions & Expense (C&E) Reports and Financial Disclosure Statements (FDS) are required to report the information electronically with the Secretary of State’s office, as mandated by Assembly Bill 452. To access the fully operational system, visit [https://nvsos.gov/SOSCandidateServices/Login.aspx](https://nvsos.gov/SOSCandidateServices/Login.aspx).”


**Public Policy**

**NBII To Be Taken Offline Permanently in January**

“January 15, 2012, will see the end of a long-term project to empower users of biological resources data and information. The National Biological Information Infrastructure, or NBII, was begun in 1994 within what was then the National Biological Service (NBS) of the Department of the Interior. Its purpose and mission were to ensure that scientists, resource managers, decision makers, and concerned citizens could go to a single place on the Web and find biological resources data and information from vetted sources—whether in government,
academia, non-governmental organizations, or the private sector. In 1996, following the Congressionally directed closure of the NBS, the NBII was transferred along with other remaining programs of the defunct bureau and became the USGS Biological Resources Division. In recent years, however, the NBII—like so many other important federal programs—was plagued with budget cuts. The FY 2012 budget mandated its termination. The main Web site, www.nbii.gov, will be taken offline on January 15, 2012, along with all of its associated node sites.”

http://www.usgs.gov/core_science_systems/Access

State helps protect Baltimore archives
“Baltimore was in danger of losing many of its most precious documents several years ago. A rented building near Druid Hill Park that was used to house the city’s historic archives failed to meet even minimal standards for proper records storage. It was damp and moldy. It lacked air conditioning. The roof leaked. Water got on the floor. Snakes crawled around the building. Few of the documents were available online, and there was no equipment to scan them in. But the state stepped in, and the city’s valuable papers, maps and photos have been moved to a sturdy, climate-controlled storage facility in East Baltimore. And people are coming to use them — students, genealogists, writers, researchers of all kinds. The takeover of the city archives is part of a broader effort by state archivists to take all steps necessary to protect valuable Maryland records before they are lost forever.”

http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/maryland/bs-md-ar-archives-20120102_0.6687009.story

Feds aim to serve citizens better by revamping Dot-Gov
“Around the time he took office as the nation’s 28th president in 1913, Woodrow Wilson wrote that “government ought to be all outside and no inside.” That simple binary made sense 99 years ago. At the time, the results of government studies, executive orders and meeting notes were either available to the public or they weren’t. The so-called outside, where government information met the public, was limited to a few key places such as the Government Printing Office and the National Archives. With the birth of the Internet, the “outside” became effectively limitless, which has resulted in a new set of challenges. While the government is publishing more information than ever through about 18,000 websites, it’s become increasingly difficult for agency information to reach the public.”


Internal Chicago Public Library Memo Details Policy Changes
“While Mayor Rahm Emanuel and library employee union leaders wrangle over library hours, a memo to library employees, obtained by Center Square Journal from a reader, shows that the Chicago Public Library system has altered several other policies to compensate for the loss of staff, seemingly aimed at slowing circulation to a manageable level. Following this week’s announcement that Chicago Public Libraries will now be closed on Mondays, Mayor Rahm Emanuel and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) have shifted into damage control mode, each blaming the other for the unexpected reduction in hours. At issue: Faced with $6.7 million in budget cuts, CPL has been forced to layoff more than 170 employees, rendering the system unable to staff 70-plus libraries, 48 hours per week.”


Open Access

New bill to block open access to publicly-funded research
“The Research Works Act (HR 3699) is a new bill to repeal the open-access policy at the NIH and block similar policies at other federal agencies. Co-sponsored by Darrell Issa (R-CA) and Carolyn Maloney (D-NY), it was introduced on December 16, 2011, and referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.”

https://plus.google.com/u/0/109377556796183035206/posts
/Qyah1jSjG6L#109377556796183035206/posts
/Qyah1jSjG6L

“The Association of American Publishers (AAP) and its Professional and Scholarly Division (PSP) welcomed the introduction of the bipartisan Research Works Act, H.R. 3699 as significant legislation that will help reinforce America’s leadership in scholarly and scientific publishing in the public interest and in the critical peer-review system that safeguards the quality of such research. H.R. 3699 was introduced by Rep. Darrell Issa (R-CA), Chairman of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and Committee member Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY). The legislation is aimed at preventing regulatory interference with private-sector research publishers in the production, peer review and publication of scientific, medical, technical, humanities, legal and scholarly journal articles.”

http://publishers.org/press/56/

Intellectual Property Issues

Recording industry dismisses alternate online piracy bill
“The Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) dismissed an alternate online piracy bill from Rep. Darrell Issa (R-Calif.) and Sen. Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) on Wednesday, arguing it is not a “meaningful solution” to the problem of online piracy. The recording industry is among the strongest supporters of another online piracy bill, the Stop Online Piracy Act (SOPA). That legislation would enable the government to force Web firms to delete links to foreign websites dedicated to copyright infringement.”

Is the AP’s NewsRight a Carrot or a Stick?
“The Associated Press newswire service has just launched a “news registry” and licensing service it calls NewsRight, together with a group of traditional media chains and outlets such as Hearst Newspapers and the New York Times. The AP says the new entity—which it has spent more than three years developing—is primarily intended to help members track, then license, their content to websites and news services. But the AP’s long history of antagonism toward the digital news ecosystem raises questions about whether the registry is designed to be a carrot or a club with which to beat aggregators it believes are “stealing” its content.”
http://www.businessweek.com/technology/is-the-aps-newsright-a-carrot-or-a-stick-01062012.html

International Outlook

Anti-internet piracy law adopted by Spanish government
“The Spanish government has approved tough new legislation which could see websites deemed to be trading in pirated material blocked within ten days. The legislation creates a government body with powers to force internet service providers to block sites. It comes as the US plans to adopt similar tough new rules. The crackdown on piracy has been welcomed by the creative industries but criticised by net activists.”
http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-16391727

Calgary library system launches three-year strategic plan
“Calgary’s public library is taking a bold approach ahead of its centennial year — one that includes tackling proposals for a new central library, opening a Saddletowne branch and launching its three-year strategic plan. In its annual direct mail campaign, which solicits donations from card holders, officials ask Calgarians online and by mail, “What does the library mean to you?” And Calgarians have answered — with more than 2,000 responses and donations, said library foundation executive director Paul Royston. The aggressive public campaign comes on the heels of a contentious city budget process that saw a handful of alderman propose funding cuts for building a new central library as a means of keeping taxes in check.”

Flash Drives are Cuba’s Internet
“Here in Cuba, USB flash drives are used as a substitute for the Internet. People somehow manage to copy TV series, documentaries, books, movies and all kinds of information. They store these on their USBs and then they get distributed randomly. This is how we all learned the details around the capture of Osama Bin Laden. It’s the way teenagers watch the beauty pageants every year and how families are delighted for hours with Caso Cerrado (a Spanish-language TV courtroom series). It’s all thanks to our strange form of the Internet.”
http://www.havanatimes.org/?p=58954

Opening Government Data in Bulgaria
“In the beginning of 2011 some open data was released by the Bulgarian government on www.parliament.bg. Visitors could export information of bills and members of parliament as XML or CSV. They could also download the votes of individual MPs or parliamentary groups as Excel files. While what data was useful and an important step forward, I found problems in the format and the exported files. Also, one could find a lot more information on the website, that could not be exported as open structured data. So I started a project to scrape the website, fix the available data, refine and link it. After several versions of the schema, the final dataset was released in the beginning of December.”

Take Action!

Call to action: Oppose H.R. 3699, a bill to block public access to publicly funded research
“A new bill, The Research Works Act (H.R.3699), designed to roll back the NIH Public Access Policy and block the development of similar policies at other federal agencies, has been introduced into the U.S. House of Representatives. Co-sponsored by Darrell Issa (R-CA) and Carolyn Maloney (D-NY), it was introduced on December 16, 2011, and referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. Essentially, the bill seeks to prohibit federal agencies from conditioning their grants to require that articles reporting on publicly funded research be made accessible to the public online. Supporters of public access need to speak out against this proposed legislation. We strongly urge you to contact these offices to express your opposition TODAY, or as soon as possible. To support you, draft letter text is available.”
http://www.taxpayeraccess.org/action/action_access/12-0106.shtml

Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety.

The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.

Intersect Alert January 15, 2012
Launching it in fall 2012. The $1.3 million portal, being built by the EPA, is an attempt to make government operations more transparent and accountable. Government advocates remain concerned. The recent passage of the Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act (UELMA) has brought to the forefront the issue of costs of authenticating primary legal materials in electronic format. This white paper briefly reviews five methods of electronic authentication. These methods are based on trustworthiness, file types, effort to implement, and volume of electronic documents to be authenticated. Six sample solutions are described and their relative costs are compared. The white paper also frames the legal landscape and background of authentication for primary legal materials in electronic format, and provides context and points to applicable resources. The aim of this collective effort is to promote the understanding of costs related to authentication and invite further discussion on the issue.

The public will be able to access critical air pollution data. With this new data, the public can hold industry accountable to ensure that emitters take responsibility for the way they are contributing to climate change. The online tool presents 2010 GHG data from 6,700 large facilities around the country in nine industry groups, including suppliers of certain fossil fuels and industrial gases. The public will be able to use the data to analyze sources of GHG pollution in their areas, compare facility and industry performance, and eventually track trends.

Government agencies plan for governmentwide FOIA portal

“Three federal agencies are creating a common web portal for Freedom of Information Act lawsuits for the documents. With much of official Washington shut down between Christmas and New Year’s, the Immigration and Customs Enforcement division of the Department of Homeland Security released the long-sought memoranda on Dec. 28 to three immigrants’ rights groups that filed a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit for the documents.”

Small Wins for Transparency in 2012 Spending Package

“The fiscal year 2012 spending package signed by President Obama on Dec. 23 included some good news for government transparency and right to know. Many of the worst provisions of the bill were removed from the final compromise, but open government advocates remain concerned.”

Public Policy

House Launches Transparency Portal

“Making good on part of the House of Representative’s commitment to increase congressional transparency, today the House Clerk’s office launched a one stop website where the public can access all House bills, amendments, resolutions for floor consideration, and conference reports in XML, as well as information on floor proceedings and more. Information will ultimately be published online in real time and archived for perpetuity.”

Public Online Information Act Inspires Transparency Advocacy in California

“Transparency advocates in California are drawing inspiration from the Public Online Information Act (POIA) to pursue disclosure improvements in California. POIA was introduced this Congress by Rep. Steve Israel in the House and by Sen. Jon Tester in the Senate. The new transparency organization govUNLEASHED has chosen the California Public Online Information Act (CPOIA) as its first major initiative. The proposed legislation would require any information that reveals government agency operational conditions and their capacity to consistently deliver cost-effective public services to U.S. taxpayers” be posted online.”

Authentication of Primary Legal Materials and Pricing Options

“The recent passage of the Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act (UELMA) has brought to the forefront the issue of costs of authenticating primary legal materials in electronic format. This white paper briefly reviews five methods of electronic authentication. These methods are based on trustworthiness, file types, effort to implement, and volume of electronic documents to be authenticated. Six sample solutions are described and their relative costs are compared. The white paper also frames the legal landscape and background of authentication for primary legal materials in electronic format, and provides context and points to applicable resources. The aim of this collective effort is to promote the understanding of costs related to authentication and invite further discussion on the issue.”

FCC to Explore Helping Low-Income Americans Afford Internet Access

“FCC Chairman Julius Genachowski announced Monday that...”
Geeks to Testify (Finally!) About SOPA Blacklisting Implications

“Rep. Darrell Issa (R-California), a major opponent of the Stop Online Piracy Act, announced Monday he is bringing in the techies to hold a public hearing highlighting the online security implications of a proposed bill that would force changes to internet infrastructure to fight online copyright infringement. The announcement came three weeks after a markup of SOPA in the House Judiciary Committee was abruptly postponed amid concerns over its blacklisting element, which lets the attorney general order changes to core internet infrastructure in order to stop copyright infringement. The fight pits the big donors of Hollywood against Silicon Valley, relative newcomers to the world of influence peddling. Hollywood argues that millions of jobs are lost a year due to pirate websites, while the tech world argues that the open nature of the internet has created millions of jobs and that copyright holders already have tools to fight illegal downloaders.”

From the UK – The Demise of the Public Library

“A couple of years ago, after a reading in Karachi, I told off a young man who was asking me to sign a pirated copy of one of my books. Piracy is destroying publishing in Pakistan, I told him. He said he understood but added that because pirated books are cheaper he could buy more of them. It’s not as if Karachi is filled with public libraries, he said. A few weeks later, back in London, I walked into my local library and felt immensely grateful for how easily available books were — crime-free. I had no idea then of the crisis facing British libraries. Over the last year or two, you’d have had to be living under several rocks not to notice.”

Malaysia National Archives Digitising Historical Materials

“The National Archives is in the process of digitising all historical records and materials to make it easier for the public to obtain information, National Archives deputy director-general (research and development) Daresh Ismail said. The digitisation process, carried out under the National Key Economic Area (NKEA), would also endear the public to an institution responsible for safeguarding the country’s history, she said.”

UK’s WhatDoTheyKnow.com’s public archive now contains 100,000 Freedom of Information requests

“Some time in the middle of last night, our Freedom of Information site WhatDoTheyKnow.com was used to send its 100,000th FOI request. It was a simple one, made to the Queen Victoria Hospital NHS Foundation Trust. WhatDoTheyKnow
was launched in February 2008, with these aims: to make it easy to file a FOI request, and to keep a public archive of the requests and (more importantly) the responses received from public bodies. The Freedom of Information Act had been in force since 2005, but we wanted to make it fully accessible to people who were not journalists, lobbyists or professional operators – it is a law that gives us all a right, not just those experts.”

http://www.mysociety.org/2012/01/12/whatdotheyknow-com%e2%80%99s-public-archive-now-contains-100000-freedom-of-information-requests/

Library use in Toronto surges in 2011, new figures show

“As city councillors spend the next week mulling reductions to branch hours, libraries across the city have just tallied up their busiest year ever. New user stats released to the Globe and Mail show that the Toronto Public Library system circulated 33 million books, e-books, DVDs and other items in 2011, up one million from 2010. The number of people borrowing those items also surged by one million, from 18 million in 2010 to 2011 last year. Those are record figures for the third year in a row, according to TPL spokeswoman Anne Marie Aikins.”


AALL ACTION ALERT: Take Action to Oppose H.R. 3699, a Bill to Prevent Public Access to Taxpayer-funded Research

“Please take a moment to respond to our important new action alert in opposition to H.R. 3699, the Research Works Act. This bill, which was introduced on December 16 by Rep. Darrell Issa (R-CA-49) and Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY-14), would reverse the National Institutes of Health’s popular Public Access Policy, which AALL strongly supports, and prevent other Federal agencies from developing similar policies to provide timely public access to taxpayer-funded research.”

http://aallwash.wordpress.com/2012/01/09/aall-action-alert-take-action-to-oppose-h-r-3699-a-bill-to-prevent-public-access-to-taxpayer-funded-research/

Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety.

The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.

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Intersect Alert January 22, 2012


Freedom of Information

Dept of Energy Wants to Reclassify Some Info as “Restricted Data”
The Department of Energy has asked Congress to amend the Atomic Energy Act to allow certain nuclear weapons information that has been removed from the “Restricted Data” classification category to be restored to that category.

http://www.fas.org/blog/secrecy/2012/01/doe_rd.html

Now There’s a Congressional Record App for That
“I am very excited that today marks the launch of the Congressional Record App presented by the Library of Congress, an initiative of the House leadership under the guidance of the Committee on House Administration. The goal of this new free app is straightforward – easily read the daily edition of the Congressional Record on your iPad (and maybe save a few trees in the process). Just like the Library of Congress does with THOMAS, we are pulling together data from our partners: the Office of the Clerk of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Office of the Secretary of the Senate, and the Government Printing Office.”

http://blogs.loc.gov/law/2012/01/now-theres-a-congressional-record-app-for-that/

“Bills To Be Considered on the House Floor” Repository
“You can now access “Bills To Be Considered on the House Floor” – a new digital repository from the Office of the Clerk of the House of Representatives. “Bills To Be Considered on the House Floor” provides access to any measures which may be considered on the floor in the coming week, including bills, resolutions, and amendments. The repository, launched January 13, 2012, in time for the 2nd session of the 112th Congress, is intended to expand upon and replace the legislative announcements made on the House Rules Committee’s website throughout 2011.”

http://blogs.loc.gov/law/2012/01/bills-to-be-considered-on-the-house-floor-repository/

Public Policy

Indiana Bills would put teeth in open record statute
“Public employees who intentionally circumvented public meeting and disclosure laws could be subject to fines under legislation reintroduced in the Generally Assembly. The bills would let a judge fine a person $100 for first offense and $500 for subsequent violations of the Open Door Law or Access to
Public Records Act. The act requires meetings of public agencies to be open and public documents to be made available for copying or inspection except for specific exemptions spelled out in the law.”

http://www.jconline.com/article/20120117/NEWS02/201170321/Bills-would-put-teeth-open-record-statute

House of Reps Sets Conference on Public Access to Legislative Info on Feb 2

“Today, the House of Representatives announced it will host a full-day conference on public access to legislative information on Thursday, February 2. This is a big deal. It will bring together the people who create and encode legislative materials and the people that use (and transform) that information. This announcement follows on the recent launch of a House transparency portal, which in of itself will change how the public makes use of legislative information. Entitled “Legislative Data and Transparency,” the conference will include discussion of how legislative information is created, how it is made available to the public, what the impact is of current levels of public access, what improved public access would look like from a technological perspective, and the benchmarks to determine and benefits that would come from a truly transparency Congress.”

http://sunlightfoundation.com/blog/2012/01/19/house-of-reps-sets-conference-on-public-access-to-legislative-info-on-feb-2/

Emanuel announces plan to reopen libraries on Mondays

“Chicago’s branch libraries will reopen on Mondays, thanks to a political end-run engineered by Mayor Rahm Emanuel.”


Digital History

David Ferriero response to the Yes We Scan petition on the White House's We the People site:

Digitizing Federal Public Records

“Thank you for signing a petition asking the Obama Administration to digitize all public records. The Obama Administration believes increasing access to our collections by digitizing our records is a great idea. Our most recent efforts to do this ourselves as part of our OpenGov initiative, include the Citizen Archivist project, a Wikipedian in Residence, Tag it Tuesdays, and Scanathons. We are also moving forward on implementing the President’s recent Memorandum on Managing Government Records, which focuses on the need to update policies and practices for the digital age. But all those things aren’t enough. Your petition, and the Yes We Scan effort broadly, calls for a national strategy, and even a Federal Scanning Commission, to figure out what it would take to digitize the holdings of many federal entities, from the Library of Congress to the Government Printing Office to the Smithsonian Institution.”

https://www.whitehouse.gov/petitions#!/response/digitizing-federal-public-records

Could SOPA and PIPA interfere with State Dept.'s global Internet freedom agenda?

“Two Internet anti-piracy bills working their way through Congress that are heavily backed by the movie industry could have significant impacts on technology companies, a threat highlighted Wednesday by Wikipedia, Reddit, BoingBoing and other sites that went offline for the day in protest. As a result, some reporters have characterized the standoff over the House’s Stop Online Piracy Act and the Senate’s Protect Intellectual Property Act – SOPA and PIPA for short – as a fight between Hollywood and Silicon Valley. But at an event put on by The New Republic Wednesday, Alec Ross, the State Department’s senior advisor for innovation, pointed out that that this issue is bigger than California. If done wrong, anti-piracy legislation could restrict the rights of Internet users across the country – and put U.S. diplomats in a very awkward position.”


Privacy Concerns

Inter-Parliamentary Union Condemns Government Investigation into Member of Iceland’s Parliament

“For more than a year, Icelandic Member of Parliament and EFF client Birgitta Jonsdottir—along with security researchers Jacob Appelbaum and Rop Gonggrijp—has fought the efforts of the Department of Justice to force Twitter to give up information about their online activities. In December of 2010, the government obtained a court order requiring, among other things, Twitter to hand over their IP addresses at login (which can be used to trace their locations) along with a long list of other information. EFF, with the ACLU and a host of private attorneys, fought back, but the U.S. courts rebuffed our efforts. The courts’ analysis is troubling on many grounds. One such ground is the fact that the courts determined Ms. Jonsdottir’s information could be seized despite the fact that Ms. Jonsdottir, whose actions on behalf of Wikileaks all seem to have occurred in Iceland, appears to have complete immunity against this investigation under Icelandic law as a member of the Icelandic Parliament. While Ms. Jonsdottir’s specific situation is unique, many non-U.S. users of Twitter are rightfully unnerved. At least according to the magistrate and judge in Virginia, all of a users’ communications records can be subject to review by the U.S. government without a warrant because the users chose to use an online “cloud” service that stores data about them in the U.S. But even as the U.S. courts have refused to see the dangerous implications of their rulings, others have appropriately raised alarm. In a little noticed story last fall, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, which represents members of parliament from 157 countries, issued a stunning rebuke to the United States and the Department of Justice over its investigation into Ms. Jonsdottir.”

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2012/01/inter-parliamentary-union-condemns-government-investigation-member-iceland%E2%80%99s

Intellectual Property Issues
US Supreme Court Rules On Golan v. Holder, Key Public Domain Case
“The United States Supreme Court today ruled on one of the top intellectual property legal cases expected this year. The case questioned whether the US Congress acted constitutionally when it restored copyright to millions of foreign works that had been in the public domain in the US. And it affirmed Congress’ actions, allowing the US to avoid questions of compliance with its international obligations.”

Reid postpones vote on Internet piracy bill
“Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) has indefinitely postponed next week’s vote on the controversial Protect IP Act “in light of recent events,” he announced on Friday. The move is a resounding victory for online activists, who staged an unprecedented protest against the anti-piracy measure on Wednesday. . . Just minutes after Reid’s announcement, House Judiciary Committee Chairman Lamar Smith (R-Texas) said he would shelve the House’s version of the legislation, the Stop Online Piracy Act (SOPA).”

International Outlook
China says government to be more open
“China will be more open about the often secretive workings of the government and ruling Communist Party in the coming year, although strict controls over the Internet would remain in place, a senior propaganda official said Wednesday. Officials will expand the use of government spokespeople, boost the overseas reach of state media, and further promote the use of microblogs to interact with the public, Wang Chen told reporters.”
http://old.news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20120118/ap_on_hi_te

From the UK – Digital standards agreed for public libraries
“The heads of more than 4,000 public libraries across the UK have agreed to national digital standards, which include providing free internet access in every library, and the ability to join a library and renew and reserve items online. The Society of Chief Librarians (SCL) said that National Digital Promise will set the minimum standard for online services provided by public libraries in Wales, England and Northern Ireland.”

Irish National library gets digital
“For 135 years, saving paper has been its focus. But with so much of the world’s written content and images increasingly in digital form, the National Library of Ireland has embarked on a major project to digitise its collections and give equal weight to archiving new material that comes in bits and bytes. An ambitious four programmes of work were launched during the past year, approaching the digitisation task from a range of directions.”
http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/finance/2012/0120/1224310512980.html

Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety.
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Quick & Dirty Strategic Planning
http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2012/01/quick-dirty-strategic-planning/ January 23, 2012 Categories: Bayline, Chapter Programs & Events Tags: events, professional development

Quick & Dirty Strategic Planning
A Professional Development program presented by Eris Weaver

A good strategic plan is like a good roadmap; it helps you get where you want to go. Of course, you first have to decide on your destination in order to know whether you’ve arrived or not! A strategic plan doesn’t have to be a huge document that takes months to create – it’s better to have a one-page plan that is a living document, consulted and amended regularly as a guide for daily decisions. This workshop will provide guidance and a template for quick and dirty strategic planning that will help you get results.

Former SLA member Eris Weaver is a facilitator, consultant, and trainer known for her clarity, forthrightness, and humor. She became a facilitator because she has little patience for poorly run meetings – given how much of our work life is spent in meetings, it is important that we make the best use of our precious time!
Eris is deeply committed to the use of consensus and other cooperative decision-making processes to improve life within our communities and the world at large. She holds Masters degrees in Public Health and Library & Information Studies, both from University of California at Berkeley. She is a member of the International Association of Facilitators, the International Forum of Visual Practitioners. She is a Fellow of the Leadership Institute for Ecology & the Economy and an Ambassador for the Santa Rosa Chamber of Commerce.

Current and former clients include Stanford University Libraries & Academic Information Resources; California Center for Cooperative Development; University of Utah Medical School; Goldfarb Lipman LLP; Community Experience Partnership; Sonoma County Energy Independence Program; Affordable Housing Associates; Napa County Mental Health Services; and the American Medical Student Association.

When: Tuesday, February 28, 2012, 8:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Agenda:

8:30 AM – 9:00 AM Registration & coffee
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM Presentation

Where: Mechanics Institute, 57 Post Street, San Francisco, CA

Cost: $40 for SLA members, $80 for non-members, and $25 for students, retired, and unemployed.

Registration Deadline: Friday, February 24th 2012 – CLOSED

Registration Form: Mail-in Registration

President’s Welcome

Happy 2012, San Francisco Chapter of SLA!

I’m very excited to be serving as your President this year. Like so many of my predecessors, I’ve decided to select a theme for my presidency, and that theme is COMMUNITY. For me, the biggest value of my SLA membership has always been the community connections it has provided, particularly at the local level. Through my local SLA connections I’ve developed new skills, kept informed about industry developments, hired new talent, and learned about career opportunities. As President, I want to nurture that community, and ensure that you all have those opportunities as well throughout the year.

The most obvious way we develop community is through meetings and programs. As a chapter, we strive to have two professional development events, two tours, and six dinner meetings in any given year, and this year is no different. We’re already off to a roaring start, with a very successful dinner meeting featuring Scott Brown last week (Scott’s presentation slides are at http://san francisco.sla1.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/SFSLA_GooglePlus_Jan2012.pdf), and plans for a Professional Development meeting on Feb 28th, featuring Past President Eris Weaver (see announcement at http://san francisco.sla1.org/2012/01/quick-dirty-strategic-planning/). March brings us Sunshine Week, and we’re planning another panel discussion as we have in recent years. April will be our Neighborhood Dinners, May will be our annual joint meeting with the Silicon Valley chapter, and in June we hope to have our first tour of the year, at the Asian Art Museum! We won’t have a local event in July, but we’ll be participating in the Western States Chapter Reception at the SLA Annual Conference in Chicago, and I hope many of you will join us there. Then in August we’ll begin our local programming again, with an event roughly every month in the second half of the year. As we have in past years, we’re keeping registration fees low for these events, generally $25 for programs, to enable as many of you as possible to participate. I look forward to meeting many of you at these sessions, to making connections, and to building our community.

Bayline has also been a tool for building the chapter community for many years. It has been a very effective way to send messages, to share successes, and to share knowledge. However, with the rollout of our new website, the board is sensing that the PDF format is showing its age. Now, we’re beginning to explore opportunities for moving the newsletter...
content to the web. I’ll be heading a small task force to look at ways to do that without losing the benefits of the newsletter. I welcome feedback as we work through that process.

As I write this, I’m preparing to attend SLA’s annual Leadership Summit, one of the places our local SLA community meets with the larger association community. This is an opportunity for me to learn about the organization’s plans and expectations for the coming year, and I look forward to sharing those messages with you all when I return.

Finally, I want to encourage you all to get engaged with the organization and build our community spirit. That may be something as simple as attending an event, providing feedback on that event, or reaching out to make a suggestion for a speaker, or a topic you’d like covered in Professional Development. The executive board welcomes your feedback and input at any time. I hope some of you will also get engaged by volunteering to work with the organization. We have volunteer opportunities for everyone, from simple projects like preparing name badges for meetings, right up to participating on the board. We have several open positions on the advisory council, and we’ll be doing active recruitment in the months ahead. Finally, I hope you’ll all reach out to your friends and colleagues and get them involved as well. Our community will be all the stronger for the growth.

Share this:

Intersect Alert January 29, 2012


Freedom of Information

Disclose Act: Super PAC Transparency Legislation To Be Introduced By House Democrats

“Amid growing concern over the growing influence of super PACs, congressional Democrats are set to introduce new legislation designed to bring an increased level of transparency to campaign-related expenditures. Rep. Chris Van Hollen (D-Md.) will introduce in the coming weeks an updated version of the DISCLOSE Act, the legislation aimed at increasing transparency in election spending that failed to pass Congress, in September 2010, by a single Senate vote. Senate Democrats will introduce their own version of the legislation after the House moves first. The two bills are likely to differ slightly in language, though those differences aren’t immediately known.”


White House Launches Education.Data.Gov

“The White House last week announced the launch of education.data.gov as part of the overall data.gov project. The site seeks to target developers, teachers and students. For developers, the site offers access to raw data on kindergarten through grade 12 schools, and enrollment and finance data related to colleges and universities. In addition, the site will highlight competitions for developers to design apps related to education.”


Energy.gov: Where information goes to die

“We live in an Information Age. Never before have we had so much data at our fingertips, thanks to digitization and the Internet. But information is only useful if it is accessible, searchable, and intelligible. Last August, the US Energy Department proudly announced a “comprehensive website reform, making Energy.gov a cutting-edge, interactive information platform and saving taxpayers more than $10 million annually.” In short, the government eliminated 12 separate department program sites and merged them into one (with plans to add many more), upgraded the content-management system, and streamlined information into the cloud PDF. In theory, Energy.gov is now the “cutting-edge” go-to site for information on everything from home weatherization to nuclear research. In practice, however, it’s more often a black hole.”


Public Policy

San Francisco’s Plan: Open Government, Open Data, Open Doors to New Business and Better Services

“San Francisco’s a town with a lot of mobile apps that can help its residents to navigate everyday life in the city. Routesy provides real-time transit information; Mom Maps helps both residents and tourist parents alike quickly locate kid-friendly places to hang out; Zonability helps make local zoning rules more accessible. In fact, a small cottage industry of app-makers based on government data has sprouted up since the city launched DataSF, its machine-readable online library of government statistics. Seeing the potential for more development, San Francisco has started to push government 2.0 projects as a way of promoting economic development. It turns out that San Francisco is only one of several cities that have been mulling over this idea.”

Achieving Greater Transparency in Legislatures through the Use of Open Document Standards

“Improvements in technology over the last decade offer parliaments new opportunities to foster the democratic values of transparency, openness and accountability. Making information available on a timely basis in machine readable and re-usable format has become a vital means for enhancing the transparency of legislative bodies and for improving public access to parliamentary documents. The use of open document standards is one of the essential and effective ways of achieving these goals through technology. To address these challenges in an international context, the United Nations, the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the U.S. House of Representatives are organizing the event Achieving Greater Transparency in Legislatures through the Use of Open Document Standards. The International Meeting will be held at the U.S. House of Representatives in Washington, D.C. on 27, 28 and 29 February 2012.”
http://www.ictparliament.org/XMLMeeting2012

Digital History

President Clinton’s Former Chief Of Staff Says: “Yes We Scan”

“When efforts to digitize the contents of libraries has been going on for years now by organizations such as the Internet Archive and Google, the Library of Congress and, in fact, the U.S. Government, has yet to embark on its own comprehensive digitization program. There are efforts here and there, but nothing tackling all the books, film, and other content owned by the United States. While the topic didn’t make its way into President Obama’s Sate of the Union speech last night, Mr. Obama’s former transition team co-chair, John Podesta, thinks creating a “Digital Library of Congress” comprised of “the vast holdings of the federal government” deserves executive level attention. I spoke with him by phone in the TCTV video above.”
http://techcrunch.com/2012/01/25/podesta-yes-we-scan-tctv/

Carl Malamud Answers: Goading the Government To Make Public Data Public

“You asked Carl Malamud about his experiences and hopes in the gargantuan project he’s undertaken to prod the U.S. government into scanning archived documents, and to make public access (rather than availability only through special dispensation) the default for newly created, timely government data. (Malamud points out that if you have comments on what the government should be focusing on preserving, and how they should go about it, the National Archives would like to read them.) Below find answers with a mix of heartening and disheartening information about how the vast project is progressing.”

Open Access

UK Parliament Policy Briefing on Open Access

“Expanding access to scientific publications and data could deliver widespread social and economic benefits. There are several ways of achieving this. In March 2011 the Minister for Universities and Science held a round table discussion to explore the issues. At this meeting the government committed to supporting efforts to expand access to both research publications and data as part of its wider “Transparency Agenda”. OA is seen by many as a key option for expanding access. However, there are challenges as well as benefits to providing OA to publications and research data. This briefing examines these separately before highlighting cross-cutting issues.”
http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/research/briefing-papers/POST-PN-397

Who Gets to See Published Research?

“The battle over public access to federally financed research is heating up again. The basic question is this: When taxpayers help pay for scholarly research, should those taxpayers get to see the results in the form of free access to the resulting journal articles? Actions in Washington this month highlight how far from settled the question is, even among publishers.”
http://chronicle.com/article/Who-Gets-to-See-Published/130403

Intellectual Property Issues

Door opens for Issa-Wyden online piracy bill

“The collapse in support for two anti-piracy bills last week leaves the door ajar for movement on alternative legislation offered by Sen. Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) and House Oversight Committee Chairman Darrell Issa (R-Calif.).”

What If We Asked the Librarians? Or, How The Librarians’ Code Is Different

“Today, with help from our partners at the Center for Social Media at American University, and the Law School at AU, and with support from a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, ARL is proud to unveil the Code of Best Practices in Fair Use for Academic and Research Libraries. Based on 36 hours of focus group deliberation with 90 academic and research librarians representing 64 institutions in meetings held all over the country, the Code is comprised of eight Principles that describe general circumstances where the groups found library uses to be fair, followed by Limitations that describe the outer bounds of the consensus and Enhancements that the groups thought represented salutary but not necessary steps to protect the interests of other stakeholders.”
http:// policynotes.arl.org/post/16520252319/what-if-we-asked-the-librarians-or-how-the

We Have Every Right to Be Furious About ACTA

“If there’s one thing that encapsulates what’s wrong with the way government functions today, ACTA is it. You wouldn’t know it from the name, but the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement is a plurilateral agreement designed to broaden and
extend existing intellectual property (IP) enforcement laws to the Internet. While it was only negotiated between a few countries, it has global consequences. First because it will create new rules for the Internet, and second, because its standards will be applied to other countries through the U.S.’s annual Special 301 process. Negotiated in secret, ACTA bypassed checks and balances of existing international IP norm-setting bodies, without any meaningful input from national parliaments, policymakers, or their citizens. Worse still, the agreement creates a new global institution, an “ACTA Committee” to oversee its implementation and interpretation that will be made up of unelected members with no legal obligation to be transparent in their proceedings. Both in substance and in process, ACTA embodies an outdated top-down, arbitrary approach to government that is out of step with modern notions of participatory democracy.”

Letter to Congress from 10 Library, Publishing, and Advocacy Organizations Opposing Research Works Act

“On behalf of these 10 national and regional library, publishing, and advocacy organizations, we are writing to express our strong opposition to H.R. 3699, The Research Works Act. This proposed legislation would unfairly and unnecessarily prohibit federal agencies from conditioning research grants to ensure that all members of the public receive timely, equitable, online access to articles that report the results of federally funded research that their tax dollars directly support.”

January Podcast: Copyright with Lesley Ellen Harris

“For this month’s podcast, I had the opportunity to interview Lesley Ellen Harris (www.copyrightlaws.com) about copyright issues for librarians working in nonprofits. In this short podcast, Lesley shares helpful knowledge and tips that would be of great interest to the listener concerned about copyright. Here are the links to the podcast files.”

International Outlook

Spain’s Navarra Region Presents Progressive Open Government Law

“Access Info Europe has welcomed today’s publication of the Navarra region’s draft law on Transparency and Open Government, qualifying it as a “highly progressive law” which sets new standards for Spain and internationally. The draft law was developed in consultation with the public and input from expert groups such as Access Info Europe and is now subject to a further public consultation until 7 February 2012. It contains three main sections: proactive publication, the right to request information, and public participation.”

Press Freedom Index 2011/2012

“This year’s index sees many changes in the rankings, changes that reflect a year that was incredibly rich in developments, especially in the Arab world,” Reporters Without Borders said today as it released its 10th annual press freedom index. “Many media paid dearly for their coverage of democratic aspirations or opposition movements. Control of news and information continued to tempt governments and to be a question of survival for totalitarian and repressive regimes. The past year also highlighted the leading role played by netizens in producing and disseminating news. Crackdown was the word of the year in 2011. Never has freedom of information been so closely associated with democracy. Never have journalists, through their reporting, vexed the enemies of freedom so much. Never have acts of censorship and physical attacks on journalists seemed so numerous. The equation is simple: the absence or suppression of civil liberties leads necessarily to the suppression of media freedom. Dictatorships fear and ban information, especially when it may undermine them.”

Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety.

The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.

Intersect Alert February 5, 2012

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced the release of a new tool that provides the public with important information about pollutants that are released into local waterways. Developed under President Obama’s transparency initiative, the Discharge Monitoring Report.
Declassification Center had completed the processing of only 26.6 million pages of the 400 million page backlog, according to the latest semi-annual report. If the Center increased productivity by a factor of ten, that would still be insufficient to achieve its goal. The looming failure to comply with an explicit presidential order is a sign of the growing autonomy of the federal government’s operational structure.

http://www.fas.org/blog/secrecy/2012/01/miss_deadline.html

With Chopra Gone, Is Open Government in Jeopardy?

“With U.S. CTO Aneesh Chopra’s resignation last week and the departure of former U.S. CIO Vivek Kundra last year, the federal brain trust behind the Obama administration’s Open Government Directive has officially left the building. Is the movement they championed far behind? At least one expert believes the writing is on the wall for open government, unless new ways can be found to use big data more effectively within the federal government’s operational structure.”


“Declassification-As-Usual” Mindset Responsible for the National Declassification Center’s Languid Pace

“On December 29, 2009, President Obama created the National Declassification Center (NDC) and instructed it to review the entire 400 million page backlog of historic documents at the National Archives (NARA) for declassification by December 31, 2013. Three years later, a mere 22.6 million pages (5.8 percent of the backlog) has been made available to researchers. Despite the president’s instruction for a new type of declassification process at the NDC, the continued “declassification-as-usual” mindset is responsible for the Center’s languid pace.”

http://nsarchive.wordpress.com/2012/02/01/declassification-as-usual-mindset-responsible-for-the-national-declassification-centers-languid-pace/

House to live-stream committee proceedings

“The House is now offering live video streaming of committee proceedings online through the Library of Congress. The Committee on House Administration announced on Thursday that the live webcasts would be available at http://thomas.loc.gov/video/house-committee. The Library of Congress also will archive previous committee proceedings, which the panel said would create the first “one-stop shop for House committee video content.””


Bulk Data at the House Legislative Data Conference

“The morning’s last panel featured the leaders of the offices responsible for most legislative data processes — like the Office of Law Revision Counsel, the Law Library of Congress, and the Government Printing Office. We saw valuable new projects — mobile sites, web redesigns, and incremental improvements in data publication. All worthy efforts showing the legislative support bureaucracy adapting to new expectations for online information. In cultivating these projects, though, these offices are also choosing to ignore another responsibility: their role in providing the data about Congress that enables third party web publishers (like Sunlight) to do their jobs. The officials were asked (by a number of us from Sunlight) why they still haven’t begun publishing bulk legislative data, and their answers were telling: it’s not a priority, they’re more concerned about accuracy.”


Data Dreams

“The government launched its massive data set trove Data.gov in 2009 with a clear mission: to put information the government was gathering anyway into the hands of private sector and nonprofit Web and mobile app developers. Once that data was out, the White House imagined, developers would set about turning it into useful products—optimizing Census Bureau statistics for marketers; Commerce Department data for exporters; and Housing and Urban Development Department information for building contractors, mortgage brokers and insurance adjusters. When necessary, the government also would be able to prime the pump with agency-sponsored code-a-thons and app development competitions sponsored through Challenge.gov, a White House initiative that paid out $38 million to prize-winning developers during its first year, which ended in September. But turning government data into private sector products has proved more complicated in practice. Some agencies, such as the Environmental Protection Agency, are posting new data sets regularly and rapidly in machine-readable form, but other agencies have shown little interest in devoting dwindling resources to making data more accessible. Agency data publication schedules also are often too slow for the go-go world of mobile apps.”

http://www.govexec.com/magazine/nextgov/2012/02/data-dreams/40992/

Public Policy

FCC Pushes E-Textbooks on U.S. Schools Facing Budget Crunch
“A Federal Communications Commission effort to bring digital textbooks to U.S. students faces resistance from schools with limited budgets for buying devices such as Apple Inc.’s iPad tablet computer. FCC Chairman Julius Genachowski announced plans yesterday to get all U.S. students from kindergarten through the 12th grade using electronic titles within five years. The initiative, which doesn’t involve any additional U.S. government funding, is meant to speed adoption of e-textbooks. The U.S. spends $7 billion a year on textbooks, and digital versions are the exception, rather than the rule, Genachowski said.”

Public Access

Public Access to Scholarly Publications: Public Comment

“On November 3, 2011, OSTP released a Request for Information (RFI) soliciting public input on long-term preservation of, and public access to, the results of federally funded research, including peer-reviewed scholarly publications as required in the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010. Below are the public comments received by OSTP during the comment period. You can read the RFI on public access to scholarly publications here. Comments on the questions in the RFI were accepted through January 12, 2012.”
http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ostp/library/publicaccess

Elsevier’s Publishing Model Might be About to Go Up in Smoke

“Academic publishing is a very good game indeed if you can manage to get into it. As the publisher the work is created at the expense of others, for free to you. There are no advances, no royalties, to pay. The editing, the checking, the decisions about whether to publish, these are all also done for free to you. And the market, that’s every college libarary in the world and they’re very price insensitive indeed. Back when physical, paper, copies of the journals were an essential part of any scientists’ life the cost structure could, perhaps, be justified. It is expensive to typeset, proofread, complex texts and then print them in numbers of hundreds or perhaps low thousands. However, now that everything is moving/has moved online then the amounts charged for access to the journals seems less defensible. More like the exploitation of a monopoly position in fact. . . However, there’s something happening that might change this, for Reed Elsevier shareholders, quite delightful position. That is, a revolt of the academics who provide both the papers and the readership.”
See also The Chronicle of Higher Education article: Elsevier Publishing Boycott Gathers Steam Among Academics

Privacy Concerns

European Commission Proposes Stronger Data Privacy

Legislation

“After weeks of suspense and rumors, last Wednesday the European Commission finally introduced long-awaited legislation to update the 1995 Data Protection Directive, the primary instrument governing personal privacy in Europe. These changes had been widely anticipated by the privacy community, and were spurred in large part by two distinct motivations: (1) the desire to provide users stronger rights over their personal information, and (2) a wish to harmonize divergent privacy laws across all the European Union.”

International Outlook

Power of books celebrated by UN chief as new library opens in Ethiopian capital

“Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon celebrated the benefits that books can bring to young people as he opened a library at an Ethiopian primary school that has been established under an innovative United Nations scheme. At a ceremony yesterday in Addis Ababa, the Ethiopian capital, Mr. Ban took part in the hand over of a “Thank You Small Library (TYSL),” which will now be used by the roughly 1,200 pupils attending Keykokeb primary school. At least 110 separate libraries have been created in 15 countries – mostly in sub-Saharan Africa – since 2007, when the so-called TYSL initiative began.”

With GOV.UK, British government redefines the online government platform

“The British Government has launched a beta of its GOV.UK platform, testing a single domain for that could be used throughout government. The new single government domain will eventually replace Directgov, the UK government portal which launched back in 2004. GOV.UK is aimed squarely as delivering faster digital services to citizens through a much improved user interface at decreased cost. Unfortunately, far too often .gov websites cost millions and don’t deliver as needed. GOV.UK is open source, mobile-friendly, platform agnostic, uses HTML5, scalable, hosted in the cloud and open for feedback. Those criteria collectively embody the default for how government should approach their online efforts in the 21st century.”

Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety.

The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.
SLA 2012 in Chicago


It’s not too early to start planning for SLA 2012 in Chicago. This year the Annual Conference & INFO-EXPO will be held July 15 – 18 at the McCormick Place in Chicago, Illinois. Early bird registration opens on February 27. Click on the links below for conference and accommodations information.

SLA 2012 Conference page

Intersect Alert February 12, 2012


Freedom of Information

Senators Take a Pass on Electronic Filing. Again.
“By an overwhelming majority, Senators passed the STOCK Act, a bill Majority Leader Reid described as, “a critical step toward restoring Americans’ faith in Congress” but failed—in fact actively prevented—to allow a vote on an amendment that would have required Senators and Senate candidates to electronically file their campaign finance reports.”
http://sunlightfoundation.com/blog/2012/02/07/senators-take-a-pass-on-electronic-filing-again/

Freedom of Information Act Portal Would Boost Responsiveness, Improve Efficiency
“An interagency project underway could revolutionize implementation of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and significantly improve transparency and efficiency. The project to develop a government-wide portal for FOIA requests, a goal long supported by the open government community, could deliver as soon as this fall.”
http://www.ombwatch.org/node/11973

“The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists recently took to task Energy.gov, the newly relaunched webT presence of the Department of Energy (DOE). Science writer Dawn Stover detailed her difficulties finding an important 2002 document about the proposed Yucca Mountain nuclear waste repository, concluding that Energy.gov may be more visually pleasing than it is useful. DOE responded the following week with a new page for Yucca Mountain and improved search functions for the related documents. While the agency said it’s proud of the new Energy.gov, it admitted that it’s not done migrating documents to the new site and making them searchable. Making it easy for the public to find documents online is certainly a good step. But this whole exchange reminded POGO of just how much DOE information isn’t even publicly available in the first place.”
http://pogoblog.typepad.com/pogo/2012/02/building-a-better-energygov-how-doe-can-take-steps-towards-achieving-the-principles-of-open-governme.html

DoD Inspector General Takes on Classification Oversight
“In a move that can only strengthen and improve oversight of the national security classification system, the Department of Defense Inspector General has begun a far-reaching review of Pentagon classification policy. Among other things, the Inspector General review will focus on “efforts by the Department to decrease over-classification.””
http://www.fas.org/blog/secrecy/2012/02/dodig_class.html
Read the Inspector General memorandum

SC Bill would limit fees charged for Freedom of Information requests

The CIA’s Covert Operation Against Declassification Review and Obama’s Open Government
House Democrats Introduce DISCLOSE 2012
“House Democrats unveiled The DISCLOSE 2012 Act (HR 4010) today, a crucial step toward transparency to address the corrupting influence unlimited, secret corporate and union money is having on our elections and our elected officials.”
http://sunlightfoundation.com/blog/2012/02/09/house-democrats-introduce-disclose-2012/

Public Policy

Goodbye, state funding for California libraries
“The bad news is that state funding for California libraries has been completely eliminated. There’s not really any good news about that except that it was expected. This past July, state library funding was sliced in half, and there was a trigger amendment attached to the budget that would eliminate state funding for public libraries at midyear if the state’s revenue projections were not met. Needless to say, they weren’t.”
http://kalw.drupal.publicbroadcasting.net/post/goodbye-state-funding-california-libraries

Digital History

Yes We Scan Again! The Archives chats with voters on a “We the People” teleconference
“On January 10th, I blogged about the “Yes We Scan” petitions proposed by Carl Malamud’s PublicResource.org on the White House’s We The People petition platform. “Yes We Scan” calls for a national strategy, and even a Federal Scanning Commission, to figure out what it would take to digitize the holdings of many federal entities, from the Library of Congress to the Government Printing Office to the Smithsonian Institution. I have been delighted to see the many ideas discussed in response to that blogpost. I encourage you to keep them coming! Following that initial post, I worked with the White House Director of New Media, Macon Phillips, and the Director of Online Engagement, Katelyn Sabochik, to set up a conference call, inviting those who voted for the Yes We Scan petition (about 2,500 signers total) to further discuss this important issue and hear your ideas on how to move forward.”
http://blogs.archives.gov/aotus/?p=3965
Archivist Ferriero’s opening comments for the teleconference

SD State archives going digital
“The South Dakota State Historical Society’s Archives has gone digital. The State Archives, in the Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre, collects, preserves, and makes available manuscript collections, South Dakota state, county and local government records, photographs, maps and other archival materials which have permanent historical and research value. Now, the South Dakota Digital Archives, an online resource that went live in January, makes these collections more accessible to the public, as well as to protect the originals.”

New Montana state librarian leads digitization
“Not that long ago, the Montana State Library, in charge of making state documents available to the public, circulated just a few hundred publications outside its walls each year. Now, in just the past three months, the library has circulated some 18,000 digital documents, and what’s available is vast: state agency reports going back years, and data-rich natural resource and geographic information resources covering everything from moisture levels to property ownership to oil and gas leases.”

Open Access

Why scientists are boycotting a publisher
“The scientific community finds itself at the beginning of its own Arab Spring. At stake are values that all Americans hold dear: the free flow of information and the continued betterment of human life. Success is by no means guaranteed, but it’s an important protest movement in which Boston should play a special role.”
http://www.bostonglobe.com/opinion/2012/02/12/why-scientists-are-boycotting-publisher/9sCpDEP7BkkX1INfakn3NL/story.html

Congressman Doyle Introduces Bill to Ensure Public Access to Federally-Funded Research
“U.S. Representative Mike Doyle (D-PA) today introduced bipartisan legislation that directs federal agencies to encourage open public access to federally funded scientific research. The Federal Research Public Access Act would require federal agencies with an extramural research budget of $100 million or more to make federally-funded research available for free online access by the general public, no later than six months after publication in a peer-reviewed journal.”

Intellectual Property

Golan v. Holder: A Farewell to Constitutional Challenges to Copyright Laws
From a summary of the recent Golan v. Holder decision by the Supreme Court written by attorney Jonathan Brand for the Library Copyright Alliance:
“On January 13, 2012, the Supreme Court by a 6-2 vote affirmed the Tenth Circuit decision in Golan v. Holder. (Justice
Kagan recused herself, presumably because of her involvement in the case while she was Solicitor General. The case concerned the constitutionality of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act (URAA), which restored copyright in foreign works that had entered into the public domain because the copyright owners had failed to comply with formalities such as notice; or because the U.S. did not have copyright treaties in place with the country at the time the work was created (e.g., the Soviet Union). The petitioners were orchestra conductors, musicians, and publishers who enjoyed free access to works removed by URAA from the public domain. The Court in its decision made clear that constitutional challenges to a copyright statute would not succeed so long as the provision does not have an unlimited term, and does not tread on the idea/expression dichotomy or the fair use doctrine. Justice Breyer wrote a strong dissent that contains many interesting observations concerning the economic theory of copyright; how the URAA reflects a European rather than American approach to copyright; orphan works; and the causes of infringement. The American Library Association (ALA), the Association of Research Libraries (ARL), and the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) joined an amicus brief written by Electronic Frontier Foundation in support of reversal. This brief, referred to as the ALA brief, received significant attention in both the majority and dissenting opinions.


Don’t Let the U.S. Pressure Canada into Repeating The Same Mistakes

“In countries across the world, content copyright industries have been lobbying for laws that would break the Internet in the name of copyright enforcement. Such regulations could terminate user access to the Internet on an allegation of copyright infringement, enact website blocking powers that would make parts of the global Internet disappear from view, and impose digital locks laws that stifle online innovation and restrict the ability to use lawfully acquired digital content. Canada is the latest target. With Canada’s Copyright Modernization Act (Bill C-11) returning to committee in the Canadian Parliament, now is the time for Canadian netizens to take action to protect the free and open Internet by signing the petition jointly supported by OpenMedia.ca and the Samuelson-Glushko Canadian Internet Policy and Public Interest Clinic (CIPPIC).”

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2012/02/don%E2%80%99t-let-us-pressure-canada-repeating-same-mistakes

International Outlook

Iran Ratchets Up Its Internet Censorship

“This week has seen a marked increase in the blocking and filtering of certain kinds of Internet traffic in Iran. The Iranian government has not openly acknowledged these new measures, but they are widely thought to be preliminary steps towards a nation-wide Halal Internet that would cut off a majority of citizens from the global web and replace it with one that would effectively block all foreign sites and only allow state-controlled content to be accessed within Iran. Starting February 7th, Internet users in Iran began reporting that they were having difficulty reaching certain websites outside of the country using HTTPS, the secure, encrypted version of the HTTP protocol used to transfer the data you see in your web browser. Many websites, including banks, many Google services, Twitter, Facebook, and Microsoft Hotmail, employ HTTPS to protect their users’ private data from eavesdropping and government surveillance.”

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2012/02/iran-ratchets-its-internet-censorship

How Open Society Grantees Are Advancing Access to Public Information in Latin America

“Since the landmark legal decision Marcel Claude Reyes and Others v. Chile of the Inter-American Human Rights Court in 2006, the right to access public information has increasingly been recognized by Latin America’s governments as a human right. Fourteen of the region’s nineteen countries have access to public information laws, more than any other developing region in the world.”

http://blog.soros.org/2012/02/how-open-society-grantees-are-advancing-access-to-public-information-in-latin-america/

From the UK: Library Closures Inquiry Begins

“MPs have begun hearing evidence at a Select Committee inquiry on library closures. The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) has been requesting views on the service since November. Witnesses giving evidence on Tuesday said closures would have a negative impact on local communities.”

http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/entertainment-arts-16924333

Read the full text of the Public Inquiry Responses

Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety.

The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.
freedom of information, government, intellectual property

Freedom of Information

Transparency on government spending: The missing links
“When I started reporting in Washington in the pre-Internet days, the first Monday in February brought a familiar ritual: Journalists rushed around town trying to squeeze in as many federal budget briefings as they could and returned to their offices with a huge stack of paper. . . Since then, documents have become digitized, and the Web has made data accessible around the clock. Hard work has gone into USA Spending.gov and Recovery.gov to make spending details available to the public. But even with all the advances in IT in the past two decades, when I searched the Web last week to find out how much the Smithsonian Institution spent on digitization projects in recent years, I was out of luck. A helpful staffer gave me the available information over the phone. For now, the idea of a fully transparent federal budget publicly accessible online is just that — an idea. But a few people are trying to raise it to the next level.”
http://fcw.com/articles/2012/02/15/home-page-gov-20-transparency-spending.aspx

Video for Legislative Data and Transparency Conference now online
The Committee on House Administration held a Legislative Data and Transparency Conference on February 2, 2012. Video and presentation slides from the event are now available online.
Panel 1: Legislative Branch Initiatives
Panel 2: Legislative Branch Initiatives
Panel 3: What is data and what is accessible?
Panel 4: Extending XML and Metadata Standards
Panel 5: Integrating Video and Metadata
Panel 6: Defining Transparency Success Measures
http://cha.house.gov/about/contact-us/legislative-data-conference

Pentagon Discloses Military Intelligence Budget Request
“From a secrecy policy point of view, the Administration’s FY 2013 budget proposal that was released yesterday contained one surprise: The Department of Defense disclosed the amount of its request for the Military Intelligence Program (MIP). This is something that the Pentagon has never done before and indeed had refused to do.”
http://www.fas.org/blog/secrecy/2012/02/mip_request.html

First steps toward more trustworthy online state legal materials: UELMA is introduced in three states
“The years-long effort to address the reliability of online primary legal materials at the state level finally reached the floors of statehouses across the country when bills to enact the Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act (UELMA) (pdf, 95kb) were introduced in Tennessee, Colorado, and California over a three week period from late January to mid-February.”

The Department of Defense Needs Only One Paragraph to Illustrate Why the Declassification System is Broken
“Should a 29-year-old document about a military drill against the (no longer existent) Soviet Union really need to be reviewed by fourteen different declassification reviewers at fourteen different agencies and components? Under the current declassification system, yes. And that is why the current system is broken.”

Watch Senate Floor Video on Senate.gov
“Last fall I blogged about where you can watch Congress online. Now there is another place: the Senate’s website. From that site you can watch the Senate floor proceedings live, search and watch from the archive, and browse the archive by date. The Advanced Search options include captions, all words, exact phrase, or, not, and a date range. There is also a link to a summary of what was on the Senate floor for any given date. The available videos start in January with the beginning of the 2nd session of the 112th Congress.”
http://blogs.loc.gov/law/2012/02/watch-senate-floor-video-on-senate-gov/

An Open Innovation Toolbox
“The Obama Administration’s innovation agenda is aimed at finding, testing, and scaling new ideas that change the way government conducts business and delivers services through engagement with the American people. An innovative government incorporates an entrepreneurial mindset into its daily work – taking risks, building lean organizations, and developing innovative products and services faster than the rest of the world. On his last day in office, then-U.S. Chief Technology Officer Aneesh Chopra released the Open Innovator’s Practitioner’s Toolbox. It contains 20 of the best disruptive innovation practices conceived and built by entrepreneurs across government. They provide a rich set of guiding principles that any Federal, state, and local government can use to support rapid innovation supporting economic growth and job creation.”
http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2012/02/14/open-innovation-toolbox

Georgia Legislature considers overhaul of sunshine laws
“Georgia’s sunshine laws, used for decades to open up state and local governments to public scrutiny, expose corruption and let taxpayers know how their money’s being spent, could undergo a major overhaul this year for the first time in more than a decade. A key House subcommittee Wednesday heard testimony on legislation that has been months in the making and vetted by key stakeholders — representatives of First Amendment groups, the news media, and government commissions, councils and boards.”
EPA, Commerce take lead in developing “FOIA Portal”
“A buzz is growing in the federal Freedom of Information community about a new $1.3 million “FOIA Portal” under development and slated for launch this fall. Thursday we got a chance to look under the hood a bit, as part of a group organized by the Office of Government of Information Services.”
http://investigativereportingworkshop.org/blogs/exemption-10/posts/2012/feb/16/epa-commerce-take-lead-developing-foia-portal/

Help Open States Rate State Websites
“As Open States closes in on our initial goal of supporting all 50 state legislatures (just 3 more to go!) we’re also planning to put out a report card evaluating the availability of state legislative data across every state. . . In order to guarantee a high quality report we’d like to get several responses per state and that’s where you can help us out. Click the link below to head to a form that will ask you to evaluate the information that your state legislature makes available via their official website. By doing this you’ll help us ensure that our eventual report is as accurate and as complete as possible.”
http://sunlightlabs.com/blog/2012/help-open-states-rate-state-websites/

Justice Department Wins Rosemary Award for Worst Open Government Performance in 2011
“The U.S. Department of Justice has won the infamous Rosemary Award for worst open government performance over the past year, according to the citation posted on the Web today by the National Security Archive. The award is named after President Nixon’s secretary, Rose Mary Woods, who erased 18 1/2 minutes of a crucial Watergate tape. The Rosemary Award citation includes a multi-count indictment of Justice’s transparency performance in 2011, including. . .”
http://www.gwu.edu/~nsarchiv/news/20120214/index.htm

Department of Justice Increases FOIA Releases and Reduces FOIA Backlogs
“The Department of Justice continues to lead by example in its administration of the FOIA, closing out Fiscal Year 2011 with significant accomplishments. Despite three straight years of receiving record high numbers of FOIA requests — over 60,000 requests for each of the past three years — the Department processed a record number of those requests. In doing so, the Department released records in full or in part for 94.5% of requests involving responsive records, which marks the second straight year the Department has achieved such a high release rate. Even more significantly, the Department increased the number of responses to requests where records were released in full.”
http://www.justice.gov/oip/foiapost/2012foiapost2.html

Open Access
New Hampshire Legislature Passes Open-Source Software Bill
“The New Hampshire state legislature recently passed a bill that makes open data and open source software included by default in the state’s procurement process. The bill, HB 418, requires government officials to consider open-source products when making new technology acquisitions and only purchase products that comply with open data standards. Last year, Nick Judd covered how the New Hampshire legislature changed with the addition of several “geeks” to the House of Representatives and the passage of this new legislation shows a growing culture of friendliness to the tech concept of “open” in the statehouse. It is currently on its way to the governor’s desk for signing. Open source advocates say the New Hampshire bill represents an evolution for open software in government.”

State Integrity Investigation releases preliminary data on government transparency
“Do you ever get the feeling that you don’t know the first thing about your state’s government? More than likely, its by no fault of your own; U.S. state governments are notoriously closed-off, and even more difficult to compare to one another. So for the first time, extensive data looking at transparency in U.S. state governments has been made public. The State Integrity Investigation released its preliminary findings — a set of more than 300 indicators to determine the risk of government corruption — for all 50 states.”
http://www.iwatchnews.org/2012/02/14/8162/state-integrity-investigation-releases-preliminary-data-government-transparency

Electronic Government Fund Would Grow Slightly Under President’s Plan
“Important government transparency programs would receive a small boost if the President’s proposed budget for FY 2013 were enacted. The Electronic Government Fund, which supports Data.gov, the IT Spending Dashboard, and USASpending.gov, among other programs, would increase by $4.2 million in FY 2013, from $12.4 million in FY 2013 to $16.665 million in FY 2013. This is still far less than the $34 million appropriated in FY 2009 and FY 2010, but would make an appreciable difference in supporting or expanding transparency initiatives.”
http://sunlightfoundation.com/blog/2012/02/14/electronic-government-fund-would-grow-slightly-under-presidents-plan/

A Decade of Open Access (And the Challenges Ahead)
“Ten years ago this week, the Budapest Open Access Initiative (BOAI) was released to the public. This seminal document explained how technology could revolutionize academic publishing, and defined “open access” as the free and unrestricted availability of peer-reviewed journal literature online. Perhaps most importantly, the BOAI laid out a strategy for making open access a reality. In the decade since its publication, the 13 original signatories behind the initiative have been joined by a still-growing collection of over 5500 individuals and 600 organizations.”
http://sunlightfoundation.com/blog/2012/02/14/electronic-government-fund-would-grow-slightly-under-presidents-plan/
Loosen up copyright law, says Dutch government

“The YouTube generation has gained an ally in the worldwide "copyright wars." The Dutch government wants to change copyright law so new media users can continue to do “creative remixes” of protected content. The Hague will no longer wait for the European Commission to find a compromise.”

EU Court of Justice: Social Networks Can’t Be Forced to Monitor and Filter to Prevent Copyright Infringement

“In another important victory for Internet users’ fundamental rights and the open Internet, the highest court in Europe ruled yesterday that social networks cannot be required to monitor and filter their users' communications to prevent copyright infringement of music and movies. The European Court of Justice (ECJ) found that imposing a broad filtering obligation on social networks would require active monitoring of users’ files in violation of EU law and could undermine citizens’ freedom of expression.”

ACTA Doubts Rampant In Europe; Industry Call For “Reasoned Assessment”

“Europeans came out by the thousands this week to protest the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA), as it goes before the parliament and the remaining governments that have not yet signed on. But a large number of industry associations sent a letter pushing officials to carefully consider the agreement before dismissing it under popular pressure.”

President’s Message – Big Changes for Bayline

Hello again, San Francisco Chapter! As I announced last month, the theme of my chapter presidency this year is COMMUNITY. Now I’m excited to announce a big change that I feel will improve chapter communications and keep us all more in touch with one another. We’re moving Bayline to the web.!

An electronic newsletter is something the board has considered several times in the past, but it’s only with the rollout of the new website that we feel we’re able to do this effectively. If you haven’t seen the new website yet, check it out now. The URL is much easier to remember: http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/.

Once you’re on the website, you’ll see a tab for Bayline. Beginning with this post you can expect to see postings to this section at least weekly. These articles will replace the PDF Bayline, and the February issue you just received is the last one you’ll receive in that format, but past PDF issues will remain archived on the site.

We know that most of our members prefer push communications, though, so if you forget to check the site, don’t worry. Once a month we’ll send an e-mail to the reflector list summarizing all the new content that has been added. It will be similar to the current PDF distribution, but instead of downloading a PDF, you’ll be able to click through to the articles.

You’ll still see all of the Bayline features you’ve come to expect, including Mosaic and event summaries for all our programs, but you’ll see them in a much more timely way. I’ll be posting news from Leadership Summit in this section very soon. We’re also exploring new content to integrate into the site, including member profiles. We welcome ideas for new content, as well as article submissions. Send your ideas to our Bayline editor, Alys Tryon, at bayline@sanfrancisco.sla1.org.

Of course, our events are still the core of our chapter community. This month, we have an exciting Professional Development opportunity. Past-President Eris Weaver will present “Quick & Dirty Strategic Planning”. Details and registration forms are found here: http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/category/events/.

I hope many of you will join us for this exciting and interactive session.
Intersect Alert February 26, 2012


Freedom of Information

National Security Archive Files a FOIA Request to Find Out Why the CIA is Attempting to Price Out Declassification Reviews

“On September 23, 2011 the CIA launched a covert attack on Mandatory Declassification Review (MDR) by entering new regulation changes into the Federal Register, which gouge requesters with outrageous fees for submitting MDR requests. While the CIA no doubt want to avoid the publicity the Department of Justice received after their ill-conceived FOIA regulations, the draconian regs are garnering attention. . . So who came up with this anti-openness regulation? And how did they explain it as a good idea — especially during Obama’s “new era of open government?” To follow the paper trail and disclose the CIA’s internal justifications for these astronomical price increases, today the National Security Archive filed a FOIA request with the CIA for all “emails, memos, position papers, or power point presentations” about the CIA’s decision to change its MDR regulations.”


Groups Protest CIA’s Covert Attack on Public Access

“More than 30 organizations [including SLA] joined the National Security Archive and OpenTheGovernment.org in protesting the Central Intelligence Agency’s (CIA) recent decision to charge the public outrageous fees for the opportunity to challenge secrecy claims. The fees, which can run requesters up to $72 per hour even if no information is found or released, effectively cut off access to a system that researchers, historians, public interest advocates and others have used successfully to challenge the CIA’s extreme secrecy — the Mandatory Declassification Review (MDR) process.”

http://www.openthegovernment.org/node/3372

National Security Counselors Sues the CIA for Ignoring Freedom of Information Laws

“At the same time that 36 organizations are attempting to use political and bureaucratic pressure to force the rollback of damaging MDR regulations at the CIA, Kel McClanahan of the National Security Counselors has filed a lawsuit against the Agency in the United States District Court of the District of Columbia. It is important to note that the National Security Counselors case is broader than just the MDR fee issue. It attacks the CIA’s willful and intentional violation of federal law in regard to MDR and the Freedom of Information Act. Below is a brief summary of the complaint’s key points.”


Democratic senators want super PAC crackdown

“Senate Democrats are calling on the Federal Election Commission to crack down on super PACs, arguing that voters deserve more information about who is funding independent political advertisements. Eleven Democrats on Tuesday sent a letter to FEC Chairwoman Caroline Hunter, urging the commission to enact broad disclosure and disclaimer rules in the wake of the Supreme Court’s Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission decision that struck down limits on corporate and union contributions to the outside groups.”


DoD Reports “Impressive Strides” in Updating Classification

“The Department of Defense said it has cancelled more than 300 of its 1800 classification guides as a result of the ongoing Fundamental Classification Guidance Review. The defunct guides can no longer be used to authorize the classification of national security information. “The Department has continued to make impressive strides in updating our Security Classification Guides (SCGs) and remains focused on ensuring that guidance reflects current operational and technical circumstances relevant to the protection of properly classified information,” DoD told the Information Security Oversight Office in a February 16, 2012 interim report.”

http://www.fas.org/blog/secrecy/2012/02/dod_strides.html

Public Policy

Are Librarians Encouraging Public Libraries to Abide by COPPA?

“The Children’s Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA) was created to prevent corporations from collecting data about children without parental permission. This law explicitly does not apply to public institutions, non-profits, and government agencies. Yet, many public institutions not only choose not to collect data about children; they forbid children from accessing information without parental permission. Much to my surprise, this includes many public libraries. Dear Librarians… Will you help explain something to me?”

http://www.zephoria.org/thoughts/archives/2012/02/20/libraries-coppa.html

Regulations.gov: Remaking Public Participation
“On January 18, 2011, the President issued Executive Order 13563, in which he directed regulatory agencies to base regulations on an “open exchange of information and perspectives” and to promote public participation in Federal rulemaking. The President identified Regulations.gov as the centralized portal for timely public access to regulatory content online. In response to the President’s direction, Regulations.gov has launched a major redesign, including innovative new search tools, social media connections, and better access to regulatory data. The result is a significantly improved website that will help members of the public to engage with agencies and ultimately to improve the content of rules. The redesign of Regulations.gov also fulfills the President’s commitment in The Open Government Partnership National Action Plan to “improve public services,” including to “expand public participation in the development of regulations.” This step is just one of many, consistent with the President’s commitment in The Open Government Partnership National Action Plan to “improve public services,” including to “expand public participation in the development of regulations.” This step is just one of many, consistent with the President’s commitment in The Open Government Partnership National Action Plan to “improve public services,” including to “expand public participation in the development of regulations.”

San Francisco Launches The 2012 Innovation Portfolio, From Open Taxi Data To Beta Tests In City Hall

“San Francisco may not have intended to become the startup mecca that it is today, but now the city government is working hard to make itself as friendly as possible to tech entrepreneurs. Makes sense, considering that there are 1,539 tech companies and 30,000 tech jobs in the city now — a number that’s been growing fast as older industries like high finance continue to suffer through the recession. What that means is this. Mayor Ed Lee, who came to power last year with heavy support from the local tech scene, is announcing a new initiative today at the TechFellow awards ceremony, that has some intriguing ideas for making the city itself more relevant to the booming industry within it. Broadly, the so-called 2012 Innovation Portfolio is trying to do everything from helping founders by making it easier to complete the paperwork for creating a company, to giving developers new access to city data, to introducing new ways for citizens to share their opinions with the city, to actually testing out tech products at City Hall itself.”

Open Access

Groups Oppose Bill that Threatens to Cut Off Access to Taxpayer-Funded Research

“On February 9, thirty organizations, including SLA, sent a letter to the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee in opposition to the Research Works Act (H.R.3699), a bill designed to roll back a hard-fought-for policy that secured no-fee public access to NIH’s taxpayer-funded research, and also to block the development of similar policies at other federal agencies.”

Letter From 90 Research Organizations Sent to Congress Opposing Research Works Act

“The undersigned organizations and institutions write to express our strong concerns with H.R. 3699, the Research Works Act, which has been referred to your Committee. This bill would impede public access to valuable research results from work funded by federal agencies.”

Australia to make health research open access

“While America seriously considers the insane Research Works Act (banning the open publication of publicly-funded research), Australia is moving in the other direction. Its National Health and Medical Research Council has announced that all funded research will be made available to the public starting July.”

Privacy Concerns

Government Pressures Twitter to Hand Over Keys to Occupy Wall Street Protester’s Location Data Without a Warrant

“We Can’t Wait: Obama Administration Calls for A Consumer Privacy Bill of Rights to the Digital Age

“Today at the White House, the Obama Administration unveiled a blueprint for a Consumer Privacy Bill of Rights to protect consumers online. . . In a related announcement, leading Internet companies and online advertising networks in the Digital Advertising Alliance came to the White House to commit to using Do Not Track technology now available in most major web browsers to make it easier for users to control online tracking.”
New CRS Report – Internet Governance and the Domain Name System: Issues for Congress (R42351)
“Currently, the U.S. government, through the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) at the Department of Commerce, enjoys a unique influence over ICANN, largely by virtue of its legacy relationship with the Internet and the domain name system. A key issue for Congress is whether and how the U.S. government should continue to maximize U.S. influence over ICANN’s multistakeholder Internet governance process, while at the same time effectively resisting proposals for an increased role by international governmental institutions such as the U.N. The outcome of this debate will likely have a significant impact on how other aspects of the Internet may be governed in the future, especially in such areas as intellectual property, privacy, law enforcement, Internet free speech, and cybersecurity. Looking forward, the institutional nature of Internet governance could have far reaching implications on important policy decisions that will likely shape the future evolution of the Internet.”
http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R42351.pdf

The U.N. Threat to Internet Freedom
“On Feb. 27, a diplomatic process will begin in Geneva that could result in a new treaty giving the United Nations unprecedented powers over the Internet. Dozens of countries, including Russia and China, are pushing hard to reach this goal by year’s end. As Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin said last June, his goal and that of his allies is to establish “international control over the Internet” through the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), a treaty-based organization under U.N. auspices. If successful, these new regulatory proposals would upend the Internet’s flourishing regime, which has been in place since 1988. . Today, however, Russia, China and their allies within the 193 member states of the ITU want to renegotiate the 1988 treaty to expand its reach into previously unregulated areas. Reading even a partial list of proposals that could be codified into international law next December at a conference in Dubai is chilling.”
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970204792404577229074023195322.html

How Internet Companies Would Be Forced to Spy on You
Under H.R. 1981
“Online commentators are pointing to the Internet backlash against H.R. 1981 as the new anti-SOPA movement. While this bill is strikingly different from the Stop Online Piracy Act, it does have one thing in common: it’s a poorly-considered legislative attempt to regulate the Internet in a way experts in the field know will have serious civil liberties consequences. This bill specifically targets companies that provide commercial Internet access – like your ISP – and would force them to collect and maintain data on all of their customers, even if those customers have never been suspected of committing a crime. Under H.R. 1981, which has the misleading title of Protecting Children From Internet Pornographers Act of 2011, Congress would force commercial Internet access providers to keep for one year a “log of the temporarily assigned network addresses the provider assigns to a subscriber to or customer of such service that enables the identification of the corresponding customer or subscriber information under subsection (c)(2) of this section.” Let’s break that down into simple terms.”

Intellectual Property
Young people’s free-wheeling view of copyrighted material shaping its future distribution
“Young people want their music, TV and movies now — even if it means they get these things illegally. A recent Columbia University survey found, in fact, that 70 per cent of 18- to 29-year-olds said they had bought, copied or downloaded unauthorized music, TV shows or movies, compared with 46 per cent of all adults who’d done the same. With such an entrenched attitude, what can be done about widespread online piracy? Certainly law enforcement has gone after scofflaws like these, hitting them with fines and, in some cases, even jail time. Congress is considering controversial anti-piracy bills that would, among other things, forbid search engines from linking to foreign websites accused of copyright infringement. And there are lawsuits pitting media heavyweights against Internet firms — notably Viacom’s billion-dollar litigation against YouTube. But here’s a radical notion to consider: What if young people who steal content weren’t viewed as the problem?”

EU suspends copyright treaty ratification
“The European Commission, facing opposition in city streets, on the Internet and in the halls of parliament, has suspended efforts to ratify a new international anti-counterfeiting agreement, and instead will refer it to Europe’s highest court to see whether it violates any fundamental EU rights. EU Trade Commissioner Karel De Gucht asserted Wednesday that an opinion from the European Court of Justice would clear away the fog of misinformation surrounding the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement, known as ACTA.”

International Outlook
This Isn’t a Hoax: Pakistan Requests Proposals for a National Filtering and Blocking System
“The Pakistani government is looking for new ways to censor the Internet. This week, the Pakistani Telecommunication Authority (PTA) released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the development, deployment and operation of a “National Level URL Filtering and Blocking System,” calling on institutions to
submit by March 2nd a feasible proposal that would allow the
government to institute a large-scale filtering system.
Shockinglly, the RFP requires: “Each [filtering] box should be
able to handle a block list of up to 50 million URLs (concurrent
unidirectional filtering capacity) with processing delay of not
more than 1 milliseconds.” While content filtering and
blocking has existed in Pakistan for the past few years, it has
been executed manually and has thus been inconsistent and
intermittent. The state’s latest effort to subsidize a
comprehensive, automated censorship regime is deeply
troubling.”
https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2012/02/not-a-hoax-pakistan-
requests-proposals-national-filtering-and-blocking-system

Be Prepared

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2012/02/be-prepared-by-jan-keiser/
February 29, 2012 Categories: Bayline, Chapter Programs &
Events Tags: librarians, professional development

by Jan Keiser

I was recently inspired by an article I read in Fast Company
(2/12 issue). The cover story is called The Secrets of
Generation FLUX, Generation FLUX being defined as “less a
demographic designation than a psychographic one. “What
defines GenFLUX is a mind-set that embraces instability that
tolerates and even enjoys recalibrating careers, business models
and assumptions.” I don’t know about you, but this defines me,
I’m a boomer, and finally – I am on trend!

While new graduates are discouraged because jobs have been
tough to find, many are still optimistic. I think it’s because they
have so many tools – electronic, yes – but they also have spirit.
Generations behind the Boomers can walk into a library and
begin setting up all sorts of electronic bells and whistles that
delight their users. They are thinking about the ways to deliver
information and reading material to their users. These people
are prepared to be flexible. They are prepared to intern or work
part-time if that’s what’s available. These are people who plan
on 4-year careers and think the way I did (ahead of my time…) Unfortuately, my career was considered unstable because I
didn’t stay in one place longer than 3 years. These days, that
mindset is necessary to survive. (Another article in this issue is
titled, The Four-Year Career.)

For a couple of years now SLA has been trying to help us
evolve our thinking. SLA created an entire campaign,
FutureReady365, to help us be techno – savvy, electronically-
enabled librarians, researchers; informationists (pick your
label.) I know some people grumbled about why this campaign
was necessary and I was aghast – “WHY IS IT
NECESSARY???” In a short article appearing on
Infotoday.com (2/2/12), the authors (who also lead the project)
discuss 365futureread and describe its success. “Over the
course of the year, it became evident that many library and
information professionals are already engaged in some very
interesting, completely future-ready activities. The call to blog
about those successes was like shining a spotlight on all of our
best practices in turn. As you can see from the cloud tag (right),
three main issues were repeatedly mentioned: value,
collaboration, and technology.” (The article also mentions a
Fast Company article – I don’t know if it’s the same one I am
referring to.)

When I was laid off the first time, I was devastated. The
thought nagging me was, “I really like what I do.” So I
established a home-based research business – one of the early
home businesses among my circle. I remember not being at all
afraid to set up a business – I was excited. I didn’t know that I
was being “entrepreneurial,” my friends told me I was nuts. I
found a book that seemed written just for me – I believe is was
by Sue Rugge. I read Mary Ellen Bates and thought, wow (I
still do) – she told me “you can do this.” The Association for
Independent Information Professionals had formed and they
were offering a lot of information. In retrospect, there was
actually a lot of support for me and others to think
entrepreneurial. Alas, I hated the cold calling. I would probably
still be in business for myself if I’d had someone else to
manage selling while I handled marketing, operations and
research.

I’ve been wondering lately if I’ve lost that spirit, so reading
this article was very timely for me. I believe much depends on
a person’s spirit – just how entrepreneurial are you?

Fast Company and WIRED are as fringe as I can get in my
Corporate Resource Center but I encourage my clients to
follow pop culture, know the current headlines, listen to
younger generations, and know how to actually use the
technology, if they want to remain relevant. It’s helpful for me
to think about what I’d do if I had to scramble and find work (I
have been laid off three times – I’m always afraid). What do I
know? Is it enough? How much more should I know? What do
I have to offer?
I intend to foster this entrepreneurial state of mind. This isn’t to prepare for job hunting, but to be entrepreneurial in my present position. If anyone else catches the entrepreneurial bug or is just interested in how to go about establishing a business – Mary Ellen Bates has a couple of good books that address all the issues. I also went to the AIIP website and she has a current column which discusses a survey she conducted to learn more about who the independent professionals were. Most of them were Boomers.

I’m just saying – be prepared for anything – and always carry a UBS stick in case you need to leave unexpectedly.

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Intersect Alert March 4, 2012

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2012/03/intersect-alert-march-4-2012/

March 4, 2012 Categories: Intersect Alert Tags: freedom of information, government, intellectual property, privacy

Freedom of Information

In New York, Landmark Open Data Legislation Will Soon Be Up for a Vote

“The New York City Council is expected to vote on a far-reaching open data bill on Wednesday that would codify many of the principles articulated by open government advocates in recent years. If made law, the bill would go further than San Francisco’s pioneering 2010 open data law in depth and scope, obliging agencies to provide data online in machine-readable format though a single, citywide portal. But perhaps in a nod to the amount of work involved in working through large volumes of existing data, city agencies won’t have to make theirs available through the city’s portal until the end of 2018.”


Judge issues rare order to release classified document

“A federal judge issued a highly unusual order Wednesday requiring the government to disclose a document that the Obama administration insists is classified. The document at issue is only a single page long and lays out the initial negotiating position of the United States on a technical issue during longrunning but ultimately unsuccessful talks to establish a Free Trade Agreement of the Americas.”


The New Ambiguity of ‘Open Government’

“Open government” used to carry a hard political edge: it referred to politically sensitive disclosures of government information. The phrase was first used in the 1950s, in the debates leading up to passage of the Freedom of Information Act. But over the last few years, that traditional meaning has blurred, and has shifted toward technology. Open technologies involve sharing data over the Internet, and all kinds of governments can use them, for all kinds of reasons. Recent public policies have stretched the label “open government” to reach any public sector use of these technologies. Thus, “open government data” might refer to data that makes the government as a whole more open (that is, more transparent), but might equally well refer to politically neutral public sector disclosures that are easy to reuse, but that may have nothing to do with public accountability. Today a regime can call itself “open” if it builds the right kind of web site — even if it does not become more accountable or transparent. This shift in vocabulary makes it harder for policymakers and activists to articulate clear priorities and make cogent demands. This essay proposes a more useful way for participants on all sides to frame the debate: We separate the politics of open government from the technologies of open data. Technology can make public information more adaptable, empowering third parties to contribute in exciting new ways across many aspects of civic life. But technological enhancements will not resolve debates about the best priorities for civic life, and enhancements to government services are no substitute for public accountability.”

http://ssrn.com/abstract=2012489

Public Policy

CBO scores bill to require online posting of program spending

“A bill requiring agencies for the first time to post spending at the program level on a central website would cost some $115 million over the next four years, the Congressional Budget Office reported Thursday. The average cost of implementing computer upgrades and administrative changes for the 24 major departments and agencies would be $1 million. The Government Results Transparency Act (H.R. 3262) was introduced by Rep. Frank Guinta, R-N.H., and cleared the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee in November 2011.”

http://www.govexec.com/management/2012/02/cbo-scores-bill-require-online-posting-program-spending/41290/

Open Access

Legislation to Bar Public-Access Requirement on Federal Research Is Dead

“The science-publishing giant Elsevier pulled its support on Monday from the controversial Research Works Act, hours before the bill’s co-sponsors in the U.S. House of
Representatives declared the legislation dead. The bill, HR 3699, would have prevented agencies of the federal government from requiring public access to federally subsidized research. In a statement released on Monday morning, the publisher reiterated its opposition to government mandates even as it backed away from the bill. On Monday afternoon, the bill’s co-sponsors, Rep. Darrell Issa, a Republican of California, and Rep. Carolyn Maloney, a Democrat of New York, issued a statement of their own saying that they would not push for action on the bill after all.”

http://chronicle.com/article/Legislation-to-Bar/130949/

Privacy Concerns

Keep the Pressure On: Canadian Online Surveillance Bill on Pause, But the Fight Continues

“Last Saturday, the Canadian government announced it would put proposed online surveillance legislation temporarily “on pause” following sustained public outrage generated by the bill. Since its introduction two weeks ago, Canadians have spoken out en masse against Bill C-30, the Canadian government’s latest attempt to update police online surveillance powers. As currently drafted, the bill represents a dramatic and dangerous attempt to leverage online service providers as agents of state surveillance.”

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2012/02/keep-pressure-canadian-online-surveillance-bill-pause-fight-continues

Intellectual Property

Guild Motion Asks for Quick Ruling on HathiTrust’s Fair Use Defense

“Although the Google Book Settlement has been rejected by the court, one reason the parties were even able to reach an agreement was by avoiding the question of whether Google’s scanning of copyrighted books was a violation of fair use. The issue came up late last year when the Authors Guild led a group of copyright holders in filing a lawsuit against HathiTrust contending that its scanning program in which Google has converted millions of books into digital files stored by the Trust was copyright infringement. Now the Guild is placing the question of fair use front and center in a motion filed February 28 that asks the judge hearing the case to issue a “partial judgment on the pleadings,” and rule that the unauthorized digitization is in fact not protected by fair use.”


International Outlook

Mexico Adopts Alarming Surveillance Legislation

“The Mexican legislature today adopted a surveillance legislation that will grant the police warrantless access to real time user location data. The bill was adopted almost unanimously with 315 votes in favor, 6 against, and 7 abstentions. It has been sent to the President for his approval.”

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2012/03/mexico-adopts-surveillance-legislation

Freedom of Information Act has not improved government, says UK MoJ

“The Freedom of Information Act has failed to increase understanding of government, may have reduced trust and has done little to improve decision-making in Westminster, according to the Ministry of Justice, presaging a parliamentary debate on whether to consider reforms to the seven-year-old legislation. Civil servants are also calling for the introduction of higher fees for users of the act. The ministry suggests that the costs do “not adequately reflect the total amount of time spent in practice in compiling the information”.”

http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2012/feb/13/freedom-of-information-ministry-justice

Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety.

The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.

Strategic Planning is Like Going On Vacation!

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2012/03/strategic-planning-is-like-going-on-vacation/ March 6, 2012 Categories: Bayline, Chapter Programs & Events Tags: events, professional development

On February 28th, a small but mighty group of chapter members spent the morning learning to tackle strategic planning at a professional development program led by past chapter president Eris Weaver (http://www.erisweaver.info/). I say mighty because, in addition to Eris, our group included two other past chapter presidents, and several past and present members of the chapter’s executive board, in addition to recent graduates. I very much enjoyed the interaction among the group members, and appreciated the opportunity to share stories and experiences. I always learn more at these events than what comes from the agenda.

The agenda, however, was quite informative. The title of the session was “Quick and Dirty Strategic Planning”, and we all agreed that a strategic planning process that was fast and light
had real advantages over a lengthy process, as the results of those lengthy reviews are often outdated before they are published.

We discussed the many parallels between the strategic planning process, and the vacation planning process. You start with dreaming, and envisioning many possibilities of where you might go, or your many possible goals. At some point, though, you pick a destination (or a goal), based on your objectives. You then outline a plan to get you to your destination, (booking flights, picking hotels) or your goal (outlining targets, breaking out tasks). You adapt your plan as necessary, and you document the whole process, which may mean vacation photos or quarterly reports!

Marlene Vogelsang had this to say about the event:

An opportunity to learn with Eris Weaver is not to be missed and I was very pleased that my schedule opened up and I could attend. Imagine thinking of strategic planning in terms of planning a vacation! That was the premise of our morning as Eris walked us through the vacation (whoops, strategic planning) process. We talked about where we wanted to go, how we would get there, what we would do when we got there and also about “life happens” and maybe ending up in another place entirely.

I loved this idea! We also did some planning around our own needs, which included job searching, completing coursework, and setting up programs in our libraries. Eris is a fan of post-it note planning and we worked on timelines with post-it notes to visualize what we each needed to do to get where we wanted to go. My planning was around a resource project that I was trying to start. I gave myself a very generous timeline… but, guess what? Since I knew better what steps were needed to get there, I got started this week and made significant progress. Thank you Eris! I always find it valuable to step away from the day-to-day of my work to just get a different perspective. Our chapter workshops and SLA programs have helped me to do that.

Overall, the feedback on the session was incredibly positive, and I’m pleased we were able to bring the group together.

However, given that attendance was light, I welcome input on either meeting times or topics that would be of greater interest to our membership. Watch for the Survey Monkey questionnaire, http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/7KMGK3B. You’re also welcome to send me comments directly: president@sanfrancisco.sla1.org.

Mimi Calter

Share this:

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**Intersect Alert March 11, 2012**


*Freedom of Information*

**Obama’s muddy transparency record**

“A minute after he took office, the White House website declared his administration would become “the most open and transparent in history.” By the end of his first full day on the job, Obama had issued high-profile orders pledging “a new era” and “an unprecedented level of openness” across the massive federal government. But three years into his presidency, critics say Obama’s administration has failed to deliver the refreshing blast of transparency that the president promised.”


**Transparency measures slow to move in Congress**

“As Congress faces record-low approval ratings, open-government groups say more transparency could help rebuild public trust. But greater disclosure may be a tough goal when it comes to legislation targeting lawmakers’ activities.”

http://www.usatoday.com/news/washington/story/2012-03-08/congress-sunshine/53423540/1

**Easier access to disclosure forms planned**

“The Office of Government Ethics is preparing to make more readily accessible the public financial disclosure reports of political appointees who are subject to Senate confirmation, launching as soon as next week a service providing online access to those records through its Web site, www.oge.gov. The new service will be the result of a multi-year effort to improve transparency of those records, which currently must be requested through a paper-based system.”


**Public Policy**

**United Nations Releases 2012 E-Government Survey**

Pew Study: Urban Libraries Struggle to Meet Greater Demands with Fewer Resources

“A new report from The Pew Charitable Trusts finds that urban libraries are experiencing increased demands for an ever-widening array of services, due in part to the poor economy. At the same time, libraries’ funding from local governments has been cut, leaving them with fewer resources, staff and hours with which to meet these new challenges. To understand how urban libraries are dealing with this pressure, the report from Pew’s Philadelphia Research Initiative compares library systems in Atlanta, Baltimore, Boston, Brooklyn, Charlotte, Chicago, Columbus (Ohio), Detroit, Los Angeles, Phoenix, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Queens (NY), San Francisco and Seattle.”


Dot-gov reforms clash with transparency objectives

“Among the several thousand federal websites likely to be shuttered as part of the government’s massive dot-gov reform plan, count this one: XML.gov. Extensible Markup Language, or XML, is an extremely simple Web document language that is especially responsive to search queries and easy for other computer programs to read. Advocates inside government say XML could be a boon for information sharing; transparency advocates favor the language because it allows them to easily extract government data and mash it up with other information such as laying campaign contributors over earmark recipients. The computer language has generally lost out in the federal government, though, to PDFs and other document formats that are simpler to create on the front end, easier to secure and control on the back end, and more amenable to fancy graphics and crisp formatting.”

http://www.nextgov.com/nextgov/ng_20120306_7913.php

Open Access

81 Scholarly Journal Publishers Oppose Federal Research Public Access Act


Publishers’ letter to the Senate
Publishers’ letter to the House
http://www.publishers.org/press/61/

Privacy Concerns

International Reactions to Google’s New Privacy Policy

“Google’s new privacy policy took effect last Thursday, following several weeks campaigning to educate users on the changes. The policy will allow them to consolidate users’ data across all of its services and platforms, in a move they claim will both improve user experience and make their policy “easier to understand.” The international privacy community, however, is having none of it. Lawmakers, privacy authorities, technical experts, and privacy organizations around the world are releasing public statements and direct letters to Google representatives that are critical of the new policy. Advocacy groups criticize and condemn the changes, and the European Union, Japanese, and Canadian privacy authorities have released statements indicating that the new policy may violate their domestic privacy laws. Google meanwhile, seems to be ignoring the global outcry, dismissing criticism as “chatter and confusion.”

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2012/03/international-reactions-googles-new-privacy-policy

Intellectual Property

US Congressman Posts ACTA For Open Debate

“A conservative United States congressional representative has posted the text of the controversial Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA) to the internet and is calling for public comments out of the fear that the agreement will harm the open internet. The website, keepthewebopen.com, created by California Republican Rep. Darrell Issa, is already collecting a numerous comments, but with the agreement already signed by the US and others, it remains to be seen if it is too late for change.”

http://www.ip-watch.org/2012/03/07/us-congressman-posts-acta-for-open-debate/

Orphan Works: Mapping the Possible Solution Spaces

“This paper surveys a range of proposed orphan works solutions. The goal is to acquaint the reader with the wide variety of solution types, and to identify the positive and negative aspects of each. The paper discusses four general categories of proposed solutions to the orphan works problem.”


Canadian copyright bill hits the home stretch

“Days after the Conservative government introduced its copyright reform bill in June 2010, Canadian Heritage Minister James Moore spoke out in support of the legislative package by notoriously labeling critics as “radical extremists” who should be confronted until “they are defeated.” This week, the copyright bill hits the home stretch as the Bill C-11 legislative committee conducts its final “clause-by-clause” review. The bill has been a subject of debate for nearly 20 months and over the course of that period, there has been a surprising role reversal. Moore’s vision of strong support from copyright lobby groups has been replaced by demands to overhaul the legislation with a broad array of extreme measures, while the
supposed critics – library groups, educators, consumer associations, and individual Canadians – have endorsed much of the legislation with only requests for modest changes to the controversial digital lock provisions.”


Internet Access

US Government Scuttles Plan To Share Control Of The Internet
“The US Commerce Department National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) has cancelled its request for proposal for the management of the internet root zone file, a core piece of infrastructure for the global domain name system (DNS) that helps users to navigate the net. In a 10 March notice published on its website, NTIA announced the agency had “received no proposals that met the requirements requested by the global community.” NTIA intended to “reissue the RFP at a future date to be determined (TBD) so that the requirements of the global Internet community can be served.” This unexpected move is a setback to expectations by (ICANN) to be re-named as contractor for the so-called IANA function that also includes a list of tasks necessary for the internet, for example IP address allocation to the Regional Internet Registries. NTIA’s rather blunt explanation of shortcomings of the proposals received ignites speculation about possible intentions of the US body, but also some quick criticism about the unilateral power over internet critical infrastructure.”


Uncle Sam: If It Ends in .Com, It’s .Seizable
“When U.S. authorities shuttered sports-wagering site Bodog.com last week, it raised eyebrows across the net because the domain name was registered with a Canadian company, ostensibly putting it beyond the reach of the U.S. government. Working around that, the feds went directly to VeriSign, a U.S.-based internet backbone company that has the contract to manage the coveted .com and other “generic” top-level domains. EasyDNS, an internet infrastructure company, protested that the “ramifications of this are no less than chilling and every single organization branded or operating under .com, .net, .org, .biz etc. needs to ask themselves about their vulnerability to the whims of U.S. federal and state lawmakers.” But despite EasyDNS and others’ outrage, the U.S. government says it’s gone that route hundreds of times. Furthermore, it says it has the right to seize any .com, .net and .org domain name because the companies that have the contracts to administer them are based on United States soil, according to Nicole Navas, an Immigration and Customs Enforcement spokeswoman.”

http://www.wired.com/threatlevel/2012/03/feds-seize-foreign-sites/all/

International Outlook

EU Digital Commissioner: Open Public Data, The Oil Of The Digital Age
“When U.S. authorities shuttered sports-wagering site Bodog.com last week, it raised eyebrows across the net because the domain name was registered with a Canadian company, ostensibly putting it beyond the reach of the U.S. government. Working around that, the feds went directly to VeriSign, a U.S.-based internet backbone company that has the contract to manage the coveted .com and other “generic” top-level domains. EasyDNS, an internet infrastructure company, protested that the “ramifications of this are no less than chilling and every single organization branded or operating under .com, .net, .org, .biz etc. needs to ask themselves about their vulnerability to the whims of U.S. federal and state lawmakers.” But despite EasyDNS and others’ outrage, the U.S. government says it’s gone that route hundreds of times. Furthermore, it says it has the right to seize any .com, .net and .org domain name because the companies that have the contracts to administer them are based on United States soil, according to Nicole Navas, an Immigration and Customs Enforcement spokeswoman.”

http://www.wired.com/threatlevel/2012/03/feds-seize-foreign-sites/all/


http://www.theregister.co.uk/2012/03/08/australia_legal_deposit/

The Digital Age

EU Digital Commissioner: Open Public Data, The Oil Of The Digital Age
“Neelie Kroes, vice-president of the European Commission responsible for the Digital Agenda, today called for public data to be opened up for all to use, somewhat akin to providing the free oil of the digital age. “Let me underline one initiative that I am supporting to make digital technology work for governance and transparency: by opening up public data. In the digital age, data takes on a whole new value, and with new technology we can do great things with it. Opening it up is not just good for transparency, it also stimulates great web content, and provides the fuel for a future economy,” she said in prepared remarks entitled, “From Crisis of Trust to Open Governing“, given today in Bratislava, Slovakia.”


Australia considers national digital archive
“Australia’s Legal Deposit requirement, which compels publishers to send copies of all books to the National Library, may be extended to digital works. The potential extension of the Legal Deposit is discussed in a new Consultation Paper issued by the Federal Attorney General’s Department.”


http://www.theregister.co.uk/2012/03/08/australia_legal_deposit/

Campaign on the reform of EU access to documents Regulation
“Access Info Europe is calling for civil society support for the campaign on the reform of the EU access to documents Regulation, which aims to strengthen the right of access to EU documents or, at the very least, to avoid any narrowing of the current right of access to documents.”


Wanted: Censor for Pakistan’s Internet
“Pakistan is advertising for companies to install an Internet filtering system that could block up to 50 million Web addresses, alarming free speech activists who fear current censorship could become much more widespread.”


Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety.

The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.
Local Sunshine Week Program

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2012/03/local-sunshine-week-program/ March 12, 2012 Categories: Bayline, Chapter Programs & Events Tags: events, government

The San Francisco Bay Region Chapter of SLA & The Northern California Association of Law Libraries

Citizens United – A Local Sunshine Week Program

with Jay Costa, MapLight

Absinthe Brasserie & Bar

388 Hayes Street, San Francisco, CA 94102

(415) 551-1590

Tuesday, April 3, 2012, 5:30 – 8:00 PM

What: With the unbridled spending that has inundated our elections over the past two years, the words “Citizens United” have come to be virtually synonymous with the problem of political corruption and money in politics. Indeed, the Supreme Court decision is as unpopular as it is infamous. But while it is a source of widespread anger, the ways in which Citizens United has actually changed our political climate are often misunderstood. What are the SuperPACs we hear so much about, and what kind of powers has the Court given them? What does the Citizens United decision have to say about the issue of transparency? Is there any realistic hope of remedying the ill-effects of Citizens United, short of the decision being reversed? And in what ways is Citizens United just a drop in the bucket of a much larger problem confronting American democracy?

Who: Jay Costa is a member of the staff at MapLight, a nonpartisan organization that reveals money’s influence on politics, where he serves as web producer, communications associate, and contributes to research. Most recently, he designed the MapLight Voter Guide, which will be the most comprehensive and easiest-to-navigate source of information about California ballot measures for the upcoming election. Jay was appointed by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors to serve on the City’s Sunshine Ordinance Task Force, a body responsible for ensuring that deliberations of commissions, boards, councils, and other agencies of the City and County of San Francisco are conducted before the people and that City operations are open to the people’s review. Jay chairs the Task Force’s Education, Outreach, and Training Committee, which advises the Task Force on matters of media relations and outreach to the general public. He is also the lead organizer for the Bay Area arm of Rootstrikers, a group founded by Lawrence Lessig to curb the corruptive influence of money in politics. Jay holds a degree in Biological Anthropology from Harvard College.

When: Tuesday, April 3, 2012, 5:30 – 8:00 PM

Agenda:

5:30 PM – 6:30 PM Registration, networking and appetizers

6:30 PM – 6:45 PM Announcements

6:45 PM – 8:00 PM Program with Q&A following

Cost: $25 for SLA members, $50 for non-members, and $20 for students, retired, and unemployed.

Registration Deadline: Tuesday, March 27th 2012 – CLOSED

Registration Form: Mail-in Registration

Many thanks to Taylor & Associates and WestlawNext for sponsoring this meeting.

http://www.taylorlib.com/

http://customers.westlawnext.com

Sunshine Week event in a larger map

Share this:
The Chapter Executive Board and Advisory Council will meet on Thursday, March 14th, 2012. The planned agendas for the two meetings are below. I hope that a broader distribution of the agendas will give you all more insight into the workings of the organization. Of course, additional discussion topics are always welcome.

You can also find minutes of past meetings here: [http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/meeting-minutes/](http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/meeting-minutes/)

Note that minutes will not be posted until approved, so they generally lag the meeting date by a couple of months.

**Executive Board Agenda**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Executive Board Meeting</th>
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<tr>
<td>Date: Thursday, March 15, 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>Time: 5:00PM – 6:00PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attendees: Mimi Calter; Cyndi Berglez; Anne Barker; Tony Landolt; Hillary Schiraldi; Monica Ertel; Deb Jan; Heather Gamberg</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Preparation for Meeting**

Please Read: minutes from last meeting

**I Open Meeting**

Objective: Review events of past two months; Identify objectives for next few months; prepare for discussion with the full Advisory Board

**II Action Items from Previous Meeting**

1. Consult with Silicon Valley on not having a physical joint board Meeting
2. Compile notes on open advisory council positions for discussion
3. Talk with Judy about consolidating Networking and P
4. Convene task force to move Bayline to the web
5. Recruit an Archives Chair

**III Agenda Topic**

1. Approve minutes of last meeting
2. Membership report
3. Treasurer’s report
4. Budget Review and Vote
5. Preview of discussion topics for Advisory Council session: Sponsor Advertising Rates (Sandy); Bayline Move Update (Alys)
6. Review open Advisory Council positions
7. Ethics Ambassador – Eliminate the Role?
8. Archivist Chair – Addressing Questions
9. Review ideas from Leadership Summit
10. Review key dates, upcoming events, and next meeting

**IV Close Meeting**

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**Advisory Council Agenda**

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### Advisory Council Meeting

**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012  
**Location:** Ropes & Grey  
**Time:** 6:30 – 8:00 PM  
**Call In:** None  
**Attendees:** Mimi Calter; Cyndi Berglez; Anne Barker; Tony Landolt; Hillary Schiraldi; Monica Ertel; Deb Jan; Heather Gamberg; Jonathan Leff; Cathy Solomon; David Grossman; Alys Tryon; Linda Yamamoto; Ginny Woodis; Cynthia Matano; Sarah Cook; Kim Ewert; Chris Orr; Shelli Owens; Jan Keiser; Judy Bolstad; Sandy Malloy  
**Called By:** Mimi Calter, President

### Preparation for Meeting

**Please Read:** minutes from last meeting

### I Open Meeting

**Objective:** Review progress since January; Identify objectives for the coming months

### II Action Items from Previous Meeting

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action Item</th>
<th>Responsible</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Reach out to Silicon Valley chapter regarding posting unpaid internships on Bayline</td>
<td>Mimi Calter</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Convene a Content Task Force to move Bayline to the web</td>
<td>Mimi Calter</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Ask Sarah Cook to help with Hospitality on the PD event</td>
<td>Mimi Calter</td>
<td>Complete</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### III Agenda Topic

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agenda Topic</th>
<th>Presenter</th>
<th>Duration</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Approve minutes of last meeting</td>
<td>Heather Gamberg</td>
<td>2 min</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Membership report</td>
<td>Anne Barker</td>
<td>5 min</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Treasurers report and budget update</td>
<td>Deb Jan</td>
<td>5 min</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Advertising rates and policies</td>
<td>Sandy Malloy</td>
<td>10 min</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Open Advisory Council positions</td>
<td>Mimi Calter</td>
<td>5 min</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. Committee Updates</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>15 min</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. Review ideas from leadership summit</td>
<td>Mimi Calter</td>
<td>5 min</td>
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<tr>
<td>8. Review key dates, upcoming events, and next meeting</td>
<td>Mimi Calter</td>
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### IV Close Meeting

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**President’s Message – Notes from Leadership Summit**

March 14, 2012  
Categories: Bayline, SLA HQ  
Tags: President's message
SLA’s Leadership Summit was held January 25-28 in Atlanta, Georgia. The meeting is an excellent opportunity to meet colleagues, as leaders from chapters and divisions come together to learn about plans for the organization as a whole, and to share successes and challenges in managing their individual units.

I came away from the meeting with a much better understanding of the direction the organization is taking. For me, the most important presentation at the summit came from the treasurer, Dan Trefethen. We all know that the association has had several difficult years financially, so it was wonderful to hear Dan say that fiscal 2011 had closed with no cash deficit, and that no deficit is projected for 2012. The association still faces some deferred expenses, most notably some infrastructure work on our headquarters offices and some overdue upgrades to computer equipment, so we’re not without challenges, but it’s a big improvement over the past several years. Dan’s slides are online here: [http://www.sla.org/presentations/12leadsumm/ShowMetheMoney.pdf](http://www.sla.org/presentations/12leadsumm/ShowMetheMoney.pdf)

Another important presentation was the update on SLA’s Loyalty Project from consultant James Kane. James presented to the leadership team two years ago, and since then selected chapters have been working with him on techniques and tools for developing member loyalty, with an overall goal of increasing chapter membership retention by 5%. I personally participated in a somewhat humbling exercise, designed to demonstrate that leadership means going beyond the specific tasks you are assigned, and providing guidance and vision to the organization. In the exercise, a small group of us were designated as “problem solvers”, taken out of the main conference room, and given a detailed set of maneuvers to execute using the people still in the main conference room. Of course, while we worked diligently at solving the puzzle in the lobby, confusion reigned in the conference room. By the time we returned to the conference room to implement our plan, there was no way to restore order in the main space! James Kane went on to explain that the exercise demonstrates the importance of leaders being visible, and ensuring that the decision-making process is visible to the group. I’ll certainly be keeping that lesson in mind as I look to execute tasks as your President, and welcome your input on ways to make the chapter more open and accessible.

If you’re interested in learning more about the loyalty project, I recommend looking at the presentations from three of the participating chapters, which are also available online: [http://www.sla.org/content/resources/leadcenter/LeadershipSummit/12leadsummit/handouts.cfm](http://www.sla.org/content/resources/leadcenter/LeadershipSummit/12leadsummit/handouts.cfm).

Finally, in group discussions I learned about a number of programs that other chapters have implemented that might be of interest here in the Bay Area. Some of these are listed below. I welcome your input on whether these types of programs would be of interest.

- Post Executive Board agendas on the chapter website in advance of board meetings, and make sure discussion points from executive board meetings are circulated to the membership.
  - I’ve already implemented this one – see: [http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2012/03/board-meeting-agendas/](http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2012/03/board-meeting-agendas/)

- Professionals need professional headshots for LinkedIn, etc. Have a photographer come to a meeting and allow members to get quality photos
  - If you’re a photographer and would be interested in working with us on this project, let me know.

- Post board member profiles on your website
  - We will work on integrating this into our new Bayline format.

- Find out what other organizations our members belong to, and plan joint programming with those organizations
  - Do you belong to another professional organization outside of SLA? If so, and you’d be interested in joint programming, please let me know.

- Establish chapter liaisons to various divisions.

- Start a chapter “Article Club” (less commitment than a book club).

- Be sure members are aware of member benefits. In particular, note that SLA does offer a group health care purchase option.

If you’re interested in any of these programs, I want to hear from you. You can reach me at president@sanfrancisco.sla1.org.

Mimi Calter
Chapter President

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**Intersect Alert March 18, 2012**

**Freedom of Information**

**National Archives chief unlocks secrets**

“. . . Ferriero now directs the National Archives in Washington, the first librarian to hold the post of official “collector in chief.” He not only oversees 12 billion pages and 40 million photographs that tell America’s story, he referees release of America’s oldest secrets, from the formula for invisible ink to battle plans for the Spanish-American War. He favors openness, he says, but agencies cling to a maze of often-contradictory secrecy rules and a deep-seated culture to lock away even innocuous information. “While progress has been made,” Ferriero said, “we still have a huge problem.” Ferriero’s primary job is ensuring the 275 executive branch agencies retain the most important government records for posterity. But he also oversees the National Declassification Center, created by President Obama by executive order in 2009. That makes him point man for an aggressive effort to try to release, by the end of next year, a backlog of an estimated 400 million records that are more than 25 years old.”


**Let the Sunshine In**

“This week is Sunshine Week, a joint project of the American Society of News Editors and the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press. Held in mid-March, Sunshine Week is a national initiative to promote discussion about the importance of open government and freedom of information. The theme of this year’s Sunshine Week is “Put Sunshine in Your Government,” and so now is an appropriate time to reflect on the Obama Administration’s strong commitment to open government over the past three years, and more particularly to provide an update on implementation of the U.S. National Action Plan on Open Government. President Obama unveiled the National Plan in September 2011, as part of the United States’ commitment as a founding member of the Open Government Partnership – a global effort to promote more transparent, effective, and accountable governance in countries around the world. A little over five months later, we have already made important progress on many initiatives and thus followed through on a number of commitments in the National Action Plan.”

[http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2012/03/12/let-sunshine](http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2012/03/12/let-sunshine)

**Tell Congress to open up**

“Making sure that people can get information about what our government is doing is the heart of what we do at Sunlight. And right now, there’s a chance to make some big changes. A committee in Congress is working on an appropriations bill that could make it easier to find out what Congress is doing by changing how information is released by the Library of Congress through a website through THOMAS. They’re writing the bill as we speak (er, type…), so this is a perfect moment to speak up for greater transparency.”

[http://sunlightfoundation.com/blog/2012/03/12/tell-congress-to-open-up/](http://sunlightfoundation.com/blog/2012/03/12/tell-congress-to-open-up/)

**Web Site Publishes Freedom of Information Requests Sought by California Congressman**

“An Internet site that promotes openness by the federal government has beaten Representative Darrell E. Issa to the punch, publishing copies of tens of thousands of Freedom of Information Act requests assembled for Mr. Issa last year as part of an investigation he is conducting into the federal government’s responsiveness to such inquiries. Mr. Issa, a California Republican who serves as chairman of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, had asked 180 federal agencies, including the Defense Department and Amtrak, for five years’ worth of logs detailing who requested government documents, what documents they wanted and when responses were provided, if at all. The result is tens of thousands of pages — perhaps more than 100,000 — of such logs, which include the names of business executives, lobbyists, academics, journalists, lawyers and private citizens who have made such inquiries, known as F.O.I.A. requests.”


**Strides and Stumbles: Mixed Results for the Obama Administration on Freedom of Information**

“The Obama administration has continued to make progress on implementation of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). In fiscal year (FY) 2011, the administration processed more FOIA requests than in either of the past two years. In fact, agencies processed considerably more requests in FY 2011 than they received altogether the previous year. Nevertheless, the surge in FOIA requests outpaced the administration’s increase in processing. This resulted in a growth of the administration’s combined FOIA backlog. In this analysis, OMB Watch lays out several key strengths and weaknesses of the Obama administration’s track record on FOIA during FY 2011.”


Read the full text of the analysis.

**Government can’t keep up with information requests**

“The Obama administration couldn’t keep pace with the increasing number of people asking for copies of government documents, emails, photographs and more under the U.S. Freedom of Information Act, according to a new analysis of the latest federal data by The Associated Press. Federal agencies did better last year trying to fulfill requests, but still fell further behind with backlogs, due mostly to surges in immigration records requested from the Homeland Security Department. It released all or portions of the information that citizens, journalists, businesses and others sought — and outright rejected other requests — at about the same rate as the previous two years. The AP analyzed figures over the last three years from 37 of the largest federal departments and agencies.”

Report Card Ranks 50 States on Transparency of Spending
“In Following the Money 2012: How the States Rank on Providing Online Access to Government Spending Data, researchers at the United States Public Interest Research Group (U.S. PIRG) graded all 50 states on how well they provide online access to information about government spending. States were given “A” to “F” grades based on the characteristics of the online transparency systems they have created to provide information on contracts, subsidies and spending at quasi-public agencies.”

Patrick Leahy, Chuck Grassley on warpath over stalled FOIA recommendations
“Sparks flew at a usually staid Congressional hearing on the Freedom of Information Act Tuesday, as the leaders of the Senate Judiciary Committee accused the Office of Management and Budget of bottling up legally-required recommendations to improve federal agencies’ compliance with the law guaranteeing public access to government records. Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Patrick Leahy of Vermont and ranking Republican Chuck Grassley of Iowa went on the warpath after the head of a federal office involved with FOIA said her proposals for legislative changes went to OMB more than a year ago, but have yet to be formally adopted or submitted to Congress by the administration.”

Sens. Wyden and Udall Weigh in on ACLU Patriot Act FOIA Case
“"Contrary to core principles of American democracy." That’s how two U.S. senators describe the Justice Department’s refusal to release a secret legal interpretation of the Patriot Act.”

Obama FOIA efforts earn mixed grades
“Many federal agencies have failed to track basic information in response to Freedom of Information Act requests, according to a House Oversight and Government Reform Committee study released Thursday. A separate, posier study from nonprofit OMBWatch noted FOIA progress compared to previous years.”
http://www.govexec.com/oversight/2012/03/obama-foia-efforts-earn-mixed-grades/41477/

Public Policy

MapLight’s Newly Launched Topic Pages Allow Journalists and Citizens to Search for Bills by Issue Area
“MapLight, a nonpartisan research organization that reveals money’s influence on politics, is pleased to announce the launch of its newest transparency tool, Topic Pages, during Sunshine Week. The new tool allows journalists and citizens to search for and track bills by issue area in the U.S. Congress and in the California and Wisconsin State Legislatures. The tool combines all of MapLight’s research data related to a specific topic area, giving journalists and citizens a snapshot view of the latest legislative and campaign finance data relating to a given topic–for example, Technology and Communications or Environmental Protection.”
http://maplight.org/topics-page-launch

Internet Access

Council Of Europe Passes Internet Governance Strategy
“In passing a comprehensive Internet Governance Strategy, the Council of Europe (CoE) today laid claim to a front runner position in the human rights dialogue for the internet. According to a press release by the Strasbourg-based, 47-member organisation, the strategy integrates 40 lines of action, including the development of a variety of soft law instruments from a high-level “framework of understanding and/or commitments” protecting the “Internet’s universality, integrity and openness as a means of safeguarding freedom of expression regardless of frontiers and Internet freedom,” to protection standards for granting the unimpeded cross-border flow of legal internet content or human rights standards on network neutrality.”

International Outlook

Egypt’s National Library seeks to improve access to information
“The National Library and Archives (NLA) recently announced plans to modernise the administration of the Egyptian National Library and improve access to information countrywide. Firstly, the NLA aims to bring all of Egypt’s libraries under the National Library’s umbrella within a four-year period, along with standardising regulations governing all library operations. The NLA also aims to work more closely with Egyptian cultural and heritage centres with the aim of encouraging library development and the archiving sciences. The NLA is also expected to issue a raft of new regulations aimed at improving the exchange of documents and manuscripts.”
http://english.ahram.org.eg/News/36612.aspx

National Archives unveils digitisation strategy
“The National Archives of Australia has outlined a plan to reduce the dependency of government agencies on paper records, saving up to $200 million a year in physical storage costs. The Director General of the National Archives, David Fricker, said he hoped to drive a coordinated and strategic approach to digital information management across the Federal Government. The Digital Continuity Plan has been developed by the Archives as a key element of a new whole-of-
government policy that will see all Australian Government agencies change to a comprehensive digital information and records management regime.”


Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety.

Intersect Alert March 25, 2012


Freedom of Information

States Releasing Information Online that Can Ensure Public Official Accountability

“On March 19, OMB Watch released a new report that evaluates state and federal websites designed to ensure the accountability of public officials. The report, Upholding the Public’s Trust: Key Features for Effective State Accountability Websites, examines state efforts to release public officials’ integrity information online. Such transparency is crucial to guard against self-dealing and patronage. While states and the federal government have made progress in this area, more work lies ahead. Transparency can deter corruption and guard against ethical conflicts. It is impressive that the federal government and so many states are disclosing so much information about elected and appointed officials online. However, the quantity and quality of disclosure is uneven.”

http://www.ombwatch.org/node/12012

50 states and no winners

“. . . State officials make lofty promises when it comes to ethics in government. They tout the transparency of legislative processes, accessibility of records, and the openness of public meetings. But these efforts often fall short of providing any real transparency or legitimate hope of rooting out corruption. That’s the depressing bottom line that emerges from the State Integrity Investigation, a first-of-its-kind, data-driven assessment of transparency, accountability and anti-corruption mechanisms in all 50 states. Not a single state — not one — earned an A grade from the months-long probe.”

http://www.stateintegrity.org/state_integrity_invesitgation_overview_story

Broadcasters fight plan to post names of political ad buyers on Web

“CBS and News Corp.’s Fox are among broadcasters fighting a plan to post names of campaign-ad buyers and purchase prices on the Web as record election spending raises concerns over anonymous political contributions. The information is maintained in desk drawers and filing cabinets at television stations, and the Federal Communications Commission wants to bring the data to a Web site the agency would run.”


If TV Stations Won’t Post Their Data on Political Ads, We Will

“Every local broadcast station has a repository of documents about political advertising that you have a legal right to see but can do so only by going to the station and asking to see “the public file.” These paper files contain detailed data on all political ads that run on the channel, such as when they aired, who bought the time and how much they paid. It’s a transparency gold mine [1], allowing the public to see how campaigns and outside groups are influencing elections. But TV executives have been fighting a Federal Communications Commission proposal [2] to make the data accessible online. . . . We tend to like the idea of public data being online. Since TV stations won’t put it online themselves, we decided to do it ourselves — and we want your help.”

http://www.propublica.org/article/if-tv-stations-wont-post-their-data-on-political-ads-we-will

Feds Turn to Tech to Improve Freedom of Information Act Responses

“After coming into office on promises of open government, transparency and accountability, the Obama administration has come under fire from critics who charge that the actions of the executive branch have not lived up to the rhetoric, and that too many of the government’s activities remain shrouded in secrecy. Administration officials, of course, will argue to the contrary, citing, among other factors, the enormous volume of information that has been published on department and agency websites. There is no disagreement, however, in the potential for technology to improve access to government information, particularly in facilitating requests for records under the Freedom of Information Act, or FOIA.”


Senate Introduces Targeted DISCLOSE Act
“Senate Democrats unveiled their version of the DISCLOSE Act today (S. 2219). Senator Whitehouse was joined by approximately 35 of his Democratic colleagues on legislation that has been described as a pure disclosure and disclaimer bill, with none of the controversial provisions that caused the DISCLOSE Act to fail in the Senate by one vote in 2010.”
http://sunlightfoundation.com/blog/2012/03/21/senate-introduces-targeted-disclose-act-today/

Public Policy

Liberating America’s secret, for-pay laws
“Did you know that vital parts of the US law are secret, and you’re only allowed to read them if you pay a standards body thousands of dollars for the right to find out what the law of the land is? Public.Resource.Org spent $7,414.26 buying privately-produced technical public safety standards that have been incorporated into U.S. federal law. These public safety standards govern and protect a wide range of activity, from how bicycle helmets are constructed to how to test for lead in water to the safety characteristics of hearing aids and protective footwear. We have started copying those 73 standards despite the fact they are festooned with copyright warnings, shrinkwrap agreements, and other dire warnings. The reason we are making those copies is because citizens have the right to read and speak the laws that we are required to obey and which are critical to the public safety.”
http://boingboing.net/2012/03/19/liberating-americas-secret.html

ProQuest Picks up Where the Census Bureau Left Off: The Statistical Abstract of the United States Will Be Back This Year
“ProQuest will rescue one of researchers’ most valued reference tools when it takes on publication of the Statistical Abstract of the United States beginning with the 2013 edition. The move ensures continuation of this premier guide to an extraordinary array of statistics, which has been published since 1878. The U.S. Census Bureau, responsible for publishing the work, announced in March 2011 that it would cease production of the Statistical Abstract after the 2012 edition, prompting widespread concern among librarians, journalists, and researchers about the disappearance of this essential research tool.”

Open Access

FRPAA in the Spotlight: Public Access Bill featured in Congressional Briefing, Two Dozen Bipartisan Co-sponsors add their Support
“Fresh on the heels of yesterday’s (March 19, 2012) well-attended Congressional briefing on the issue of public access to the results of taxpayer funded research, 24 new bipartisan co-sponsors have officially been added to the roster of supporters for H.R. 4004, The Federal Research Public Access Act. The new co-sponsors (see full list below) join the bill’s original sponsors, Rep. Mike Doyle (D-PA), Rep. Lacy Clay (D-MO) and Rep. Kevin Yoder (R-KS).”
http://www.arl.org/sparc/media/blog/FRPAA_Spotlight_New_Bipartisan_Cosponsors.shtml

International Outlook

[Pakistan] IT ministry shelves plan to install massive URL blocking system
“The Ministry of Information Technology (MoIT) has apparently decided to shelve its plans to install a massive URL blocking system. The MoIT, through its research arm, the National Information & Communication Technology Research and Development Fund had thorough a public advertisement on February 23, 2012, sought bids for a system that “should be able to handle a block list of up to 50 million URLs with a processing delay of not more than 1 millisecond.” On Monday, Member National Assembly Bushra Gohar confirmed to The Express Tribune that the MoIT had decided to reverse its decision.”

Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety.

The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.

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Intersect Alert April 1, 2012


Freedom of Information

UK’s MySociety Releases How-To Guides, Source Code for Open Government Activists

“MySociety.org, the group behind several civic and democratic websites in the United Kingdom, this year is stepping up its effort to help people in other countries build websites based on its model with a project called DIY mySociety. MySociety.org has launched websites such as WhatDoTheyKnow.com, a site...
helping people in the UK to send Freedom of Information requests, TheyWorkForYou, a parliamentary monitoring site, and FixMyStreet, which helps people report problems like potholes in their local area.”


Is the Justice Dept. Attempting to Usurp OGIS’s Role as FOIA Ombudsman?
“Earlier this week, Senators Patrick Leahy (D-VT) and John Cornyn (R-TX) wrote a strongly worded letter to Attorney General Eric Holder, urging the Justice Department to clarify its recent notice of proposed changes to the Department’s Privacy Act and Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) system of records. DOJ’s proposed modifications included several references to the Department’s Office of Information Policy (OIP) serving as “Ombudsman” in disputes between federal agencies and individual FOIA requestors. This designation would seem to clash with Leahy and Cornyn’s OPEN Government Act of 2007, which specifically established the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) within the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) as FOIA ombudsman.”


DOJ Responds to POGO Post on Department’s Proposed Changes to System of Records
“We were pleased to receive this response to our recent post on proposed changes to the Department of Justice’s system of records from the DOJ’s Office of Public Affairs.”


Chicago’s Data Brain Trust Tells All
“Chicago considers itself to be leading in open data projects. Since Emanuel took office, the city has implemented projects to make Chicago data more accessible to the public such as with websites like Wasmymartowed.com and ChicagoBudget.org. More recently, the city, in combination with Cook County and Illinois, developed a “convergence cloud” so public data can be accessible across the three levels of government. Goldstein [Chicago’s chief data officer] and Danielle DuMerer, a project manager for the Chicago Department of Innovation and Technology, discuss Chicago’s open data and what it takes to federate data across multiple jurisdictions.”


Public Policy

House set to move ‘online freedom’ bill
“A House subcommittee is scheduled to vote on a bill on Tuesday that aims to prevent U.S. companies from helping foreign regimes crack down on Internet freedom. Rep. Chris Smith (R-N.J.) has been pushing the Global Online Freedom Act for several years, but the issue has gained more attention after countries including Egypt and Syria began shutting down Internet access and blocking websites to quell popular uprisings.”


2011 Legislative Scorecards Now Available from ALA
“National Library Advocacy Day (NLLD) is right around the corner, and to help prepare for your advocacy efforts, we’ve created the 2011 ALA scorecards. Did your representative support school libraries in the Senate or the House? Did your senator co-sponsor a bill that would help school libraries? Did your representative sign onto a key letter requesting support for school libraries? Our scorecards are the definitive way to answer these and other questions.”


Big Data is a Big Deal
“Today, the Obama Administration is announcing the “Big Data Research and Development Initiative.” By improving our ability to extract knowledge and insights from large and complex collections of digital data, the initiative promises to help accelerate the pace of discovery in science and engineering, strengthen our national security, and transform teaching and learning. To launch the initiative, six Federal departments and agencies will announce more than $200 million in new commitments that, together, promise to greatly improve the tools and techniques needed to access, organize, and glean discoveries from huge volumes of digital data. Learn more about ongoing Federal government programs that address the challenges of, and tap the opportunities afforded by, the big data revolution in our Big Data Fact Sheet.”

http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2012/03/29/big-data-big-deal

Global Integrity Report: U.S. joins countries that fail to effectively implement money-in-politics rules
“Regardless of how weak or sophisticated their political financing regulations are, countries around the world are equally failing to effectively regulate the flow of money into politics, a new report finds. The Global Integrity Report: 2011, a major investigative study of 31 countries, was released today by Global Integrity, an award-winning international nonprofit organization that tracks governance and corruption trends globally. . . The United States scored just 29 out of 100 on the effectiveness of its party financing regulations and 25 out of 100 in its ability to effectively regulate contributions made to individual political candidates. Those scores represent a significant decrease from 2009, the last year Global Integrity covered the US, and reflect the negative impact of the “Citizens United” Supreme Court decision in early-2010 that loosened the controls over private money flowing into US elections. Despite that backsliding, the US remains at the head of the pack when it comes to the disclosure of political finance information to the public (94 out of 100).”

http://www.globalintegrity.org/blog/GIR11
Privacy Concerns

FTC Issues Final Commission Report on Protecting Consumer Privacy
“The Federal Trade Commission, the nation’s chief privacy policy and enforcement agency, issued a final report setting forth best practices for businesses to protect the privacy of American consumers and give them greater control over the collection and use of their personal data. In the report, “Protecting Consumer Privacy in an Era of Rapid Change: Recommendations For Businesses and Policymakers,” the FTC also recommends that Congress consider enacting general privacy legislation, data security and breach notification legislation, and data broker legislation.”
http://ftc.gov/opa/2012/03/privacyframework.shtm

International Outlook

Draft Spanish access to information law contains excessive exceptions and falls below international standards
“The Spanish government today opened for public consultation the draft “Law on Transparency, Access to Public Information, and Good Governance”. Specialist NGO Access Info Europe welcomed the law and unprecedented consultation but noted that serious improvements are needed to bring the law into line with international standards, in particular by revising the definition of information which establishes excessive exceptions thereby excluding large quantities of information from the right to request access.”
http://www.access-info.org/en/spain-coalicion-pro-acceso/230-draft-spanish-access-to-information-law-contains-excessive-

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Mosaic: What’s Happening With Our Members

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2012/04/mosaic-whats-happening-with-our-members/ April 2, 2012 Categories: Bayline, Chapter Programs & Events Tags: member highlights

By Judy Bolstad, Editor

Contemporary Historians at the Presidio 2012: Voices and Views

Location: Golden Gate Club, 135 Fisher Loop, Presidio of San Francisco

Barbara Janis shares that The Presidio Trust continues its series of popular talks featuring nationally known historians speaking at the Presidio of San Francisco. Covering larger themes in American and world history, the talks help put the Presidio into context as a former military post and an innovative national park. Please join us at the Golden Gate Club for the second season of this free series, Contemporary Historians at the Presidio. For a more detailed description of the lectures and biographies of the speakers, please see:

http://www.presidio.gov/

• Dr. Richard Stewart, Thursday, April 26, 7pm – “Reflections on the American Profession of Arms”
• Margareta Lovell and Kathleen Moran Thursday, July 12, 7pm – “Themed Nature and Historic Preservation”
• Quintard Taylor, Thursday, Sept 6, 7pm – “The Racial Integration of the United States Army: From World War II to the War in Afghanistan”
• Jay Winter, Thursday, Oct 25 – “Filming War”

Exciting and Informative Presentation!

Chris Orr and Deb Hunt spoke at the February Createasphere
Digital Asset Management conference in Los Angeles. Their topic was the value of librarians in content management system implementations. The audience included librarians, archivists, production managers, IT and creative directors for media, entertainment and marketing departments. They had two chock-full days of conference in the Beverly Hilton, but managed to sneak away for a dinner on Rodeo Drive and a walk around neighboring Beverly Hills. Don’t worry – they used the services of a friendly school crossing guard to navigate Wilshire Boulevard without getting run over. Los Angeles traffic is everything they say it is, and then some!

Here are the slides from Chris and Deb’s presentations; sans audio, but still of interest and value:

http://slidesha.re/GHFAVA
http://slidesha.re/GHFNIh

In Remembrance of Mary Helen Feldman

Jo Falcon regrets to inform you of the death of her mother, Mary Helen Feldman, two-time DC/SLA Distinguished Service Award winner, honorary Life Member of DCLA, co-founder of the Intercom newsletter, former Catholic University of America SLIS Cataloging faculty member, longtime head of Technical Services for Trinity College, and close colleague of Dr. Elizabeth Stone. Mary was 92 and apparently died peacefully in her sleep — or while reading. Based on alumni gatherings at various library conferences, she had a large and loving cohort of former students and associates, and she would want you to know. You should also know that she requested that in-memoriam gifts in lieu of flowers be sent to CUA SLIS.

Both Jo and granddaughter, Leah Swift, MLIS, continue to uphold the tradition, and at least two of the great-grandchildren seem likely to go into the “family business.” Jo states that “Mom leaves a large footprint on the profession.” Please send your condolences to jofalcon@gmail.com.

Dear readers:

The next Mosaic submission deadline is May 25.

Even though I will be on maternity leave from mid-April through the rest of 2012, I will be continuing as Mosaic Editor. Please continue to send me your news!

– Judy Bolstad, Editor, Mosaic Column
jbolstad@library.berkeley.edu

Beyond Newsletters: Better Ways to Inform Users

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2012/04/beyond-newsletters-better-ways-to-inform-users/ April 4, 2012 Categories: Bayline, Chapter Programs & Events Tags: events, professional development

by Ian Palmer

A few months ago, my Reprints Desk colleagues and I conducted focus groups with information professionals and others who rely on journal articles for use in research, sales, marketing, legal and regulatory functions. We discovered that curated content and the distribution of this content was by far one of the most important functions performed by information professionals – a sentiment that was reinforced equally by the end users who consume curated content. With this information, we sought out HiveFire, a content curation technology supplier that was repeatedly mentioned during our research. Together, we decided to host an educational webinar on the topic of newsletters and other useful methods and approaches for keeping users informed. The accompanying slide deck is what we presented. We hope you find it useful and that you will continue engaging your peers to explore what may work for you and your end users.

Neighborhood Dinners

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2012/04/neighborhood-dinners/ April 7, 2012 Categories: Bayline, Chapter Programs & Events Tags: events

Here’s the complete list of SLA neighborhood dinners going on this month. RSVP to the host of your choice!
Uncle Yu’s, 999 Oak Hill Road, Lafayette (7 minutes walk from BART)
RSVP to Dan Holmes

Albany/North Berkeley
Tuesday, April 17, 6:00 PM
Aangan Restaurant (http://www.hamroaangan.com/)
RSVP to Elyse Eisner

El Cerrito/Richmond
Wednesday, April 18, 6:00 PM
“Chez Rochelle,” 788 Colusa Avenue, El Cerrito (a safe & pleasant 1-mile walk from El Cerrito Plaza Bart)
RSVP to Rochelle Richardson

Temescal (Oakland)
Thursday, April 19, 7:00 PM
Barlata
RSVP to Laurel Bellon

Daly City
Thursday, April 19, 6:00 PM in the bar; 6:30 at the table
Boulevard Cafe, 2 Ponceetta Dr Daly City, CA 94015
RSVP to Jaye Lapachet or Craig Cruz

San Leandro/Castro Valley/Hayward
Thursday, April 19, 6:00 PM
Mama Lupe’s Cosina Mexican, 15033 Farnsworth St, San Leandro
RSVP to Marlene Vogelsang

Presidio (SF)
Tuesday, April 24, 6:30 PM
Presidio Social Club, 563 Ruger Street
RSVP to Barbara Janis — and do it quick, space is limited!

Solano/Napa
Tuesday, April 24, Time: TBA
Bistro Sabor in Napa
RSVP to Becky Miller

Castro/Mission (SF)
Wednesday, April 25, 6:15 PM
Thai House Express, Castro @ 19th
RSVP to Hilary Schiraldi

Bernal/Noe (SF)
Thursday, April 26, 6:30 PM
Fattoush, Church between Clipper & 26th
RSVP to Cyndi Berglez

Southern Marin
Saturday, April 28, 6:30 PM
Signature Thai, 810 B St, San Rafael
RSVP to Anne Barker

Northern Marin/Sonoma
Tuesday, May 8, 6:45 PM
Hilltop 1892 in Novato
RSVP to Diane Rosenberger

Intersect Alert April 8, 2012

Dissolved and the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS) and the Office of Research Infrastructure Programs (ORIP) were established. As indicated in NOT-OD-12-026, all NCRR programs were transferred to other NIH ICOS. Additionally, the responsibility for all Funding Opportunity Announcements (FOAs) in which NCRR participated is being transferred to other ICOS. Please visit the NCRR website for more information regarding the transfer of NCRR programs to other NIH ICOS.

Read more: http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0412/74901.html#ixzz1rGzZ4yQC

Public Policy

Notice of Change in Participation of NIH Institutes and Centers in PAR-11-028 “Continued Development and Maintenance of Software (R01)” On December 23, 2011, the National Center for Research Resources (NCRR) was

Dissolved and the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS) and the Office of Research Infrastructure Programs (ORIP) were established. As indicated in NOT-OD-12-026, all NCRR programs were transferred to other NIH ICOS. Additionally, the responsibility for all Funding Opportunity Announcements (FOAs) in which NCRR participated is being transferred to other ICOS. Please visit the NCRR website for more information regarding the transfer of NCRR programs to other NIH ICOS.

Read more: http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0412/74901.html#ixzz1rGzZ4yQC

Intellectual Property Issues

Some e-book publishers begin settlement talks; Apple holding out: ars technica – “Three e-book publishers are
nearing a settlement over an e-book price-fixing case in the US and Europe, according to sources speaking to the Wall Street Journal. But not everyone is on board—Apple and two other publishers are allegedly holding out, though the situation was described as “fluid” and could change as a lawsuit filing looms.”

Privacy Concerns

The World Bank’s New Position on Citizen-Generated Geo-Data: Two weeks ago, we were excited to read that the World Bank took a public position explicitly endorsing citizen mapping tools that keep control of citizen-generated geo-data in the hands of the folks that created it, not the organization providing the mapping tool used to generate the data. This statement was in direct response to months of concerns expressed by a range of organizations and experts, including Global Integrity, over the Bank’s deal with Google to provide quick access to Google Map Maker data for humanitarian purposes. That agreement, which has never been made public, seemed at times to endorse the use of Google’s Map Maker tool itself, which puts user-submitted geo-data in Google’s control. Jon Mitchell at ReadWriteWeb has a nice wrap-up and summary of the issues here.

« Back to your recommended feeds

Twitter, Facebook meet Big Brother: Federal agencies have realized they can mine social media for intel to help thwart potential terrorist strikes, keep tabs on domestic protests and better help citizens after a natural disaster. But privacy groups are clamoring for Congress to intervene, likening it to Big Brother.

“That’s a gray area we’re all trying to define,” Rep. Patrick Meehan (R-Pa.), chairman of the House Homeland Security Subcommittee on Counterterrorism and Intelligence, told POLITICO. “The concept that the government would somehow be monitoring and storing inquiries of individual Web activities — many would find that disconcerting.”

from POLITICO.com: Congress by David Saleh Rauf
Read more: http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0412/74849.html#ixzz1rD3DVbAy
Open Access

International Outlook

20 Demands on the future of access to EU documents: Campaign Update

Madrid, 25 March 2012 – Since the 20 demands on the future of the EU access to documents Regulation were launched for civil society sign-on on 7 March 2012, 3 European Information Commissioners, 67 Non-governmental organisations and 6 Civil Society Coalitions representing 249 organisations have joined the campaign.

The 20 demands are presented to the Member State representatives working on the revision of the EU access to documents Regulation before each of their inter-governmental meetings at the Working Party on Information (WPI).

http://www.access-info.org/en/european-union

Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety.

The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.

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Intersect Alert April 15


Public Policy

Darrell Issa: Possibly ‘billions’ in GSA waste
Oversight Committee Chairman Darrell Issa (R-Calif.), who will hold a hearing Monday on the General Services Administration “culture of wasteful spending,” said the agency may be squandering “perhaps billions of dollars.”

“What we expect to find [in the hearing] is, again, what you have is a pattern, a pattern that may have begun under the Bush administration… it’s likely it’s a pattern of behavior that is costing the American people hundreds of millions, perhaps billions of dollars, and setting a bad example for the rest of the federal workforce,” said Issa on CBS’s “This Morning.”

Read more: http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0412/75181.html#ixzz1sFg00A1L

Republicans to slash food stamps
From food stamps to child tax credits and Social Service block grants, House Republicans began rolling out a new wave of domestic budget cuts Monday but less for debt reduction — and more to sustain future Pentagon spending without relying on new taxes.

Going into November’s election, President Barack Obama’s signature health care and financial market reforms are again
favorite targets. And with as many as six House committees involved, the whole budget drill can resemble “Casablanca” with Claude Rains’s Captain Renault ordering his men: “Round up the usual suspects!”


Internet Access

**Guest Post: Google's Relationship with the NSA, EPIC and the Public's Right to Know**
from The FOIA blog by scott hodes

For the very first time ever, the FOIA blog has a guest blogger. Our guest blogger is Fiona Causer. She is currently a student pursuing her bachelor’s degree in Legal Studies. She enjoys writing and seeks to use it as a vehicle to convey ideas and engage others in discussing relevant issues of our day. Ms. Causer writes about the current FOIA lawsuit EPIC has with the NSA concerning the NSA's relationship with Google. The opinions in the article are solely those of Ms. Causer.

**Google's Relationship with the NSA: EPIC and the Public's Right to Know**

Along with American individuals being granted the rights to freedom of speech, privacy and various others as stipulated in the U.S. Constitution’s Bill of Rights, the American public, through the Freedom of Information Act, also has a right to know whether companies with services they utilize on a daily basis, such as Google, are in dealings with the U.S. government. While this does present some legal obstacles of how to handle properly, attorneys and paralegals still must learn to tackle these issues head-on. Fortunately, the wide availability of law and online paralegal resources on the Internet make accessing educational and applicable information a lot easier. But unfortunately, the task of creating change is still a tremendous challenge, especially if dealing with a Fortune 500 company and the U.S. government.


Privacy Concerns

**Letter to DOJ on Ombudsman Role**
from The FOIA blog by scott hodes

A number of non-profits have sent a letter to Tony West, the Acting Associate Attorney General asking him to clarify issues raised by the Department of Justice’s recent System of Records modifications in which it classified certain records maintained by the Office of Information Policy as records maintained by the agency in its role as a FOIA Ombudsman.

Last week, the Department issued a press release stating that it would modify the modification because these records concern “compliance inquiries” not actual FOIA Ombudsman duties. The letter to West asks him to further clarify OIP’s role in intervening in FOIA matters that it considers “compliance inquiries.”

http://thefoiablog.typepad.com/the_foia_blog/2012/04/letter-to-doj-on-ombudsman-role.html

International Outlook

**Foreign Governments Barred From Some FOIA Requests**
from The FOIA blog by scott hodes

Judge Ricarda Urbina of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia has ruled that a member of the U.K Parliament and a group composed of U.K. Parliament members are barred from making certain requests under the U.S. FOIA pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(3)(E), an exception to FOIA that prohibits intelligence agencies from granting requests to all non-domestic government entities, their subdivisions and their representatives. Further, the plaintiffs’ attorney was also barred from being a party allowed to bring the request because he was acting in his capacity as their counsel. The Court found that while there was nothing barring the attorney from bringing the request in his own name and giving the documents to whomever he chose; he couldn’t under the law make the request in his clients’ names.

http://thefoiablog.typepad.com/the_foia_blog/2012/04/foreign-governments-barred-from-some-foia-requests.html

Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety.

*The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.*
Freedom of Information

Classified Info in Criminal Trials, and More from CRS
from Secrecy News by Steven Aftergood

Former CIA officer John C. Kiriakou is to be arraigned today on charges of leaking classified information to the press in violation of the Espionage Act and the Intelligence Identities Protection Act — charges that he denies. See The Case of An Accused Leaker: Politics or Justice? by Carrie Johnson, National Public Radio, April 13.


Another newly updated CRS report finds that federal agencies spent $750.4 million last year to pay for “advertising services.” But though non-trivial, it seems that this amount was less than was spent for such purposes in any previous year since 2003.

The term advertising is not strictly defined in budget documents, and may include various forms of public relations, public service notices, and the like. “Government advertising can be controversial if it conflicts with citizens’ views about the proper role of government,” the CRS report stated. “Yet some government advertising is accepted as a normal part of government information activities.”

http://www.fas.org/blog/secrecy/2012/04/classified_trials_crs.html

EFF opposes CISPA on Hackers and Founders Panel
from Deeplinks by dan

Yesterday, EFF participated in a panel discussion about CISPA moderated by CNET’s Declan McCullagh and put on by Hackers and Founders. We were happy to have the opportunity to do so, and although we disagreed quite a bit with a key proponent of the bill, House Permanent Select Intelligence Committee staffer Jamil Jaffer, one area where we agreed is that more people should read the text of the bill. Let’s not let this legislation rush through right when people are starting to question it—if Jamil and other staffers stand behind the bill, why not give it another week or two to let the public debate mature?

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2012/04/eff-opposes-cispa-hackers-and-founders-panel

Public Policy

AHRQ Will No Longer Participate in the NIH Parent Funding Opportunity Announcements related to Understanding and Promoting Health Literacy
from NIH Funding Opportunities (Notices, PA, RFA)

Notice NOT-HS-12-009 from the NIH Guide for Grants and Contracts


Public Structures Save Lives
from All Articles from OMB Watch (Articles Only) by admin

April 17, 2012—Today is Tax Day, and many Americans may be wondering how government uses the revenue it raises from income taxes. One example can be found in the National Weather Service and its Storm Prediction Center. These public structures, funded with our tax dollars, forecasted this past weekend’s violent tornado outbreak in the Plains and the Midwest days ahead of time. Thanks to this advance warning, the National Weather Service helped save countless lives and prevented millions of dollars worth of damage to military aircraft in the face of more than 100 tornadoes spread across several states. The bottom line: public structures save lives.

http://www.ombwatch.org/node/12047
GAO Completes an “Intelligence-Related” Review
from Secrecy News by Steven Aftergood

Following years of controversy, the Government Accountability Office this week released an unclassified version of its long-awaited report on FBI Counterterrorism.

The report itself comes as an anti-climax, but it is the first GAO report involving intelligence-related matters to be completed since the issuance of an intelligence community directive last summer which authorized GAO to gain access to certain intelligence agency information. As such, it may herald a growing role for GAO in intelligence oversight.

Given the FBI’s and the Justice Department’s stubborn resistance to this GAO review, which was suspended for two years as a result, one might have expected the resulting report to address matters of the greatest significance and sensitivity — perhaps dealing with infiltration of mosques, allegations of entrapment, unauthorized domestic surveillance, or something along those lines.

http://www.fas.org/blog/secrecy/2012/04/gao_fbi_ctd.html

Secret Systems Clutter the Electromagnetic Spectrum
from Secrecy News by Steven Aftergood

The difficulty that the military has in allocating the efficient use of the electromagnetic spectrum for military operations is aggravated by the fact that some of those uses — involving intelligence platforms and sensors — are secret even from military planners themselves, a new Pentagon doctrinal publication notes.

“Coordination with intelligence units and agencies can be challenging for many reasons, to include classification issues, disparate data formats, and separate technical control or reporting channels,” the publication states.

http://www.fas.org/blog/secrecy/2012/04/em_clutter.html

“Traitor,” A Whistleblower’s Tale
from Secrecy News by Steven Aftergood

Jesselyn Radack’s memoir “Traitor: The Whistleblower and the American Taliban” presents the moving story of a young attorney’s unexpected encounter with official misconduct, and the excruciating ordeal that ensued when she decided to challenge it.

In 2001, Ms. Radack was a Justice Department attorney and specialist in legal ethics. In response to an official inquiry, she advised that the newly captured John Walker Lindh, the so-called “American Taliban,” should not be interrogated without an attorney present — which he then was anyway. When Department officials publicly denied having received any such legal advice, and even destroyed evidence to the contrary, she exposed the deception.

http://www.fas.org/blog/secrecy/2012/04/traitor.html

Open Access

State Agency Databases
From GODORT
Jump to: navigation, search

In every US State and the District of Columbia, agencies are creating databases of useful information — information on businesses, licensed professionals, plots of land, even dates of fish stocking. Some of this content is available on search engines, but much of it is part of the invisible web.

Since July 2007, librarians and other government information specialists have been working on identifying and annotating these databases in one place. We’ve chased across fifty state web sites so you don’t have to!

Information here changes from time to time. Check out our last seven days’ or 14 days’ worth of activity. Another parallel project of note is the State Blue Books project.

http://wikis.ala.org/godort/index.php/State_Agency_Databases

April 18, 2011 Charity and Security Network newsletter
from All Articles from OMB Watch (Articles Only) by ssazawal

1. The Threat Behind the Homegrown Threat
2. Overcoming Islamophobia through Charity, Advocacy and Education
3. Private funding: An Emerging Trend in Humanitarian Giving
4. Governments Not the Only Major Players in Global Assistance

Public Structures Save Lives
from All Articles from OMB Watch (Articles Only) by admin
April 17, 2012—Today is Tax Day, and many Americans may be wondering how government uses the revenue it raises from income taxes. One example can be found in the National Weather Service and its Storm Prediction Center. These public structures, funded with our tax dollars, forecasted this past weekend’s violent tornado outbreak in the Plains and the Midwest days ahead of time. Thanks to this advance warning, the National Weather Service helped save countless lives and prevented millions of dollars worth of damage to military aircraft in the face of more than 100 tornadoes spread across several states. The bottom line: public structures save lives.

_E image by flickr user [Frank Peters](http://www.flickr.com/photos/53826711@N00/)_, used under a Creative Commons license.

**EPA Releases Open Government Plan 2.0**

_from All Articles from OMB Watch (Articles Only) by admin_

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and other major federal agencies released updated versions of their Open Government Plans on April 9. The EPA's [Open Government Plan 2.0](http://www.epa.gov/ogp/plan.html) discusses its ongoing efforts to increase transparency and instill a culture of greater openness through activities designed to increase participation in rulemaking, allow greater public access to EPA data, and speed the processing of Freedom of Information Act requests.

_http://www.ombwatch.org/node/12050_

**International Outlook**

**Countries Fail at Regulating Money-in-Politics, Regardless**

_Washington D.C., Friday, March 30, 2012_ Regardless of how weak or sophisticated their political financing regulations are, countries around the world are equally failing to effectively regulate the flow of money into politics, a new report finds. The Global Integrity Report: 2011, a major investigative study of 31 countries, was released today by Global Integrity, an award-winning international nonprofit organization that tracks governance and corruption trends globally.

Twenty-nine countries out of a 31-country sample scored less than 60 on a 100-point scale on questions assessing the effectiveness of laws regulating individual and corporate donations to political parties, as well as the auditing of those donations and campaign expenditures. Government monitoring agencies tasked with enforcing such laws typically lack investigative power and often have little to no authority to impose sanctions.


Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety.

_The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association._

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**Intersect Alert April 30, 2012**

_http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2012/04/intersect-alert-april-30-2012/_

April 30, 2012 Categories: Intersect Alert Tags: freedom of information, intellectual property, international outlook, internet access, open access, privacy, public policy

Public Policy

**Top 10 donors make up a third of donations to super PACs**

Contrary to expectations, the much-criticized court decisions that gave us "super PACs" have not led to a tsunami of contributions flowing from the treasuries of Fortune 500 corporations – at least not yet anyway.

Open Government Plans 2.0: Some Agencies Make Strides, Others Just Go Through the Motions

On April 9, federal agencies across the government released updates of their Open Government Plans, a key component of President Obama’s Open Government Initiative. With delegates from 53 countries converging last week in Brazil for the first annual meeting of the global Open Government Partnership (OGP), now is a good time to take stock of the renewed commitments in the updated plans and evaluate the government’s progress on the road to implementation. Overall, the results have been mixed.


CA Legislators Allow Wireless Industry to Continue "Working Day and Night" Selling You Out in Secret

EFF, along with the ACLU of Northern California, is a sponsor of the California Location Privacy Act of 2012 (SB 1434), a bill that would require California law enforcement officers and agencies to seek a search warrant before obtaining electronic location information. Yesterday, the bill passed through the California Senate Committee on Public Safety and is now on its way to the full Senate for consideration. But when it gets there, it will be missing a major, important piece of its text: its reporting requirement.

It's certainly no surprise that there’s opposition whenever a bill proposes making it harder for law enforcement to get information. But in the case of SB 1434, the opposition came from a surprising place: the wireless industry.

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2012/04/ca-legislators-allow-wireless-industry-continue-working-day-and-night-selling-you

DATA Act Passes House, Moves on to Senate

Today, the House passed the Digital Accountability and Transparency Act, or DATA Act (H.R. 2146), by a voice vote with strong bipartisan support. The bill to strengthen the transparency of federal government spending was sponsored by Oversight and Government Reform committee chairman Darrell Issa (R-CA) and ranking member Elijah Cummings (D-MD) and 13 other representatives.

OMB Watch released a statement applauding the DATA Act’s passage.

http://www.ombwatch.org/node/12057

Open Access

Harvard Releases Metadata Into Public Domain

Harvard is making more than 12 million catalog records from its 73 libraries publicly available under a Creative Commons public domain license, the university announced today.

The records can be bulk downloaded from Harvard in the standard MARC21 format, and are available for programmatic access by software applications via API at the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA).


Freedom of Information

Govt Appeals Court-Ordered Release of Classified Document

Government attorneys said yesterday that they would appeal an extraordinary judicial ruling that required the release of a classified document in response to a Freedom of Information Act request.

The document in question is a one-page position paper produced by the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) concerning the U.S. negotiating position in free trade negotiations. It was classified Confidential and was not supposed to be disclosed before 2013.

http://www.fas.org/blog/secrecy/2012/04/ciel_appeal.html

Lt. Col. Danny Davis, Camp Lejeune Documentary and Other Whistleblowers Honored at Ridenhour Awards

Eileen Foster, a former senior executive for the national’s largest mortgage provider, Countrywide Financial, didn’t plan on getting labeled a whistleblower. She was hired to investigate allegations of wrongdoing by company employees. But when she did her job and revealed large-scale fraud within the company—the kind that led to the 2008 financial crash—she was fired for telling the truth.

Foster was one of the truth-tellers honored yesterday at the 9th annual Ridenhour Prizes. The ceremony recognizes those who champion the truth and uphold the spirit of Ron Ridenhour, the former U.S. Army helicopter gunner who exposed the My Lai Massacre based on accounts he had heard from fellow soldiers during the Vietnam War.


Internet Access

The Internet will be a fad with little value
He thought the Internet had no future. Merely a fad. A passing fancy.

MPR News reporter Curtis Gilbert recently stumbled upon a gem from the MPR archives, a 1995 interview with Stoll by MPR host Paula Schroeder.

"STOLL: I’d say it’s not that important. I think it’s grossly oversold and within two or three years people will shrug and say, “Uh yep, it was a fad of the early 90’s and now, oh yeah, it still exists but hey, I’ve got a life to lead and work to do. I don’t have time to waste online.”

http://lisnews.org/the_internet_will_be_a_fad_with_little_value

Privacy Issues

Mobile Payments Can Expose More Consumer Data and Weaken Privacy Laws

Get ready for mobile payments to change how we make in-store purchases and how companies collect information about us. Nearly all the major smartphone manufacturers, Internet service providers (ISPs), credit card issuers, and tech companies are gearing up to provide consumers with mobile payment services.

While this will create interesting and convenient new apps, mobile payments will also provide more consumer data to more companies than traditional offline credit card transactions. Without strong user privacy controls, mobile payments may turn your cell phone into a magnet for telemarketing, spam, and online behavioral advertising.


CDT Statement on Passage of CISPA

The Center for Democracy & Technology is disappointed that CISPA passed the House in such flawed form and under such a flawed process.

We worked very hard in cooperation with the Intelligence Committee to develop amendments to narrow some of the bill’s definitions and to limit its scope. We are very pleased that those amendments were adopted, leaving the bill better for privacy and civil liberties than it was going into the process.

However, we are also disappointed that House leadership chose to block amendments on two core issues we had long identified – the flow of information from the private sector directly to NSA and the use of that information for national security purposes unrelated to cybersecurity.

http://www.cdt.org/pr_statement/cdt-statement-passage-cispa

International Outlook

Palestinian Authority Found to Block Critical News Sites

According to a report from Ma’an News published today, the Palestinian Authority has ordered the blocking of websites belonging to eight news outlets critical of President Mahmoud Abbas. The report states that technicians at PalTel—the largest ISP in the West Bank—tweaked their proxy server and web cache daemon to block the sites, while other ISPs are using similar setups.

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2012/04/palestinian-authority-found-block-critical-news-sites

ACTA in the EU: We Can’t Call it Dead Yet

The Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA) was dealt a major blow on April 12 when MEP David Martin, the European Parliament’s rapporteur for the agreement and member of the Committee responsible for delivering the recommendation to European Parliament to adopt or reject the agreement, announced that he would be recommending a "no" vote. While the prospects of the European Parliament ratifying the agreement seems to have fortunately lessened, it does not mean that it’s a fait accompli that the European Parliament will reject ACTA. As we’ve noted before, ACTA is a plurilateral agreement designed to broaden and extend existing intellectual property enforcement laws to the Internet. It was negotiated in secret by a handful of countries, in a process that intentionally bypassed the checks and balances of existing international IP norm-setting bodies without any meaningful input from national parliaments, policymakers, or their citizens.

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2012/04/acta-eu-we-cant-call-it-dead-yet
Intersect Alert May 7, 2012

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2012/05/intersect-alert-may-7-2012/ May 7, 2012 Categories: Intersect Alert Tags: freedom of information, intellectual property, international outlook, open access, privacy, public policy

**Intellectual Property Issues**

**As An Author, Why I Truly Hate Ebook DRM**

As an author of multiple technical books, and a prolific online writer, I care a lot about intellectual property issues as they pertain to my content. On one level, you might think I would be extremely concerned about people stealing and re-using my content. And don’t get me wrong… I am concerned. I choose distribution licenses carefully and I have pursued those who have scraped my content to simply wrap it in ads. But I do NOT see "DRM" as the answer.

http://www.disruptiveconversations.com/2012/05/as-an-author-why-i-truly-hate-ebook-drm.html

**Hathi Trust, Library Associations Dispute Author’s Guild Motion**

On April 20 the Hathi Trust filed a motion opposing the Author’s Guild’s latest move in the ongoing lawsuit between the two, in which the Guild filed for partial judgment on the pleadings on February 28. The Trust said the Guild’s argument defied common sense as well as Congressional intent in denying that libraries, like anyone else, can mount a fair use defense to an allegation of copyright infringement as well as one based on Section 108. The Trust also argued that the Guild has not shown that there is no issue of fact or law for the court to decide, which is the standard for partial judgment on the pleadings.

http://lj.libraryjournal.com/2012/04/copyright/hathi-trust-library-associations-dispute-authors-guild-motion/

**Freedom of Information**

**DOJ Mulls Response to Request for Watergate Wiretap Records**

A historian of the Richard Nixon presidency wants to review sealed wiretap materials stemming from the 1972 burglary at the Watergate hotel and subsequent criminal prosecutions. "Without these materials, we cannot hope to understand why the break-in occurred in the first place, which resulted in a White House cover-up, the greatest constitutional crisis since the Civil War and the only resignation of an American president."

http://legaltimes.typepad.com/blt/2012/05/doj-mulls-response-to-request-for-watergate-wiretap-records-.html

**John Lydon: Olympics wanted to censor the Sex Pistols**

The Olympics organisers wanted to censor the Sex Pistols, John Lydon has claimed in explanation of the band’s decision to snub the closing ceremony on 12 August. "Censorship mattered more than the content of the Pistols," Lydon told Billboard. "If you’re going to be celebrating what is great about Britain, the honesty of the Sex Pistols is one of those things. If you censor the words of any one song, you’re killing the honesty and I couldn’t tolerate that. We didn’t want nothing to do with them."

http://www.guardian.co.uk/music/2012/may/04/john-lydon-olympics-sex-pistols?newsfeed=true

**Open Access**

**20 years of cowardice: the pathetic response of American universities to the crisis in scholarly publishing**

When Harvard University says it can not afford something, people notice. So it was last month when a faculty committee examining the future of the university’s libraries declared that the continued growth of journal subscription fees was unsustainable. The accompanying calls for faculty action are being hailed as a major challenge to the traditional publishers of scholarly journals.

http://www.guardian.co.uk/music/2012/may/04/john-lydon-olympics-sex-pistols?newsfeed=true

**EPA Improves Public Access to Geographic Information Systems Tools**

On April 26, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency publicly released a collection of web-based tools to enhance access to environmental information and encourage public
participation in taxpayer-funded projects. The NEPAssist website provides tools for users to analyze environmental and geographic data and evaluate the potential environmental and public health impacts of proposed federal projects. More specifically, the website displays environmental and demographic data from many locations and sources on an interactive map.

http://www.ombwatch.org/node/12068

Public Policy

CDT to FCC: Wireless Shutdowns Are Never the Right Choice

From Baghdad to Balochistan province to the Bay Area, governments around the world are increasingly turning to the tactic of shutting down wireless communications networks to silence political protest. While the Bay Area Rapid Transit officials’ actions this past August may have been more limited in scope than, say, the Internet shutdown ordered by former Egyptian President Mubarak a year ago, it still has the potential to set troubling precedent for wireless interruption in the US. CDT joined a coalition of other civil liberties groups in filing comments yesterday responding to the FCC’s inquiry.

https://www.cdt.org/blogs/emma-llanso/0105cdt-fcc-wireless-shutdowns-are-never-right-choice

Privacy Issues

DOJ Official: Any Privacy Protection is Too Much Privacy Protection for Cell Phone Tracking

Jason Weinstein, a deputy assistant attorney general in the Department of Justice’s criminal division, told a panel at the Congressional Internet Caucus Advisory Committee’s "State of the Mobile Net" conference yesterday that requiring a search warrant to obtain location tracking information from cell phones would "cripple" prosecutors and law enforcement officials. We couldn’t disagree more.

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2012/05/easier-gov-access-cell-phone-records-cripples-privacy

International Outlook

Federal libraries, archives shutting down

The [Canadian] federal government is eliminating a series of libraries and archives throughout different departments as part of the latest budget cuts. Library and Archives Canada alone has received or will still receive more than 400 affected notices and the department announced 20 per cent of its workforce would be let go. The cuts to the government’s archival collections stretch beyond just one department, though. Libraries at the transport, immigration and public works departments will be eliminated.


Kuwait Prepares to Crack Down on Social Media

Kuwait’s Information Minister, Minister Sheikh Mohammad al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, announced last week that Kuwait plans to pass new laws regulating the use of social networking sites such as Twitter in order to "safeguard the cohesiveness of the population and society." The Information Minister’s announcement reflects growing panic over comments in social media deemed to incite the mounting sectarian tension between Sunnis and Shi’ites throughout the region.

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2012/05/kuwait-prepares-crack-down-social-media

Joint Meeting: SLA International Leadership

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2012/05/joint-meeting-sla-national-leadership/ May 11, 2012 Categories: Bayline, Chapter Programs & Events Tags: events, take action

A Very Special Joint Meeting of the
The San Francisco Bay Region and Silicon Valley Chapters

An Evening with SLA International Leadership:

Janice Lachance, Brent Mai, and Deb Hunt
Thursday, May 31, 2012, 5:30 – 8:00 pm
Delancey Street Club
San Francisco
Please join us for dinner and a panel discussion featuring CEO Janice Lachance, President Brent Mai, and our very own President-Elect Deb Hunt!

Our panel will be moderated by longtime SF Chapter Member David Grossman. David will be posing questions submitted by chapter members, so start thinking about what you’d like to hear from our leadership! Submit questions to tlandolt@reprintsdesk.com or hschiral@library.berkeley.edu by Friday, May 25.

Our annual joint chapter meeting is an excellent opportunity to network not only with your Bay Area colleagues, but also with SLA leadership. Don’t miss the chance to talk with SLA’s current President, President Elect, and CEO, all at the same time. Learn more about where the organization is going, and get their perspectives on trends in our profession. The evening will include networking time (with no host bar) and a plated dinner (chicken, salmon, or vegetarian), followed by the panel discussion.

When: Thursday, May 31, 2012, 5:30 – 8:00 PM

Agenda:
5:30 PM – 6:15 PM Check-in and networking
6:30 PM – 7:00 PM Dinner
6:45 PM – 8:00 PM Panel discussion

Cost: $30 for SLA members, $60 for non-members, and $25 for students, retired, and between jobs members.

Registration Deadline: Friday, May 25, 2012 – CLOSED

Registration Form: Mail-in Registration

Thank you to IEEE for their generous sponsorship of this meeting.

Intersect Alert May 14, 2012

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2012/05/intersect-alert-may-14-2012/

May 14, 2012 Categories: Intersect Alert Tags: intellectual property, international outlook, internet access, libraries, privacy

Intellectual Property Issues

Oracle v. Google and the Dangerous Implications of Treating APIs as Copyrightable

There has been no lack of ink spilled on the legal battle between Oracle and Google surrounding Google’s use of Java APIs in its Android OS. And no wonder, what with testimony by both Larrys (Page and Ellison), claims of damages up to $1 billion, and rampant speculation that a ruling in Oracle’s favor could change the way we all use the Internet. Today, we got our first taste of where this all might be heading: the jury came back with a finding that, assuming APIs are subject to copyright, Google has infringed at least some of Oracle’s.

http://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2012/05/oracle-v-google-and-dangerous-implications-treating-apis-copyrightable

Exercises in democracy: building a digital public library

Most neighborhoods in America have a public library. Now the biggest neighborhood in America, the Internet, wants a library of its own. Last week, Ars attended a conference held by the Digital Public Library of America, a nascent group of intellectuals hoping to put all of America’s library holdings online.


Internet Access

Harvesting and Preserving the Future Web

Kris Carpenter Negulescu of the Internet Archive and David Rosenthal organized a half-day workshop on the problems of harvesting and preserving the future Web during the International Internet Preservation Coalition General Assembly 2012 at the Library of Congress. In preparation for the workshop, a list was put together of 13 problem areas already causing problems for Web preservation.

http://blog.dshr.org/2012/05/harvesting-and-preserving-future-web.html

Should Ambassadors Tweet? U.S. Embassies and Social Media

Twitter has become an important tool for social revolutions and civilian mobilization across the world, from Egypt to London to Iran, and has been increasingly embraced by the U.S. government. A Sunlight Foundation investigation looked at Twitter use by U.S. embassies and found that approximately 69 percent of embassies have official or semi-official Twitter
Privacy Issues

And the privacy invasion award goes to …

Who’s playing fast and loose with your data? The Big Brother Awards, billed as the "Oscars for data leeches" by the hackers and privacy advocates who hand out the prizes, shine a high-intensity spotlight on companies and individuals with poor privacy track records.

Myspace Settles FTC Charges That It Misled Millions of Users About Sharing Personal Information with Advertisers

Social networking service Myspace has agreed to settle Federal Trade Commission charges that it misrepresented its protection of users’ personal information. The settlement, part of the FTC’s ongoing efforts make sure companies live up to the privacy promises they make to consumers, bars Myspace from future privacy misrepresentations, requires it to implement a comprehensive privacy program, and calls for regular, independent privacy assessments for the next 20 years.

Libraries

The "Pop-Up" Library: A Mini-Movement of Knowledge

This rainy Tuesday in Brooklyn seemed to be starting off in the same fashion. I left home walking to the subway to head into Manhattan when I passed two people under a bus stop giving away free books and coffee. As a resident of New York City I have grown accustomed to keeping my head down, walking at a fast pace with the unmitigated intent of getting to my destination. However, the bright colors of the furniture filled with books along with the friendliness of these two individuals made me stop and do a double-take. I was glad I did. Margaret, an unemployed librarian, and Adam, an architect looking for work, decided to create the "pop-up" library.

Are Public Libraries "Permanently F***ed?" Maybe Not

Jessa Crispin arrived at the 2012 Public Library Association Conference in Philadelphia in March with high expectations. And by high, we mean abysmal. "Secure in the knowledge that libraries are now permanently fucked," wrote the editor-in-Chief of the popular "litblog" Bookslut. Surely librarians would crumble before her, the harsh fiscal realities having reduced the bibliognosts into heaps of despair, wailing about furloughs and nonexistent arts grants. But the whole affair seemed rather … hopeful. "I was not sensing any anxiety that day, and it was pissing me off," Crispin says.

Freedom of Information

Frank Zappa on CNN’s Crossfire (1986)

In 1986, Frank Zappa appeared on CNN’s Crossfire to discuss rock lyrics and censorship. Let’s just say the exchange got a little heated.

NSA Declassifies Secret Document After Publishing It

The National Security Agency last week invoked a rarely-used authority in order to declassify a classified document that was mistakenly posted on the NSA website with all of its classified passages intact. Among other things, the NSA’s abrupt declassification of the the document shows that the Interagency Security Classification Appeals Panel needs to recalibrate its document review procedures.

Shareholders: The Next Transparency Advocates

A new breed of transparency advocate is making itself heard this week, taking to the streets and to corporate boardrooms to demand transparency from corporations that use shareholder money to engage in political activities. These corporate transparency advocates also inundated the Securities and Exchange Commission with more than 178,000 letters in support of a rule mandating disclosure. The growing discontent among shareholders may be a result of learning that corporations are spending their money on positions the shareholders disagree with.

International Outlook
Database on transnational company agreements

The database contains all transnational company agreements and texts identified and catalogued by the European Commission. It also contains sheets with details on every company and agreement.


Intersect Alert May 21, 2012

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2012/05/intersect-alert-may-21-2012/ May 21, 2012 Categories: Intersect Alert Tags: freedom of information, international outlook, internet access, privacy, public policy

Freedom of Information

Georgia State Copyright Case: What You Need To Know—and What It Means for E-Reserves

One of the most closely watched e-reserve cases in recent memory came to an end — though an appeal is still possible — on May 11, when Judge Orinda Evans of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia ruled in Cambridge University Press (CUP); Oxford University Press (OUP); Sage Publications v. Georgia State University (GSU). The case alleged copyright infringement in GSU’s e-reserves, and in essence the judge came down on the side of libraries in a 350-page decision delivered almost a year after she heard closing arguments.


Big Business Suing to Stop Notices Informing Workers of Their Right to Organize

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce and other industry representatives are blocking a new rule that would better inform workers of their legal rights. The rule, issued by the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) in August 2011, would inform employees of their right to organize and bargain collectively. The rule would add to the existing framework of policies to protect workers’ right to know, but business lawsuits are preventing it from taking effect.

http://www.ombwatch.org/node/12081

Two Steps Forward on Improving Public Access to Legislative Information

First, Rep. Honda gave a tantalizing hint of progress on bulk access to legislative data at this morning’s subcommittee markup of the Legislative Branch Appropriations bill. Second, the objections raised by legislative support agencies are not particularly weighty, at least according to a 2008 memo from the Library of Congress to the Committee on House Administration regarding the availability of THOMAS data.

http://sunlightfoundation.com/blog/2012/05/18/two-steps-forward-on-improving-public-access-to-legislative-information/

On Censorship, by Salman Rushdie

No writer ever really wants to talk about censorship. Writers want to talk about creation, and censorship is anti-creation, negative energy, uncreation, the bringing into being of non-being, or, to use Tom Stoppard’s description of death, "the absence of presence."

http://www.newyorker.com/online/blogs/books/2012/05/on-censorship-salman-rushdie.html

Utah Federal Court Protects Free Speech By Restricting Internet Law

People cannot be prosecuted for posting content constitutionally protected for adults on generally accessible websites, and are not required by law to label such content that they do post. U.S. District Judge Dee Benson ruled yesterday. Judge Benson’s order was issued in a lawsuit challenging a Utah law that threatened the free speech rights of online content providers and Internet users.


Privacy Issues

Hearing on the Geolocation Privacy and Surveillance (GPS) Act

GPS is only one technology for cell location, and while it is the most visible to the end user, GPS is neither the most pervasive nor the most generally applicable cellular phone location system, especially in the surveillance context. More ubiquitously available are techniques that (unlike GPS) do not depend on satellites or special hardware in the handset, but
rather on radio signal data collected and analyzed at the cellular
providers’ towers and base stations.


International Outlook

Swedish Telecom Giant TeliaSonera Caught Helping
Authoritarian Regimes Spy on Their Citizens

According to a recent investigation by the Swedish news show
Uppdrag Granskning, Sweden’s telecommunications giant
TeliaSonera is the latest Western company revealed to be
colluding with authoritarian regimes by selling them high-tech
surveillance gear to spy on its citizens. TeliaSonera has
allegedly enabled the governments of Belarus, Uzbekistan,
Azerbaijan, Tajikistan, Georgia and Kazakhstan to spy on
journalists, union leaders, and members of the political
opposition.

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2012/05/swedish-telcom-giant-
teliaisonera-caught-helping-authoritarian-regimes-spy-its

ITU Discussions Must Be Opened

Civil society organizations from around the world are
requesting more transparency from the International
Telecommunication Union (ITU) as it considers proposals that
could give it power to regulate the Internet.

https://www.cdt.org/blogs/cynthia-wong/1705itu-discussions-
must-be-opened

President’s Message: Event Reminder and an Update on Bayline

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2012/05/presidents-message-event-reminder-and-an-update-on-bayline/ May 21, 2012 Categories:
Bayline, Chapter Programs & Events Tags: President's message

All year I’ve been talking about community, and coming up at
the end of this month we have an excellent opportunity to build
our community connections as we host our annual joint
meeting with Silicon Valley. You’ll have a chance to meet old
friends and learn what your colleagues down in the valley have
been up to, in a great location not too far from home. Delancey
Street Restaurant (http://www.delanceystreetfoundation.org
/enterrestaurant.php) will have a private room for us with a
beautiful view of the bay. It will be a fine night out.

Socializing is important, but we’ll also have an exceptional
speaker panel, including Janice Lachance, SLA’s CEO; Brent
Mai, the association’s President; and our own Deb Hunt,
President-Elect. Chapter member David Grossman will lead
the panel discussion with our three guests, who will give their
perspectives on trends in information industries, as well as the
SLA organization. We’ll be looking for audience participation,
so get your questions ready.

Don’t miss out! Register today on our website:
http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2012/05/joint-meeting-sla-national-
leadership/

I also want to update you all on our newsletter, Bayline, which
has been conspicuous in its absence. As I announced in
February, we’ve moved Bayline out of PDF and into a web-
based format. Our plan had been to feed new content from the
website weekly, and send you all e-mail updates on content
approximately once a month. Unfortunately, our Bayline
editor, Alys Tryon, has had to step away from the newsletter
for a little while, which has put a crimp in our plans. We wish
Alys the best, and look forward to having her back with us
soon. In the meantime, as news comes in, I’ll incorporate key
Bayline updates in my President’s Messages. In April, we had two posts.

- Ian Palmer looks at content curation technologies: http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/category/bayline/

If you’ve got news worthy of Bayline, please send it along!

Finally I want you all to know that the board has recognized a need to give our members more specific opportunities to get involved with the chapter. As we’re beginning to look at our plans for next year, and build out our Advisory Council, we’re looking at ways we can provide opportunities beyond these board positions and get our members interacting with each other. I want to hear from all of you about the kinds of opportunities you’re looking for, and the skills you’d like to develop.

Questions? Questions? Questions?

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2012/05/questions-questions-questions/ May 23, 2012 Categories: Bayline, Chapter Programs & Events Tags: events, take action

This is YOUR opportunity to ask our expert SLA Leadership panel:

- Chief Executive Officer: Janice Lachance
- President: Brent Mai
- President Elect: Deb Hunt

Our prestigious panelists will answer your questions at a very special joint meeting of the San Francisco Bay Region and Silicon Valley SLA Chapters on Thursday, May 31st.

Time will be limited, so please send us your questions NOW to be certain your question will be answered and please register now to attend the dinner and a very lively panel discussion (if you haven’t registered already).

Intersect Alert May 28, 2012

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2012/05/intersect-alert-may-28-2012/ May 28, 2012 Categories: Intersect Alert Tags: freedom of information, government, intellectual property, international outlook, open access, privacy, research, social media, take action

Happy Memorial Day!

I hope you enjoy the day. Please take a moment to remember the women and men in uniform for whom this holiday exists. As information professionals, please also take a moment to think about how our work is relevant to veterans and military families, whether it be unveiling the secrecy surrounding military activities and their aftermath (think Agent Orange), or providing professional help: Infopeople has scheduled a webinar called “Operation Health: Resources for Veterans and Their Families.” It’s June 13, 12-1pm. Details and registration: http://infopeople.org/training/operation-health-resources-veterans-and-their-families.

Take Action!

Require free access over the Internet to scientific journal articles arising from taxpayer-funded research.

The highly successful Public Access Policy of the National Institutes of Health proves that this can be done without disrupting the research process, and we urge President Obama to act now to implement open access policies for all federal agencies that fund scientific research.

The petition is here: https://www.s.whitehouse.gov/petitions/
Call to Action: Join the Fight Against Cyber Spying

Proposals in the Senate

EFF and an array of civil liberties organizations are engaged in a pitched battle against the privacy-invasive legislation Congress is pushing under the guise of promoting “cyber security.” Everyone agrees that network security is important, but a thinly disguised mass surveillance bill won’t help address the needs of our country in defending our networks.

Use this online form to contact Congress

More suggestions for action: https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2012/05/call-action-join-fight-against-cyber-spying-proposals senate

Open Access

UCSF Implements Policy to Make Research Papers Freely Accessible to Public

The UCSF Academic Senate has voted to make electronic versions of current and future scientific articles freely available to the public, helping to reverse decades of practice on the part of medical and scientific journal publishers to restrict access to research results.

The unanimous vote of the faculty senate makes UCSF the largest scientific institution in the nation to adopt an open-access policy and among the first public universities to do so.

http://www.ucsf.edu/news/2012/05/12056/ucsf-implements-policy-make-research-papers-freely-accessible-public

Intellectual Property Issues

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing files for bankruptcy

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Co., the publisher of authors from Mark Twain to J.R.R. Tolkien, sought bankruptcy protection to eliminate more than $3 billion in debt.

The company, based in Boston, listed assets and debt of more than $1 billion each in Chapter 11 documents filed today in US Bankruptcy Court in Manhattan.

http://www.boston.com/businessupdates/2012/05/21/houghton-mifflin-harcourt-publishing-files-for-bankruptcy /YsYKHm1cGxpDPkLna20J/story.html

Restrictions on WikiLeaks Documents Challenged in Court

The publication of leaked classified documents by WikiLeaks continues to confound government officials and to generate some unusual legal tangles. Last month, attorneys for a Guantanamo prisoner asked a federal court to nullify the restrictions that the government has imposed on access to and dissemination of the leaked records, so that the prisoner can prepare a response to the disclosures contained in them.

http://www.fas.org/blog/secrecy/2012/05/wikileaks_faraj.html

Bay Area immigration records, destined for dustbin, will be released Tuesday

Tens of thousands of old West Coast immigration records the government once sought to throw away will instead become publicly available on Tuesday at a Bay Area archive. Photographs, letters, health records, interview transcripts and other historical documents were destined for a recycling bin or a remote Midwestern storage facility. “We changed that plan. We’re making them permanent,” said spokeswoman Sharon Rummery of U.S. Immigration and Citizenship Services. Archivists credit the advocacy of the late U.S. Rep. Tom Lantos, D-San Mateo, and his successor, Rep. Jackie Speier, D-San Mateo, for helping to save the collection. The documents will be housed at the San Francisco National Archives in San Bruno and open to the public beginning Tuesday.

http://www.contracostatimes.com/census/ci_20646026/
Public Policy

Contracting Government By Cutting Census Bureau Programs

On May 9, 2012, the U.S. House of Representative adopted the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2013. In addition to cutting $20 million from this year’s Economic Census, H.R. 5326 contained an amendment proposed by Rep. Daniel Webster (R-FL) that would eliminate funding—an estimated $2.5 billion over the 10 years—for the American Community Survey (ACS). As one of the tea-party officials who entered the House in 2010 on a platform to “streamline government and stop wasteful spending,” Webster pointed to the intrusive nature of the census questions as his primary rationale for eliminating the program. ACS “hardly fits the scope of what is required by the Constitution,” prying into Americans’ lives. Webster’s spokeswoman, Kelly Kwas, said that the Representative felt the survey tramples on personal privacy” and was “wasteful” of taxpayer funds. Recognizing the need for across-the-board budget cuts, the Census Bureau had already cut several strategic publications from its FY2012 budget estimate, including Statistical Abstracts, which has been “rescued” by ProQuest and Bernan Press. In a statement released on May 10, the Census Bureau said eliminating the ACS would “mark the first time in the country’s history that we would not collect and share vital economic and demographic measures of the country. These cuts would also keep us from conducting the 2012 economic census. Eliminating the American Community Survey would make it extremely difficult if not impossible to contain the costs of the 2020 census.”

Digital History

Abraham Lincoln Did Not Invent Facebook: How a Guy and His Blog Fooled the Whole Wide Internet

It started with a headline I saw pinging around Twitter yesterday afternoon. Abraham Lincoln, my friends’ tweets informed me, had invented a 19th-century version of Facebook. Yes! This previously unknown tidbit, it turns out, was the discovery of a guy in Milwaukee who had happened to take a day off work — and then happened (serendipity!) to visit a circus graveyard in Delavan, Wisconsin — and then happened (serendipity again!) to visit the Lincoln Library in Springfield, Illinois — and then happened (serendipity some more!) to discover that Mr. Lincoln had once filed a patent application for a newspaper that would, via profiles and updates, “keep People aware of Others in the Town.”

International Outlook

Governmental Access to Data in the Cloud – A comparative analysis of ten international jurisdictions

“This White Paper examines the extent to which access to data in the Cloud by governments in various jurisdictions is possible, regardless of where a Cloud provider is located.”

From Canada: Cuts to archives threaten our ability to preserve our precious heritage

On April 30, Library and Archives Canada eliminated the $1.71-million National Archival Development Program and made drastic cuts to its own staffing. These cuts are devastating to the Canadian archival network and to Canadian documentary heritage.

Privacy Issues

Troves of Personal Data, Forbidden to Researchers

When scientists publish their research, they also make the underlying data available so the results can be verified by other scientists.

At least that is how the system is supposed to work. But lately social scientists have come up against an exception that is, true to its name, huge.

It is "big data," the vast sets of information gathered by researchers at companies like Facebook, Google and Microsoft from patterns of cellphone calls, text messages and Internet clicks by millions of users around the world. Companies often refuse to make such information public, sometimes for competitive reasons and sometimes to protect customers' privacy. But to many scientists, the practice is an invitation to bad science, secrecy and even potential fraud.

Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety.
Mosaic: What’s Happening With Our Members

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2012/06/mosaic-whats-happening-with-our-members-2/ June 1, 2012 Categories: Bayline, Chapter Programs & Events Tags: member highlights

By Judy Bolstad, Editor

Congratulations to Rita Evans!

Rita Evans will receive the Transportation Division’s Professional Achievement Award at SLA’s Annual Conference in July. Rita is the director of the Institute of Transportation Studies Library at the University of California, Berkeley. She has chaired the Transportation Division and many of its committees, working to ensure sound finances and revamping an annual day-long program at the annual conference. She was a member of SLA’s Division Assessment Task Force for Division Cabinet, where she advocated the concept of viability for small divisions.

Rita is also active in transportation librarianship outside of the division, serving as Secretary of the Transportation Research Board’s library committee for the past five years, presenting at annual meetings, and serving on a panel to improve information management in state transportation agencies. She is the co-author of the “Transportation Engineering” chapter in CRC Press’s Using the Engineering Literature. Rita was President of the San Francisco Bay Region Chapter from 1997-1998 and received the Chapter Award for Professional Achievement in 2005.

A Presentation

Nancy Crossfield, of the Owen Medical Library, Saint Agnes Medical Center in Fresno, gave an invited talk in May to the San Joaquin chapter of the crime-writers’ group Sisters in Crime. She introduced them to special libraries, medical Internet sites (basic, disasters, drugs, lab tests, free apps), forensic blogs, resources such as Blood at the Source, and cool stuff such as the Nursing Skills database (animations of procedures), photo atlases (rattlesnake bites in color) and surgical instrument guides (great for unusual wounds!).

Report on National Library Week

Cindy Beck Weller shares that the attorneys and staff at Cooper White & Cooper LLP celebrated National Library Week this year. The 15th annual event featured a week of games, demos, and treats, drawing attention to the library and its contributions to the firm. This year’s theme, Rev it Up! @ your Library, encouraged researchers to update their online and print research skills by introducing them to new products and publications. The campaign played upon a race theme, using quotes from race car drivers, checkered flags and, of course, a few toy race cars! Fun was had by all at the week’s culmination party where a drawing for Giants tickets was held.

Dear readers:

The next submission deadline is July 25.

Please continue to send me your news. Photos (with captions) are also welcome. I look forward to hearing from you!

Judy Bolstad, Editor, Mosaic column, jbolstad@library.berkeley.edu

Intersect Alert June 3, 2012

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2012/06/intersect-alert-june-3-2012/ June 3, 2012 Categories: Intersect Alert Tags: freedom of information, government, intellectual property, open access, privacy

Freedom of Information

Instead of Ramping Up, Declassification Activity Slowed in 2011

“The total number of pages of government records that were
reviewed for declassification last year, as well as the number that were actually declassified, declined slightly from the year before, according to the 2011 annual report from the Information Security Oversight Office (ISOO) that was published today.

http://www.fas.org/blog/secrecy/2012/05/declass_down.html

CIA Stops Charging Declassification Fees ...For Now. White House and Congressional Intervention Still Needed.

“The Central Intelligence Agency’s legal counsel has confirmed that “as a courtesy to requesters,” the Agency, “has decided not to charge fees under the new [Mandatory Declassification Review] regulation while judicial review of the regulation is pending.” The CIA, however, still “believes the new regulation is within the scope of its authority.” Fee language has been absent in CIA letters responding to MDR requests from the National Security Archive.”


Congress Will Allow Energy Dept to Reclassify Nuke Info

“Congress is poised to amend the Atomic Energy Act to allow certain nuclear weapons-related information that is classified as Formerly Restricted Data (FRD) to be restored to the Restricted Data (RD) category.”

http://www.fas.org/blog/secrecy/2012/05/frd_reclass.html

Appropriators May Undercut Legislative Transparency House

“Appropriators may deal a tremendous blow to prospects for improving public access to legislative information. In a draft report expected to accompany the Legislative Branch Appropriations Bill for 2013, scheduled for a full committee vote tomorrow, appropriators misunderstand how data can be “authenticated,” and kick responsibility for improving public access to legislative data to a non-public task force with no set reporting date. Unless corrected, this draft report represents a tremendous step backward for transparency, and fails to seriously grapple with the history of efforts to free legislative information for widespread public use.”

http://sunlightfoundation.com/blog/2012/05/30/appropriators-may-undercut-legislative-transparency/

Move to Declassify FISA Court Rulings Yields No Results

“An initiative that was started two years ago to declassify significant rulings of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court regarding domestic intelligence surveillance has produced no declassified records, a Justice Department official confirmed last week.”

http://www.fas.org/blog/secrecy/2012/05/fisa_null.html

The state of open records laws: Access denied

“Early last month, lawmakers in Iowa completed work on a new open records statute. Senate File 430 creates the Iowa Public Information Board, a nine-member commission charged with enforcing the state’s open records and meetings laws. For good government advocates in the Hawkeye State, the new legislation was cause for celebration — sort of.”

http://www.iwatchnews.org/2012/06/01/9037/state-open-records-laws-access-denied

California State Senate Moves Key Transparency Bills

“The California State Senate on Thursday approved a couple of key transparency bills that will both help to make government documents more accessible online, and provide funding for the state’s decrepit online lobbyist disclosure system Cal-Access. The senate on Thursday voted 34-0 to approve an open data bill sponsored by Sen. Leland Yee, (D-San Francisco/San Mateo.) The body also voted 27-10 to approve a bill sponsored by Yee that establishes a new fund that would pay for upgrades to the state lobbyist disclosure database. The Political Disclosure, Access, and Transparency Fund will be financed by doubling the fees that California’s 2,000 registered lobbyists have to pay to filing forms with the government regarding their activities.”


A.G. Schneiderman Launches “NY Open Government” Online Tool To Promote Transparency & Accountability

“Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman took another major step in his drive to bolster transparency in state government by launching “New York Open Government,” a major expansion of the office’s Project Sunlight website. The new site is designed to help voters, the media and government watchdogs hold state government accountable by providing the public with comprehensive, up-to-date, and user-friendly information on campaign contributions, lobbying, and state contracts.”


Public Policy

Obama Plans to Further Harness Technology for Transparency

“A new White House strategy could revolutionize transparency by reforming the fundamentals of how government uses technology. The plan lays out procedures for establishing openness as the default for public information and raises the bar for usability, efficiency, and innovation. The reforms promise to make government information easier to find and use through a series of concrete actions to be taken over the next year and would help Americans engage with their government.”

http://www.ombwatch.org/node/12089

Bulk Access Developments after the H. Approps Hearing

“In the last 24 hours there have been three significant developments on providing the public with better access to legislative information. The Appropriations Committee approved a fundamentally flawed report; Rep. Honda spoke out in favor of bulk access to legislative information; and Speaker Boehner’s spokesperson reaffirmed House Republicans’ commitment to bulk data while simultaneously praising the
move by appropriators.”
http://sunlightfoundation.com/blog/2012/06/01/bulk-access-developments-after-the-h-approps-hearing/

Open Access

Horizon 2020: A €80 Billion Battlefield for Open Access
“As negotiations proceed to shape the next installment of Europe’s gargantuan research funding programs, scientists, librarians, and publishers are eagerly awaiting the answer to a critical question: How strong will the new 7-year program, called Horizon 2020, be on Open Access (OA)? The European Commission has said that making the research it funds widely available is one of its priorities.”
http://news.sciencemag.org/scienceinsider/2012/05/horizon-2020-a-80-billion-battle.html

British Library, Open Rights Group and ISPs accused of “tawdry theft”
“The chief executive of the Publishers Association has accused organisations including the British Library and the Open Rights Group of using the language of freedom of expression “as a cloak for their tawdry theft”. Speaking at the Westminster Media Forum, Richard Mollet said that these organisations, along with research councils, ISPs and search engines were trying to erode copyright and that using the language of freedom of expression was a “grotesque attempt to draw moral equivalence between stealing someone’s work and the struggle for political representation”.”
http://www.wired.co.uk/news/archive/2012-05/29/publishers-association-criticises-copyright-reform

Digital History

Warning over digital archive ‘black hole’
“The National Library of Scotland said online and social media coverage from the past 20 years was disappearing. It has urged the UK government to act swiftly on proposals to give libraries the legal right to collect and store electronic publications. Legislation passed in 2003 is scheduled to be implemented in 2013.”
http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-18250826

Privacy Concerns

When the Government Comes Knocking, Who Has Your Back?
“When you use the Internet, you entrust your thoughts, experiences, locations, and more to companies like Google, Twitter, and Facebook. But what happens when the government asks these companies to hand over your private information? Will the company stand with you? Today, the Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF) releases its second annual “When the Government Comes Knocking, Who Has Your Back?” report – this time as a white paper and chart tracking some of the Internet’s biggest service providers on their public commitments to their users’ privacy and security.”
https://www.eff.org/press/releases/when-government-comes-knocking-who-has-your-back

Intellectual Property

ALA 2012: PW Talks with Jonathan Band, Lawyer to the Library Community
“Can’t we all just get along? For all the common interests between the library and publishing communities—interests vividly on display at the ALA annual conference—relations have been strained in recent years by significant legal and legislative developments. Digitization, open access, licensing, and a thorny e-book transition have yielded contentious court battles, market actions, and controversial legislation that cuts to the heart of the library enterprise. . . The library community is fortunate to have a strong, savvy legal and legislative team, including the American Library Association’s Washington office, the Association of Research Libraries, and the Association of College and Research Librarians. And they have Jonathan Band. An experienced intellectual property attorney, Band is a valued consultant to libraries, and the author of many of the library community’s court briefs. Band has been a busy man. In recent years, new technology has led to unprecedented court battles, from the Georgia State case to Google and the HathiTrust. PW caught up with Band to talk about the lawsuits and litigation now facing libraries.”

Authors Guild vs. Google Books Now a Class Action Lawsuit
“The Authors Guild’s case against Google Books is now a class action suit, as of May 31. Judge Denny Chin did not find Google’s survey showing that many authors have different views of the damage done them, if any, by Google Books, reason enough not to certify the class. “That some class members may prefer to leave the alleged violation of their rights unremedied is not a basis for finding the lead plaintiffs inadequate,”’ he said.”
http://lj.libraryjournal.com/2012/06/copyright/authors-guild-vs-google-books-now-a-class-action-lawsuit/

International Outlook

National Printing Office Unveils New Digital Library in Costa Rica
“Thanks to an initiative by the National Printing Office, public school students in Costa Rica will soon be able to access all their mandatory reading assignments online. The project named “Editorial Digital” was presented to the government weeks ago, and according to Jarmon Noguera Gonzalez of La Prensa Libre, the initiative also aims to foster good reading habits among citizens of Costa Rica.”

Spread the news and sign the petition to save Library and Archives Canada (LAC)
“Here’s more news from our Canadian colleagues regarding the ongoing erosion of library services and Library and Archives
Google To Chinese Searchers: Your Search Interruptions Are Not Our Fault
“Google announced on their blog that they have noticed an increase in complaints from searchers in mainland China. The issues they are reporting is that Google.com and searchers are not coming up, as if Google.com is down. So Google investigated their servers and operations and noticed no issues with anything on Google’s side. So they ran some tests and were able to confirm that many queries lead to Google acting as if Google is unreachable.”

See also this story from USA Today: Google helps Chinese avoid censorship

Chapter Tour of the Asian Art Museum’s Library Center — Registration Open!

A Tour of The Asian Art Museum’s C. Laan Chun Library Center

Thursday, June 21st, 2012 6:00 – 7:30 PM

Asian Art Museum
San Francisco

Please join us for a tour of one of the most comprehensive research libraries on Asian art and culture in the United States.

With over 40,000 titles and more than 230 active serial subscriptions, as well as auction catalogs, microforms, and photograph collections the C. Laan Chun Library Center has many materials, both rare and scholarly, not available in many of the local university and college libraries.

Subject areas cover not only art but archaeology, architecture, landscape architecture, history, philosophy, religion, folk culture, festivals and folklore, literature, the performing arts, and music, as well as some specialized materials on Asian science and medicine.

Museum Librarian John Stucky will be our guide to the C. Laan Chun Library Center. He will show us some of the collections, and discuss the library’s role as a museum library with an in-depth collection of material on the culture and cultural history of Asia.

Getting There: The Asian Art Museum is located in the building that formerly housed the San Francisco Public Library, at 200 Larkin St, between McAllister and Fulton. The Civic Center BART Station is only about a block away. Parking is very limited in this part of San Francisco, so use of public transportation is advised.

Registration: CLOSED **This tour is limited to 25 attendees, so please register early!**

Registration Form: Mail-in Registration
Intersect Alert June 10, 2012

House Approves Legislative Branch Appropriations Bill While Leadership Prioritizes Bulk Access

“The House of Representatives approved the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (H.R. 5882) today by a vote of 307-102. The bill spends $3.3 billion overall, about $33 million below the FY 2012 level and $190 million below the requested level. Under the bill, the Library of Congress receives $592.6 million, an increase of $5.3 million above the FY 2012 enacted level and $10.9 million below the requested level. The bill allocates $122.6 million for the Government Printing Office (GPO), $3.6 million below the FY 2012 enacted level and $3.6 million below the requested level.”
http://aallwash.wordpress.com/2012/06/08/4073/

Major Transparency Milestone in Bulk Access Statement

“It may feel like an ordinary Wednesday, but today is a milestone for legislative transparency. The House’s leadership has issued a statement adopting the goal of “provid[ing] bulk access to legislative information to the American people without further delay.” They have stated that bulk access “ranks among our top priorities in the 112th Congress” and directed a task force “to begin its important work immediately.”
http://sunlightfoundation.com/blog/2012/06/06/major-transparency-milestone-in-bulk-access-statement/

Congressional data may soon be easier to use online

“Online, searching for a bill in Congress feels a little like time travel: Go looking for legislation, and you wind up in the Internet of 1995. At Congress’s ’90s-vintage archive site, there’s no way to compare bills side by side. No tool to measure the success rate of a bill’s sponsor. And there’s certainly no way to leave a comment. Congress makes it hard for outside sites to do any of this, either, by refusing to give out bulk data on its bills in a user-friendly form. On Friday, there was a signal that might change, as the GOP-led House moved toward releasing an unprecedented trove of data on its doings.”
http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/congressional-data-may-soon-be-easier-to-use-online/2012/06/08/gJQAdikBNV_story.html

Open Access

Open Access Petition Passes 25,000 Threshold

“A petition calling for public access to all federally funded research posted last month on the White House’s “We the People” website has garnered the 25,000 signatures necessary to be considered for action by the Obama Administration.”
http://lj.libraryjournal.com/2012/06/legislation/open-access-petition-passes-25000-threshold/

Open access to research is inevitable, says Nature editor-in-chief

“Open access to scientific research articles will “happen in the long run”, according to the editor-in-chief of Nature, one of the world’s premier scientific journals. Philip Campbell said that the experience for readers and researchers of having research freely available is “very compelling”. But other academic publishers said that any large-scale transition to making research freely available had to take into account the value and investments they added to the scientific process. “My personal belief is that that’s what’s going to happen in the long run,” said Campbell. However, he added that the case for open access was stronger for some disciplines, such as climate research, than others.”
http://www.guardian.co.uk/science/2012/jun/08/open-access-research-inevitable-nature-editor

Internet Access

Civil Society is Key to the Debate on International Control Over the Internet

“Civil society will be the critical player in a policy debate that has dominated recent tech news – whether the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) will be given the power by its Member States to regulate internet access and the internet itself. Despite the fact that the US Government and US industry have vocally opposed this outcome, it is US civil
society that has the biggest role to play to ensure that the Internet continues to be open and decentralized.”

http://www.publicknowledge.org/blog/civil-society-key-debate-international-contro

ITU Chief Calls Fears Of The “UN Takeover” Of The Internet “Frankly Ridiculous”

“The chief of the United Nations’ special telecom agency on Wednesday called recent characterizations of its negotiation process as an attempt by the agency to “take over” the Internet “frankly ridiculous.” The U.N.’s International Telecommunications Union’s Secretary-General Dr. Hamadoun I. Touré delivered a speech to his staff in Geneva, Switzerland Wednesday in an apparent attempt to reframe the basis of the long-running international conversation about how best to expand and build upon the broadband Internet infrastructure as it grows up. U.S. lawmakers and some policy wonks suggest that U.N. member countries with views about Internet freedom divergent from the U.S. State Department’s — like Russia and China — are pushing for greater international regulation of the Internet. This view holds that the ITU would become the means for these countries to exert more influence on Internet infrastructure and governance.”


World’s Largest Organization for Computer Professionals Comes Out Against CISPA

“The US Public Policy Council of the Association of Computing Machinery (ACM), representing ACM, came out against CISPA, the cybersecurity legislation recently passed by the US House. ACM is the world’s largest organization for computer professionals. They are joining a diverse group of individuals and organizations opposing this bill, including a wide array of digital civil liberties organizations like EFF, computer scientists like Bruce Schneier and Tim Berners-Lee, and companies like the Mozilla Foundation.”

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2012/06/worlds-largest-organization-computer-professionals-comes-out-against-cispa

Intellectual Property

EU Negotiators Tentatively Agree On Plan For Orphan Works

“All seems to come down to the numbers on the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement: how many protesters will turn up at the ACTA Action Day in Europe tomorrow and how many members of the European Parliament (EP) will vote for it in plenary on 3 July. Without the agreement of Parliament, ACTA will fail, at least in Europe, observers say.”


International Outlook

EU decision-makers push for less transparency

“. . .Although the revision of the EU access to documents Regulation appears to be on schedule to conclude before the end of the Danish Presidency of the Council – 30 June 2012 – it seems that the traditionally pro-transparency government has been overpowered by Member States such as France, Germany and the UK, which are seeking to limit the public’s right of access to EU documents. The influence of these Member States has led to a common Council position, which, if adopted, would increase the opacity of the EU decision-making process, lead to a regression of the right of access to EU documents and weaken citizens’ ability to hold the institutions to account; thus violating the Treaty of Lisbon and the case-law of international courts such as the European Court of Justice and the European Court of Human Rights.”

http://www.access-info.org/en/european-union/255-eu-decision-makers-for-less-transparency

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The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.
information, government, intellectual property, internet access, open access

**Freedom of Information**

**Some Unauthorized Disclosures of Classified Info Are Routine**
“...the unauthorized release of classified information is a crime—it is a crime—because it threatens our national security and puts the lives of those who are sworn to defend our Nation in jeopardy,” said Sen. John Cornyn (R-TX) said on the Senate floor yesterday. “Everyone agrees [this] is criminal conduct.”
A resolution introduced by Sen. John McCain and twenty Republican colleagues calling for appointment of a special counsel to investigate recent leaks stated flatly that “the unauthorized disclosure of classified information is a felony under Federal law.” But these statements are imprecise and misleading. While some unauthorized disclosures of classified information are indeed contrary to law, it is not the case that all such disclosures violate the law. In fact, there is no law that categorically prohibits the release of classified information.

*Not All Leaks of Classified Information Violate the Law*

“The unauthorized release of classified information is a crime—it is a crime—because it threatens our national security and puts the lives of those who are sworn to defend our Nation in jeopardy,” said Sen. John Cornyn (R-TX) said on the Senate floor yesterday. “Everyone agrees [this] is criminal conduct.”

*http://www.fas.org/blog/secrecy/2012/06/routine_leaks.html*

**NARA’s Open Government Plan for 2012-2014**

“On Friday, the National Archives released the updated Open Government Plan that will guide our efforts in transparency, participation, and collaboration for 2012-2014. Over the past two years, we’ve implemented most of the 70 tasks we set out to accomplish in our 2010 Open Government Plan, including major initiatives in records management, declassification, and FOIA, as well as redesigning Archives.gov and FederalRegister.gov. Within our newly updated plan, you will see the specific items we plan to work on over the next two years.”

*http://blogs.archives.gov/online-public-access/?p=8115*

**Issa Launches The Open Gov Foundation**

“California Congressman Darrell Issa, a prominent advocate for Internet users, open government, and transparency issues unveiled a new initiative Monday called the Open Gov Foundation. The Foundation builds on much of the work previously done by the California Republican’s office, but this new effort is meant to institutionalize the work beyond his time in office, he said during a conversation with Personal Democracy Media’s Publisher Andrew Rasiej at PDM’s annual conference in New York City and Sen. Ron Wyden (D-Ore.). Also new is a proposed Digital Bill of Rights, the main bullet points of which are below.”


**Political Ad Transparency at Risk as Republicans and Special Interests Attack**

“In April, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) approved reforms to modernize the disclosure requirements for broadcasters operating on the public airwaves. The rule will expose the influence of money in politics by making information about who is financing political advertising available online. However, the transparency rule is under attack: broadcasters quickly filed suit against the FCC, while House Republicans attached a policy provision to a spending bill that would block the rule from taking effect.”

*http://www.ombwatch.org/node/12099*

**Scout: Sunlight’s New Custom Alert Service**

“A core mission of the Sunlight Foundation is to enable citizen participation through technology and lower the bar to access government. Through our free tools we’re constantly looking for ways to produce a more transparent and accountable government. Today, we’re proud to introduce Scout, a tool that allows you to create customized keyword alerts to notify you whenever issues you care about are included in legislative or regulatory actions. This project embodies our goals as an organization: anyone can now freely get the immediate access to information that previously required significant organizational capacity in your state capital or Washington, D.C.”

*http://sunlightfoundation.com/blog/2012/06/11/scout-sunlights-new-custom-alert-service/*

**Sunlight Foundation Brings Congressional Data to Any Phone**

“The Sunlight Foundation today launches a free telephone service that helps people learn more about how their representatives in Congress are voting on bills and raising campaign money. All you need is a phone line. Call on Congress is a toll free number — 1-888-907-6886 — that provides instant information, in both English and Spanish, on how lawmakers are representing their constituents. Users can also be connected directly to the DC office of their representative and senators and even get details on where to vote on Election Day.”


**OMB not enamored of House-passed data transparency measure**

“The DATA Act, the government spending transparency bill that passed the House in April, has ruffled some feathers at the Office of Management and Budget, signs of which were on display Tuesday at a panel discussion of lessons learned from implementation of the 2009 Recovery Act. Controller Danny Werfel, addressing a workshop put on by the nonprofit Partnership for Public Service and sponsored by Grant Thornton LLP, clashed with Obama administration colleague Earl Devaney, recently retired as chairman of the Recovery
Accountability and Transparency Board, over whether new legislation is needed to advance their shared goals of improving transparency and accountability in agency spending. The legislation known as the DATA Act (H.R. 2146), which is pending in the Senate, would impose a universal reporting requirement for recipients of federal grants, loans and contracts. It would require all agencies to use the same formats to publicly share their internal and external obligations and expenditures. A five-member Federal Accountability and Spending Transparency Commission would oversee the measure’s implementation.

Federal Statistical Programs in Jeopardy
“Information Today, Inc. has been monitoring events related to the passage of federal agency budgets as these decisions and Congressional votes have an impact on statistical programs and publications that our readers rely on to do their jobs. Last year, InfoToday Newbreaks covered the possible de-funding of data.gov and the discontinuation of Statistical Abstracts, recently rescued by ProQuest. Last month, we addressed the fight in Congress over continued funding to conduct the American Community Survey (ACS) that centered on the nature of the questions, the issue of privacy, and the constitutionality of the program itself. The Census Bureau is not the only data source frequently tapped by information professionals (among others) in jeopardy. Nearly every federal agency has some statistical program that will be affected by budget cuts.”

Open Access
Utah State University Adopts Open Access Policy
“Utah State University has joined an emerging national trend and the ranks of a growing number of the country’s universities in adopting an official “Open Access” policy. USU’s University Libraries headed the effort.”
http://www.usu.edu/ust/invert.cfm?article=51244

UNESCO Policy Guidelines For The Development And Promotion Of Open Access
“These Guidelines provide an account of the development of Open Access, why it is important and desirable, how to attain it, and the design and effectiveness of policies.”
http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0021/002158/215863e.pdf

Privacy Issues
Loophole in Law May Allow Warrantless Surveillance of Americans
“Members of the Senate Intelligence Committee are divided over whether there is a loophole in current law which would permit government agencies to monitor the communications of American citizens without any kind of warrant or other judicial authorization. The dispute was presented but not resolved in a new Senate Intelligence Committee report on the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act Amendments Act (FAA) Sunsets Extension Act, which would renew the provisions of the FISA Amendments Act through June 2017.”
http://www.fas.org/blog/secrecy/2012/06/ffa_loophole.html

Internet Access
Internet Archive Sues to Stop New Washington State Law
“The Internet Archive has filed a federal challenge to a new Washington State law that intends to make online service providers criminally liable for providing access to third parties’ offensive materials. The Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF) is representing the Internet Archive in order to block the enforcement of SB 6251, a law aimed at combatting advertisements for underage sex workers but with vague and overbroad language that is squarely in conflict with federal law.”

Intellectual Property
Google Ends Legal Dispute With French Authors Over Scans
“Google Inc., owner of the world’s largest search engine, ended legal disputes with a French publishing trade group and a French authors’ association over the U.S. company’s scanning of books. The Syndicat National de l’Edition, which represents more than 600 publishers, and the SGDL Society of Authors agreed with Google to end litigation over Google’s scanning of copyright-protected books without permission, according to two statements today. This means Google no longer faces French legal action over book scanning, according to Bill Echikson, a spokesman for the Mountain View, California-based company.”

Google Appeals Class Action Certification
“Google appealed Judge Denny Chin’s order granting the Authors Guild class certification in the ongoing litigation between the two over whether Google Books is fair use. In its filing, Google again raised the issue of “whether class plaintiffs seeking to stop alleged copyright infringement can adequately represent class members who benefit from the defendant’s conduct and want it to continue.””
http://lj.libraryjournal.com/2012/06/litigation-2/google-appeals-class-action-certification/

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Share this:
SLA leadership shares realistic yet inspiring views of association, profession at dinner meeting

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2012/06/sla-leadership-shares-realistic-yet-inspiring-views-of-association-profession-at-dinner-meeting/ June 18, 2012 Categories: Bayline, Chapter Programs & Events Tags: events

By Cynthia Berglez, SLA-SF 2012 Chapter Past President

On May 31st the SLA SF Bay Region Chapter co-hosted, with the Silicon Valley Chapter, an evening discussion with our international leadership in the Delancey Street Foundation’s Private Club facility. It was a great turnout for the opportunity to talk with SLA CEO Janice LaChance, President Brent Mai, and President Elect Deb Hunt. Juanita Richardson, who is running for President Elect, was also there to introduce herself to us, and Deb Hunt read a statement from Kate Arnold, another candidate for President Elect. (Voting will take place electronically in mid-September. More information on the candidates can be found on the SLA web site at http://www.sla.org/content/SLA/governance/12election/index.cfm)

David Grossman collected chapter members’ questions in advance of the event and added a few of his own to help us learn more about the path our organization is taking through the difficult economic times. The topics included advice for students and new graduates on entering our profession, recent changes in membership, the future of the Annual Conference, and support for our senior members.

It is great to know that our leadership is thinking about how to change our organization and our profession looking forward. Their thoughtful responses to our questions were inspiring. Knowing that they understand our organization needs to change to thrive, and that they have many ideas to take us into the future, was reassuring.

Janice LaChance pointed out that membership throughout the organization is still in decline, not only in our two chapters, but internationally. However, she notes that the membership decrease is slowing, and she is encouraged that many of our new members are joining at the highest membership rate, indicating that our new members are in the higher salary ranges. This is not only good news for our organization, but for our profession as well.

Brent discussed some of the ways that our Annual Conference (this year’s takes place next month in Chicago) could be changed to make it, and our organization, more sustainable. Some of the ideas he mentioned were two smaller conferences in different locations, one bigger conference every other year, and division-focused conferences. He said, “Vancouver [the Annual Conference scheduled for 2014] could look very different from our previous conferences.”

In response to our declining membership numbers and the comment that many employers are no longer paying for our membership dues, Deb Hunt discussed the value proposition of librarianship and the return on investment in our career development and continuing education. “Three words,” she said about our future, “Invest in yourself.”

For those of us who attended the program, it was an interesting and thoughtful discussion of our future. And thanks to the Silicon Valley Chapter, who video taped the panel discussion, everyone can watch it on YouTube at http://www.youtube.com/user/SLASiliconValley

In the photo: Moderator David Grossman poses questions to SLA CEO Janice LaChance, President Brent Mai, and President Elect Deb Hunt. (Photo by George Plosker)

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Intersect Alert June 24, 2012


Freedom of Information

Rebuttal to McConnell’s War of Misinformation on DISCLOSE Act

“A war is being waged against the DISCLOSE Act. Its Commander in Chief is Senator Mitch McConnell, his secret weapon is misinformation and his goal is to protect unlimited dark money contributions to the political process. It’s time for a counter-attack. . . The Sunlight Foundation refutes the worst
inaccuracies being lobbed against reasonable efforts to disclose the dark money that is infiltrating our elections.”
http://sunlightfoundation.com/blog/2012/06/22/rebuttal-to-mcconnell%e2%80%99s-war-of-misinformation-on-disclose-act/

Political Ad Transparency Will Advance After House GOP Drops Effort to Block FCC Rule
“This morning, Republican members of the House Appropriations Committee reversed their position and allowed a crucial new Federal Communications Commission (FCC) transparency rule to stand. The FCC rule, adopted in April, requires television broadcasters to disclose who is buying political advertisements. These disclosures will be posted in a public online database.”
http://www.ombwatch.org/node/12109

New Open Data Partnership Improves Government Transparency at State and Federal Levels
“In a significant step toward greater government transparency, two organizations focused on publishing government data have joined forces to present major new comprehensive, user friendly, publicly accessible databases of state and federal bills. LegiNation, creator of the BillTrack50 solution to track state bills will exchange information with open government technology company Civic Impulse, developer of the federal legislative monitoring tool GovTrack. The aim of the data exchange is to provide individuals, advocacy groups, businesses and legislative professionals with access to information to better engage with government.”
http://www.ombwatch.org/node/12109

Public Policy

The Economic Impact of Ending the American Community Survey? Not Good.
“On Tuesday, the Congressional Joint Economic Committee held a hearing entitled, “The Economic Impact of Ending or Reducing Funding for the American Community Survey and other Government Statistics.” In direct response to the May 10th vote by the House of Representatives to strip funding for the American Community Survey (ACS) and 2012 Economic Census, the hearing offered inquiry into the economic value of U.S. economic statistics, their timeliness and accuracy.”

Congress’ Rush to Pass Anti-Leak Law Has Grave Ramifications
“Imagine an America where journalists and whistleblowers cannot reveal government misconduct without facing grave punishment. Does that sound like a healthy democracy to you? Well, if Congress rushes anti-leak legislation without carefully considering the ramifications on the public’s right-to-know, the U.S. will be one step closer to that dim future.”

Maryland State Archives running out of space
“The Maryland State Archives collection is among the largest in the country with nearly 400 years of history, including Colonial-era paintings, keepsakes of the state’s governors, and thousands of land, court and genealogy records. With all that history, the Archives has run out of space.”
http://thedailyrecord.com/2012/06/18/maryland-state-archives-running-out-of-space/

Open Access

Open access is the future of academic publishing, says Finch report
“Making all the UK’s publicly funded scientific research free for anyone to read could cost up to £60m per year, according to an independent study commissioned by the government. Professor Dame Janet Finch, who led the work, said “open access” was the future for academic publishing and that the short-term transition costs she had identified should reduce over time as more articles became freely available and the journal subscription costs currently paid by university libraries fell.”
http://www.guardian.co.uk/science/2012/jun/19/open-access-academic-publishing-finch-report
Full Text of Finch Report (140 pages; PDF)
Executive Summary of Finch Report (11 pages; PDF)

Internet Access

FCC chief applauds House Internet resolution
“Julius Genachowski, the chairman of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), praised the House Energy and Commerce Committee on Thursday for advancing a resolution opposed to international regulation of the Internet. The House panel unanimously approved the resolution on Wednesday.”

Most Censorship And Content Takedown Requests Come From US, Says Google
“Google has released data from its latest Transparency Report covering censorship and content removal requests. The report features separate presentations of copyright-based removal requests and government requests. Google began publishing this data about two years go. The report is updated regularly; however government censorship and removal requests are updated every six months. The number of copyright removal requests has grown dramatically over the past six months. Most of these requests involve file sharing domains.”
http://searchengineland.com/most-censorship-and-content-takedown-requests-come-from-us-says-google-125149

Intellectual Property

Unprecedented Vote: EU Parliament Trade Committee Rejects ACTA
“In an unprecedented move, the European Parliament Committee on International Trade (INTA) today in Brussels passed a report recommending the rejection of the controversial
Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA). Never before has INTA voted to reject a trade agreement negotiated by the Union.”

http://www.ip-watch.org/2012/06/21/unprecedented-vote-eu-parliament-trade-committee-rejects-acta/

International Outlook

Denmark drops reform of EU access to documents rules as disagreements prove insurmountable

“The Danish Presidency of the Council of the EU yesterday gave up on trying to reach an agreement between the European Commission, the Parliament and the Member States on reform of the rules that govern public access to EU documents. With the European Parliament standing firmly in favour of greater transparency for citizens, and the European Commission pressing for amendments to the Regulation that would exclude entire classes of information or narrow the definition of a document, the process hinged on an agreement between the 27 Member States meeting in the Council. But divisions between the Member States were so acute that the Danish Presidency has abandoned the file after six months of intense negotiations.”


UK Mass Surveillance Bill: The Return of a Bad Idea

“This week the British government unveiled a bill that has a familiar ring to it. The Communications Data Bill would require all Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and mobile phone network providers in Britain to collect and store information on everyone’s internet and phone activity. Essentially, the bill seeks to publicly require in the UK what EFF and many others have long maintained is happening in the US in secret – and what we have been trying to bring to public and judicial review since 2005. Put simply, it appears that both governments want to shift from surveillance of communications and communications records based on individualized suspicion and probable cause to the mass untargeted collection of communications and communications records of ordinary, non-suspect people. This shift has profound implications for the UK, the US and any country that claims to be committed to rule of law and the protection of fundamental freedoms.”

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2012/06/uk-mass-surveillance-bill-return-bad-idea

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Program Plans for 2nd Half of Year; Another Bayline Update; Volunteer Opportunities

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2012/06/program-plans-for-2nd-half-of-year-another-bayline-update-volunteer-opportunities/ June 30, 2012 Categories: Bayline, Chapter Programs & Events Tags: President's message

Welcome to the second half of the program year! It is kind of shocking to realize I’m halfway through my year as president already. It has been an interesting adventure, with some challenges and no shortage of excitement.

We have a very exciting second half of the year planned. In July, the chapter will be participating in the Western States Chapters Reception at the SLA Annual Conference in Chicago. I hope you’ll all be joining us on Monday, July 16, from 6 to 8 pm at the Historic Newberry Library, 60 West Walton Street in Chicago. We’ll take a break in August and pick up again in September with an East Bay meeting. The location is still TBD, but our speaker will be Gray Brechin, historical geographer and visiting professor in UC Berkeley’s Department of Geography. In October and early November we’ll hear once again from our own Deb Hunt and David Grossman, who will reprise their two-part professional development programs on career development, this time as webinars! Professional development programs via webinar are a new thing for our chapter, so we’ll be watching carefully to see how they are received. In November, we’ll have the second tour of the year, and in December, we’ll have our traditional holiday party. So you can see there’s plenty to look forward to.

On a sadder note, we have said goodbye to our Bayline Editor, Alys Tryon, who has left California for personal reasons. Special thanks go to our Secretary, Heather Gamberg, who has graciously agreed to take on management of Bayline for the remainder of the year, with the support of the rest of the Executive Board. I anticipate that you’ll be seeing more regular Bayline e-mails throughout the rest of the year, keeping you in touch with the SLA community. Heather welcomes submissions for Bayline. We’d particularly like to have those of you who are attending the conference write a paragraph or two about an interesting session you attend. If you liked it, your fellow chapter members should know about it, too!

Obviously that means we have an opening for Bayline Editor,
but we also expect to have a number of other openings on the chapter Advisory Council in 2013. We’re currently recruiting for both the Executive Board and the Advisory Council for 2013, and I hope you’ll respond positively if you’re contacted by a member of the Nominating Committee regarding a position. In addition to recruiting for board positions, the chapter is looking at ways to open up more short-term volunteer opportunities and give all of you more chances to participate in committees, even if you can’t commit to a board position. Look to see more of those opportunities announced here and in Bayline. And don’t hesitate to let me or any other board member know if there’s something you’re interested in working on!

Finally, I want to make you all aware of a decision the Executive Board has made regarding announcements on our chapter listerv. As you know, employment opportunities should not be posted on our chapter listerv, but instead be posted on the Jobline service that we share with Silicon Valley. However, following a request, the board has decided to allow volunteer positions and unpaid internships to be posted on the listserv. We’ll make sure that postings include language noting that the posting exception applies to unpaid positions only.

I look forward to seeing many of you in Chicago! Don’t forget to post your travel details on the chapter wiki (http://wiki.sla.org/display/SFBRWiki/Chapter+Members+Attending+SLA+2012+in+Chicago). The site will let you see what other chapter members will be in Chicago, and maybe you can share a cab!

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Intersect Alert July 1, 2012


Freedom of Information

New Federal Agency Hits the Ground Running with Proactive Standards for the Release of Information

“A new federal agency is making a strong start out of the box by establishing a proactive policy of releasing information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). FOIA regulations published today by the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR) include an important clause committing the agency to proactively disclose the information it collects. The agency adopted the policy in response to a recommendation by OMB Watch.”

http://www.ombwatch.org/node/12118

League of California Cities Opposes State Open Data Legislation

“The League of California Cities said in a statement that it opposes proposed open data legislation in that state because it would “impose new duties and costs on public agencies at a time when they can ill afford them, under the guise of promoting greater government transparency.” In addition to requiring that state and local agencies make their records available for public inspection, the bill, SB 1002, would “authorize an agency, upon request, to provide a copy of an electronic record in a format in which the text in the electronic record is searchable by commonly used software.” The bill is backed by California Newspaper Publishers Association, SF Tech Dems, the California Faculty Association, California Teachers Association, Common Cause and the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees.”


Vein: Data.gov to spin off cities.data.gov

“The federal government wants to connect more with state and local governments on open government projects, said Chris Vein, deputy federal chief technology officer. To that end, data.gov will soon launch a spin-off platform called cities.data.gov.”


Open City launches new civic app to map crime in Chicago

“Last year, Chicago-based open data wranglers Open City set a high bar for open government data visualizations and transparency websites. Today, Open City launched a new civic Web app at CrimeInChicago.org, adding to their growing portfolio of projects. Derek Eder, one of the co-founders of Open City, emailed in this morning to share news of Crime in Chicago. “The website offers an interactive data visualization of the 4.8 million crimes reported in Chicago over the last decade,” he wrote. “It lets citizens see crime trends around them, compare crime levels over the years and across city wards, and explore each ward’s homicides, robberies, assaults and dozens of other crimes.””


FOIA request forces DoJ to reveal National Security Letter templates

“As the result of a Freedom of Information Act request filed by the American Civil Liberties Union, the Department of Justice has revealed, for the first time, the types of secret letters that the government can send out to ISPs and other tech companies being asked to reveal personal data about their users and customers who are being investigated for national security
reasons. In 2009, over 6,000 Americans received such National Security Letters (NSLs). According to the Wall Street Journal, the “letters show that the FBI is now informing people who receive the letters how they can challenge the documents in court. But some key elements of the letters remain blocked from view—including lists of material the FBI says companies can send in response to the letter.”


Open Data Policy Guidelines

“Open Data” policies have been making their way through legislative bodies and executive orders with increasing frequency, especially since 2009. While those that have passed mark progress and serve as inspiration for other governments and advocates to approach this issue, we’re only just starting to really explore what open data policies can do, what broader issues they can address, and what open data can mean. To move forward in grappling with those questions, we’ve created this series of Guidelines for Open Data Policies.”

http://sunlightfoundation.com/blog/2012/06/29/open-data-policy-guidelines/

Public Policy

Louisiana Eliminates State Aid to Public Libraries

“The Louisiana budget signed by Governor Bobby Jindal on June 15 eliminates almost $1 million in state aid to libraries, according to The Advocate. Lt. Gov. Jay Dardenne said Jindal excluded the $896,000 when he presented his proposed spending plan, and legislators failed to find funding for libraries during the regular session.”

http://lj.libraryjournal.com/2012/06/funding/louisiana-eliminates-state-library-funding/

Substance Abuse Librarians Raise the Alarm as Libraries Continue to Close

“Members of the Substance Abuse Librarians and Information Specialists (SALIS) are calling for urgent action to halt the closure of specialist libraries and databases, before valuable resources and expertise are lost forever. Since SALIS started actively campaigning against the closure of alcohol, tobacco and other drug (ATOD) libraries and databases eight years ago, more than twenty-five libraries and databases worldwide have been downsized or closed, their resources dispersed or destroyed.”

http://www.addictionjournal.org/viewpressrelease.asp?pr=175

Privacy Issues

Why won’t the Obama administration reveal how many Americans’ emails the NSA has collected and reviewed without a warrant?

“Since last year, a few members of Congress—led by Senator Ron Wyden—have been trying to get the Obama administration to answer a simple question: how many Americans’ phone calls or emails have been and are being collected and read without a warrant under the authority of the FISA Amendments Act of 2008 (FAA)? Unfortunately, no one else in the government seems to want that question answered.”

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2012/06/why-wont-obama-administration-reveal-how-many-americans-phone-calls-or-emails

Intellectual Property

UK Issues Tougher Draft Code For Online Copyright Infringement

“United Kingdom communications regulator Ofcom today published three documents on digital copyright infringement, including a draft code requiring large internet service providers (ISPs) to inform customers of allegations that their internet connection has been used to infringe copyright, and consultations on the code and on cost-sharing. Under the proposed code, ISPs would have to explain in the notifications the steps subscribers can take to protect their networks from being used to infringe copyright and tell them where they can go to find licensed content on the internet, Ofcom said.”

http://www.ip-watch.org/2012/06/26/uk-issues-tougher-draft-code-for-online-copyright-infringement/

International Outlook

Brazil’s Open-Government Shock Treatment

“Countries arrive at more transparency and greater freedom of information either through long training or sudden shock treatment. The U.S. experience, with decades of incremental law and legal precedent, is synonymous with the archetypical training regime. Brazil, on the other hand, is undergoing the epitome of shock treatment. In one month, May 2012, Brazil formally launched an ambitious freedom of information law that outlines a “right to information” – replete with provisions for the release of information in open, computer-readable formats – and, at around the same time, a new open-data portal. For added shock, the Brazilian government inaugurated a second new fundamental right, the “right to historical truth.” This right is embodied by the newly established Truth Commission, whose aim it is to reconcile abuses from the military dictatorship that controlled Brazil from 1964 to 1985. Brazil also currently occupies the co-chair of the Open Government Partnership. In short, Brazil is in the midst of a massive transparency offensive and there are positive signs that it is moving in the right direction.”


Hamburg’s Transparency Law to open government more than ever

“The Beatles played their first concert in Hamburg. Hamburg’s harbour is one of Europe’s largest. Now Hamburg, one of Germany’s 16 federal states, also has one of the world’s best transparency laws. Passed in mid-June, the new law sets a precedent that might resonate in the worldwide open government community. The new 10-page Hamburg Transparency Law, was passed through the parliament of city-state Hamburg with the support of all political parties. Observers rubbed their eyes since the legal implications are
enormous. The law is so much more far-reaching than the most advanced information of freedom laws at national level.”
http://blog.transparency.org/2012/06/25/hamburgs-transparency-law-to-open-government-more-than-ever/

Open Data White Paper: Unleashing the Potential
“Today we publish our Open Data command paper, which sets out how we’re putting data and transparency at the heart of government and public services. We’re making it easier to access public data; easier for data publishers to release data in standardised, open formats; and engraining a ‘presumption to publish’ unless specific reasons (such as privacy or national security) can be clearly articulated. From the Prime Minister down, central Government is committed to making Open Data an effective engine of economic growth, social wellbeing, political accountability and public service improvement.”


Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety.

**Intersect Alert July 8, 2012**

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2012/07/intersect-alert-july-8-2012-2/

July 9, 2012 Categories: Intersect Alert Tags: freedom of information, government, intellectual property, internet access, open access, privacy

**Freedom of Information**

Happy Birthday, FOIA!
The fourth of July gives us more than one reason to celebrate—yesterday marked the 46th birthday of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). President Lyndon Johnson signed the historic law on July 4, 1966, and since then, FOIA has become a cornerstone of democracy in America.
http://aallwash.wordpress.com/2012/07/05/happy-birthday-foia/

Copyright Alliance: Kirtsaeng case threatens library lending
Library Copyright Alliance (LCA) filed an amicus curiae brief (PDF) earlier this week with the Supreme Court of the United States in support of petitioner Supap Kirtsaeng in the case Kirtsaeng v. John Wiley & Sons. The Alliance is comprised of the American Library Association (ALA), the Association of College & Research Libraries (ACRL) and the Association of Research Libraries (ARL).
http://www.districtdispatch.org/2012/07/library-copyright-alliance-kirtsaeng-case-threatens-library-lending/#more-8245

Valley libraries unite to boost funds, access to programs
“Glendale’s library system whittled nearly $550,000 from its budget this fiscal year, but an agreement with the Maricopa County Library District will offer some gains to residents and non-residents who use the city’s three branches. This month, Glendale will join 15 other cities and communities — including Avondale, Phoenix and Peoria — in the Reciprocal Borrowing Program. The program will allow non-residents to use Glendale libraries free of charge. The county also will pay for a new library management system, including an improved database that Glendale patrons can use to search for books and other materials.”

http://www.librarystuff.net/2012/07/08/valley-libraries-unite-to-boost-funds-access-to-programs/

**Digital Revolution and Libraries Featured in 2012 Bowker Annual**
The first three articles in the just released 2012 Library and Book Trade Almanac (formerly The Bowker Annual) feature authors affiliated with the ALA Office for Information Technology Policy (OITP) writing about the digital revolution and libraries. These articles examine the contemporary challenges and opportunities for libraries enabled by technological advances and institutional and social change.

**Public Policy**

Institutional Clinical and Translational Science Award (U54) from NIH Funding Opportunities (Notices, PA, RFA)
Funding Opportunity RFA-TR-12-006 from the NIH Guide for Grants and Contracts. The purpose of the Institutional Clinical and Translational Science Awards (CTSA) is to strengthen the entire spectrum of NIH supported translational research. Through integrated homes that build upon and support institutional scientific strengths, they provide research resources and workforce training that improve the quality, validity, generalizability, and efficiency of clinical and translational research. These awards are the centerpiece of the NCATS CTSA program.

Section 1201 Rulemaking Updated from Copyright
Advisory
After being delayed several months, the Copyright Office has come out with the latest round of exemptions.

Section 1201 Rulemaking
There are some good things here. The news immediately circulating the tech blogs was that it should be allowable to jailbreak smartphones. (I expect we’ll see some interesting license-related battles soon as a result.) The exemption allowing film/media studies professors to use small clips for educational purposes has been expanded so that it can actually be used by professors and students. Even more notably, IMHO, the exemption was expanded to include noncommercial use. That’s huge, and I’m not certain how this will play out.
http://www.copyright.gov/1201/

Privacy Issues

English books rejected, stir debate at Fremont school board meeting
“A Fremont teacher’s request for a controversial story to be included in the list of acceptable texts for Advanced Placement English was rejected by Fremont Unified School District’s Board of Education in a 5-3 vote June 27. Teri Hu, a Washington High School AP English teacher, requested the use of “Bastard Out of Carolina” in 2009 and was rejected although books with similar subject matter such as “The Color Purple,” “I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings” and “We Were the Mulvaneys” were approved, according to Acacia O’Connor, a National Coalition Against Censorship project coordinator.”
http://www.librarystuff.net/2012/07/06/english-books-rejected-stir-debate-at-fremont-school-board-meeting/

Are you a library scofflaw?
“Your library card status may soon follow you like your credit history. Washington and Dakota county libraries are pursuing a $47,000 federal grant to try out a library card verification system that would tell them instantly if someone from the neighboring county is a good bet as a book borrower. People increasingly use libraries where they work or visit, not just where they live, and a computer link between library patron accounts would stop people from ducking fines for overdue materials at their home libraries and skipping to another county to get books.”
http://www.librarystuff.net/2012/07/05/are-you-a-library-scofflaw/

Prosecutors Dispute Claims of Selective Anti-Leak Prosecution
Last month, former CIA officer John Kiriakou, who is accused of unlawfully disclosing classified information to two reporters, said in pre-trial motions that he had been wrongly and unfairly singled out for prosecution, particularly since he had criticized the U.S. practice of waterboarding. (“Kiriakou Calls Leak Prosecution Selective, Vindictive,” Secrecy News, June 22).
This week, prosecutors unsurprisingly rejected such claims while affirming that they intend to vigorously pursue their case against Mr. Kiriakou.
http://www.fas.org/blog/secrecy/2012/07/dispute_selective.html

Intellectual Property

Open Data Creates Accountability
A series of recent blog posts raised questions on the value of open data and transparency. While thoughtful skepticism is constructive, there appears to be some significant confusion about the meaning of “open data,” and about transparency and accountability. When activist developers like Aaron Swartz are concluding that “the case for opening up data to hold government accountable simply isn’t there,” or former government leaders like Beth Noveck are suggesting that there are “serious doubts” whether “open data” make government “more transparent or accountable,” then it’s time to engage.
http://sunlightfoundation.com/blog/2012/07/06/open-data-creates-accountability/

International Outlook

UN supports Internet freedom
In a shift from its proposed—and highly opposed—plan to increase the power of its International Telecommunications Union, the United Nations has backed a resolution stating that citizens have the same rights online as they do offline. (The Hill)
http://sunlightfoundation.com/blog/2012/07/06/2day-in-opengov-762012/

Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety.

The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.
Freedom of Information

Social Security IG – Title II Deceased Beneficiaries Who Do Not Have Death Information
“To identify and prevent erroneous payments to deceased beneficiaries, SSA's Death Alert, Control and Update System (DACUS) matches reports of death received from Federal, State, and local agencies against SSA's Master Beneficiary (MBR) and Supplemental Security Records (SSR). DACUS also processes death reports from internal sources. Finally, SSA records the death information processed by DACUS on the Numident, a master file that contains personally identifiable information (PII)5 for each individual issued a Social Security number (SSN).


Copyright and Innovation: The Untold Story

“Copyright has an innovation problem. Judicial decisions, private enforcement, and public dialogue ignore innovation and overemphasize the harms of copyright infringement. Just to pick one example, “piracy,” “theft,” and “rogue websites” were the focus of debate in connection with the PROTECT IP Act (PIPA) and Stop Online Piracy Act (SOPA).


Public Policy

Congressional Connection – Privacy Trumps Cybersecurity
“Proposals to increase cybersecurity by allowing businesses and government to share information may enjoy bipartisan support in Washington, but Americans aren’t sold on the idea, the latest United Technologies/National Journal Congressional Connection Poll finds. Almost two-thirds of respondents—63 percent—said government and businesses should not be allowed to share information because it would hurt privacy and civil liberties.


When It Comes to Cybersecurity, Scare Tactics Aren’t Convincing Americans to Sacrifice Privacy
This week, comments from Democratic Senators, a panel of witnesses, and the director of the National Security Agency (NSA) called on the Senate to enact cybersecurity legislation. But a new poll shows that Americans don’t want to sacrifice civil liberties by allowing unfettered data exchanges between corporations and the government. Discussions this week were part of an effort to break the partisan stalemate over the Cybersecurity Act, a bill that would allow Internet companies to monitor the sensitive communications of users and pass that data to the government without any judicial oversight. The Cybersecurity Act would also give companies the right to “modify or block data packets” if they do it with “defensive intent,” while offering little in the way of liability for companies that overstep their authority.

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2012/07/when-it-comes-cybersecurity-scare-tactics-arent-convincing-americans-sacrifice

Is the Web Driving Us Mad?
Tweets, texts, emails, posts. New research says the Internet can make us lonely and depressed—and may even create more extreme forms of mental illness.
Before he launched the most viral video in Internet history, Jason Russell was a half-hearted Web presence. His YouTube account was dead, and his Facebook and Twitter pages were a trickle of kid pictures and home-garden updates. The Web wasn’t made “to keep track of how much people like us,” he thought, and when his own tech habits made him feel like “a genius, an addict, or a megalomaniac,” he unplugged for days, believing, as the humorist Andy Borowitz put it in a tweet that Russell tagged as a favorite, “it's important to turn off our computers and do things in the real world.”


Intellectual Property

International Outlook

The ITU’s WCIT Negotiation: Internet Governance, or Just Governing the Internet?
(1) The Who, Where, and How of Internet Governance
(2) What the WCIT Is About
(3) The ITU Is Not the Right Venue for Internet Governance
In the run-up to the ITU’s World Conference on International Telecommunications (WCIT), a persistent point of contention has been whether the WCIT will be taking up the topic of “Internet governance” as Member States renegotiate the ITU’s underlying treaty.


FAA Releases Thousands of Pages of Drone Records
We just received new information today about drone flights in the United States, including extensive details about the specific drone models some entities are flying, where they fly, how frequently they fly, and how long they stay in the air. The 125 drone certificates and accompanying documents the FAA
released today total thousands of pages and were released in response to EFF’s Freedom of Information Act lawsuit, which has already uncovered the list of all entities licensed to fly domestic drones. 

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2012/07/faa-releases-thousands-pages-drone-records

Update: Russian Duma Approves Internet Blacklist Bill
The Russian Duma overwhelmingly approved the controversial Internet regulation Bill № 89417-6. 441. A total of 441 out of 450 deputies representing all four party factions within the Duma, voted to support the bill. The regulations set forth within the bill, including the creation of a national blacklist and legal partnership with a content-monitoring bureau, are expected to go into effect in January after President Putin signs the bill into law.

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2012/07/update-russian-duma-approves-internet-blacklist-bill

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The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.

Seeking nominations for 2012 SLA San Francisco Bay Region Chapter awards

Categories: Bayline, Chapter Leadership Tags: awards, take action

By Cynthia Berglez
2012 Awards Chair and Past Chapter President

Now is your chance to make us all aware of a Chapter member who has made a special contribution to our profession.

The Awards tab on our web page (http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/awards/) has a description of the awards we give, past recipients, and a form to nominate a deserving member for us to thank. As a volunteer organization, this is the one way we have to show how much we appreciate a special mentor, a colleague who gave vital help or a brilliant idea, or someone you think may be a shy, fabulous librarian.

I’m the Awards Chair this year. It’s my turn to seek out and thank our colleagues, and I need your recommendations to find those I may have missed.

This year we’re going to be giving the awards at our Holiday Party in December.

Please email me directly at past-president@sanfrancisco.sla1.org if you know someone who should receive Chapter recognition or if you have any questions about the process.

Why it’s a privilege being a member of SLA

Categories: Bayline, Chapter Leadership Tags: librarians, volunteering

By Cynthia Berglez
Past Chapter President and Research Librarian at Ropes & Gray

Librarianship is not my first career. In my past professional life, there was no organization of colleagues to turn to for support or advice. Also, in my other career, there was even less stability than we librarians are experiencing now. Hard to imagine, I know. To be in a position to even be asked to write letters of recommendation is a privilege for me.

I joined SLA when I was still a library school student. When I realized that I didn’t have to practice this new profession alone, I couldn’t wait to meet my fellows and build my network. One of the first series of events I attended with SLA was the Neighborhood Dinners in April. This is still one of my favorite months in our calendar. It was easy to meet others with the...
discussion of food and neighborhoods to break the social barriers and my natural introversion. At one of the dinners I met a fascinating librarian and I asked if I could see her library. That tour became an internship interview without my noticing. Through the early years of limited job opportunities I was able to piece together a variety of part-time, temporary positions that gave me skills, colleagues, and experience. This was only possible through the connections I have made through SLA.

There is still a lot I don’t know about research, library collections, and database coverage, and every day I learn more. SLA has given me the opportunity to make friends, find jobs, and learn more about my profession and about myself. It still surprises me that people ask for my help in making connections, in job search, and yes, in writing letters of recommendation. And, as for my colleague who sent the thank-you note, she got the promotion.

When I tell other librarians about the work I do for the chapter, they are impressed. I don’t do this only because I’m giving and supportive, I do it because this is how I learn, make friends, and find jobs in a difficult economy. I do it for myself; however, as much as I give, I get so much more in return.

I hope you’ll consider the same. Do something for yourself, as well as your profession. Donate your time to your SLA chapter and get so much more in return.

To volunteer for the SF Bay Region Chapter, you can contact any Board Member or sign up here: http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/volunteer/.

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Intersect Alert July 22, 2012


Freedom of Information

Law Enforcement Agencies Demanded Cell Phone User Info Far More Than 1.3 Million Times Last Year

Yesterday, Rep. Ed Markey (D-MA) revealed that federal, state and local law enforcement agencies have made an astounding 1.3 million demands for user cell phone data in the last year, “seeking text messages, caller locations and other information.” The New York Times called the new findings proof of “an explosion in cellphone surveillance” in the United States—much of it done without a warrant. Worse, the eye-popping figure is actually a significant underestimate; the actual number is “almost certainly much higher” than reported, according to the Times: https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2012/07/law-enforcement-agencies-demanded-cell-phone-user-info-much-more-13-million-times

Sunlight provides databases of government information to university libraries

The Sunlight Foundation has launched a campaign to partner with university libraries to provide easy access for students and researchers by cataloging as electronic resources its vast online databases of information on politics and government data. http://freegovinfo.info/node/3745

Public Policy

Death of SOPA Was Not a Fluke: Three Reasons Why Elected Officials Should Endorse the Declaration of Internet Freedom

The January 18th blackout protesting the Stop Online Piracy Act (“SOPA”) was an unprecedented event in Internet history. Within 24 hours, dangerous and draconian copyright legislation went from being a forgone conclusion in Congress to completely rejected by its members. Still, many observers have remarked that, despite the protest’s effectiveness, the result was a fluke. It was a perfect storm of companies and people coming together that could not be replicated, they’ve said, and nothing has really changed. https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2012/07/death-sopa-was-not-fluke-three-reasons-why-elected-officials-should-endorse

AALL Action Alert: Tell Your Representative to Support Public Access to CRS Report

On Tuesday July 10, Representatives Leonard Lance (R-NJ-07) and Mike Quigley (D-Ill-05) introduced H. Res. 727, the Public Access to Congressional Research Service Reports Resolution of 2012. The resolution would require the Congressional Research Service (CRS) to make their reports publicly available. CRS is a division of the Library of Congress which
Why Libraries Are a Smart Investment for the Country’s Future

Today America’s library system sits at a critical juncture. The Library of Congress alone has lost some 1300 staff since the onset of the digital media age two decades ago. Until last week, four of the six largest American publishing houses did not lend digital books to libraries, president of the New York Public Library Anthony Marx noted. And last month, the NYPL’s move to renovate its landmark headquarters to include more computers and resources for the general public prompted protests from scholars and writers who wanted to preserve the space for research.

Big Data, Bigger Opportunities: Plans and Preparedness for the Data Deluge

News release: “Smart grid deployments are creating exponentially more data for utilities and giving them access to information they’ve never had before. Accessing, analyzing, managing, and delivering this information – to optimize business operations and enhance customer relationships – is proving to be a daunting task. Somewhere in this data deluge lies the path to greater efficiencies, but how will access to this new data change the way utilities drive their businesses? Will predictive analytics spur operational change?

Is Wikipedia more reliable than the Encyclopaedia Britannica?

Wikipedia is the premier example of the Internet phenomenon known as crowdsourcing, in which people spontaneously cooperate for the greater good. By many measures it has become the world’s leading reference resource, with 22 million articles in 285 languages, including four million articles in English. According to the Alexa tracking service, Wikipedia is the sixth most visited website in the world.

Privacy Concerns

Privacy Amendments Strengthen Cybersecurity Bill from Center for Democracy & Technology – Keeping the Internet Open, Innovative and Free

The amendments address key civil liberties concerns that have dogged the cybersecurity debate. In terms of privacy, these changes make the Lieberman-Collins bill far superior to both the McCain bill and the House-passed CISPA.

“...make the Lieberman-Collins bill far superior to both the McCain bill and the House-passed CISPA,” said CDT President and CEO Leslie Harris. “Senator Franken and his colleagues, who pushed hard for these amendments, and the co-sponsors of the bill, deserve praise and gratitude for listening to the concerns of the privacy community.”

New Cybersecurity Proposal Patches Serious Privacy Vulnerabilities

For months, we’ve been raising the alarm about the serious civil liberties implications of the cybersecurity bills making their way through the Senate. Hours ago, we received some good news. A new bill called the Cybersecurity Act of 2012 (S 3414) is replacing the prior Lieberman-Collins Cybersecurity Act (S 2150). This new bill drastically improves upon the previous bill by addressing the most glaring privacy concerns. This is huge, and it’s thanks to the outcry of Internet users like you worried about their online privacy. Check out the new bill (PDF).

Intellectual Property

International Outlook

Proponents of Canada’s Online Spying Bill Still Trying to Justify Excessive Powers from Deeplinks

Canada’s online surveillance bill may be on hold for now, but a recent news article confirms that a rather formidable figure has been angling for its return: Richard Fadden, head of the Canadian equivalent of the FBI. Fadden, director of the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS), wrote in a letter that the highly contentious Bill C-30 was “vital” to protecting national security. The letter was sent to Public Safety Minister Vic Toews, the driver behind Bill C-30, in late February. It was released to the Canadian Press in response to a request filed.

Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety.

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**Intersect Alert July 29 2012**


**Freedom of Information**

**They’ve Got to See it to Believe It: Getting Decision Makers Into Your Library [webinar video]**

In-person visits are critical for effective influence on politicians, particularly in an election year. With the last three months of the election season (phew!) around the corner, now is the time to press council members, legislators, administrators, school board members — in fact, anyone you can think of — to visit. And if you’re concerned about whether election rules restrict your ability to be involved in advocacy at this time of year, don’t be! This video covers the rules of engagement and points you to the resources at nonprofitvote.org and clpi.org to keep your visits aboveboard. Watch to learn the secret strategies for getting decision makers in the door — and eventually agreeing with you!

[http://www.districtdispatch.org/2012/07/see-to-believe/](http://www.districtdispatch.org/2012/07/see-to-believe/)

**Privacy Concerns**


It’s always heartening to see Congressmen make efforts to stand up for privacy rights. Yesterday, Rep. Hank Johnson launched AppRights.us, a website dedicated to promoting privacy, security, and transparency around mobile apps. Operating under the motto that “our apps should serve us—not spy on us,” Johnson’s website asks for feedback about issues surrounding mobile devices.

[https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2012/07/rep-hank-johnsons-apprights-seeks-feedback-mobile-privacy](https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2012/07/rep-hank-johnsons-apprights-seeks-feedback-mobile-privacy)

**Public Policy**

**Senate Votes Down DISCLOSE Act from All Articles**

The Senate held two votes on the DISCLOSE Act on July 16 and 17 but failed to pass the legislation each time. The bill would have created new campaign finance disclosure requirements and made public the names of super PAC contributors. In an effort to control the rising tide of “secret money” — political campaign spending by unknown donors — the bill attempted to make the federal election process more transparent.

[http://www.ombwatch.org/node/12149](http://www.ombwatch.org/node/12149)

**The Future or Big Data**

“Experts say new forms of information analysis will help people be more nimble and adaptive, but worry over humans’ capacity to understand and use these new tools well. Tech experts believe the vast quantities of data that humans and machines will be creating by the year 2020 could enhance productivity, improve organizational transparency, and expand the frontier of the “knowable future.”


As Secrecy System Veers Into Absurdity, Politicians Argue For More

The US classification system is “dysfunctional” and “clearly lacks the ability to differentiate between trivial information and that which can truly damage our nation’s well-being.” Those are not the words of EFF, nor any other government transparency advocate, but instead came from the former classification czar himself.

[https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2012/07/secrecy-system-veers-absurdity-politicians-argue-more](https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2012/07/secrecy-system-veers-absurdity-politicians-argue-more)
Franken Amendment Would Remove Worst Part of Cybersecurity Bill

As we noted last week, a new cybersecurity bill (S 3414) (PDF) was introduced with privacy protective measures championed by Senators Franken, Durbin, Wyden, Coons, Sanders, Akaka, and Blumenthal. The bill is a step in the right direction of protecting online rights, but still has major flaws that allow for nearly unlimited monitoring of user data or countermeasures (like blocking or dropping packets). To address these concerns, Senator Franken is spearheading an amendment that would strike all of Section 701 (text below), the section of the bill which provides companies with the explicit right to monitor private user communications and engage in countermeasures. EFF is proud to support this amendment, though we continue to oppose the bill as a whole.

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2012/07/franken-amendment

Penn State's Rodney Erickson says Joe Paterno Library won't change

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. — Peter Russell hit the books Sunday evening at the other Penn State landmark bearing Joe Paterno's name. Hours earlier, the statue of the late football coach outside Beaver Stadium came down, ending weeks of speculation about its future.


Intellectual Property

Temporary Copies: A TPP Provision Absurdly Disconnected from the Reality of the Modern Computer

EFF has been among several groups following the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and the huge ramifications it would have for the future of the open Internet, access to knowledge, and innovation. Based on what we know from its leaked intellectual property chapter (IP chapter), it carries many of the restrictive copyright provisions that already exist in U.S. law. From what we have seen, however, this agreement is even more extreme: it does not export the many balances and exceptions that favor the public interest and act as safety valves in limiting rightsholders’ protection.

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2012/07/temporary-copies-another-way-tpp-profoundly-disconnected

International Outlook

UN Human Rights Council Resolution on Internet and Human Rights a Step in the Right Direction

Earlier this month, the 47 member states of the United Nations Human Rights Council passed a landmark Resolution (A/HRC/20/L.13) to include the “promotion, protection, and enjoyment of human rights on the Internet.” The Resolution, which was presented by Sweden, was backed by more than 70 countries in all, both members and non-members of the HRC.


A new chapter for Beijing's libraries

Self-service libraries are becoming increasingly popular with Beijing residents, with 50 having sprung up across the city over the past year and 100 more are expected to open in the coming months.

The 24-hour service allows readers to choose from 20,000 books housed in giant automatic machines scattered across the capital.

http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/cndy/2012-07/17/content_15588013.htm

Free access to British scientific research within two years

The government is to unveil controversial plans to make publicly funded scientific research immediately available for anyone to read for free by 2014, in the most radical shakeup of academic publishing since the invention of the internet.

Under the scheme, research papers that describe work paid for by the British taxpayer will be free online for universities, companies and individuals to use for any purpose, wherever they are in the world.

http://www.guardian.co.uk/science/2012/jul/15/free-access-british-scientific-research

The French Still Flock to Bookstores

PARIS — The French, as usual, insist on being different. As independent bookstores crash and burn in the United States and Britain, the book market in France is doing just fine. France boasts 2,500 bookstores, and for every neighborhood bookshop that closes, another seems to open. From 2003 to 2011 book sales in France increased by 6.5 percent.
Mosaic: What’s Happening With Our Members


By Judy Bolstad, Editor

Congratulations to Alys Tryon!

Alys Tryon is pleased to announce that she’s accepted a position in the library at Lane Powell, PC in Portland, Oregon. She’s excited to work as a professional librarian, learn her new colleagues, and return to her home town, aka the Land of Powell’s. She’s immensely grateful for all the support, both professional and personal, she’s received from all the members of the Bay Region Chapter during a particularly difficult and chaotic year. She looks forward to keeping in touch with everyone, and wants you all to know that every one of you makes her proud to be part of such an awesome profession!

Dear readers:

The next submission deadline is September 24.

Please continue to send me your news. Photos (with captions) are also welcome. I look forward to hearing from you!

Judy Bolstad, Editor, Mosaic column, jbolstad@library.berkeley.edu

Intersect Alert August 5, 2012


Freedom of Information

Anti-Leak Measures in Senate Bill Target Press, Public
“The Senate Intelligence Committee markup of the FY2013 Intelligence Authorization Act, which was officially filed yesterday, devotes an entire title including twelve separate provisions to the issue of unauthorized disclosures of classified information, or leaks. But several of those provisions aim to disrupt the flow of unclassified information to the press and the public rather than to stop leaks of classified information. . . The bill was approved by the Senate Intelligence Committee by a vote of 14 to 1, with Sen. Ron Wyden in opposition. The text of the bill is here. The accompanying Committee report including commentary on each provision and Sen. Wyden’s dissent may be found here.”
http://www.fas.org/blog/secrecy/2012/07/press_public.html

Is Brown (Act) Out in California? Time May Tell
“City councils, public commissions, county and school boards and special district governing bodies in California may continue to hold their meetings in the figurative “sunlight,” as well they should. But in an action that has received little notice except for niche blogs, the 59-year-old “Brown Act,” the state open meetings law that compels them to hold most deliberations, discussions and decision-making sessions in public, was largely eviscerated four weeks ago.”
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/kenneth-f-bunting/jerry-brown-
What is an Unauthorized Disclosure?
“The anti-leak provisions proposed by the Senate Intelligence Committee in the pending FY2013 intelligence authorization act have been widely criticized as misconceived and ill-suited to achieving their presumed goals. But they also suffer from a lack of clarity and an absence of definitions of crucial terms.”
http://www.fas.org/blog/secrecy/2012/08/unauthorized_disclosure.html

4 Big Cities Launch Shared Data Platform
“The Twitterverse was abuzz Wednesday, Aug. 1, about a new layer of data from local governments being added to the federal government’s open data portal, Data.gov. Cities.data.gov now features data sets from four of America’s largest cities — Chicago, Seattle, New York and San Francisco.”

Palo Alto looks to use open data to embrace ‘city as a platform’
“In the 21st century, one of the strategies cities around the world are embracing to improve services, increase accountability and stimulate economic activity is to publish open data online. The vision for New York City as a data platform earned wider attention last year, when the Big Apple’s first chief digital officer, Rachel Sterne, pitched the idea to the public. This week, the city of Palo Alto in California joined over a dozen cities around the United States and globe when it launched its own open data platform. The platform includes an application programming interface (API) which enables direct access through a RESTful interface to open government data published in a JSON format.”

Public Policy

With New Funding, DPLA Sets Sights on Search
“The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) awarded $1 million to fund the creation of the infrastructure for the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA) last week, and the organization will now turn its focus toward developing a way to search across the many disparate collections involved with the project.”

Internet Access

FTC Seeks Comments on Additional Proposed Revisions to Children’s Online Privacy Protection Rule
“The Federal Trade Commission is publishing a Federal Register Notice seeking public comments on additional proposed modifications to the Children’s Online Privacy Protection Rule. In updating the Rule to keep current with technology advances, in September 2011, the FTC issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking seeking comment on proposed changes to the Commission’s COPPA Rule. The Commission received 350 comments. In response to those comments and informed by its experience in enforcing and administering the Rule, the FTC now proposes to modify certain definitions to clarify the scope of the Rule and strengthen its protections for the online collection, use, or disclosure of children’s personal information.”
http://ftc.gov/opa/2012/08/coppa.shtm

Digital History

US Executive Branch Closure Crawl
“The State of the Federal Web Report issued in late 2011 noted that Federal agencies planned to eliminate or merge several hundred domains, as part of the President’s Campaign to Cut Waste. The goal was to reduce outdated, redundant, and inactive domains. As part of this work, the .gov Task Force overseeing the process asked members of the National Digital Stewardship Alliance (NDSA) to archive and preserve all .gov Executive branch domains slated to be decommissioned or merged. NDSA members immediately agreed that an important step in this process was to preserve the content of these sites as part of our national digital heritage – instead of simply eliminating them.”
http://freegovinfo.info/node/3746

Privacy Concerns

Cybersecurity Amendments Would Modernize 25-Year-Old Privacy Law
“Two amendments to the Senate cybersecurity bill now being debated would require government agents to get a warrant before reading a person’s email or secretly tracking someone through their mobile phone. The amendments, if adopted, would be a huge privacy gain and address a long-standing civil liberties goal of modernizing the Electronic Communications Privacy Act, the 25-year old law setting rules for when government agents can access our electronic communications and other private data. The amendments, one from Senator Leahy and another from Senator Wyden, would implement reforms sought by a diverse coalition from across the political spectrum. Supporters include AT&T, Google, the ACLU, Americans for Tax Reform, EFF, and IBM, among others.”
https://www.cdt.org/blogs/greg-nojeim/0108cybersecurity-amendments-would-modernize-25-year-old-privacy-law

Intellectual Property

Statement of the Library Copyright Alliance on Limitations and Exceptions
“The Library Copyright Alliance expresses appreciation to Member States for your thoughtful discussions regarding limitations and exceptions for these three broad areas that affect the daily work of libraries: VIP, libraries, and education. We strongly oppose language in the proposed text for Article D of SCCR/23/7 regarding the provision of aggregated data to rightholders. It would invite publishers to second-guess the procedures of libraries as authorized entities, to challenge the quality and quantity of the records kept or the appropriateness
of transactions, and to threaten litigation when they see an increase.”

Divergent Approaches To Copyright Reform Emerge In Europe
“Two very different views of copyright reform emerged this week, one from a report commissioned by the UK government, the other from a French citizens’ advocacy group. The former envisions an intricately linked system of digital rights exchanges and databases to streamline copyright licensing, the latter broad, “non-market” sharing of protected works between individuals, among other things. Whether either approach is feasible remains to be seen, and, as always, the devil’s in the details, lawyers say.”
http://www.ip-watch.org/2012/08/03/divergent-approaches-to-copyright-reform-emerge-in-europe/

Library associations, EFF file friend of the court brief in Authors Guild v. Google, Inc.
“On August 1, 2012, members of the Library Copyright Alliance (LCA) (the American Library Association, Association of Research Libraries and Association of College and Research Libraries), together with the Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF), filed a friend of the court brief (pdf) in Authors Guild v. Google, Inc., a lawsuit in which authors allege that Google violated copyright by scanning books to create Google Book Search (GBS), a search tool similar to its Internet search engine. The LCA/EFF brief defends GBS as permissible under the doctrine of fair use, a flexible right that allows copying without payment or permission where the public benefit strongly outweighs the harm to individual rightsholders.”

Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety.

The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.

Open Access

OCLC recommends Open Data Commons Attribution License

OCLC is recommending that member institutions that would like to release their catalog data on the Web do so with the Open Data Commons Attribution License (ODC-BY). The license allows users to share, copy, distribute, modify, transform and build upon a database, provided that users “attribute any public use of the database, or works produced from the database, in the manner specified in the license,” according to ODC’s simple language summary.


Intellectual Property Issues

Embedding copyright-infringing video is not a crime, court rules

Embedding a copyright-infringing video on another Web site is not illegal, a court ruled yesterday.

Judge Richard Posner ruled at the U.S. Seventh Circuit Court
of Appeals that MyVidster, a social video bookmarking site, did not infringe the copyright of Flava Works, a porn production company, when it embedded copyright-infringing versions of Flava Works content from third-party Web sites.

Both Google and Facebook filed papers in support of MyVidster. They argued that sites such as theirs should be seen as intermediaries only, and that they should not be held liable if someone uploads copyrighted material to their servers, claiming Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA) safe harbor.


Public Policy

Citizens United Hearing: A Conversation about Democracy and Transparency

The Project On Government Oversight has had a longtime interest in more transparency about federal contractors, including their influence through campaign spending and lobbying. Since the 2010 Citizens’ United vs. FEC ruling, that problem has only worsened.

The reason is that the ruling now allows federal contractors, along with other corporations and unions, to influence elections with unlimited campaign spending and not nearly enough disclosure.

On July 24, more than 400 people attended a Senate Judiciary Subcommittee hearing on responses to Citizens United and the rise of Super PACs. Subcommittee members and guest panelists called for greater inclusion of average American citizens in the campaign financing system and more disclosure of campaign spending. “Half of all super PAC money being spent in presidential elections [come] from 22 people, millionaires and billionaires buying their way in,” said subcommittee chairman Dick Durbin (D- Ill.) in his opening remarks. “Can we still proclaim to be the world’s model for free elections with open debates when we allow 22 wealthy individuals to control the terms of that debate and silence the voices of others?”


How to Count Regulations: A Primer for Regulatory Research

The regulatory process is a politically charged arena, where the perception of over-regulating, or not regulating enough, can become a political liability. However, one should look skeptically towards assertions about the degree of rulemaking, especially when those assertions include specific numbers. These claims are often based on research that can be structured so as to intentionally mislead. And beyond the political motivation in how one measures regulatory action, there are also many opportunities for genuine methodological error.

Despite recent improvements, the presentation of information on federal regulations is currently very convoluted: four different government websites present overlapping and incomplete pictures of the regulatory process. Sunlight Labs has been trudging through these sites for months, and we’d like to share what we’ve learned.

http://sunlightfoundation.com/blog/2012/08/08/how-to-count-regulations-a-primer-for-regulatory-research/

Census Bureau Releases Its First Mobile App Providing Real-Time Statistics on U.S. Economy

The U.S. Census Bureau today released its first-ever mobile application, “America’s Economy,” which will provide constantly updated statistics on the U.S. economy, including monthly economic indicators, trends, along with a schedule of upcoming announcements. The app, which is currently available for Android mobile device users, combines statistics from the U.S. Department of Commerce’s Census Bureau, Bureau of Economic Analysis, and the U.S. Department of Labor’s Bureau of Labor Statistics.

http://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/miscellaneous/cb12-149.html

Privacy Issues

FTC Approves Final Settlement With Facebook

Following a public comment period, the FTC has accepted as final a settlement with Facebook resolving charges that Facebook deceived consumers by telling them they could keep their information on Facebook private, and then repeatedly allowing it to be shared and made public. The settlement requires Facebook to take several steps to make sure it lives up to its promises in the future, including by giving consumers clear and prominent notice and obtaining their express consent before sharing their information beyond their privacy settings, by maintaining a comprehensive privacy program to protect consumers’ information, and by obtaining biennial privacy audits from an independent third party.

http://www.bespacific.com/mt/archives/031004.html#031004

FTC Gets Record Settlement from Google for Privacy Violation

The Federal Trade Commission today announced it has reached a record $22.5 million settlement with Google relating to charges that the company misled users of Apple’s Safari browser by telling them it would not place tracking “cookies” or show them targeted ads. In doing so, Google violated the terms of an earlier FTC privacy settlement. The FTC also charged that Google had implied to its users that it followed the Network Advertising Initiative’s self-regulatory code of
conduct.

[https://www.cdt.org/pr_statement/ftc-gets-record-settlement-google-privacy-violation](https://www.cdt.org/pr_statement/ftc-gets-record-settlement-google-privacy-violation)

**International Outlook**

**CDT Supports Brazil’s “Bill of Rights” for Internet Users**

Tomorrow, a special committee in Brazil’s Congress will vote on the Marco Civil da Internet, a “bill of rights” for Internet users. If passed, the law would represent a paramount advance in country’s digital policymaking agenda.

The Marco Civil da Internet, or Civil Regulatory Framework for the Internet, establishes a clear set of rights and responsibilities for users, sets strong net neutrality principles, and shields Internet intermediaries from liability for illegal content posted by users.

The Marco Civil is also unique in that it was developed in a highly participatory style. Lawmakers were not the only entities involved in drafting the law—academic experts, civil society groups, and Internet users had a critical role in developing the law’s text as well.


**Digital History**

**U. Nevada Library Offers 3D Printing Across the Board**

The DeLaMare Science & Engineering Library at the University of Nevada, Reno, has become the first academic library in the U.S. to offer 3D printing and scanning services to all students and the community at large. Using specialized software to create 3D drawings, students can now print these objects on one of two 3D printers at DeLaMare – a Stratsys uPrint acquired in May and a 3DTouch, which can also produce multicolored objects.


**Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety.**

*The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.*

**A New Member Happy Hour!**

[http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2012/08/a-new-member-happy-hour](http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2012/08/a-new-member-happy-hour)

**August 15, 2012**

**Categories:** Bayline, Chapter Programs & Events

**Tags:** events

**A New Member Happy Hour!**

**Thursday, August 30, 2012, 5:30-7:30 PM**

**The Irish Bank**

**10 Mark Lane, San Francisco**

The event will be free for new and prospective members*, students, and for seasoned members who bring along one or more prospective member. The fee for all others is $10.

**Mail-In Registration**

To register as a FREE attendee, please e-mail Shelli Owens at academic@sanfrancisco.sla1.org and include the information from the mail-in form.

**Registration:** Online registrations and mailed checks need to be received by August 27th.

**Intersect Alert August 19, 2012**


**August 20, 2012**

**Categories:** Intersect Alert

**Tags:** freedom of information, intellectual property, international outlook, privacy, public policy, take action
Take Action!

Take Action to Support Ethiopian Blogger Eskinder Nega

EFF was dismayed to learn that Ethiopian journalist and blogger Eskinder Nega had been sentenced to eighteen years in prison under a sweeping and overbroad Anti-Terrorism Proclamation. More than one hundred other Ethiopians, including nine journalists, have been sentenced under the vague law. Individuals and organizations in the U.S. that wish to offer support for Eskinder Nega and freedom of expression in Ethiopia have several options. They can:

- Sign PEN American Center’s petition, which automatically an email to Prime Minister Meles Zenawi and Minister of Justice Berhanu Hailu.
- Send appeals by mail to Ethiopian officials and their local Ethiopian Embassy or Consulate.
- Contact their elected official, urging them to take a stand for freedom of expression in Ethiopia, a US ally.

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2012/08/take-action-support-ethiopian-blogger-eskinder-nega

Public Policy

Counties Across the Country Use an Array of Voting Technology

Across the United States, there are thousands of voting jurisdictions, most of which are responsible for deciding how elections will be conducted. In an attempt to present an up-to-date breakdown of voting technology in every county in the United States, a group of News21 reporters set about verifying and collecting information for every jurisdiction and verifying it with every state in the country.


Several Top Federal Contractors are also Top Polluters

Whenever someone puts out a best/worst ranking of corporations, the first thing the Project On Government Oversight does is check to see if any of the contractors in our Federal Contractor Misconduct Database are in it. This week, the Political Economy Research Institute (PERI) at the University of Massachusetts Amherst published its fourth Toxic 100 Air Polluters list of the worst corporate air polluters in the United States. Sure enough, it ranks Textron and General Electric, respectively, as the second and third worst air polluters. Sixteen other contractors in our database also made the top 100.

http://pogoblog.typepad.com/pogo/2012/08/top-federal-contractors-are-also-top-polluters.html

California Suspends Open Meetings Law to Save Money

In June, the California state legislature suspended the state’s open meetings law, which requires cities and other agencies to publish the agendas of public meetings before they occur and make the minutes of these meetings available to citizens after they occur. In suspending the law, the state is sacrificing not only a fundamental element of a democratic society, but a vital tool that can actually save money.

http://www.ombwatch.org/node/12171

Intellectual Property Issues

A Push Grows Abroad for Open Access to Publicly Financed Research

Researchers, publishers, and librarians have spent a lot of this year firing up the longstanding debate over access to published research. You’ve probably heard the big questions: Who gets to see the results of work the public helps pay for, when should they get to see it, and who’s going pay for it? This summer, the fervor has gone global, with policy makers in Britain, elsewhere in Europe, and in Australia signaling that they’re ready to come up with some answers. Details vary from country to country and proposal to proposal, but the overall warming trend looks very clear.

http://chronicle.com/article/Push-for-Open-Access-to/133561/

DMCA overkill: NASA video of Mars removed from YouTube

Hours after NASA's successful landing on Mars of its Mars rover, one of NASA's official clips from the mission was pulled from YouTube, and replaced with a notice from the video site indicating that the "video contains content from Scripps Local News, who has blocked it on copyright grounds.”

The video was replaced and Scripps apologized, but it is an example of how the scale are tipped in favor of the "content industry" and even obvious, public-domain content gets caught in the privatization of information trap.

http://freegovinfo.info/node/3759

Freedom of Information

39% of Office of Legal Counsel Opinions Kept from the Public

The Department of Justice is withholding from online publication 39% (or 201) of its 509 Office of Legal Counsel opinions promulgated between 1998 and 2012, according to a Sunlight Foundation analysis. This apparently conflicts with
agency guidance on releasing opinions to the public.

OLC opinions are the Justice Department’s authoritative legal advice to the executive branch on questions central to the functioning of government. Publication of opinions allow Congress and the public to review executive branch determinations on the lawfulness of policy options, thereby providing information necessary for oversight, historical, and precedential purposes.


**BART’s Cell Phone Shutdown, One Year Later**

A year ago this week, responding to planned protests throughout the BART system, the transit authority cut off cell phone service in four stations in downtown San Francisco. BART acknowledged the problem with their actions, and in October of last year promised to introduce a new policy restricting the circumstances under which it could manipulate communications networks.

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2012/08/barts-cell-phone-shutdown-one-year-later

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**Privacy Issues**

**ACLU sues FBI for tracking memos**

The American Civil Liberties Union filed a lawsuit on Wednesday to force the FBI to reveal internal memos on GPS tracking.

The ACLU requested the documents, which provide guidance to FBI agents about using GPS devices to track suspects, last month under the Freedom of Information Act, but the FBI has yet to respond.


**Court Dismisses Case Based on State Secrets Privilege**

A federal court yesterday dismissed a lawsuit which alleged that the Federal Bureau of Investigation had engaged in unlawful surveillance of Muslim residents of southern California. The court granted the Obama Administration’s claim that the state secrets privilege precluded litigation of the case.

The plaintiffs in the case contended that the FBI had "conducted an indiscriminate ‘dragnet’ investigation and gathered personal information about them and other innocent Muslim Americans in Southern California based on their religion." The government said various aspects of the subject were too sensitive to be addressed in open court.

http://www.fas.org/blog/secrecy/2012/08/fazaga_ssp.html

**Hackers Steal, Encrypt Health Records and Hold Data for Ransom**

As more patient records go digital, a recent hacker attack on a small medical practice shows the big risks involved with electronic files.

The Surgeons of Lake County, located in the affluent northern Illinois suburb of Libertyville, revealed last month that hackers had burrowed deeply into its computer network, infiltrating a server where e-mails and electronic medical records were stored.

But unlike many other data breaches, the hackers made no attempt to keep their presence a secret. In fact, they all but fired a flare to announce the break-in, taking the extreme step of encrypting their illicit haul and posting a digital ransom note demanding payment for the password.

The doctors turned the server off and notified the authorities, refusing to pay.


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**International Outlook**

**This Week In Internet Censorship: Activists Convicted in Oman, Malware in Nepal, and Wiretapping Bloggers in Russia**

More Activists Convicted on Protest-Related Charges in Oman: The dozens of writers, activists, and bloggers who have been arrested on charges connected to their calls for greater freedoms in Oman in May and early June of 2012 have been brought to trial, convicted, and sentenced in recent weeks.

Nepalese Government Website Compromised, Altered to Serve Malware: Last week, Websense reported on its Security Labs Blog that its security researchers had detected the compromise of two Nepalese government websites.

Russian Government Wiretaps Dissident Blogger Alexei Navalny: When Russian anti-corruption blogger Alexei Navalny found a bug hidden inside the wall molding in his office last week, he was not surprised. Russian security services have a long history of extensive surveillance of activists and dissidents, especially those who were outspokenly critical of the Putin regime. Before calling the police, Navalny posted this video of himself and his colleagues taking the surveillance device apart.

Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety.
Rediscovering the New Deal — In Libraries and in the Field


Rediscovering the New Deal — In Libraries and in the Field

Presented by Dr. Gray Brechin
Author, Historian, and Lecturer

Thursday, September 13, 2012, 5:30 – 8:00 PM

Berkeley City Club
2315 Durant Avenue, Berkeley

The Living New Deal Project has, for eight years, been inventorying and mapping the vast legacy of New Deal public works first in California and then in the United States. Project founder and scholar Dr. Gray Brechin will describe the unprecedented effort to locate the innumerable artifacts left by the WPA, CCC, PWA, and other alphabet soup agencies that helped to lift the nation out of the last depression as well as the invaluable role that librarians and archivists have played in exhuming a lost civilization built by our forebears.

In addition to his work with the Living New Deal Project, Dr. Brechin is currently a visiting scholar at UC Berkeley’s Department of Geography.

Dr. Brechin will have his award winning book “Imperial San Francisco” on hand to sell and sign.
http://graybrechin.net/

SLA Program Costs:
$25 for SLA members, $50 for non-members/guests, and $20 for students/retirees/between jobs members.

Menu:
A variety of hot and cold hors d’oeuvres will be served, as will non-alcoholic beverages. Beer and wine will be available for purchase from a no-host bar

Agenda:
5:30 – 6:30 PM Check-in and networking
6:30 – 8:00 PM Presentation by Gray Brechin, followed by Q&A

Registration: Registration for this event is closed.

Expanding Your Career Potential – Part 2

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2012/08/expanding-your-career-potential-part-2/ August 26, 2012 Categories: Bayline, Chapter Programs & Events Tags: events, professional development

Expanding Your Career Potential

Part 2 of 2

Tuesday, November 13, 2012, 6:00 – 7:30 PM

a webinar presented by
SLA President-Elect Deb Hunt and David Grossman

These are tough times, but librarians, archivists and other information professionals possess many marketable skills that may be easily adapted to access, organize and unlock the value within the paper, digital and knowledge information assets for their organization or their clients.

The workshop offers practical advice to help information professionals assess and expand their existing skill sets and develop new areas of expertise to broaden their career potential, maximize their earnings in their current position or
gain that competitive edge for landing their next job.

You will learn how to:
Plan and jump-start your next career move
Acquire 33 essential skills for career growth
Create a dynamite resume
Develop YOUR own personalized road map for career advancement

Our presenters have designed their material to allow each webinar session to stand alone and provide value for those who can attend only one session while not duplicating material for those who are able to attend both sessions. [The first session will be held on October 2. See the SLA-SF Events web page for separate registration.]

SLA Program Costs:
$35 for SLA members, $70 for non-members/guests, and $30 for students/retirees/between jobs members.

Where:
GoToWebinar, hosted by SLA (You will need a PC with internet access and a phone. The link and call information will be provided after registration payment.)

Registration:
Please register online or ensure your mail-in registration form and check are received no later than Friday, November 9, 2012.

Mail-In Registration

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Expanding Your Career Potential – Part 1

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2012/08/expanding-your-career-potential-part-1/ August 26, 2012 Categories: Bayline, Chapter Programs & Events Tags: events, professional development

Expanding Your Career Potential

Part 1 of 2

Tuesday, October 2, 2012, 6:00 – 7:30 PM

a webinar presented by
SLA President-Elect Deb Hunt and David Grossman

These are tough times, but librarians, archivists and other information professionals possess many marketable skills that may be easily adapted to access, organize and unlock the value within the paper, digital and knowledge information assets for their organization or their clients.

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Registration:
REGISTRATION IS CLOSED.

Mail-In Registration

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Intersect Alert August 26, 2012
Digital History

Alexandria 2.0: One Millionaire’s Quest to Build the Biggest Library on Earth

Here’s the problem with libraries. They catch on fire really easily. As such, they were the prized targets of the invading hordes of antiquity. They were one-man, one-torch jobs. But the hordes didn’t prize the library only for how powerfully it burned. Back in those days, if you wanted to kill a culture, you killed its library. All it took was one chucklehead with a flaming stick to annihilate thousands of years of accumulated knowledge. And it happened often.

“If this is what happens to libraries, make copies,” says Brewster Kahle. Kahle took the library of libraries – the internet – and made a couple of copies of it, and keeps making copies.

http://www.wired.com/threatlevel/2012/08/brewster-kahle/

Freedom of Information

British charity calls for ’50 Shades of Grey’ book burning

A British charity has called for a burning of the book “50 Shades of Grey” by E.L. James. Wearside Women in Need, which focuses on domestic violence, has asked readers to drop off books for a planned bonfire on Nov. 5.

A mega-bestseller, “50 Shades of Grey” features Anastasia, a naïve college student who has an affair with a handsome billionaire who introduces her to sado-masochistic sex. Random House, which published the book in Britain, insists the sex in the book is not abusive but “entirely consensual.”


Publishing

The Best Book Reviews Money Can Buy

TODD RUTHERFORD was 7 years old when he first understood the nature of supply and demand. He was with a bunch of other boys, one of whom showed off a copy of Playboy to giggles and intense interest. Todd bought the magazine for $5, tore out the racy pictures and resold them to his chums for a buck apiece. He made $20 before his father shut him down a few hours later.

A few years ago, Mr. Rutherford, then in his mid-30s, had another flash of illumination about how scarcity opens the door to opportunity. In the fall of 2010, Mr. Rutherford started a Web site, GettingBookReviews.com. At first, he advertised that he would review a book for $99. But some clients wanted a chorus proclaiming their excellence. So, for $499, Mr. Rutherford would do 20 online reviews. A few people needed a whole orchestra. For $999, he would do 50.


Public Policy

FEC Approves Wireless Companies to Cut Campaign Text Donations

Today [Aug. 22, 2012], the Obama Campaign announced it was launching a text-to-donate fundraising campaign. Last week, the Federal Election Commission approved this type of fundraising for federal campaigns. During the review of the rules, wireless carriers asked for permission to block any campaigns that “espouse views that may harm the wireless service providers’ brands.” While the FEC did not include this language in its advisory opinion, it did grant carriers wide latitude to refuse service by measuring a campaign against the carriers’ own “established business requirements.”

The Federal Election Commission has granted wireless carriers the ability to cut off text message fundraising to candidates that take positions counter to the carriers’ business interest.

http://www.publicknowledge.org/fcc-approves-wireless-companies-cut-campaign-text-

EFF Tells Obama’s IP Czar To Stand Up For Internet Users

Recently, EFF sent comments to Victoria Espinel, the Obama Administration’s “IP Czar,” to help shape how U.S. tax dollars are spent on enforcing copyright, trademark, and patent laws for the next two years.

EFF said that when the government encourages (or goads) private companies into making private “voluntary” agreements to cut down on online infringement, the government should insist on the same protections for free speech, privacy, transparency, and due process.

http://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2012/08/eff-tells-obamas-ip-czar-stand-internet-users

FCC Broadband Report Shows That Broadband Deployment, Adoption, and Competition are Still Inadequate

Today [Aug. 21, 2012], the FCC issued its Eighth Broadband
Report. 19 million Americans still do not have access to wired broadband. The Internet is the primary way that many Americans communicate, stay informed, and manage their lives. Yet many others have access to wired broadband, but don’t subscribe to it. The broadband that is available to them may be too slow, and not much of an improvement over their wireless or dial-up connections. Or it may be too expensive. Or they just might not see its value. Whatever the causes, more needs to be done to close the broadband gap.

http://www.publicknowledge.org/fcc-broadband-report-shows-broadband-deployment-ad

Open Access

How to #FreeTHOMAS: A report on implementing bulk access

Today we are pleased to release a report on improving public access to legislative information. The report is the result of a collaborative effort that was prompted by the House Leadership’s recent statement endorsing bulk access and the questions raised in a committee report accompanying the House Legislative Branch Appropriations Bill. The report is the latest in the ongoing, multi-year effort to improve how Congress releases legislative information to the public. It provides a roadmap to implementing bulk access to legislative information.

http://sunlightfoundation.com/blog/2012/08/24/how-to-freethomas-a-report-on-implementing-bulk-access/

International Outlook

Syrian Activists Launch Petition to Reform Export Controls on Technology

EFF has long contended that existing export controls – maintained by the Departments of Treasury and Commerce – hinder the ability of activists in countries like Syria to communicate. Restrictions on the use of hosting services, antivirus tools, and even circumvention technology make the already-unsafe Syrian Internet even less safe for users. Meanwhile, the Syrian government has repeatedly circumvented sanctions for the purpose of surveilling citizens. These controls are not only ineffective, they’re counterproductive.

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2012/08/syrian-activists-launch-petition-reform-export-controls-technology

Privacy Issues

Better Policies for De-Identified Health Data

The staggering amount of personal health data now being collected for treatment or billing purposes has a life beyond the doctor’s clipboard. That data is collected, stripped of personally identifying information (“de-identified”) and re-used in ways that are vital for medical breakthroughs, improving patient care, or predicting public health trends. And it’s just as valuable when used for targeted marketing campaigns or eliminating inefficiencies in the healthcare industry.

HIPAA restricts uses of identifiable health information for secondary purposes; but information that is de-identified per HIPAA standards is largely not subject to federal regulation. As a result, de-identified health data is in high demand.

https://www.cdt.org/blogs/deven-mcgraw/2108better-policies-de-identified-health-data

CA Location Privacy Bill Passes Assembly

Location privacy scored a victory today when the California Assembly overwhelmingly passed an EFF-sponsored location privacy bill, SB 1434, on a bipartisan vote of 63-11. The bill would require law enforcement to obtain a search warrant anytime it requests location information from an electronic device. It codifies the Supreme Court’s decision from earlier this year in United States v. Jones, which ruled that the installation of a GPS device for purposes of law enforcement investigation requires a search warrant. Having passed both chambers of the California legislature by a combined vote of 93-17, and assuming the Senate concurs with the version of the bill passed by the Assembly, the bill will soon land on the desk of Governor Jerry Brown.

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2012/08/ca-location-privacy-bill-passes-assembly-next-stop-governor-brown

Intellectual Property Issues

Who inherits your iTunes library?

Many of us will accumulate vast libraries of digital books and music over the course of our lifetimes. But when we die, our collections of words and music may expire with us. Someone who owned 10,000 hardcover books and the same number of vinyl records could bequeath them to descendants, but legal experts say passing on iTunes and Kindle libraries would be much more complicated.

http://www.marketwatch.com/story/who-inherits-your-itunes-library-2012-08-23

UNESCO Says Monopolization of Information Puts Barriers to a Better Life

Governments are pushing for stronger intellectual property measures that excessively favor entertainment and pharmaceutical industries through international fora such as World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) – by trying
to create new rights for Broadcasters, and more pressingly, through international agreements such as the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA) and the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPP). Many in civil society are fighting back and calling attention to the crucial need to enable and facilitate content to enter the public domain. UNESCO has been a big supporter of this initiative, standing up against the privatization of knowledge and the great risk it poses to improving quality of life around the world. Information, media, and educational professionals, as well as government executives and members of the public met at the International Conference Media and Information Literacy for Knowledge Societies in Moscow, Russia last June. UNESCO, the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), and other state and non-state agencies held this conference in order to raise awareness of the significance, scale, and topicality of media and information literacy advocacy.

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2012/08/unesco-says-information-monopoly-puts-barriers-to-better-life

Libraries

Former Library of Congress auditor says he was harassed, then fired for being gay

Peter TerVeer was an up-and-coming auditor for the Library of Congress’s inspector general’s office. His boss liked him so much he tried to set him up with his single daughter, TerVeer says. But when the boss discovered TerVeer was gay after learning from his daughter TerVeer “Liked” a Facebook page for same-sex parents, the supervisor harassed him with religious-based homophobia – and eventually got him fired, TerVeer alleges in a federal lawsuit.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/federal-eye/post/former-library-of-congress-auditor-says-he-was-harassed-then-fired-for-being-gay/2012/08/22/8ef9b088-ec82-11e1-9ddc-340d5efb1e9c_blog.html

NY Library To Adopt Ad-Supported Toilet Paper

Toilet paper printed with advertisements will appear in the bathrooms of the Port Chester-Rye Brook, NY, Public Library in October. The paper is 100 percent recycled, two-ply, and printed with soy-based ink.Venues that use the paper receive it for free, making it a potentially attractive way for cash-strapped libraries to reduce spending. (Advertisers pay $99 for 20,000 advertisements that appear on approximately 160 rolls.)

http://lj.libraryjournal.com/2012/08/managing-libraries/ny-library-to-adopt-ad-supported-toilet-paper/

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Intersect Alert September 2, 2012


Privacy Issues

The New York Times Reminds Us the NSA Still Warrantlessly Wiretaps Americans, and Congress Has the Power to Stop It

Last week, the New York Times published two important op-eds highlighting how the National Security Agency (NSA) has retained expansive powers to warrantlessly wiretap Americans after Congress passed the FISA Amendments Act in 2008. And unlike in 2005—when the exposure of the NSA’s warrantless wiretapping program provoked widespread outrage—Congress is now all but ignoring ample evidence of wrongdoing, as it debates renewing the FISA Amendments Act before it expires at the end of this year.

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2012/08/ny-times-reminds-us-nsa-still-warrantlessly-wiretapping-americans-and-congress-has

Intellectual Property Issues

Impatience over lack of action on intellectual property theft

The European Union’s Observatory on Counterfeiting and Piracy is set to be given enhanced enforcement capabilities in order to fight IP infringements. According to The Federation Against Software Theft (FAST) the new powers could start to come into effect in March 2013. However FAST points out that a stronger fight against IP breaches is long overdue.
Public Policy

Overhaul of Federal Record-Keeping Ordered By NARA, Office of Management and Budget

A major overhaul in the way federal departments and agencies manage and preserve their records was ordered today by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

In a directive that carries out a presidential memorandum to reform records management for the 21st century, NARA and OMB said that all agencies must begin to manage their records, including emails, in electronic format by the end of the decade. The directive also requires each agency to designate a high-ranking agency official to oversee its records management programs and to ensure that all appropriate staff receive records management training.

Open Access

Wiley joins open access group

John Wiley & Sons has joined the Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association. OASPA represents the interests of open access journal publishers globally in all scientific, technical and scholarly disciplines and enables exchange of information, setting standards, advancing models, advocacy, education, and the promotion of innovation.

In early 2011 Wiley launched Wiley Open Access, an open access journal program, which contains eleven journals. Wiley Open Access provides open access publication in peer-reviewed journals where all published articles are immediately freely available to read, download and share.

Freedom of Information

Presidential Claims of Executive Privilege: History, Law, Practice, and Recent Developments

Presidential claims of a right to preserve the confidentiality of information and documents in the face of legislative demands have figured prominently, though intermittently, in executive congressional relations since at least 1792. Few such interbranch disputes over access to information have reached the courts for substantive resolution. The vast majority of these disputes are resolved through political negotiation and accommodation. In fact, it was not until the Watergate-related lawsuits in the 1970’s seeking access to President Nixon’s tapes that the existence of a presidential confidentiality privilege was judicially established as a necessary derivative of the President’s status in our constitutional scheme of separated powers.

There have been only four cases involving information access disputes between Congress and the executive, and two of these resulted in decisions on the merits.

President Obama formally invoked executive privilege for the first time on June 20, 2012, over documents sought by the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform in its ongoing investigation into Operation Fast and Furious.

GOP Platform Moves from Light to Dark

As the Republican nominating convention gets into full swing, there has been much discussion about the rightward shift by the party and its platform. But the GOP’s newfound hostility toward disclosure of money in politics does not reflect a move from center to right. It’s a move from light to dark.

The GOP platform adopted yesterday left no question that the party fully embraces unlimited, unregulated, undisclosed money in our elections. “We support repeal of the remaining sections of McCain-Feingold, support either raising or repealing contribution limits, and oppose passage of the DISCLOSE Act or any similar legislation designed to vitiate the Supreme Court’s recent decisions protecting political speech in Wisconsin Right to Life v. Federal Election Commission and Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission.”
International Outlook

(Court-Ordered) Notice-and-Takedown: the Chilean Approach

In 2010, Chile updated its copyright law with a novel approach for protecting Internet intermediaries from liability for their users’ copyright infringement. Though modeled on the US Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA), the law differs in one crucial respect: While a cornerstone of the US law is its private notice-and-takedown system, the Chilean law requires that rightsholders secure a court order before content must be taken down.

Today, CDT released a short report on the Chilean law, examining the balance the law strikes among the rights of copyright-holders, intermediaries, and Internet users. As we explain in the paper, the law offers greater certainty to intermediaries as to when content should be removed, and court oversight may well prevent some of the mistakes we have seen under the US system.

On the other hand, some rightsholders have expressed dissatisfaction with the law, since having to go to court significantly raises the burden on them when requesting takedowns.

Libraries

Librarians are Completely Awesome

Here’s the thing about librarians: they are the only people I know who are incredibly excited TO DO YOUR WORK FOR YOU. As online resources become more complex, we need wise humans to help act as guides. Librarians know how to do that better than you do. Ask them for help. They also, typically, are warm, curious, helpful people.

For any doctoral students out there thinking of starting a new research project, I strongly encourage you to make your university reference librarian your first stop. I’ve had great luck with municipal librarians and with government archivists as well.

It takes a village to raise a research project.

Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety.

The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.

Intersect Alert September 9, 2012

Freedom of Information

Technology to clear FOIA backlog underused, GAO finds

“Government transparency hinges partly on the public’s access to information, but a new report finds agencies are struggling with a backlog of Freedom of Information Act requests and aren’t fully using the technologies that could help smooth the process. In a July 31 report to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, the Government Accountability Office examined how agencies are managing FOIA programs and the extent to which they have implemented technology to support FOIA processing.”

Public Policy

Library PAC Will Back Local Ballot Questions
“EveryLibrary is creating a new twist on the saying “think globally, act locally.” The new political action committee (PAC), a non-partisan 501c4 organization, will raise funds nationally and spend them in support of local library ballot initiatives like taxes, bonds, and referenda. It will also serve as a political campaign consultancy for libraries.”

Open Access

UK Government invests £10 million to help universities move to open access
“A £10 million Government investment announced today by Universities and Science Minister David Willetts will help universities with the transition to open access to publicly-funded research findings. The investment will enable a number of research-intensive UK institutions to kick-start the process of developing policies and setting up funds to meet the costs of article processing charges (APCs). This is in line with the recommendations of the Finch report on open access, published in June.”

Internet Access

Bipartisan Letter Questions Domain Name Seizures
“On Friday, Zoe Lofgren, Jason Chaffetz, and Jared Polis sent a letter to the Department of Justice and the Department of Homeland Security, demanding to know more about Operation In Our Sites, the program through which law enforcement authorities have been seizing the domain names of websites accused of hosting infringing content. The letter, addressed to Attorney General Holder and Secretary of Homeland Security Napolitano, notes that seizing domain names without the proper respect for transparency and due process can suppress free speech and cripple legitimate businesses.”
http://www.publicknowledge.org/blog/bipartisan-letter-questions-domain-name-seiz

Intellectual Property

Eyes Wide Open?
“Ask a librarian how many books she has in her collection, and you will usually get a pretty accurate answer. But ask where those books were printed, and you will get a confused look. Notice I said printed, not published. Our catalog records contain place of publication, but that is not the same as place of printing. Most publishers have their books printed in different places, and even in other countries, from where their offices are located. And up until now, that has not been information that libraries have needed to know. So what has changed? A court case out of the Second Circuit Court of Appeals held recently that the “doctrine of first sale,” which is the part of the copyright law that allows libraries to lend the materials they purchase, applies only to works that are manufactured in the United States. The Supreme Court has agreed to hear the case during its next term, and the decision they make could have a profound effect on the future of libraries.”
http://lj.libraryjournal.com/2012/09/opinion/peer-to-peer-review/eyes-wide-open-peer-to-peer-review/

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Intersect Alert September 16, 2012


Freedom of Information

FOIA backlog grows even as agencies process more requests
“Federal agencies processed more than 631,000 requests for government records under the Freedom of Information Act in fiscal 2011, 5 percent more than the year before. But the number of backlogged requests government-wide nonetheless shot up from less than 70,000 to more than 83,000. The growing backlog is due in part to a significant increase in the number of FOIA requests sent to agencies in 2011. Submissions went from 597,000 in 2010 to 644,000 in 2011, an 8 percent increase. While the government as a whole dedicated 9 percent more full-time staff to FOIA processing and spent almost $20 million more on FOIA-related activities than the year before, backlogged requests nonetheless grew by 20 percent. The figures come from the Justice Department’s 2011 summary of annual FOIA reports, a compilation of data contained in each agency’s yearly performance report under the 1966 open government law.”

2012 Secrecy Report: Sunlight Overshadowed
“The 2012 Secrecy Report released today by OpenTheGovernment.org — a coalition of more than 80
groups advocating for open and accountable government—reveals that positive changes from the Obama administration’s open government policies nevertheless appear diminished in the shadow of the President’s bold promise of unprecedented transparency. Ultimately, though, the public needs more information to judge the size, shape, and legitimacy of the government’s secrecy.”
http://www.openthegovernment.org/node/3578

Technology Reforms Pave the Way for Greater Transparency
“The federal government recently unveiled a number of valuable reforms that will pave the way to a more transparent, efficient, and innovative government. The reforms implement and complement the Digital Government Strategy released by the Obama administration in May. The strategy establishes a vision for modernizing the technology government uses to improve the delivery of information and services to citizens, with a detailed one-year plan for doing so. Reporting on their progress at the three-month milestone, agencies highlighted several accomplishments designed to make government more accessible and responsive.”
http://www.ombwatch.org/technology-reforms-pave-way-for-greater-transparency

Public Policy

Public to lose most access to state archives
“Budget cuts will cost the public most of its access to the Georgia Archives. Secretary of State Brian Kemp announced Thursday the archives starting Nov. 1 will accept only limited public appointments to see Georgia’s important and historical records dating to at least 1733. Some of the institution’s 10 full-time employees also will lose their jobs, although just how many has not yet been determined. The move, which comes in response to Gov. Nathan Deal’s request for state agencies to again trim spending, could make Georgia the only state in the nation without full-time, centrally located public access to historical government and state records, Kemp said.”

Privacy Concerns

Online Privacy Laws
“These reports describe the data protection laws of the European Union (Part I) and of selected foreign countries (Part II). They describe the constitutional foundations of data privacy and the statutory requirements that must be met in order for data to be collected, used, and transferred to third parties. They also explain the concepts of informed consent, transparency, and data minimization, and describe the rights and remedies of data subjects, particularly the rights of access, rectification, and erasure. In addition, the reports examine whether the existing laws on data privacy are adequate to deal with online privacy in an era of rapid technological development and globalization, and with an increased scale of data sharing and collecting.”
http://www.loc.gov/law/help/online-privacy-law.php

House Votes to Reauthorize FISA Amendments Act
“The House of Representatives voted yesterday to renew the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) Amendments Act for five years. The Act generally authorizes electronic surveillance of non-U.S. persons and U.S. persons who are believed to be outside the United States, while prohibiting the “intentional” targeting of persons in the U.S. without an individualized warrant, seemingly leaving a wide opening for unintentional or incidental collection. This and other features of the Act prompted concerns about the expansion of surveillance authority and the erosion of constitutional protections. . . The Congressional Research Service has produced a new report on Reauthorization of the FISA Amendments Act, dated September 12, 2012.”
http://www.fas.org/blog/secrecy/2012/09/house_faa.html

Twitter Told to Produce Protestor’s Posts or Face Fine
“Twitter Inc. has to turn over information about an Occupy Wall Street protestors posts or face a fine, a judge ruled, giving the company three days to show it isn’t in contempt of court. New York State Supreme Court Judge Matthew A. Sciarrino Jr. in Manhattan today said Twitter must produce the information by Sept. 14 or provide its earnings statements from the last two quarters so he can decide on a fine. The judge had asked Twitter to show why it wasn’t in contempt of court after refusing to produce information about Twitter posts by protestor Malcolm Harris in response to a subpoena from Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance Jr.”

Open Access

Diverse OA Coalition Issues New Guidelines to Make Research Freely Available
“In response to the growing demand to make research free and available to anyone with a computer and an internet connection, a diverse coalition issued new guidelines that could usher in huge advances in the sciences, medicine, and health. The recommendations were developed by leaders of the Open Access movement, which has worked for the past decade to provide the public with unrestricted, free access to scholarly research—much of which is publicly funded. Making the research publicly available to everyone—free of charge and without most copyright and licensing restrictions—will accelerate scientific research efforts and allow authors to reach a larger number of readers.”

Intellectual Property

A not-very-appealing appeal
“To the surprise of no one, I think, the plaintiff publishers in the Georgia State litigation filed a notice of appeal on Monday. There has already been considerable coverage of this decision,
in, for example, Inside Higher Ed, the Chronicle of Higher Education, and Library Journal. The actual Notice of Appeal is a very dull document; it merely lists the orders from the District Court with which the publishers take exception, and “respectfully give[s] notice” of the intent to appeal. The real action yesterday was in the press releases, and there the publishers respect for the District Court was much less evident.”

http://blogs.library.duke.edu/scholcomm/2012/09/11/a-not-very-appealing-appeal/

European Parliament Passes Orphan Works Directive
“The European Parliament today passed a “directive on certain permitted uses of orphan works” with 531 in favour versus 65 opposed (11 abstentions). The directive will be a good first step toward allowing the digitisation and making available to the public of older copyrighted works that are buried in the archives and libraries of the Union because no rights holder can be located, the lead rapporteur Lidia Geringer de Oedenberg (S&D) and many supportive MEPs said.”


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private-sector industries. It focuses on the protections provided to employees who believe they have been subject to retaliation, rather than on how or where alleged misconduct should be disclosed. In addition, the report also includes an overview of the Whistleblower Protection Act. While state law may also provide whistleblower protections for employees, this report focuses only on the aforementioned federal statutory provisions.”

http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R42727.pdf

Congress.gov Unveiled Today: Public Beta Site Provides Free, Fact-Based Legislative Information

http://www.loc.gov/today/pr/2012/12-171.html
http://beta.congress.gov/

Public Policy

Some Successes, Room for Improvement on E-Gov
“Ten years after the passage of the E-Government Act of 2002 (P.L. 107-347), a new GAO report finds federal agencies have yet to address key areas to improve citizen access to government information and services. While the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and other agencies have taken significant steps to comply with the act—including releasing guidance, coordinating reporting, and assigning leadership responsibilities—further action is necessary.”

http://aallwash.wordpress.com/2012/09/20/some-successes-room-for-improvement-on-e-gov/

Intellectual Property

Opposing Views: The Impact Of Canada’s Access Copyright Decision
“One of the five Canadian Supreme Court cases handed down in mid-July considered whether photocopying by kindergarten to grade 12 teachers constitutes fair dealing. Since then, opinions have varied on whether the decision represents a broadening of the fair dealing doctrine or simply fact-specific guidance.”

http://www.ip-watch.org/2012/09/21/opposing-views-the-

http://www.ip-watchdog.com/2012/09/18/copyright-issues-on-the-legislative-agenda-for-2012-2013/id=28130/

http://beta.congress.gov/

Authors, Academics and Students Protest Publishers’ Move in Delhi University Copyright Case
“If you have been following the recent copyright dispute between a group of publishers and Delhi University, you will acknowledge that the case primarily concerns three groups: (1) the publishers (2) authors, and (3) end users themselves (including universities, academies, research scholars, professors and students). But with the vehement objections from both authors and students to the publishers’ move against the university, raising concerns about restrictions on access to knowledge, perhaps it is time for the Government of India to seriously consider the potentially detrimental impact of this case on the future of Indian education and academia, and implead itself as a party to the suit immediately.”

http://spicyipindia.blogspot.com/2012/09/authors-academics-and-students-protest.html

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Intersect Alert September 30, 2012

Freedom of Information

New Senate Bill Would Advance Spending Transparency
“The latest offering from the Senate on federal spending transparency is far less ambitious than its House counterpart, but if enacted, it would be a big win for transparency and accountability. There would still be some areas of spending transparency to be addressed in future legislation, but if the Senate’s version of the Digital Accountability and Transparency Act (DATA Act) becomes law, the public will have a clearer picture of federal spending and new tools for accountability.”
http://www.ombwatch.org/new-senate-bill-would-advance-spending-transparency

Deja Vu—Again—for Whistleblowers
“The House has been working on a miracle—we tried to move the Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act (WPEA, S. 743, as amended) through both chambers with passage by unanimous consent. It was a heroic effort by the very committed cosponsors of the bill, their staff, and our allies, but in the end, there wasn’t enough time. Again.”
http://pogoblog.typepad.com/pogo/2012/09/d%C3%A9j%C3%A0-vu-again-for-whistleblowers.html

White House visitor log access debated
“Every year, hundreds of thousands of visitors come and go from the White House for a myriad of reasons, including official policy sessions, ceremonies and personal meetings with the president. With a nod toward greater transparency, President Barack Obama early in his administration began a voluntary disclosure program, publishing visitor logs online. “Americans have a right to know whose voices are being heard in the policymaking process,” he said in a formal statement in 2009. But are all of the records open for public review? Confronting a lawsuit over access, a federal trial judge in Washington last year ordered the U.S. Secret Service to process a document request for the visitor logs. The U.S. Department of Justice is now fighting on appeal to keep the information secret, perhaps national security and confidentiality concerns.”

Open Access

Want to Change Academic Publishing? Just Say No
“When I look at the work I do as an academic social scientist and the remuneration I receive, I see a pattern that makes little sense. This is especially the case with regard to publishing. If I review a book for a newspaper or evaluate a book for a university press, I get paid, but if I referee an article for a journal, I do not. If I publish a book, I get royalties. If I publish an opinion piece in the newspaper, I get a couple of hundred dollars. Once a magazine paid me $5,000 for an article. But I get paid nothing directly for the most difficult, time-consuming writing I do: peer-reviewed academic articles. In fact a journal that owned the copyright to one of my articles made me pay $400 for permission to reprint my own writing in a book of my essays.”
http://chronicle.com/article/Want-to-Change-Academic/134546/

Internet Access

A Network Neutrality Meme That Will Not Go Away
“Recently, arguments against network neutrality as a “solution in search of a problem” have resurfaced. People who make this argument essentially claim either (1) discrimination predicted by Public Knowledge (and the FCC) will never actually come to pass, or (2) discrimination can be benign or even beneficial. For the reasons set out below, these arguments are not persuasive, especially in light of recent examples of discrimination by service providers.”
http://www.publicknowledge.org/blog/network-neutrality-meme-will-not-go-away

Proposals to Children’s Privacy Rule Pose Real Problems for Free Expression and Innovation
“The FTC is proposing changes to the Children’s Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA) rule that will increase uncertainty for website operators and app developers and could bring a whole new set of sites and services into COPPA’s scope. COPPA requires operators of websites and online services that are targeted to children, or who know a particular user is a child under the age of 13, to obtain verified parental consent before collecting the child’s personal information. A lot has changed about the collection and use of personal information online since COPPA was enacted in 1998, and the FTC started the current Rule review process in 2010. CDT weighed in on previous rounds of comments, recognizing the need to bring COPPA up to date but cautioning the FTC that changes to COPPA’s age limit or the range of sites it covers would have severe consequences for minors’ and adults’ First Amendment rights. The FTC has been a strong voice in keeping COPPA focused on children under 13, but, as we discussed in Ars Technica last week, several of their most recent proposals introduce vagueness and uncertainty into COPPA’s scope, which could have real impacts on online innovation and free expression. CDT, joined by the American Library Association, filed comments yesterday that discuss how.”

Public Policy

New GAO report, Electronic Government Act: Agencies Have Implemented Most Provisions, but Key Areas of Attention Remain (GAO-12-782)
“GAO is recommending that OMB identify in its annual report to Congress the provisions of the act that are not included and why, establish a federal research and development repository and website, and issue guidance on agency participation in this site.”
New Report Rates Countries on Internet Freedom

“On Monday, Freedom House released Freedom on the Net 2012, an annual report that summarizes threats to user rights online, access to ICTs, and a range of policy developments that affect openness on the global Internet. The report includes narrative profiles and Internet freedom “scores” for 47 countries around the world, with an emphasis on countries where Internet openness and user rights have historically been at risk.”


Lofgren’s Task Force on the Global Internet

“There has been a flurry of activity around Internet freedom recently. Not only have both parties included it in their platform, but Rep. Zoe Lofgren has taken an affirmative step in its favor by proposing the Global Free Internet Act of 2012, H.R. 6530 (a predecessor bill called the “One Global Internet Act” was proposed by Lofgren in 2010 with bipartisan support). The newly proposed bill does not directly change substantive law. Rather, it creates a group whose job would be to tackle Internet freedom on a national and international level, and could potentially do something about regimes around the world that lack openness—including, potentially, our own.”

http://www.publicknowledge.org/blog/lofgren%E2%80%99s-task-force-global-internet

Cleansing the Internet of Terrorism: EU-Funded Project Seeks To Erode Civil Liberties

“A new project aimed at “countering illegal use of the Internet” is making headlines this week. The project, dubbed CleanIT, is funded by the European Commission (EC) to the tune of more than $400,000 and, it would appear, aims to eradicate the Internet of terrorism. European Digital Rights, a Brussels-based organization consisting of 32 NGOs throughout Europe (and of which EFF is a member), has recently published a leaked draft document from CleanIT. On the project’s website, its stated goal is to reduce the impact of the use of the Internet for “terrorist purposes” but “without affecting our online freedom.” While the goal may seem noble enough, the project actually contains a number of controversial proposals that will compel Internet intermediaries to police the Internet and most certainly will affect our online freedom. Let’s take a look at a few of the most controversial elements of the project.”

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2012/09/cleansing-internet-terrorism-leaked-eu-proposal-would-erode-civil-liberties

Intellectual Property

The Secrecy Must Be Stopped: Congress Members Probe USTR on the Confidential TPP Negotiations

“The Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement (TPP) threatens to regulate and restrict the Internet in the name of enforcing intellectual property (IP) rights around the world, yet the public and civil society continue to be denied meaningful access to the official text and are even kept in the dark about what proposals countries are pushing in this powerful multilateral trade agreement. With users having sent over 80,000 messages to Congress asking them to demand transparency in the TPP using EFF’s Action Center, Congress members have been urged into action to uncover the secrecy.”

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2012/09/TPP-secrecy-must-be-stopped

International Outlook

Iran Moves to Isolate Its Citizens Online

“The news that Iran might be seeking to create a ‘halal Internet’ isn’t new. But while speculation about Iran’s withdrawal from the online world abounds, the country’s recent move to block Gmail and—though inconsistently—Google Search, is one of the first concrete measures to indicate just how serious the plans may be.”

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2012/09/iran-moves-isolate-its-citizens-online

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grandstand ticket it was free!

New Positions

Corporate Member Annual Reviews, a nonprofit scholarly publisher of 41 journals, recently hired librarians Anna Allegra Fleming as Institutional Marketing Specialist and Erin Lee as Electronic Content Coordinator.

Anna focuses on marketing promotions for libraries, including arranging strategic presence at relevant conferences, cultivating a growing sponsorships program, managing social media for libraries, and strengthening relationships with subscription agents. Prior to Annual Reviews, she was Head of Collection Management at Northwestern University’s medical library after a stint as Library Relations Manager in the University of Chicago Press Journals Marketing Department. Long ago, while in library school, Anna was the Vice-Chair for the student chapter of SLA at the University of Washington’s School of Information.

Erin organizes and posts online supplemental material, is responsible for the delivery of journal metadata to abstracting and indexing services, and uses her librarian detective skills to solve any findability issues for Annual Reviews publications. Before joining Annual Reviews, Erin worked as a special collections librarian at the National Service-Learning Clearinghouse and taught a research skills class at West Valley College.

Dear readers:

The next submission deadline is November 26.

Please continue to send me your news. Photos are also welcome. I look forward to hearing from you!

Judy Bolstad, Editor, Mosaic column, jbolstad@library.berkeley.edu

President’s Message: Fall Update

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2012/10/presidents-message-fall-update/ October 9, 2012 Categories: Bayline, Chapter Leadership Tags: President's message

We’ve had some challenges as well, most notably in relation to our newsletter, Bayline. We were all excited to move from a PDF file to a blog, and integrate Bayline into our new website. Unfortunately, we lost our editor in the midst of the transition, and this has resulted in less frequent Bayline updates than we’d like. Special thanks go to Heather Gamberg for supporting Bayline in addition to her work as Secretary. Bayline will clearly be an area of focus for 2013, as the newsletter is a critical tool for keeping us all in touch with one another and recording our chapter history.

We still have plenty of opportunities to meet and get together this year. On November 13th, we’ll have part 2 of Deb Hunt and David Grossman’s professional development program “Expanding Your Career Potential”. Later in November, we’ll have our second tour of the year (location is still TBA), and finally, on December 18th we’ll have our annual Holiday Party, once again at Thirsty Bear brewpub, but this year incorporating our annual awards ceremony. Watch for details on that event.

Finally, I want to let you know about a change in pricing for next year’s events. For several years, the chapter has used its funding reserves to subsidize the cost of chapter events, keeping the standard registration fee at an affordable $25 for members. The board still feels that subsidizing events is an appropriate use of chapter reserves; however, the losses we sustained on events this year are simply not sustainable.
Therefore, the board has agreed that the standard registration fee for 2013 will be $30 for members. The non-member and student/unemployed rates will stay the same at $50 and $20, respectively. The chapter will still be underwriting events at those rates, but at a level that will allow us to continue subsidies into the future.

I look forward to seeing you all at the holiday party!

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Intersect Alert October 7, 2012


Freedom of Information

Agency Proposal Would Reduce the Public’s Right to Know about the Fish Population

Our nation’s ocean wildlife and fish are a public resource, and citizens should be able to track the impact of fishing on fish populations. But a new proposal from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) will greatly reduce the public’s access to essential fisheries data, including taxpayer-funded programs. http://www.ombwatch.org/agency-proposal-would-reduce-public-right-to-know-about-fish-population

National Archives and Government Printing Office Release Presidential Documents


What Happened to the National Zoological Park Library, or How a New Model of Librarianship Came to the Smithsonian Libraries

“The end of an era has come to the Smithsonian Libraries and a new one begins! The current model of a library, with a physical location, books and journals on the shelves and a librarian to manage it all is so 2011. http://www.librarystuff.net/2012/10/09/what-happened-to-the-national-zoological-park-library-or-how-a-new-model-of-librarianship-came-to-the-smithsonian-libraries/

Library in transition – Harvard moves rapidly into digital future, while preserving past

“A new Web portal for the revamped Harvard Library is opening the window on a massive reorganization effort that is designed to preserve the incredibly valuable print past while embracing the increasingly important digital future. http://www.librarystuff.net/2012/10/04/library-in-transition-harvard-moves-rapidly-into-digital-future-while-preserving-past/

Public Policy

Celebrating a Public Protections Milestone: The 40th Anniversary of the Clean Water Act

Oct. 18 marks the 40th anniversary of the Clean Water Act, a crucial law that protects the nation’s water from pollution. Congress passed the landmark legislation at a time when much of our water was so contaminated by industrial waste and other pollutants that it was unfit for public use. http://www.ombwatch.org/clean-water-act-40th-anniversary

EFF Opposes US Government’s State Secrets Claim (Again) in Jewel v. NSA, the Warrantless Wiretapping

Yesterday, EFF filed its latest brief in the Jewel v. NSA case, aiming to stop the government from engaging in mass warrantless collection of emails, phone calls, and customer records of ordinary Americans. The matter is set for hearing on December 14, 2012 in federal court in San Francisco, on the question of whether these Americans will get their day in court. https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2012/10/eff-government-state-secrets-jewel-nsa

Passing Over the “Fiscal Cliff” in Early 2013 Seems Increasingly

While the outcome of the 2012 election will still ultimately decide next steps on the federal budget, a status-quo election that leaves Democrats in control of the presidency and Republicans in control of the House of Representatives seems likely to produce a budget stalemate that will last through the rest of the year and will trigger a “fiscal cliff” of spending cuts and tax increases in the new year. http://www.ombwatch.org/passing-over-fiscal-cliff-in-2013-increasingly-likely

Internet Access
New Senate Report: Counterterrorism “Fusion Centers” Invade Innocent Americans’ Privacy and Don’t Stop Terrorism

The Department of Homeland Security’s 70 counterterrorism “fusion centers” produce “predominantly useless information,” “a bunch of crap,” while “running afoul of departmental guidelines meant to guard against civil liberties” and are “possibly in violation of the Privacy Act.”

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2012/10/new-senate-report-confirms-government-counterterrorism-centers-dont-stop

Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety.

Intersect Alert October 14, 2012


Freedom of Information

Why Do Librarians Expect a Fair Price for an Ebook?

Hachette’s recent big price increase coupled with Random House’s large increase earlier this year got me thinking. Does the publishing community understand why librarians would balk at increases on the order of 100% or 200%?

http://www.districtdispatch.org/2012/10/why-do-librarians-expect-a-fair-price-for-an-ebook/

Join the Team

Here’s a friendly reminder to complete our quick survey to become a member of AALL’s Advocacy Team if you haven’t already done so!

With Congress making cuts to Government Printing Office and Library of Congress funding, looming threats to eliminate crucial print legal resources, and important information policy issues competing for attention in the upcoming lame-duck session, now is the critical time to make your voice heard. Whether you’re new to our advocacy efforts or a seasoned veteran, the Government Relations Office would like to invite you to become a more effective, engaged member of AALL’s Advocacy Team by providing us with some brief information about yourself and your interests. The information you share with us will help us help you become your most effective advocate.

http://aallwash.wordpress.com/2012/10/09/join-the-team/

Obama Issues Directive on Intelligence Community Whistleblowers

President Obama yesterday issued Presidential Policy Directive 19 on “Protecting Whistleblowers with Access to Classified Information.”

The directive generally prohibits official reprisals against an intelligence community employee who makes a “protected disclosure” concerning unlawful activity or “waste, fraud, and abuse.” It does not authorize disclosure of classified information outside of official channels to the press or the public.

http://www.fas.org/blog/secrecy/2012/10/ppd_19.html

Public Policy

LCA Comments on Authors Guild v. Hathi Trust Decision

The Library Copyright Alliance (LCA) welcomes Judge Baer’s decision (pdf) yesterday that the HathiTrust Digital Library’s (HDL) use of digitized works is a fair use permitted under the Copyright Act. Judge Baer’s key holding was:

I cannot imagine a definition of fair use that would not encompass the transformative uses made by [HDL] and would require that I terminate this invaluable contribution of the progress of science and cultivation of the arts that at the same time effectuates the ideals espoused by the ADA.

http://www.districtdispatch.org/2012/10/lca-comments-on-authors-guild-v-hathitrust-decision/

National Medal Nominations Open

Library supporters who believe their libraries are providing communities with exceptional service now have the opportunity to get national attention for their libraries. Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) announced this week that the agency is accepting nominations for the 2013 National Medal for Museum and Library Service, the nation’s highest
honor for exemplary service by museums and libraries. The award nomination deadline ends on October 15, 2012.

http://www.districtdispatch.org/2012/10/national-medal-nominations-open/

Internet Access

AAP and Google settle… questions remain

The Association of American Publishers (AAP) announced today they have reached a settlement in their lawsuit filed in 2005 against Google, Inc. According to AAP’s press release, US publishers can choose to make available or choose to remove their books and journals digitized by Google for its Library Project….Apart from the settlement, US publishers can continue to make individual agreements with Google for use of their other digitally-scanned works.

http://www.districtdispatch.org/2012/10/aap-and-google-settle-questions-remain/

International Outlook

Highest Court in the European Union To Rule On Biometrics Privacy

Courts are investigating the legality of a European Union regulation requiring biometric passports in Europe. Last month, the Dutch Council of State (Raad van State, the highest Dutch administrative court) asked the European Court of Justice (ECJ) to decide if the regulation requiring fingerprints in passports and travel documents violates citizens’ right to privacy. The case entered the courts when three Dutch citizens were denied passports and another citizen was denied an ID card for refusing to provide their fingerprints. The ECJ ruling will play an important role in determining the legality of including biometrics in passports and travel documents in the European Union.

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2012/10/highest-court-european-union-rule-biometrics-privacy

Kiriakou Not Allowed to Argue Lack of Intent to Harm U.S.

A court ruled this month that former CIA officer John Kiriakou, who is charged with unauthorized disclosures of classified information to the media, will not be permitted to argue at trial that he intended no harm to the United States, or that his entire career testifies to a deep commitment to national security.

http://www.fas.org/blog/secrecy/2012/10/kiriakou_intent.html

Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety.

The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.

Share this:

October 21st Intersect Alert

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2012/10/october-21st-intersect-alert/ October 22, 2012 Categories: Intersect Alert Tags: books and reading, freedom of information, government, intellectual property, international outlook, research, technology

Freedom of Information

Kiriakou Not Allowed to Argue Lack of Intent to Harm U.S.

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http://www.fas.org/blog/secrecy/2012/10/kiriakou_intent.html

GPO PARTNERS WITH TREASURY DEPARTMENT ON PUBLIC ACCESS TO DIGITAL COLLECTIONS

“The U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO) and the U.S. Department of the Treasury are partnering on a pilot project to make digitized content from the Treasury library available on GPO’s Federal Digital System (FDsys), a one-stop site to authentic, published Government information. Through the pilot project, the Treasury Reporting Rates of Exchange, 1956-2005, which list the exchange rates of foreign currencies based on the dollar, are now available on FDsys. Over the next year, additional historical documents within the Treasury’s library collection will be made available on FDsys, including the Official Register of the United States: 1829-1861; 1879-1959, a publication with information about the Federal workforce, including the name of every employee, their job title, state or country of birth, the location of their post, and their annual salary”
Announcing Whispercast for Kindle—A Free Self-Service Tool for Schools and Businesses to Manage Large Deployments of Kindles and Support Purchase and Distribution of Kindle Books and Documents Across Kindle E-Readers, Kindle Fires and Free Kindle Reading Apps from Amazon.com, Inc. today announced “Whispercast for Kindle,” giving schools and business customers a simple, scalable online tool for deploying Kindle devices and Kindle content. Whispercast provides a single access point to easily purchase and distribute Kindle books and documents for educational, marketing and employee incentive programs across Kindle devices and free Kindle reading applications for iPad, iPhone, Android phones and tablets, PCs and Macs. In the coming months, Whispercast will support distribution of Kindle Fire applications.

Groups Call on Congress to Rein in Excessive Compensation of Defense Department

Groups Call on Congress to Rein in Excessive Compensation of Defense Department Contractors

WASHINGTON, Oct. 18, 2012—Today, a group of public interest organizations and unions wrote to the House and Senate Armed Services Committees, urging them to rein in excessive government compensation of Defense Department contractors. The groups strongly support an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act of 2013 (S. 3254) that would lower the cap on such compensation.

Obama’s big green donors starting to thaw – New Solyndra emails – Inhofe to release report on regs delayed until after election – N.Y. Senate candidate spar over fracking safety

THE BIG GREEN THAW: Some wealthy green donors who enthusiastically backed President Barack Obama four years ago are steering their dollars elsewhere this election. Others are opening their checkbooks to aid the president — but largely out of fear of what a Mitt Romney administration would do to their causes. Darren Goode has the story for Pros:

http://www.politicopro.com/login/

Public Policy

The Purpose of National Security Policy

The most fundamental purpose of national security policy is not to keep the nation safe from physical attack but to defend the constitutional order. At least, that is what President Reagan wrote in a Top Secret 1986 directive.

“The primary objective of U.S. foreign and security policy is to protect the integrity of our democratic institutions and promote a peaceful global environment in which they can thrive,” President Reagan wrote in National Security Decision Directive 238 on “Basic National Security Strategy,” which was partially declassified in 2005.

In a list of national security objectives, the directive does note the imperative “to protect the United States… from military, paramilitary, or terrorist attack.”

http://www.fas.org/blog/secrecy/2012/10/nsdd_238.html

Job Growth During the Recovery

New and updated reports from the Congressional Research Service that Congress has not made available to the public include the following.

http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R41434.pdf

Miles of Documents Now Online

“Imagine if the entirety of the Library of Alexandria, once a vast repertory of documents from the ancient world, had been digitized and preserved on the Internet before its destruction. Now imagine the digital collection had a function allowing users to search—and find—a single name. That’s what Georgette Bennett and Leonard Polonsky did. Then they provided a lead gift of $1 million to the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee Global Archives to enable the digitization of 1.8 million historic documents.”

http://www.librarystuff.net/2012/10/17/miles-of-documents-now-online/

Copyright

“What has developed in the content industries is a sense that copyright exists to support their

“What has developed in the content industries is a sense that copyright exists to support their businesses, so any new way they find to extract a little extra money from the rights they hold should be endorsed and protected by the courts. If you start from that premise, it makes sense to sue libraries for providing digital copies to blind people and professors for giving students access to short excerpts from a scholarly book
because you believe you are acting from within the core purpose of copyright. But the premise is wrong.”

http://policynotes.arl.org/post/33838462253/what-has-developed-in-the-content-industries-is-a

International Outlook

Google Under Pressure from EU Regulators on Privacy

On Oct. 16, European Union data protection authorities issued a letter to Google CEO Larry Page calling upon the search engine giant to revisit its privacy policy. Earlier this year, the policy was unified into one policy covering a wide range of different Google services and integrating data from Google search history and YouTube accounts. When Google first unveiled its new privacy policy, European regulators greeted it with skepticism and requested Google to delay instituting the revised policy. Google refused. The letter followed a months-long exchange between Google and EU privacy regulators, stemming from a formal investigation as to whether Google’s new privacy policy adheres to EU privacy regulations.

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2012/10/google-under-pressure-eu-data-commissioners-privacy-policy

Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety.

The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.

Share this:

Join the Team in 2013!

Hello fellow chapter members! I am eagerly gearing up for my term as President of the San Francisco Bay Region chapter next year, and I am looking for people to join my team. As Mimi mentioned in her recent President’s Message, she and I are working on filling the open positions on the 2013 Advisory Council. Although we plan to offer more discrete volunteer opportunities working with all of our Advisory Council Chairs throughout the next year, our current need is to fill these specific Chair positions.

Here’s where we need you to raise your hand!

- **Bayline** – As Mimi mentioned, the transition of Bayline to a blog format integrated into our new website was thrown off a bit due to unforeseen events in the life of our wonderful Bayline editor. We really need someone to step up and take the reins of our chapter newsletter. This would involve soliciting content to ensure at least two or three posts are generated a month (though more are welcome). You would have help since the Director and Assistant Director of Programs, along with the rest of the Board, are already soliciting write-ups of the various events throughout the year. However, we really need someone to solicit additional articles, set deadlines, edit the articles, and get them posted to the web site. Since the blog format is new, you’ll have a lot of opportunity to shape the Bayline editor role for the future.
- **Webmaster** – The web site itself is in need of a new friend. Cynthia Matano has very skillfully migrated our chapter content to the new WordPress format bringing us into line with the association’s Operation Vitality efforts. Cynthia has worked long and hard to bring us through this transition and now she needs a break! Help us keep our web site up-to-date. You will receive leadership rosters from yours truly, meeting minutes from the Secretary, and event notices from the Director of Programs. You will help Vendor Relations post sponsor advertisements on the site. Now that we are on the same platform, we are also exploring options for creating a new version of the Jobline page that can exist simultaneously on the both chapters’ web sites.
- **Tours** – Organize tours of local libraries and archives all over the Bay Area! These are very popular programs that always get great attendance. You will be responsible for setting up two tours, one in June and another in November. This is your chance to get a behind-the-scenes look at whichever institution you’ve always wanted to see. Best of all, the current Tours Chair is moving into another position on the Board and will be available to pass along her list of ideas and help get you started!
- **Networking** – Help our members connect with like-minded professionals! Keep current on local events sponsored by other groups of information professionals and make sure they know about our events, too! We are also looking at using this position to expand our social media efforts. Do you post questions or reply to other people’s posts on LinkedIn? Do you spend time engaging with groups on FaceBook? Are you active on Twitter? Spend a just a couple extra minutes on any or all of these platforms to develop the chapter’s presence.
- **Public Relations** – We know how awesome we are, but you can help communicate the value of information professionals to the world outside our membership! Write or solicit articles for local business newspapers. Find out where the C-Level people go for their information and make sure we have a presence there, too! Work with the association’s Public Relations Advisory Council on their
podcasting project to interview members’ bosses about the value and impact information professionals bring to the organization. This is a more externally facing position that can really be what you want to make of it.

Volunteering with the chapter pays back in dividends many times over. As with so many things in life, you will get back out what you put in. So get involved! Please contact me if you are interested in any of these positions, or in hearing about other volunteer opportunities that arise.

I look forward to hearing from you!

By Anne N. Barker
Chapter President-Elect

Intersect Alert October 28th

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2012/10/intersect-alert-october-28th/

October 29, 2012 Categories: Intersect Alert Tags: freedom of information, government, intellectual property, international outlook, internet access, open access, professional development

Freedom of Information

Court Orders FBI to Release Withheld Information

As often happens, the Federal Bureau of Investigation invoked national security a few years ago to justify withholding certain information from a Freedom of Information Act requester named Deirdre McKiernan Hetzler.

But as rarely happens, a court last month critically assessed the FBI national security claim and ordered the Bureau to release some of the withheld information.

http://www.fas.org/blog/secrecy/2012/10/hetzler_fbi.html

Kiriakou Pleads Guilty in Leak Case

This morning former CIA officer John Kiriakou pleaded guilty to one count of disclosure of information identifying a covert agent, a violation of the Intelligence Identities Protection Act.

“When KIRIAKOU disclosed the identity of Officer A to Journalist A, KIRIAKOU acted willfully in that defendant knew the disclosure was illegal,” according to a Statement of Facts approved and signed by Mr. Kiriakou today.

http://www.fas.org/blog/secrecy/2012/10/kiriakou_plea.html

Stephen King’s ‘Different Seasons’: Banned, briefly, at Rocklin High School

“Think about Stephen King books with disturbing themes and the tale of the Overlook, a malevolent hotel, might come to mind, or Christine, a malevolent Plymouth. As a bestselling horror novelist, King made his bones and his fortune by frightening the wits out of readers. Yet it was his collection of non-horror novellas with themes more societal than scary that was briefly banned this month from a high school outside Sacramento.”

http://www.librarystuff.net/2012/10/28/stephen-kings-different-seasons-banned-briefly-at-rocklin-high-school/

Public Policy

DLC Annual Meeting and Conference

The Government Relations Office staff is attending the Depository Library Council Meeting and Federal Depository Library Conference this week in Arlington, VA!

In addition to educational sessions offered by government agencies and librarians, the Government Printing Office will be presenting the preliminary results from the FDLP Forecast Study, and you can tune in online. More information is available on the FDLP Desktop, and a transcript will be available after the event.

http://aallwash.wordpress.com/2012/10/17/dlc-annual-meeting-and-conference/

Conservatives’ Tax Strategy: Use Economic Fears to Cut Taxes for the Wealthy

Congressional conservatives have revealed their negotiating strategy for dealing with the fiscal cliff slope: scare the public and congressional Democrats into a deal that reduces the deficit through spending cuts alone. These fears have been blown out of proportion. A fiscal Armageddon will not happen on Jan. 1, 2013.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) and House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) tipped their strategy when they responded to a speech by Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-NY), who called on Democrats to fight to retain Clinton-era income tax levels for upper-income households. Schumer urged Democrats to allow the top two income tax brackets to revert back to 36 and 39.6 percent (from their current levels – 33 and 35 percent) and to increase the capital gains tax rate to some level below 40 percent (from today’s 15 percent).


D.C. Council members push for longer library hour

“D.C. library advocates told D.C. Council members Thursday that they want libraries to be open longer, but are worried that extra hours would mean more staffing. “We want extended
hours, but there needs to be funding to staff these hours,” said Susan B. Haight, president of the Federation of Friends of the DC Public Library. “My concern is that legislation will be passed and the funding will not follow. An unfunded mandate does not work for us.”

http://www.librarystuff.net/2012/10/26/d-c-council-members-push-for-longer-library-hours/

Privacy Concerns

Privacy & Civil Liberties Oversight Board Invites Public Input

The long-dormant Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board (PCLOB) announced that it will hold its first public meeting next week and it invited members of the public to provide input to help shape the Board’s near-term agenda.

“In anticipation of setting the agenda of issues on which the Board will focus its attention, the Board would welcome the views of nongovernmental organizations and members of the public,” stated a notice in the October 23 Federal Register.

http://www.fas.org/blog/secrecy/2012/10/pclob_meeting.html

Open Access


As of Oct. 15, oil and gas operators must notify the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) via e-mail two days in advance of extracting natural gas from a hydraulically fractured or refractured well. This notification requirement is part of EPA's new Clean Air Act (CAA) standards, which will reduce emissions from volatile organic compounds (VOCs) released during natural gas production by requiring “green completions” after January 2015. Industry opposes the standards, but a new report shows they are crucial to protecting the public.

The oil and gas industry appears to be ramping up its lobbying efforts to dismantle the new rule, beginning with criticism of the advance notice requirement that went into effect last week. In particular, drillers are upset that they must send the advance notice to EPA, preferring state regulation of hydraulic fracturing.


Fracking Continues to Expand Rapidly Despite New Evidence of Health Risks

Another public interest report has confirmed that shale gas extraction is creating new public health risks. However, the fracking boom grows unabated, and drilling is occurring near schools and other locations. This could lead to increased chemical exposures among children and other vulnerable populations.

http://www.ombwatch.org/fracking-expands-despite-health-risks

Scaling Up Transparency: New Approaches Could Yield Greater Openness

Two reforms launched by federal agencies this month represent new approaches to more efficiently releasing government information. New websites to publish declassified documents and records released under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) could set new precedents and improve on older practices by making the information available to everyone online.

http://www.ombwatch.org/scaling-up-transparency

iPads set to take over from books in school libraries, principal says

“Principal of Madison Park Primary David Lawton said books would become a “thing of the past”. “The day has arrived – iPads are here … look out books,” Mr Lawton told the News Review Messenger. “School library budgets are being lowered and our budgets for technology are higher, so it’s only a matter of time before technology takes over from the traditional way of teaching. “iPads are increasing the rate and quality of learning and schools have to lead in this area.”

http://www.librarystuff.net/2012/10/26/ipads-set-to-take-over-from-books-in-school-libraries-principal-says/

International Outlook

Podcast: The Foreign Policy Auction with Ben Freeman

POGO’s Ben Freeman just released his book The Foreign Policy Auction, so we sat down with him to find out who is paying to change U.S. foreign policy and how.


Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety. The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.
Public Policy

Court: Memphis library cards can be used at the polls

The Tennessee Supreme Court ruled on Thursday that photo ID cards issued by the Memphis Public Library qualify as a valid form of identification in Tuesday’s election. In a statement, state election officials said Memphis residents will be allowed to use library-issued IDs in next week’s election. The ruling applies only to voters within Shelby County.

After Tuesday’s presidential election, the high court will take up the question of whether the state’s new voter ID law is constitutional.

http://www.tennessean.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2012311020065&nclick_check=1

Nonprofits, shell corporations help shield identity of ad backers; Names occasionally slip through

In the 2012 election, nonprofits have been the preferred vehicle for donors who prefer to keep their identities secret. But with the right lawyers, super PACs, which are supposedly transparent about their donors, can accomplish the same feat.

Super PACs do report their donors. In some instances, though, those donors are nonprofits. Or the funds might come from shell corporations, which have passed through millions of dollars to the political organizations from unidentified donors in this election. Last week, the American Energy Opportunity Fund, a 501(c)(4) group led by two executives at an oil and gas company, revealed it had paid for nearly $800,000 in radio ads targeting President Barack Obama on his energy policy and the funds came thanks to a donation from Las Vegas casino titan Sheldon Adelson. Adelson and his family have given more than $53 million to super PACs this election.

http://www.publicintegrity.org/2012/10/30/nonprofits-shell-corporations-help-shield-identity-ad-backers

Privacy Issues

Angry Birds Has A Ravenous Ability to Collect Personal Data

Angry Birds, the top-selling paid mobile app for the iPhone in the United States and Europe, has been downloaded more than a billion times by devoted game players around the world, who often spend hours slinging squawking fowl at groups of egg-stealing pigs.

While regular players are familiar with the particular destructive qualities of certain of these birds, many are unaware of one facet: The game possesses a ravenous ability to collect personal information on its users.


Freedom of Information

Judge Orders DOJ to Justify Secrecy of Watergate-era Wiretaps

A federal judge in Washington today ordered the U.S. Justice Department to justify the continued need for secrecy over certain Watergate-era wiretap and grand jury records that remain sealed in a high-profile criminal prosecution.

Government lawyers oppose the public disclosure of any papers about illegally obtained wiretaps tied to the Watergate scandal. The Justice Department this summer, in response to a demand for those records, argued there’s no First Amendment or public right of access to illegally obtained wiretaps. Historical or scholarly interest, the government said, doesn’t justify discretionary disclosure.


Latest Dark Money Tallies: $213 million in the general election and counting, 81% on behalf of Republicans; 34 races with $1 million or more

Back in July, Senate Republicans successfully blocked the DISCLOSE Act, which would have required all organizations spending $10,000 or more to reveal their donors. Now we understand why.

Through Nov.1, at least $213.0 million has been spent in the general election by “dark money” groups to influence the 2012 elections. Of that, $172.4 million (81%) has been spent to help Republican candidates, as compared to $35.7 million (19%) to help Democrats. (By ”dark money” we mean groups that do not disclose their donors and only are required to disclose their congressional race spending within 60 days of House and Senate elections and their presidential race spending following the national party conventions).

http://sunlightfoundation.com/blog/2012/11/02/dark-money-tallies/

Redistricting: GOP and Dems alike have cloaked the process in secrecy

When state legislators in Wisconsin began work last year on a plan for redistricting, the once-a-decade process when states draw new district maps for Congress and state legislatures, they found themselves presented with non-disclosure agreements requiring them to keep their deliberations confidential.
In the lead up to the most recent round of redistricting, which began last year with the release of data from the 2010 census, politicians, advocates and "good government" groups nationwide pushed to open the process to citizens and allow for broader debate than in the past. The idea was that a transparent process would lead to maps that made more sense geographically and better reflected voters’ interests.

But with few exceptions, the political parties in control of statehouses rammed their own partisan proposals through the legislatures as quickly as possible, leaving little more than nominal opportunities for the public to influence the process. In several states, legislatures outsourced the actual work to lawyers and used claims of attorney-client privilege to further exclude the public.

http://www.publicintegrity.org/2012/11/01/11670/redistricting-gop-and-dems-alike-have-cloaked-process-secrecy

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Intellectual Property Issues

**Good News for Libraries in Latest Round of DMCA Exceptions**

Last Friday the Librarian of Congress officially issued the latest iteration of rules describing exceptions to the general rule in the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA) that it is unlawful to break digital locks (also known as technical protection measures (TPMs) or digital rights management (DRM)).

The law requires that every three years the Copyright Office seek information about noninfringing uses that are frustrated by digital locks, and based on submissions from the public, recommend exceptions to the Librarian, who issues a final order with classes of works that can be unlocked. This time around, two rule changes should be of particular interest to research libraries.

First, there is a significantly expanded exception to allow breaking digital locks on ebooks in order to facilitate access for the print disabled. …

Second, the exception for using video materials is significantly expanded. …


**Supreme Court seeks a way around "perpetual copyright" on foreign goods**

If the Supreme Court is looking for a middle ground in Wiley v. Kirtsaeng, it’s going to be hard to find. That copyright case, argued this morning, could have a big impact on resale markets around the country.

It’s impossible to know from reading into oral arguments which way the court will go. Questions from the bench today show the justices are seriously concerned about the possible effects on resellers of common goods, as well as legal obstacles that could be created for museums and libraries. At one point, Justice Stephen Breyer grilled Wiley’s lawyer about how a victory for his side would avoid interfering with the sale of millions of used Toyotas.

The case started in 2008, when textbook manufacturer John Wiley & Sons sued Supap Kirtsaeng for re-selling textbooks he bought in Thailand on the cheap. Wiley argues that by importing and selling the books without permission, Kirtsaeng violated copyright law – even though the books aren’t pirated, they’re simply cheap foreign editions.


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**International Outlook**

**Torture Fears for Open Source Software Activist Detained in Syria**

In July, the Electronic Frontier Foundation called for the immediate release of open source developer and Creative Commons volunteer Bassel Khartabil, who had been detained in Syria since March 12, 2012 as part of a wave of arrests made in the Mazzeh district of Damascus. We felt that the situation was especially urgent in light of a recent Human Rights Watch report documenting the use of torture in 27 detention facilities run by Syrian intelligence agencies. Now it appears that our concerns were well-founded. According to a new Amnesty International report, a released detainee has informed Bassel Khartabil’s family that he is being held at the Military Intelligence Branch in Kafr Sousseh and had been tortured and otherwise ill-treated.

In response to this alarming news, Bassel’s friends and supporters around the world have launched a letter-writing campaign, hoping to flood Syrian officials and diplomats with physical mail demanding that Khartabil be formally charged and given access to a lawyer or released immediately. Participants are encouraged to send photographs of their letters to info@freebassel.org.

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2012/10/torture-fears-open-source-software-activist-detained-syria

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**Libraries**

**New York City Libraries Relatively Unscathed; New Jersey Still Taking Stock**
As New York City public transportation crawls back to life and New Yorkers struggle to resume their lives after Sandy, those seeking refuge—or simply reading materials—will be able to plug in and warm up at 55 of the New York Public Library’s 90 branches this morning. The rest, including the main 42nd Street branch, remained closed on Thursday—mostly due to power problems rather than flooding, says Angela Montefinise, NYPL’s Public Relations Director.

Remarkably, NYPL’s system, incorporating libraries in Manhattan, Staten Island, and the Bronx, suffered virtually no structural damage, says Montefinise.

Elsewhere, in New York and New Jersey, assessments are still being made. 


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Save the Date – Joint Chapter Tour

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2012/11/save-the-date-joint-chapter-tour/ November 7, 2012 Categories: Bayline, Chapter Programs & Events Tags: events

Save the Date!

Thursday, November 29th, 4:00 – 7:00 PM

Behind the Scenes Joint Chapter Tour of the Iris & B. Gerald Cantor Center for Visual Arts at Stanford University

museum.stanford.edu

Please join us for a special joint tour bringing together the San Francisco and Silicon Valley chapters. This tour will be a behind-the-scenes look at the Cantor Arts Center at Stanford University.

Formerly known as the Stanford University Museum of Art, the Cantor Arts Center has a collection spanning 5,000 years of art history and encompassing antiquity, ethnographic art, modern art, contemporary art, and sculpture gardens. The sculpture gardens include the largest collection of Auguste Rodin sculptures outside of the Musee Rodin in Paris.

**This tour is limited to 25 attendees, so please register early!**

SLA Tour Tentative Schedule

4:00 – 4:15 Gather in the Main Lobby
4:15 – 6:00 pm. Tour will begin promptly at 4:15 – please be on time!
6:00 – 7:00 pm. Networking and refreshment available for purchase in the museum’s Cool Cafe

SLA Tour Cost: $5 flat registration for everyone

Location

The Cantor Arts Center is located at the intersection of Museum Way and Lomita Drive on the Stanford campus, northwest of The Oval and the Main Quad. Parking along Museum Way is by permit only until 4 pm on weekdays; parking is free after 4 pm and on weekends. A parking structure with both metered and permit parking is located on Roth Way near the Center. This parking is free after 4 pm weekdays and all day on weekends.

Stanford University is accessible by several public transportation agencies. More information can be found here: http://transportation.stanford.edu/alt_transportation/BayAreaTransit.shtml

A map and directions to the museum can be found here: http://museum.stanford.edu/visit/visit_MapDirections.html

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Intersect Alert November 12, 2012

Public Policy

Accuracy Isn’t Priority as VA Battles Disability Claims Backlog

A lawsuit filed by the former VA disability claims representative provides a rare glimpse into what veterans’ advocates call systemic problems in how the agency handles compensation claims filed by Americans wounded physically or mentally in the line of duty. A Center for Investigative Reporting review of the VA’s performance data reveals chronic errors – committed in up to 1 in 3 cases – and an emphasis on speed over accuracy that clogs the VA system with appeals, increasing delays for all veterans. "When the VA makes a mistake processing a veteran’s claim, then our veterans face another unacceptably long wait," said Paul Sullivan, a Gulf War veteran and former senior VA project manager who now works for the Washington, D.C.-area law firm Bergmann & Moore. “These veterans, many of whom are unemployable due to disabilities, often lose their homes and are unable to put food on the table for themselves and their families.”

As of mid-October, appeals represented nearly a third of the more than 819,000 pending disability claims. Nationwide over the past year, the average time a veteran waits for a decision has increased by more than two months – to 260 days. Veterans who appeal wait an average of 3½ years, according to VA performance data obtained by CIR through the Freedom of Information Act.


Court Blocks |California’s| Proposition 35’s Restriction on Anonymous Speech

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Court Blocks |California’s| Proposition 35’s Restriction on Anonymous Speech

A few hours after EFF and the ACLU of Northern California filed a class action lawsuit in San Francisco federal court challenging California’s recently enacted Proposition 35, the court issued a temporary restraining order, blocking implementation of the initiative due to the existence of "serious questions" about whether it violated the First Amendment. Proposition 35 is ostensibly about increasing punishment for human traffickers, but would also require all registered sex offenders in California to turn over a list of all their Internet identifiers and service providers to law enforcement.

Proposition 35 eliminates the ability of a whole class of people — 73,000 individuals in California — to speak anonymously online by forcing them to turn over any identifier they use, whether its "Anonymous" or their real name. Plus, it requires disclosure of information about online accounts unrelated to criminal activity, like Yelp or Amazon.com. And most troubling, it allows the government to monitor and record a wide swath of innocent Internet activity, from a registarant with a fantasy football team to the one who comments on a political discussion group.

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2012/11/court-blocks-proposition-35s-restriction-anonymous-speech

Intellectual Property Issues

HathiTrust Verdict Could Transform University Access for the Blind

While the verdict in the Authors Guild v. HathiTrust case has been widely hailed for its impact on how libraries can handle digitization for search, the findings on access for the print-disabled may lead to even more profound changes in practice. On an Association of Research Libraries (ARL) webcast, Daniel F. Goldstein, counsel of the National Federation of the Blind (NFB), said the decision could revolutionize university services to their blind and print disabled students.

According to Goldstein, up until now, many colleges and universities have re-digitized the same books over and over, on demand, for each blind or print-disabled student that needs them. Now that the HathiTrust verdict has held that digitizing works for the purpose of providing access to the blind and print-disabled is not only a fair but a transformative use, schools can feel safer hanging onto those scans until the next student who needs them comes along, and can spend their efforts on improving them or scanning more books, instead of doing the same bare minimum of texts over and over.

http://lj.libraryjournal.com/2012/11/copyright/hathitrust-verdict-could-transform-university-access-for-the-blind/

LCA Issues Statement on Authors Guild’s Appeal of HathiTrust Decision

The Library Copyright Alliance (LCA) has issued the following statement regarding the appeal filed yesterday by the Authors Guild in its lawsuit against the HathiTrust and five partner libraries:

"We are deeply disappointed by the Authors Guild’s decision to appeal Judge Baer’s landmark opinion acknowledging the legality, and the extraordinary social value, of the HathiTrust Digital Library. Libraries have a moral and a legal obligation to provide the broadest possible access to knowledge for all of our users, and the HathiTrust and its partners have assembled an invaluable digital resource that will ensure for the first time that library print collections can be made available on equitable terms to our print-disabled users. The database also facilitates preservation and cutting-edge scholarship, all with no harm to authors or publishers. As we predicted, Judge Baer did not look kindly on the Guild’s shortsighted and ill-conceived lawsuit, saying, "I cannot imagine a definition of fair use that … would require that I terminate this invaluable contribution to the progress of science and cultivation of the arts that at the same time effectuates the ideals espoused by the ADA." If there is an upside to this misguided appeal, it is that the Second Circuit will now have the opportunity to affirm that powerful insight.

http://lj.libraryjournal.com/2012/11/copyright/hathitrust-verdict-could-transform-university-access-for-the-blind/
**Freedom of Information**

**When Congress Comes Back: How It Can Help Protect the Internet**

Now that the election is over, Congress can get back to work doing the people’s business. And if that work is going to affect online expression, innovation, and/or privacy, it should start with a simple proposition: bring in the nerds (aka experts) and Internet users who care deeply about protecting their digital rights.

Just about a year ago, we watched in horror as ranking members of the House Judiciary Committee did their level best to ram through the Stop Online Piracy Act (SOPA), a massive piece of legislation that would have undermined basic Internet architecture and security, chilled innovation and free speech. Standing against them were a few brave legislators, who suggested that maybe, just maybe, it would be a good idea to hear from the numerous folks who had expressed concerns about the bill, including the widely-respected engineers who helped create the Internet, law professors, human rights groups, and ordinary Internet users.

**FOIA for Profit**

The next time you request documents for declassification, it is likely your submission will be processed by a private contractor, not a government employee. The privatization of the FOIA process has proliferated in recent years. According to a recent Bloomberg article, "At least 25 agencies are outsourcing parts of the FOIA process, a 40 percent jump since Obama’s inauguration." Since 2009, the government has awarded at least 250 FOIA related contracts, and in most cases contractors now outnumber government employees three to one.

Levels of involvement vary from agency to agency, but these contractors are now routinely involved in nearly every stage of the process, including submitting recommendations for what to redact, corresponding with requesters, locating records and drafting responses to FOIA requests.

**Pentagon Inspector General to Probe Overclassification**

The Department of Defense Inspector General (IG) announced that it will begin to review the Department's classification practices, as required by the 2010 Reducing Over-Classification Act. The review will evaluate the policies and procedures "that may be contributing to persistent misclassification of material." It will also address "efforts by the Department to decrease over-classification," wrote Acting Deputy Inspector General James R. Ives in an October 3 letter sent to Department officials.

**Privacy Issues**

**As Libraries Go Digital, Sharing of Data Is at Odds With Tradition of Privacy**

Colleges share many things on Twitter, but one topic can be risky to broach: the reading habits of library patrons. Harvard librarians learned that lesson when they set up Twitter feeds broadcasting titles of books being checked out from campus libraries. It seemed harmless enough – a typical tweet read, "Reconstructing American Law by Bruce A. Ackerman," with a link to the book’s library catalog entry—but the social-media experiment turned out to be more provocative than library staffers imagined.

Harvard suspended the practice after privacy concerns were raised. Historically, libraries have been staunch defenders of patrons’ privacy. Yet to embrace many aspects of the modern Internet, which has grown more social and personalized, libraries will need to "tap into and encourage increased flows of personal information from their patrons," says the privacy-and-social-media scholar Michael Zimmer.

**Lawmakers Release Information About How Data Brokers Handle Consumers' Personal Information**

A bipartisan group of lawmakers, including Reps. Edward J. Markey (D-Mass.) and Joe Barton (R-Texas), co-Chairmen of the Congressional Bi-Partisan Privacy Caucus, today released responses to letters sent to nine major data brokerage companies querying each about how it collects, assembles and sells consumer information to third parties. The companies – Acxiom, Epsilon (Alliance Data Systems), Equifax, Experian, Harte-Hanks, Intelius, Fair Isaac, Merkle, and Meredith Corp. – responded to lawmaker questions about policies and practices related to privacy, transparency and consumer notification. Data brokers represent a multi-billion dollar industry, aggregating information about hundreds of millions of Americans from both online and offline sources, which they then may sell to third parties for targeted advertising and other purposes. Consumers often have little knowledge of the existence of these companies.
The American Academy of Pediatrics recently released a new policy statement calling for modifications to electronic health record systems to better protect the privacy of adolescent patients, FierceEMR reports. AAP wrote, "Continued lack of privacy protection in EHRs risks diminishing adolescent access to care, potentially resulting in higher adolescent pregnancy and [sexually transmitted infection] rates, and unraveling significant gains that have been achieved."


International Outlook

UNESCO launches Global Survey on Internet Privacy and Freedom of Expression

How do the "digital footprints" of Internet and cellphone users affect privacy, and what impact does this have on freedom of expression? These questions lie at the heart of a new study released by UNESCO this week … This publication seeks to identify the relationship between freedom of expression and Internet privacy, assessing where they support or compete with each other in different circumstances. The book maps out the issues in the current regulatory landscape of Internet privacy from the viewpoint of freedom of expression. It provides an overview of legal protection, self-regulatory guidelines, normative challenges, and case studies relating to the topic.


Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety.

The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.

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**This tour is limited to 15 attendees, so please register early!**

*Please note that the attendance limit had to be revised from 25 to 15 due to safety and security concerns. Because of this, space is very limited. There has already been a lot of interest, so please register as soon as possible in order to secure a space.

SLA Tour Tentative Schedule

4:00 – 4:15 pm. Gather in the staff entrance on the left side of the building, directly behind Rodin’s “Gates of Hell”

4:15 – 6:00 pm. Tour will begin promptly at 4:15 – please be on time!

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Mail-In Registration

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Some reasons why:

• Our chapter does not make a profit on our events. We subsidize our events because it is important to us to be able to keep our attendance fees low.
• We are required to pay in advance for food and venues, and these costs are frequently based on head count. Therefore, we’ve already paid for your attendance.
• As a volunteer organization we are just not staffed to be able to keep track of refunds or attendance for future events.

So if you’ve paid for an event you find you cannot attend, please consider the following:
• Post a notice on our discussion board inviting a member to take your place
• Think of it a tax-free donation to our organization.

Intersect Alert November 19, 2012


Public Policy

Whistleblower Protection Act goes to President’s desk

The Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act (WPEA) was unanimously approved by the Senate on Tuesday, marking a positive leap forward for federal employees who expose fraud, waste, and abuse in the government. The bill, which was unanimously approved by the House in September in a pro forma session, now moves to President Barack Obama’s desk for his signature.

According to the Government Accountability Project (GAP) and Project on Government Oversight (POGO), the legislation expands protections for exposing wrongdoing, ensures fair processes for whistleblowers, and addresses administrative authority to oversee whistleblower protection, among other issues. The legislation does not extend as far as it could, however. It leaves out members of the intelligence and national security communities, and it does not give jury-trial rights to enforce protections.

http://sunlightfoundation.com/blog/2012/11/14/whistleblower-protection-act-goes-to-presidents-desk/

New version of the US Code online

Here is an announcement from the Office of Law Revision Counsel of the United States House of Representatives of a new version of the United States Code:

A little over a year ago, the Office of the Law Revision Counsel of the United States House of Representatives released beta version 1 of a new website for the Office and the United States Code. Beta version 2 is now being released for testing and feedback. It is available at http://uscodebeta.house.gov. You are invited to test version 2 and give us your comments about its features, content, and ease of use. Version 2 includes the following new features:

– Default searching and browsing in the most current version of the Code (formerly USCprelim)

– Ability to search and browse previous versions of the Code back to the 1994 main edition (either separately or concurrently)

– Internal links to referenced Code sections

http://freegovinfo.info/node/3811

Freedom of Information

CDT and Legal Scholars to Court: Internet Providers Don’t Have a First Amendment Right to Edit the Net

Today the Center for Democracy & Technology (CDT) filed a brief urging the DC Circuit Court of Appeals to protect the free speech rights of Internet users and reject Internet service providers’ claims that they have a First Amendment right to edit their customers’ Internet experience. The brief responds to the companies’ (Verizon and MetroPCS) argument that they have a First Amendment right to exercise "editorial discretion" over the content they transmit, a right they argue renders unconstitutional the FCC’s requirement that they not block or interfere with their customers’ access to lawful Internet content.
Privacy to Porno: What censorship means around the world

Google released data today that shows requests for censorship and surveillance are on the rise worldwide. Google keeps track of government requests to remove its content (requests it sometimes abides) and releases data biannually. We mapped those numbers, which include July 2010 through June of this year, to show the main products each government is targeting and the reasons they gave for doing so. What it shows is that censorship varies greatly across the world – some of which stretches the definition of what people usually define as censorship. For example, since the reports began in 2010, the United Kingdom has led the way with 97,891 removal requests, 96,280 of which were for Google’s AdWords.

The Meaning of Transparency, and More from CRS

President Obama’s declared goal of making his "the most transparent Administration in history" generated successive waves of enthusiasm, perplexity, frustration, and mockery as public expectations of increased openness and accountability were lifted sky high and then – often, not always – thwarted. Part of the problem is definitional.

"Although there are laws that affect access to government information, there is no single definition for what constitutes transparency – nor is there an agreed upon way to measure it," observes a new report from the Congressional Research Service (PDF).

The CRS report does not explore political obstacles to greater transparency (such as the congressional policy that bars CRS publication of this very report on transparency).

Intellectual Property Issues

Apple patents the virtual page turn

Apple is now the proud owner of the page turn. In a patent approved this week by the United States Patent Office Apple was awarded a design patent for "Display screen or portion thereof with animated graphical user interface."

The patent illustration shows three images: One with the corner of a page being turned slightly, the next with it halfway, and a third showing the page almost entirely turned over.

Book Scanning As Fair Use: Google Makes Its Case As Authors Guild Appeals Hathitrust Fair Use Ruling

Two new developments in the two big cases concerning book scanning and fair use: first up, we’ve got the somewhat unsurprising news that the Authors Guild is appealing its rather massive loss against Hathitrust, the organization that was set up to scan books from a bunch of university library collections. As you may recall, Judge Harold Baer’s ruling discussed how the book scanning in that case was obviously fair use. It was a near complete smackdown for the Authors Guild.

Meanwhile, in a closely related case, involving the Authors Guild suing Google over its book scanning efforts, Google has filed its appeal brief in response to an earlier ruling, which said that the Authors Guild can represent authors and has standing...
to sue. Google is arguing that its offering is also a clear case of fair use, as in the Hathitrust case. Google’s brief also argues that the Authors Guild cannot represent the class of authors in the case, since many authors are helped by Google Books and don’t agree with the Authors Guild that it’s somehow evil.


U.S. Copyright Surveillance Machine About To Be Switched On, Promises of Transparency Already Broken

The Copyright Alert System – an elaborate combination of surveillance, warnings, punishments, and "education" directed at customers of most major U.S. Internet service providers – is poised to launch in the next few weeks, as has been widely reported. The problems with it are legion. Big media companies are launching a massive peer-to-peer surveillance scheme to snoop on subscribers. Based on the results of that snooping, ISPs will be serving as Hollywood’s private enforcement arm, without the checks and balances public enforcement requires. Once a subscriber is accused, she must prove her innocence, without many of the legal defenses she’d have in a courtroom. And all of this was set up with the encouragement and endorsement of the U.S. government.

One of the mechanisms that was supposed to ensure some degree of fairness was independent auditing of the P2P surveillance methods used to identify alleged infringers, and of the ISPs’ procedures for matching Internet Protocol addresses to actual humans. But last month, the group set up to oversee the system – the Center for Copyright Information – revealed that its "independent" reviewer was Stroz Friedberg, a lobbying firm that represented the Recording Industry Association of America in the halls of Congress from 2004 to 2009.

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2012/11/us-copyright-surveillance-machine-about-be-switched-on

Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety. The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.

Chapter Holiday Party and Annual Awards Ceremony


SF Bay Region Chapter Holiday Party and Annual Awards Ceremony

Tuesday, December 18, 2012, 5:30 – 9:00 pm

ThirstyBear Brewing Company and Spanish Tapas Restaurant
661 Howard Street, SF
http://www.thirstybear.com

Please join us as we celebrate the season, another year of terrific Chapter events, and the contributions of some of our distinguished members.

Agenda:
5:30 – 6:30 Party!
6:30 – 7:00 Awards!
7:00 – 9:00 More Party!

Menu:
A variety of tapas and paella, including vegetarian options. One drink ticket is included.

SLA Program Cost:
$25 per person for everyone

Location:
ThirstyBear is located in San Francisco’s SOMA neighborhood. It is a 6 minute walk from Montgomery BART and MUNI. Street parking and various garages are nearby. http://www.thirstybear.com/contact

Registration Deadline:
Please register online or ensure your mail-in registration form and check are received no later than Thursday, December 13.

Registration Forms:
Mail-In Registration

Event Refund Policy:
After careful review, the Executive Board of the SF Bay Region Chapter of SLA has decided that we cannot accommodate refunds or “rain checks” for our events (this includes programs, tours, professional development workshops, etc.).

Some reasons why:
• Our chapter does not make a profit on our events. We
subsidize our events because it is important to us to be able to keep our attendance fees low.

• We are required to pay in advance for food and venues, and these costs are frequently based on head count. Therefore, we’ve already paid for your attendance.

• As a volunteer organization we are just not staffed to be able to keep track of refunds or attendance for future events.

So if you’ve paid for an event you find you cannot attend, please consider the following:

• Post a notice on our discussion board inviting a member to take your place

• Think of it a tax-free donation to our organization.

Intersect Alert November 26, 2012

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2012/11/intersect-alert-november-26-2012/ November 26, 2012 Categories: Intersect Alert Tags: digital preservation, freedom of information, intellectual property, libraries, open access, public policy, research, take action together, these considerations suggest that the fee-based model under which NTIS currently operates for disseminating technical information may no longer be viable or appropriate. …In light of the agency’s declining revenue associated with its basic statutory function and the charging for information that is often freely available elsewhere, Congress should consider examining the appropriateness and viability of the fee-based model under which NTIS currently operates for disseminating technical information to determine whether the use of this model should be continued.

http://freegovinfo.info/node/3817

Public Policy

PACER Federal Court Record Fees Exceed System Costs

The federal government has collected millions from the online Public Access to Court Electronic Records system, or PACER – nearly five times what it cost to run the system. Between fiscal years 2006 and 2010, the government collected an average of $77 million a year from PACER fees, according to the most recent federal figures available.

Critics have derided PACER, saying the government has increased user fees over the years without making the system easier to use. The fees, some say, act as a deterrent to public access. “Given the lack of oversight for what the fees are being used for, the incentive for the courts is to raise fees,” said Stephen Schultze, associate director of Princeton University’s Center for Information Technology Policy.


GAO finds NTIS’ fee-based model no longer viable or appropriate. FGI has suggestions

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) has just published a report analyzing the National Technical Information Service (NTIS). This report is an update of a 2001 GAO report on the dissemination of technical reports. It offers quite a bit of information as to the scope of work done by the NTIS and the costs associated with that work.

GAO’s conclusion states:
…Charging for information that is freely available elsewhere is a disservice to the public and may also be wasteful insofar as some of NTIS’s customers are other federal agencies. Taken

Come to CityCamp Oakland

On December 1, all roads will lead to Oakland, CA for CityCamp Oakland — an unstructured conference where municipal employees, department heads, technology folks, developers, journalists and engaged citizens will talk about technology and local government. Organized by OpenOakland, the City of Oakland and other local organizations, CityCamp Oakland will show how innovative technology and open data can improve civic engagement, increase efficiency and government transparency while connecting residents to the city of Oakland. The Camp will be at the City Hall.

http://sunlightfoundation.com/blog/2012/11/19/come-to-citycamp-oakland/

Digital History

Giving Digital Preservation a Backbone

Libraries used to be the main stewards of the cultural and scientific record. But in the era of digital storage “cloud computing,” the institutions best-positioned to manage vast quantities of data are often companies such as Google and
Elsevier. That is a big problem, said James Hilton, the chief information officer at the University of Virginia, in a talk on Thursday here at Educause. For all their current stability and rhetorical commitments to preserving their records, Google and Elsevier cannot be trusted with the task of digital preservation in the long term, said Hilton. Part of Hilton’s agenda here was to draw attention to the Digital Preservation Network, a consortium of universities that is attempting to build a framework for keeping digital artifacts viable as institutions and technologies rise and fall around them.


**JSTOR provides free access to Wikipedia editors via pilot program**

One of the challenges facing the volunteer editors of Wikipedia is finding reliable sources to use as reference material – in our [Wikipedia’s] last editor survey, 39 percent named this as one of the largest problems hindering their contributions. To address this issue, the Wikimedia Foundation is collaborating with JSTOR, a service of the not-for-profit organization ITHAKA, to provide 100 of the most active Wikipedia editors with free access to the complete archive collections on JSTOR, including more than 1,600 academic journals, primary source documents and other works.

http://blog.wikimedia.org/2012/11/19/jstor-provides-free-access-to-wikipedia-editors/

**Libraries**

**FBI removes files during raid of Detroit Public Library**

FBI agents raided the Detroit Public Library system and the home of its chief administrative officer on Tuesday, removing financial records from the agency that’s been beset by controversy, officials confirmed. Nine agents arrived at the library’s main offices on Woodward at 8 a.m. They left shortly after 11 a.m. carrying three cardboard boxes and what appeared to be computer equipment.

Tuesday’s raid follows money problems that forced the system to close two branches and lay off 80 of 364 staffers – and persistent questions about spending. In a series last year, The Detroit News exposed allegations of misspending, mismanagement and nepotism. Among other purchases that were questioned, the library bought 20 lounge chairs for $1,100 apiece at a time it was cutting staff. Numerous contracts also have been called into question, as well as hiring practices, The News has reported.

http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20121120/METRO/211200394

**Charge Amazon, Starbucks and Google unpaid tax to fund libraries, says Winterson**

A fiery Jeanette Winterson has called for the hundreds of millions of pounds of profit which Amazon, Starbucks and Google were last week accused of diverting from the UK to be used to save Britain’s beleaguered public libraries. In an impassioned speech at the British Library this evening, the award-winning author of Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit said: “Libraries cost about a billion a year to run right now. Make it two billion and charge Google, Amazon and Starbucks all that back tax on their profits here. Or if they want to go on paying fancy lawyers to legally avoid their moral duties, then perhaps those companies could do an Andrew Carnegie and build us new kinds of libraries for a new kind of future in a fairer and better world?”

Winterson was referring to the meeting at parliament’s public accounts committee last Monday which saw executives from the three companies vigorously quizzed by MPs over their tax affairs, and accused of diverting UK profits to tax havens.

http://www.guardian.co.uk/books/2012/nov/19/amazon-starbucks-google-libraries-jeanette-winterson

**Intellectual Property**

**The Copyright Reform Report That Wasn’t**

Last Friday, the House Republican Study Committee (RSC) released a policy brief titled “Three Myths About Copyright Law and Where to Start to Fix it,” lauded by the tech community and cause for celebration among copyright reform advocates. Less than 24 hours later – and after what we can assume was severe backlash from the content industry – the brief was retracted, with RSC Executive Director Paul Teller issuing a statement that the memo had been “published without adequate review.” It’s safe to assume that the RSC was flooded with calls from entertainment and content industry lobbyists.

http://aallwash.wordpress.com/2012/11/20/the-copyright-reform-report-that-wasnt/

**Freedom of Information**

**Some Things Never Change: Governments Still Present Biggest Threat to Open Internet**

Some things change, but others stay the same. While the types of threats facing Internet users worldwide have diversified over the past few years, from targeted malware to distributed denial
of service attacks, one thing has remained constant: governments seeking to exert control over their populations still remain the biggest threat to the open Internet. Which countries are the worst offenders? Unsurprisingly, the United States once again tops the list (though, followed by Germany and Brazil. The three countries have almost consistently dominated the top since the creation of the Transparency Report in 2010. Other notable offenders for 2012 include Argentina, Turkey, and India. It is noteworthy that all of the countries at the top of the list are democracies.


Open Access

Fastcase Announces Partnership with Hawaii State Bar Association to Provide Free Access to Legal Research Library

Today the Hawaii State Bar Association (HSBA) and legal publisher Fastcase announced a partnership to provide members of the state bar with free access to Fastcase’s nationwide legal research system. This partnership is the latest in a growing number of bar associations that are offering the Fastcase benefit – 23 state bar associations representing more than 500,000 lawyers now subscribe to Fastcase as a free benefit for their members.

The HSBA is the sixth in a growing number of state bar associations upgrading from the Casemaker legal research benefit to Fastcase, and the eighth state overall that has switched to Fastcase, including two states that switched from Versuslaw and LexisNexis. No state bar association has ever switched from a Fastcase benefit to another provider.

http://www.prweb.com/releases/FastcaseHawaii/HSBA/prweb10148440.htm

International Outlook

EU Parliament Endorses Internet Openness, Transparency Ahead of WCIT

The European Parliament today approved a Joint Resolution calling on EU Member States to promote and protect Internet openness at the upcoming World Conference on International Telecommunications (WCIT). The resolve of the Parliamentarians who drafted the resolution deserves recognition. The result is a strong statement of confidence in the civic and economic value of the open Internet, as well as the virtues of transparent, inclusive models for Internet governance. The public’s ability to submit comments in the drafting process is testimony to the work of Dutch MEP Marijette Schaake, a steadfast advocate for civil liberties in the digital age.


Take Action!

Journalism is Not Terrorism: Calling on Ethiopia to #FreeEskinder Nega

Eskinder Nega, an award-winning journalist who has been imprisoned for over a year, appeared briefly in court to appeal the terrorism charges levied against him. Eskinder has unwaveringly denied the charges, maintaining that blogging about human rights abuses and democracy is not a form of terrorism. In July, Eskinder was sentenced to 18 years in prison for his reporting. In court this week, his appeal was cut short: according to one report EFF received from partners working on his case, Eskinder was not allowed to read his defense statement and the appeal was rescheduled to November 22. We are continuing to seek confirmation about the status of the trial. For now, we’re asking concerned individuals to join us in calling on the Ethiopian government to live up to the promises in their own Constitution and free Eskinder Nega.

While many journalists have either fled Ethiopia or been silenced by repressive policies, Eskinder Nega has become a national symbol for press freedom. Here’s how you can get involved:

• Sign PEN American Center’s petition, which automatically an email to Prime Minister Meles Zenawi and Minister of Justice Berhanu Hailu.
• Send appeals by mail to Ethiopian officials and their local Ethiopian Embassy or Consulate.
• Tell your friends on Facebook and Twitter. Suggested Tweet: Journalism is not terrorism. Join @PenAmerican and @EFF in fighting to #FreeEskinder Nega.

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2012/11/journalism-not-terrorism-calling-ethiopia-freeseskinder-nega

Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety. The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.
Candidates announced for 2013 SLA-SF Chapter Executive Board positions


By David Grossman
Nominating Chair

On behalf of the Nominating Committee for the San Francisco Bay Region Chapter of SLA, I would like to present our Chapter officer candidates for 2013. A short bio of each candidate follows below. The candidates are:

- Cindy Hill for President-Elect
- Donna Purvis for Secretary
- Kim Ewart for Assistant Director of Programs

You can show your support for these nominees or write in other suggestions until noon on Friday, December 14, using our online survey (if you do write someone in, please be sure that person is interested in the position first):

SLA-SF 2013 Board Election

You will need your SLA member ID number, which can be found on your membership card, an Information Outlook mailing label, by contacting SLA Member Services, or logging into the SLA website, selecting Account Options, and then choosing Edit your Membership Data to view your membership number.

Meet Your 2013 Candidates for San Francisco Bay Region SLA Chapter Executive Board…

Cindy Hill
Candidate for President-Elect

Cindy joined SLA during her first year as a corporate librarian and has been an active member of SLA ever since. In 2004 she was the Association’s president and learned a lot about our members during her visits to many of the chapters, including the European chapter. Most recently she was the chair for the 2012 Annual Conference Advisory Council and worked with planners from all divisions and the Illinois Chapter’s Hospitality committee. Cindy holds dual membership to both the San Francisco Bay Region Chapter and the Silicon Valley Chapter and is active in International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA).

Cindy is the manager of the Research Library & Bank Archives at the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco and is looking forward to reaching her second-year anniversary with the Bank. She was fortunate to visit her first non-North American Central Bank when she was attending IFLA in Helsinki this summer.

In addition to enjoying commuting by train and working in the city, Cindy is an avid bicyclist. She and her husband, John, joined the RAGBRAI gang of 20,000 to pedal across Iowa this summer. While it was Cindy’s first experience of miles and miles of corn and soy fields, it was RAGBRAI veterans’ 40th year. Ask her about the weather, egg-on-a-stick, and the great people she met along the nearly 500 miles of country road.
Donna Purvis  
Candidate for Secretary

Donna has been a law librarian for over 35 years. She retired in 2010, but plans to stay active in SLA and Northern California Association of Law Librarians (NOCALL) for years to come. After enjoying a full year of retirement, she looks forward to doing volunteer work in her local library community and becoming more involved with SLA in the coming year.

She most recently spent two years as a Librarian Relations Consultant for LexisNexis. Prior to LexisNexis she was at Morrison & Foerster LLP as the Firm-wide Library Manager. In addition to many other years in law librarian positions, Donna also worked two years as a paralegal in a major law firm after receiving her MLS.

Donna enjoys attending the SLA Neighborhood Meetings in Marin as well as the local SLA programs and social events. Donna is also active in NOCALL and served as President in 1995/1996. She currently serves on NOCALL’s Education Committee and Chaired the Education Committee in 2010/2011. She co-chaired the annual Practising Law Institute (PLI) Law Library Annual Program in San Francisco from 2005-2009.

Donna has an MLS from UC Berkeley and a BA from University of the Pacific.

Kim Ewart  
Candidate for Assistant Director of Programs

Kim has been working as a digital archivist at Pearson Education, an international publisher of educational materials, since 2011. She has a BA in Creative Writing and Social Sciences from Hampshire College and an MLIS from Syracuse University with a Certificate of Advanced Study in Digital Libraries. While working on her MLIS, she participated in an international competition to design the public library of the future. She has been a member of SLA since 2010, serving as Tour Chair for the San Francisco Bay Region Chapter from 2011 to 2012.

Kim also enjoys hiking and wildlife photography. Mount Diablo is among her favorite places to hike, and she recently took part in an effort to document species of plants and animals on a parcel of land that Mount Diablo State Park may acquire in the near future.

Intersect Alert December 3, 2012

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2012/12/intersect-alert-december-3-2012/ December 2, 2012 Categories: Intersect Alert Tags: intellectual property, international outlook, libraries, open access, privacy, public policy, research
Survival of the biggest: Concern about the clout of the internet giants is growing. But antitrust watchdogs should tread carefully

The four giants of the internet age—Google, Apple, Facebook and Amazon—are extraordinary creatures. Never before has the world seen firms grow so fast or spread their tentacles so widely. Apple has become a colossus of capitalism, accounting for 4.3% of the value of the S&P 500 and 1.1% of the global equity market. Some 425m people now use its iTunes online store, whose virtual shelves are packed to the gills with music and other digital content. Google, meanwhile, is the undisputed global leader in search and online advertising. Its Android software powers three-quarters of the smartphones being shipped. Amazon dominates the online-retail and e-book markets in many countries; less well known is its behind-the-scenes power in cloud computing. As for Facebook, if the social network’s one billion users were a country, it would be the world’s third largest.

The digital revolution these giants have helped foment has brought huge benefits to consumers and businesses, and promoted free speech and the spread of democracy along the way. Yet they provoke fear as well as wonder. Their size and speed can, if left unchecked, be used to choke off competition. That is why they are attracting close scrutiny from regulators.

Digital Rights Activists Gather in Auckland, New Zealand Next Week for the 15th Round of TPP Negotiations

Next week, the 15th round of Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) negotiations will begin in Auckland, New Zealand. Hundreds of delegates and private representatives from the now 11 participating nations will gather at a luxury casino to discuss this multi-faceted trade agreement. EFF, KEI, and the Stop the Trap coalition will also join dozens of other public interest groups to sound the alarm over the TPP’s intellectual property (IP) chapter that could likely prompt countries to enact restrictive copyright enforcement laws that would have huge ramifications for users’ access to digital content and information. As we mentioned previously, countries continue to join the negotiations with no end in sight.

Another fair use victory for libraries

We knew some time ago that the second complaint filed in the copyright infringement case brought against UCLA by the trade association AIME over streamed digital video had been dismissed. But last week Judge Consuelo Marshall filed her order that explained the grounds of that dismissal (PDF). What we have learned is that this case is a slight victory for fair use in libraries. On the specific issue we do not have clear guidance, just an affirmation that fair use arguments for streamed digital video are not unreasonable or obviously wrong. But it is helpful to see this ruling as part of an overall picture, one in which all three cases claiming copyright infringement by academic libraries which were defended on the basis of fair use have now been decided at the trial court level and NO INFRINGEMENT HAS BEEN FOUND.

http://blogs.library.duke.edu/scholcomm/

Public Policy

Senate Passes Amendments to Shed Light on Contractor Misbehavior

The Senate has approved several amendments to the National Defense Authorization Act (S. 3254), which will bring greater transparency and accountability to federal contracting. The amendments would strengthen whistleblower protections for federal contractors and grantees, require the Defense Department to publish its “revolving door” database of senior department officials who seek employment with defense contractors, and require the Defense Department to conduct an annual study on defense contracting fraud.

http://www.ombwatch.org/senate-passes-amendments-to-shed-light-on-contractor-misbehavior

Open Access

Scientists Seek New Credibility Outside of Established Journals

The Open Access movement continued gaining steam in 2012. A third iteration of the Research Works Act was quashed, the number of universities adopting official open access policies continued to grow, dozens of new open access journals were launched, and a petition calling for public access to all federally funded research gathered enough signatures to get the attention of the White House. But Open Access is only one part of a larger shift taking place in the academic world—particularly the sciences—says Richard Price, founder and CEO of academia.edu. Price argues that academia is moving toward a system where the credibility of research, publications,
and ultimately researchers themselves, is gauged not by the prestige of the journal in which works are published, but by the usage, citations, and professional feedback that the works generate online.


United Nations Development Programme opens data on over 6,000 projects in transparency drive

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) today launched a new online portal allowing open, comprehensive public access to data on UNDP’s work in 177 countries and territories, fulfilling a commitment to full transparency by 2013 above and beyond international standards. The new portal, open.undp.org, comprises comprehensive programmatic information – from income and expenditures to activities and results – on more than 6,000 active UNDP projects, as well as those that financially closed in 2011, along with more than 8,000 outputs or results. Users can sort projects by focus areas, funding sources, and locations and extract detailed data related to budgets, implementing organizations, and targeted results in areas from governance and rule of law to crisis prevention and recovery.


Privacy Issues

Heart Gadgets Test Privacy-Law Limits

The small box inside Amanda Hubbard’s chest beams all kinds of data about her faulty heart to the company that makes her defibrillator implant. Ms. Hubbard herself, however, can’t easily get that information unless she requests summaries from her doctor – whom she rarely sees since losing her insurance. In short, the data gathered by the Medtronic Inc. implant isn’t readily accessible to the person whose heartbeat it tracks. The U.S. has strict privacy laws guaranteeing people access to traditional health files. But implants and other new technologies – including smartphone apps and over-the-counter monitors—are testing the very definition of medical records. At the same time, companies including Medtronic are pushing to turn the data into money. The company is contemplating selling the data to health systems or insurers that could use it to predict diseases and possibly lower their costs. At a July industry event, a senior Medtronic executive, Ken Riff, called these kinds of data “the currency of the future.”

https://www.cdt.org/blogs/greg-nojeim/2711leahy-reaffirms-strong-support-warrants-content

Digital History

Building a Digital Public Library of America

The Boston Public Library, America’s first publicly funded municipal library, will host a celebration in April, 2013 to launch the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA): an ambitious, broad-based effort to establish a new library platform for our digitally-mediated age.

In its first iteration, the DPLA will bring together digital resources that are today distributed around the country and make them easily accessible and useful. Today, digital library materials are scattered in ways that no single librarian or patron
could find them all. It would be prohibitively expensive for the DPLA to bring together materials from every single library, archive and museum in the country. Instead, the DPLA plans to connect existing state infrastructure to create a system of state (or in some cases, regional) service hubs, each offering standardized digital services to local institutions, including digitization and metadata services, and serving as an on-ramp for all by aggregating metadata and data from local institutions to feed into a new DPLA network.


International Outlook

Syrians Use Old and New Tools to Stay Online During Internet Shutdown

Information coming out of Syria has slowed to a trickle in the wake of Thursday’s country-wide communications shutdown, which included nearly all Internet traffic and intermittent cellular network and landline outages. Earlier today, Renesys reported that the last five networks that had survived the initial outage were off the air. In the meantime, experts have cast a skeptical eye on the Syrian Ministry of Information’s claims that the outage is the result of sabotage by “terrorists,” a term that the Assad regime has frequently used to describe the opposition.

Even under these adverse conditions, some Syrians have found ways to get online, stay in touch with family and loved ones abroad, and keep the world appraised of events on the ground at a time when fighting has escalated and reliable intelligence is scarce. Dlshad Othman, a Syrian activist and IT specialist, estimates that the number of people online in Syria at the moment is probably “less than 1,000,” yet Global Voices reports that videos of protests are still finding their way online.

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2012/11/day-2-syrias-internet-shutdown

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Mosaic: What’s Happening With Our Members


By Judy Bolstad, Editor

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Ari Kleiman shares that this year, his temporary job as Patient Health Librarian at UCSF received permanent funding from the Medical Center. He is enjoying what he calls his feel-good job, doing research for patients and teaching them about using authoritative resources. The UCSF Patient Health Library is open to the public and research services are available in-person, by email and by phone. If folks want to know more, they can visit the web site at UCSFPatientHealthLibrary.org.

After a long absence from the music world, Ari also joined a chorus in San Francisco, called Resound Ensemble. It’s a mixed chorus (men and women) that sings an eclectic mix of modern choral music peppered with some interesting surprises. He is having fun, being challenged and pleased to be immersed in beautiful music in the company of a group of very nice people! (http://www.resoundensemble.org).

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After a year of research and team collaboration, Chris Orr (Information Services Manager) and Paul Atwood (IT and Records Manager) successfully launched a web-based document and email management system (DMS) for the General Counsel of the University of California, at the UC Office of the President in Oakland, where they are based. The system is a cloud solution from NetDocuments (http://netdocuments.com). They brought all their information skills to bear in vetting the service for security, promoting user adoption, designing metadata structure, scheduling training and facilitating installation. They are happy to report that attorneys and staff have embraced the DMS, using it every day for their voluminous work product on behalf of the University. Their next challenge is to share the NetDocs love with UC counsel on the ten campuses of the system, not one of them alike in systems and tech experience!

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Jaye Lapachet exhibited a quilt at the Pacific International Quilt Festival in the New Quilts of Northern California exhibit, which was held October 10-14 in Santa Clara, California. The
New Quilts of Northern California exhibit is juried and this is the second year one of Jaye’s quilts has been selected for exhibition. You can see the quilt at: http://artquiltmaker.com/blog/2012/09/finished-renewed-jelly-roll-race/

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Nancy Crossfield of Owen Medical Library, Saint Agnes Medical Center, in Fresno, moved outside the box to serve as a Revenue Buddy during her hospital’s 2-week electronic medical record go-live in October. She was in a team that worked with clinical departments to ensure proper charging and revenue posting in the new system. It was challenging!

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Deb Hunt and David Grossman presented a half day workshop titled “Tech Skills Boot Camp,” where upwardly mobile information professionals came from as far away as Barbados to attend at the Internet Librarian conference in Monterey. They continue to receive an enthusiastic response to their popular series of “Expanding Your Career Potential” workshops and webinars attended by librarians and information professionals from around the world. They use the workshop venue to challenge and motivate their colleagues to expand, strengthen and more effectively utilize their individual portfolios of business, information management, interpersonal and technical skills and to continually “think outside the box” and seize every opportunity for career advancement.

Deb says, “It’s exciting to see that light bulb suddenly switch on as our colleagues recognize the enormous value and transferability of their existing skills within a wide variety of traditional and non-traditional settings.” Deb and David also coach workshop participants to develop their own customized plans to acquire any additional skills required to take their careers to that next step and beyond. Many “Expanding Your Career Potential” workshop alumnae stay connected to their colleagues and the ongoing conversations by joining Deb’s free Career Sustainability group http://linkd.in/pqkjzp on LinkedIn, now approaching 300 members.

Dear readers:
The next submission deadline is January 25.

Please continue to send me your news. I look forward to hearing from you!

Judy Bolstad, Editor, Mosaic column, jbolstad@library.berkeley.edu

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Intersect Alert December 9, 2012


Freedom of Information

Finding Agency FOIA Regulations a Shockingly Difficult Task
“Today the National Security Archive published its latest Freedom of Information Act audit to assess which agencies have best followed the FOIA. The audit highlights outdated agency FOIA regulations (the principal tool agencies use to process their FOIA requests) government-wide, and made the disheartening discovery that fifty-six out of ninety-nine government agencies have not updated their regulations since the most recent amendment to the FOIA. Along with being outdated, formatting inconsistencies, broken links, and in one case a complete lack of regulations, made tracking down each agency’s latest FOIA regulations unduly cumbersome.”

Transparency and the Obama presidency: Looking Back and Looking Forward – Video and Event Recap
“How transparent has President Barack Obama’s administration been? While the first term seemed to start with several bold initiatives, members of the transparency community have been disappointed with the apparent lack of initiative since then. Panelists gave the administration mixed reviews at the Dec. 3, 2012 Advisory Committee on Transparency event examining what’s happened over the past four years and what in store for the next four. . . The video of the event is available on C-Span.

http://sunlightfoundation.com/blog/2012/12/07/transparency-and-the-obama-presidency-looking-back-and-looking-forward-
House Rules Changes: Sunlight’s Proposals for the 113th Congress

“Congress runs on rules. With the upcoming changeover from the 112th to the 113th Congress, the House of Representatives will adopt new regulations that innervate every aspect of legislative life. The last time it did this, in 2010, the House set the stage for greater openness and transparency in the lower chamber. At that time, Sunlight issued a series of recommendations, some of which were adopted. The House of Representatives made significant progress toward ensuring the people’s house belongs to the people, from the new transparency portal docs.house.gov to expanded video coverage of House proceedings to retaining the Office of Congressional Ethics. In advance of the 113th Congress, we’re issuing an updated set of transparency recommendations, each of which would mark a significant step towards increased transparency.”

http://sunlightfoundation.com/blog/2012/12/06/house-rules-changes-sunlights-proposals-for-the-113th-congress/

OGP transparency officials chosen to hold ‘government’s feet to fire’

“The Open Government Partnership (OGP) has officially unveiled the senior advisors that will oversee transparency commitments made by member countries to coincide with the launch of the Open Data Institute (ODI).”


Advisory Board Urges White House to Lead Secrecy Reform

“In a long-awaited report to the President, the Public Interest Declassification Board urged the White House to take the lead in fixing the national secrecy system. The Public Interest Declassification Board is an advisory committee that was established by Congress to help promote possible access to the documentary record of significant U.S. national security decisions and activities. In 2009, President Obama asked the Board to develop recommendations for “a more fundamental transformation of the security classification system.””

http://www.fas.org/blog/secrecy/2012/12/pidb_report.html

Copyright Laws Slow DPLA

“As the Digital Public Library of America approaches its April 2013 launch, copyright laws still hinder the library’s ability to make a wide array of written materials accessible to the public. Two years into its initial efforts—the DPLA was first envisioned in October 2010, soon after Harvard withdrew its collections from the Google Books digitization project due to legal concerns—primary founding member and Harvard University librarian Robert C. Darnton ’60 boasts that the DPLA has the potential to become the “mother of all libraries.” But as the project moves forward, the problem of digitizing copyrighted material, essential for public collections, remains unsolved.”

http://www.thecrimson.com/article/2012/12/7/dpla-copyright-slow-downs/

Copyright for a digital age

“We live in a digital age and therefore we should have a fully functioning knowledge-based economy. Why then do we remain saddled with a copyright framework more suited to the 19th century than the 21st? At the British Library we estimate that by 2020 75 per cent of all books and journals will be published in digital form. Add to that the exponential growth of the internet and the explosion of mobile technology, and we see that the world is a dramatically different place to the 1980s (the era of the Betamax and personal cassette recorder) when the last major change to copyright legislation took place.”


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Appeal Filings Outline Authors Guild’s Objections to HathiTrust Opinion

“With a new round of filings hitting the docket last week, the Authors Guild appeal of Judge Harold Baer’s landmark copyright decision in the the HathiTrust case is underway. The broad appeal raises a handful of key questions on which the Guild is seeking review by the Second Circuit Court of Appeals, including whether the district court erred in finding the scan plan to be fair use.”

TPP: Why it Matters in the USA
“The U.S. and other governments are meeting yet again to hash out the secret Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPP), this time in New Zealand. International trade agreements may seem far removed from our daily lives. Why should people in the U.S. take action against TPP? Although we don’t know what’s in the draft treaty, and the U.S. Trade Representative refuses to publish it, the leaked drafts we’ve seen are alarming. TPP is likely to export some of the worst features of U.S. copyright law: a broad ban on breaking digital locks on creative work, even for legal uses, a copyright term of life plus seventy years (the current international norm is life-plus-fifty), ruinous statutory damages with no proof of actual harm, and government seizures of computers and equipment involved in alleged infringement.”
https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2012/12/tpp-why-it-matters-usa

US Isolated In Opposition To WIPO Treaty For The Blind, Group Says
“The United States now stands alone in its opposition to a World Intellectual Property Organization treaty on copyright exceptions for blind and other print-disabled readers, the World Blind Union (WBU) said today.”

International Outlook

European Commission Embarks On Process To ‘Modernise’ Copyright
“The European Commission today (5 December) agreed on a process to ensure copyright is best suited for the digital age with the aim of possible legislative reform in 2014. Commissioners in a meeting decided to launch a stakeholder dialogue immediately, and to complete market studies, impact assessment and legal drafting work.”
http://www.ip-watch.org/2012/12/06/european-commission-embarks-on-process-to-modernise-copyright/

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Your Advisory Council Leaders for 2013

A few weeks ago, I wrote to you all detailing the open Advisory Council positions with the chapter and asking for volunteers. I have been thrilled by the response and would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our 2013 Advisory Council Chairs!

- Academic Relations – Shelli Owens
- Archives – Cathy Solomon and Jonathan Leff
- Bayline – Tricia Soto
- Government Relations – Michael Sholinbeck
- Hospitality – Sarah Cook
- Jobline – Lori Guidry
- Listserv and Reflector – Linda Yamamoto
- Mailing – Ginny Woodis
- Networking – Lauren Reid
- Nominating – David Grossman
- Professional Development – Chris Orr
- Tours – Claudine Taillac
- Vendor Relations – Sandy Malloy
- Webmaster – Becky Miller

You should not at all take this to mean that there are not still opportunities available for you to volunteer with the chapter! We are still looking for a Public Relations Chair, and we always have projects in the works, both short- and long-term. You can also volunteer as a committee member, getting, or keeping, your feet wet before stepping into a Chair position in the future. We have already had some members step-up to help out as committee members next year. In fact, all of them have already started in these roles! I would like to thank them as well.

- Erin Meggyressy – Hospitality
- Lisa Ngo – Professional Development
- Tony Sheaffer – Government Relations

Please contact me if you are interested in hearing more about any of the volunteer opportunities that are still waiting for you!

By Anne N. Barker
Chapter President-Elect

Share this:
Freedom of Information

Update on the National Inventory of Legal Materials
“During the past 3 years, more than 350 AALL volunteers have contributed their time as part of their state working group to help AALL create the first-ever National Inventory of Legal Materials. After countless hours of research, calls to government offices and conversations with colleagues to discuss their findings, volunteers created state inventories that contain invaluable information about more than 7,000 legal titles from all three branches of government in print and online. This fall, the AALL Government Relations Office and Digital Access to Legal Information Committee (DALIC) completed our preliminary analysis of the inventories and posted the results on AALLNET. We’ve also linked to each of the 51 inventories so that anyone can see the underlying data.”

Internet Access

US says it won’t ratify UN telecom treaty
“The United States said Thursday that it will not sign a United Nations telecommunications treaty that U.S. technology companies warn would disrupt governance of the Internet and open the door to online censorship. The U.K. and Canada also said they would not ratify the treaty after negotiations ended at a conference hosted by the U.N. International Telecommunications Union (ITU) in Dubai.”

Intellectual Property

Google Settles Copyright Dispute with Belgian Newspaper

International Outlook

UK lost more than 200 libraries in 2012
“The fight to keep libraries open has dominated the headlines but the UK has quietly lost more than 200 branches over the past year, according to a detailed national survey. The rate of library closures has increased, reveals the annual report from the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy: 146 branches closed between 2010 and 2011, with the number stepping up to 201 this year. The UK now has 4,265 libraries, compared with 4,612 two years ago, and the number of closures is likely to grow. Campaigners in Newcastle are currently fighting plans to close 10 out of the city’s 18 libraries, with Billy Elliot playwright Lee Hall calling on the council to protect the city’s heritage last month.”

Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety.

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Share this:
“This year saw clear and important accomplishments in government transparency in several areas, such as improved whistleblower protections and progress on the numerous open government commitments made under the Open Government Partnership. There was, however, a missed opportunity for U.S. leadership at the Rio+20 environmental summit. And we are concerned that undue industry influence in certain regulatory arenas may be reducing public access to information. For example, a proposed rule would allow water companies to report on the quality of local water supplies in online formats only. And state laws requiring natural gas companies to disclose the chemicals used in fracking often allow confidential business information exemptions that are so broad as to undermine the laws. Nonetheless, at the federal level, 2012 was a year of continuing progress for open government.”


Census encourages other agencies to share data collection system
“The Census Bureau is improving its data collection, saving money and helping other agencies do the same – and, according to its leadership, enhancing value for its customers. How? By putting one of its biggest surveys online.”

http://fcw.com/articles/2012/12/19/census-survey-online.aspx

The E-Gov Act’s legacy
“Much of today’s progress in digital government can be traced back to the E-Government Act of 2002. At a Dec. 17 Information Technology and Innovation Foundation event on the “past, present and future of federal e-government,” several former officials who were present at the legislation’s creation noted that it laid the foundation for the current Digital Government Strategy, cybersecurity standards and even much of the shared-services efforts related to IT acquisition.”

http://fcw.com/articles/2012/12/17/egov-legacy.aspx

Pennsylvania Governor Corbett Unveils PennWATCH Transparency Website
“Governor Tom Corbett ushered in a new era of transparency and accountability in state government today with the launch of Pennsylvania’s transparency website, known as PennWATCH at http://www.pennwatch.pa.gov.”


Congress Permits Reclassification of Restricted Data
“Certain nuclear weapons-related information that has been removed from the category of Restricted Data (RD) and designated as Formerly Restricted Data (FRD) can now be restored to the RD category, under a provision approved by Congress in the FY 2013 national defense authorization act. Until now, the removal of information from the Restricted Data category was irreversible, being prohibited by the Atomic Energy Act. That prohibition is nullified by the new legislation.”

http://www.fas.org/blog/secrecy/2012/12/rd_reclass.html

A look at money, transparency and policy since Citizens United v. FEC
“The Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission Supreme Court ruling has left an indelible mark on U.S. politics. Since the January 2010 ruling, outside groups and organizations have been able to promote their own special interests with neither accountability nor transparency. In the nearly three years since the ruling a flood of secretive money has washed over campaigns, super PACs have raised hundreds of millions of dollars and little has been done in the way of implementing policy to reveal the source of all donors. We’re taking a look back at the events since Citizens United v. FEC and created a timeline highlighting the milestones. These events cover four categories: Courts (major court rulings and cases), Disclose (legislation around greater disclosure of political contributions and spending), Super PACs (trend and news for independent expenditure only committees) and FEC (decisions made by the Federal Election Commission).”


FOIA Lawsuits Increase During Obama Administration
“A new study by the Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse (TRAC) has found that there were more court complaints asking federal judges to force the government to abide by the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) during the first term of the Obama Administration than there were in the last term of President Bush.”

http://foiaproject.org/2012/12/20/increase-in-foia-lawsuits-during-obama-administration/

CRS Report – The Protection of Classified Information: The Legal Framework
“This report provides an overview of the relationship between executive and legislative authority over national security information, and summarizes the current laws that form the legal framework protecting classified information, including current executive orders and some agency regulations pertaining to the handling of unauthorized disclosures of classified information by government officers and employees. The report also summarizes criminal laws that pertain specifically to the unauthorized disclosure of classified information, as well as civil and administrative penalties. Finally, the report describes some recent developments in executive branch security policies and legislation currently before Congress (S. 3454).”


Public Policy

CA State Senator Proposes Constitutional Amendment for Library Funding
“California State Senator Lois Wolk (D-Davis) introduced an amendment to the state constitution which would make it easier for local governments to raise funds for public libraries. The amendment would reduce the percentage of votes needed to pass such a measure from the two-thirds supermajority currently needed to 55 percent, though still more than a simple majority. The amended threshold would be more in line with
what is required in California to pass K-12 school bond measures. General purpose tax measures that may be used to fund general local services require only a simple majority vote to pass.”

http://lj.libraryjournal.com/2012/12/funding/ca-state-senator-proposes-constitutional-amendment-for-library-funding/

Internet Access

COPPA Rule Brings Regs Up to Date . . . but Who Must Comply?
“Just in time for the holidays, the Federal Trade Commission’s long-awaited revision to the Children’s Online Privacy Protection Rule (the COPPA Rule) has finally been released. The new Rule, which aims to update the federal requirements for data collection by operators of websites directed to children under 13, includes a number of changes that should give parents a better idea about the types of information being collected about their children by site operators and provide them with more modern means of providing their consent. Changes to the definition of “personal information” – including the addition of IP address and geolocation information – reflect the changing reality of online data collection since COPPA was first enacted, but we have persistent concerns that changes to the definition of sites “directed to children” significantly expand COPPA’s scope.”

https://www.cdt.org/blogs/emma-llanso/2012coppa-rule-brings-regs-date-who-must-comply

European Human Rights Court: Internet Restriction Violates Freedom Of Expression
“The European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg ruled this week that “restriction of Internet access without a strict legal framework regulating the scope of the ban and affording the guarantee of judicial review to prevent possible abuses amounts to a violation of freedom of expression.”


Privacy Issues

Government Attorneys Agree With EFF: New ‘Counterterrorism’ Database Rules Threaten Privacy of Every American
“Last week, the Wall Street Journal reported on how a little-known government agency—the National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC)—got the keys to government databases full of detailed, personal information of millions of innocent Americans. Using the Freedom of Information Act and interviews with officials, the Journal obtained emails and other information detailing how the massive new spying program, which the Attorney General signed off on in March, was approved by the White House in secret—over strenuous objections from government privacy lawyers.”

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2012/12/government-attorneys-agree-eff-new-counterterrorism-database-rules-threaten

Digital History

2013 NZ Web Harvest
“The National Library exists and has a social responsibility to preserve New Zealand’s social and cultural history, whether in the form of books, newspapers and photographs, or of websites, blogs and videos. The planned New Zealand Web Harvest 2013 recognises the importance of the internet in all areas of New Zealand society and culture by taking a ‘snapshot’ of the whole .nz domain as it exists on the web in February 2013. The Library has conducted two previous harvests, in October 2008 and April 2010.”


Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety.

The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.
Job Listings


Jobline will be returning to the San Francisco Bay Region Chapter in 2016.

Information for employers

Intersect Alert December 30, 2012


Freedom of Information

Senate Passes Intelligence Bill Without Anti-Leak Measures
“The Senate passed the FY2013 intelligence authorization act on December 28 after most of the controversial provisions intended to combat leaks had been removed. Sen. Dianne Feinstein, the chair of the Senate Intelligence Committee, said the bill was revised in order to expedite its passage.”
http://www.fas.org/blog/secrecy/2012/12/2013_intelauth.html

Intellectual Property

Partnering with Belgian news publishers
“Six years ago, Belgium’s French-language news publishers and authors sued Google. They argued that we violated their copyright by displaying snippets in Google News and linking to cached copies of their pages in Google search. Today, we’re delighted to turn the page. We have reached an agreement that ends all litigation and represents great news for both us and the newspapers. We continue to believe that our services respect newspaper copyrights and it is important to note that we are not paying the Belgian publishers or authors to include their content in our services. From now on, Google and Belgian French-language publishers will partner on a broad range of business initiatives.”
http://googlepolicyeurope.blogspot.it/2012/12/partnering-with-belgian-news-publishers.html

Privacy Issues

Why We Should All Care About Today’s Senate Vote on the FISA Amendments Act, the Warrantless Domestic Spying Bill
“Today is an incredibly important vote for the future of your digital privacy, but some in Congress are hoping you won’t find out. Finally, after weeks of delay, the Senate will start debate on the dangerous FISA Amendments Act at 10 am Eastern and vote on its re-authorization by the end of the day. The FISA Amendments Act is the broad domestic spying bill passed in 2008 in the wake of the warrantless wiretapping scandal. It expires at the end of the year and some in Congress wanted to re-authorize it without a minute of debate. The good news is—thanks for your phone calls, emails, and tweets —Congress will now be forced to debate it, which means we can affect its outcome.”
https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2012/12/why-we-should-all-care-about-senates-vote-fisa-amendments-act-warrantless-domestic

Congress Disgracefully Approves the FISA Warrantless Spying Bill for Five More Years, Rejects All Privacy Amendments
“Today, after just one day of rushed debate, the Senate shamefully voted on a five-year extension to the FISA Amendments Act, an unconstitutional law that openly allows for warrantless surveillance of Americans’ overseas communications. Incredibly, the Senate rejected all the proposed amendments that would have brought a modicum of transparency and oversight to the government’s activities, despite previous refusals by the Executive branch to even estimate how many Americans are surveilled by this program or reveal critical secret court rulings interpreting it.”
https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2012/12/congress-disgracefully-approves-fisa-warrantless-eavesdropping-bill-five-more

Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety.

The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.
Intersect Alert January 7, 2013

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2013/01/intersect-alert-january-7-2013/ January 7, 2013 Categories: Intersect Alert Tags: events, freedom of information, government, intellectual property, libraries, privacy, social media

Freedom of Information

Library of Congress has archive of tweets, but no plan for its public display

In the few minutes it will take you to read this story, some 3 million new tweets will have flitted across the publishing platform Twitter and ricocheted across the Internet. The Library of Congress is busy archiving the sprawling and frenetic Twitter canon — with some key exceptions — dating back to the site’s 2006 launch. That means saving for posterity more than 170 billion tweets and counting, with an average of more than 400 million new tweets sent each day, according to Twitter.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/2013/01/03/e4db1c24-55d4-11e2-bf3e-76c0a789346f_story.html

Old school bookstore thrives in NYC


Rapid DNA: Coming Soon to a Police Department or Immigration Office Near You

In the amount of time it takes to get lunch, the government can now collect your DNA and extract a profile that identifies you and your family members.

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2012/12/rapid-dna-analysis

Extension Gives You More Control Over Your Facebook Privacy

Facebook Messages has a feature that tells you when a chat recipient has seen a message. This “read receipt” is, in true Facebook fashion, both nifty and unsettling. And it brings with it tons of potential for abuse. Unfortunately, there’s no built-in method to opt out.

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2013/01/extension-gives-you-more-control-over-your-facebook-privacy

2012 in Review: Digital Rights Activism Around the World

Just as in the United States, where a multi-pronged campaign against SOPA and PIPA killed the freedom-restricting bills, activism for digital rights saw great successes—and innovations—in 2012. While not every campaign was as successful in quashing efforts to restrict rights, it was nonetheless a great year worldwide for digital activism. Here are a few highlights:

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2012/12/2012-review-international-digital-activism

Public Policy

Libraries See Opening as Bookstores Close

At the bustling public library in Arlington Heights, Ill., requests by three patrons to place any title on hold prompt a savvy computer tracking system to order an additional copy of the coveted item. That policy was intended to eliminate the frustration of long waits to check out best sellers and other popular books. But it has had some unintended consequences, too: the library’s shelves are now stocked with 36 copies of “Fifty Shades of Grey.”


Privacy Concerns

Alan Moore’s Neonomicon censored by US library

The removal of Alan Moore’s graphic novel Neonomicon from the shelves of a library in South Carolina has been described as “censorship” by free speech campaigners.

http://www.guardian.co.uk/books/2012/dec/06/alan-moore-neonomicon-censored-library

Intellectual Property

Scanning Documents? Patent Trolls Want You To Pay Up

Earlier this week, Ars Technica profiled a particularly atrocious group of patent trolls who are demanding payments from small businesses for committing the egregious, shameful act of… scanning documents to email? Yes, the latest in a string of absurd patent-related stories involves the everyday act of using a networked scanner.

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2013/01/scanning-documents-
International Outlook

Google backtracks on Chinese anti-censorship feature

Google appears to be backtracking on its once unshakeable anti-censorship stance, after removing a feature from its Chinese site designed to help users avoid getting cut off from the internet. The feature — which flagged up a warning message whenever a user began typing a censored word, then redirected them to a help page that explained how to avoid being cut off from the web — appears to have been disabled some time between 5 and 8 December 2012.

http://www.wired.co.uk/news/archive/2013-01/04/google-china-anti-censorship-fail

Intersect Alert January 14, 2013


Freedom of Information

The war that never was: Most elaborate Wikipedia hoax ever as 4,500 word article on ‘Bicholim Conflict’ – a fictitious fight for Goan independence – fooled site for FIVE YEARS

It was voted a ‘good article’ – a Wikipedia badge of honor – and sat happily on the online encyclopedia for more than half a decade. But editors have lately discovered a small issue with the site’s meticulously written 4,500 word article detailing the 17th century Bicholim Conflict. It was entirely made up.

http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2257482/The-war-Wikipedia-fooled-years-Bicholim-Conflict-article-elaborate-4-500-word-hoax.html

Report on NYC Public Libraries – Branches of Opportunity

Branches of Opportunity, January 2013, Center for an Urban Future – “As more and more New Yorkers turn to digital books, Wikipedia and other online tools for information and entertainment, there is a growing sense that the age of the public library is over. But, in reality, New York City’s public libraries are more essential than ever.


US LIBRARY GIVES AFGHAN LEADER DIGITAL TREASURES

“The Library of Congress is using a $2 million gift to digitize cultural treasures and records from Afghanistan to give to that country’s libraries and universities. The gift was announced Friday at the U.S. State Department in a ceremony with Afghan President Hamid Karzai and Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton. A grant from the Carnegie Corporation of New York will fund the project.”

http://www.librarystuff.net/2013/01/12/us-library-gives-
White House – National Strategy for Information Sharing and Safeguarding

“This National Strategy for Information Sharing and Safeguarding (Strategy) aims to strike the proper balance between sharing information with those who need it to keep our country safe and safeguarding it from those who would do us harm.

Digital Licenses Replace Print Prices as Accurate Reflection of Real Journal Costs

“Instead of purchasing subscriptions to individual journals, librarians are pursuing licensing agreements that provide perpetual digital access to a body of content. For major institutions with research needs across multiple disciplines, this means purchasing journal bundles or packages.

Privacy Concerns

Privacy on the Go – Recommendations for the Mobile Ecosystem

“Today, 85 percent of American adults own a cell phone and over half of them use their phones to access the Internet. The mobile app marketplace is also booming with more than 1,600 new mobile apps being introduced every day.

Intellectual Property

International Outlook

EU – Digital Agenda: Turning government data into gold

News release: “The Commission has launched an Open Data Strategy for Europe, which is expected to deliver a €40 billion boost to the EU’s economy each year. Europe’s public administrations are sitting on a goldmine of unrealised economic potential: the large volumes of information collected by numerous public authorities and services.

U.S. Health in International Perspective: Shorter Lives, Poorer Health

“Although the United States spends more on health care than any other nation, a growing body of research shows that Americans are in poorer health and live shorter lives than people in many other high-income countries. U.S. Health in International Perspective synthesizes available research, taking an in-depth look at this disadvantage in health and lifespan.

Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety.

The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.

Freedom of Information

LCA Releases First Sale Fast Facts for Libraries

Have you heard of the “first sale doctrine?” You’ve likely heard (if you’re a District Dispatch subscriber) about the Supreme Court case Kirtsaeng v. Wiley & Sons, and that it might affect library lending. However, the details of the case about a student lawfully importing textbooks into the U.S. and then selling them on eBay are seemingly complex and technical. The Library Copyright Alliance has published a one-page summary, “First Sale Fast Facts for Libraries,” that provides you key information to understand the first sale doctrine and what is at stake in the Kirtsaeng case.

Library Copyright Alliance Comments on Orphan Works and Mass Digitization

On Monday, January 14, 2013, the Library Copyright Alliance (LCA) (whose members are the American Library Association, Association of Research Libraries and Association of College and Research Libraries) filed comments (PDF) with the U.S. Copyright Office in response to their October 22, 2012, Notice of Inquiry about the current state of play with orphan works and mass digitization.

Republicans had some sincerely nice things to say about President Barack Obama’s second inaugural address.

It was delivered flawlessly. The president mentioned God and the republic. You certainly can’t top Beyoncé’s rendition of the
national anthem as the coda to the ceremony.

Read more: [http://www.politico.com/story/2013/01/republicans-fighting-words-from-obama-in-inaugural-speech-86514.html#ixzz2Ifie0DTZ](http://www.politico.com/story/2013/01/republicans-fighting-words-from-obama-in-inaugural-speech-86514.html#ixzz2Ifie0DTZ)

**EKU libraries puts old newspapers, yearbooks online**

“For alumni, current and former faculty and staff and others with a connection to Eastern Kentucky University, memory lane is now just a mouse click away. EKU Libraries boasts a growing digital repository of the student-produced campus newspaper, The Eastern Progress, as well as the campus yearbook, the Milestone, all easily viewable, fully searchable and free, by anyone with Internet access.

[http://www.librarystuff.net/2013/01/20/eku-libraries-puts-old-newspapers-yearbooks-online/](http://www.librarystuff.net/2013/01/20/eku-libraries-puts-old-newspapers-yearbooks-online/)

**Privacy Concerns**

**Homeland Security Has Too Many Definitions, Says CRS**

The existence of multiple, overlapping and inconsistent definitions of the term “homeland security” reflects and reinforces confusion in the homeland security mission, according to a newly updated report from the Congressional Research Service.

[http://www.fas.org/blog/secrecy/2013/01/many_definitions.html](http://www.fas.org/blog/secrecy/2013/01/many_definitions.html)

**Strategy Lacking for Disposal of Nuclear Weapons**

There is a “large inventory” of classified nuclear weapons components “scattered across” the nation’s nuclear weapons complex and awaiting disposal, according to an internal Department of Energy contractor report last year.

[http://www.fas.org/blog/secrecy/2013/01/disposal_strategy.html](http://www.fas.org/blog/secrecy/2013/01/disposal_strategy.html)

**Sandia Scientists Model Dynamics of Social Protest**

Researchers at Sandia National Laboratories have been studying the ways that information, ideas and behaviors propagate through social networks in order to gain advance warning of cyber attacks or other threatening behavior.

[http://www.fas.org/blog/secrecy/2013/01/social_diffusion.html](http://www.fas.org/blog/secrecy/2013/01/social_diffusion.html)

**Joint Meeting with BayNet Featuring Tasha Bergson-Michelson**


January 30, 2013 Categories: Bayline, Chapter Programs & Events Tags: events, librarians, professional development

Joint Meeting with BayNet Featuring Tasha Bergson-Michelson

January 30, 2013, 5:30-8:00 pm

Elephant and Castle Pub and Restaurant, 424 Clay St, San Francisco, CA 94111

Please join us at our annual joint meeting with BayNet featuring Tasha Bergson-Michelson of Google’s Search Education Team.

Ms. Bergson-Michelson will share her searching expertise in this presentation: “Bookends: Bringing together the basics and the advanced; a look at how the simplest of search skills helps improve the complex research undertakings.”

Tasha Bergson-Michelson is a Search Educator at Google. Drawing on nineteen years as a librarian and research skills trainer in K-20 and corporate settings, Tasha collaborates with librarians and other educators who want to integrate research skills into their classes and reference interactions to help their patrons access the most relevant, highest-quality sources available today. Tasha creates training resources that she shares through the Search Education hub and the Power Searching with Google massive open online courses, in posts for MindShift, on Google+, and on Twitter as @ResearchWell.

**Where:**

The event will be held at the Elephant and Castle Pub and Restaurant,
424 Clay St, San Francisco, CA 94111

**When:**

January 30, 2013
5:30 – 6:30 Registration, networking and appetizers
6:30 – 7:00 SLA-SF and BayNet announcements
Intersect Alert January 28, 2013


Freedom of Information

Is It Illegal To Unlock a Phone? The Situation is Better – and Worse – Than You Think

Legal protection for people who unlock their mobile phones to use them on other networks expired last weekend. According to the claims of major U.S. wireless carriers, unlocking a phone bought after January 26 without your carrier’s permission violates the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (“DMCA”) whether the phone is under contract or not. In a way, this is not as bad as it sounds. In other ways, it’s even worse. https://www.eff.org/is-it-illegal-to-unlock-a-phone

January 18th: Internet Freedom Day

Today, on the anniversary of the massive protests against the Internet censorship bills SOPA and PIPA, a broad network of individuals and organizations are joining to celebrate Internet Freedom Day. The website InternetFreedomDay.net lists a variety of actions in support of the open Internet, including a new tradition asking Internet users to share something they love that should never be censored. https://www.cdt.org/pr_statement/january-18th-internet-freedom-day

CDT Statement on Changes FTC Made to Children’s Online Privacy Protection Rule

Washington, DC — Today, the Federal Trade Commission unveiled its modifications to the Children’s Online Privacy Protection Rule (COPPA) mandated by Congress in the Children’s Online Privacy Protection Act of 1998. The new rules are scheduled to go into effect July 1, 2013. CDT supports the FTC’s effort to update COPPA to address the more sophisticated data collection practices on the modern Web. We also appreciate the careful balancing the FTC did to try to reconcile a wide array of concerns from civil society and industry. https://www.cdt.org/pr_statement/cdt-statement-changes-ftc-made-childrens-online-privacy-protection-rule

Twitter’s New Transparency Report Shows Increase in Government Demands, Sheds Light on Copyright Takedowns

Yesterday, Twitter released its second semi-annual transparency report, which details the numbers behind every user data demand, censorship order and copyright takedown request that the micro-blogging site received in the second half of 2012.

As with Google’s transparency report last week, there was a clear increase in government demands for user data, with the United States leading the way by far. Censorship requests from around the world also increased. In addition, the report shed valuable light on the copyright takedown procedure that also often results in undue censorship.

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2013/01/google-tweeters-new-transparency-report-shows-increase-government-demands-sheds

Public Policy

EPA’s New Soot Rule Will Save Lives, Health Care Costs, and the Environment

In December 2012, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalized a new national clean air standard for fine particulate matter (PM 2.5), commonly referred to as soot. These microscopic particles are often emitted from diesel engines and power plants. When inhaled, the particles lodge deep inside the lungs and can cause asthma, acute bronchitis, heart attack, stroke, and even premature death, especially in vulnerable populations such as children and the elderly. EPA
moved forward to strengthen the standard after new data confirmed that the standard set in 1997 did not adequately protect the public.  

**Congress Sets Stage for Second Budget Showdown**

On Jan. 23, the House of Representatives sidestepped a battle over the debt ceiling and prepared itself instead for a coming fight over sequestration and a possible government shutdown. The No Budget, No Pay Act (H.R. 325), passed by the House, suspends the debt ceiling until May 18 and ties congressional pay to passage of budget resolutions in the House and Senate by April 15.  
http://www.foreffectivegov.org/congress-sets-stage-for-second-budget-showdown

**Small Businesses, Public Health, and Scientific Integrity: Whose Interests Does the Office of Advocacy at the Small Business Administration Serve?**

This report examines the activities of an independent office within the Small Business Administration: the Office of Advocacy. The Office of Advocacy has responsibility for ensuring that federal agencies evaluate the small business impacts of the rules they adopt. Scientific assessments are not “rules” and do not regulate small business, yet the Office of Advocacy decided to comment on technical, scientific assessments of the cancer risks of formaldehyde, styrene, and chromium. By its own admission, Advocacy lacks the scientific expertise to evaluate the merits of such assessments.  

**Privacy Concerns**

**Facebook Graph Search: Privacy Control You Still Don’t Have**

Facebook’s Graph Search has certainly caused quite a stir since it was first announced two weeks ago. We wrote earlier about how Graph Search, still in beta, presents new privacy problems by making shared information discoverable when previously it was hard—if not impossible—to find at a large scale. We also put out a call to action—and even created a handy how-to guide—urging people to reassess their privacy settings.  
https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2013/01/facebook-graph-search-privacy-control-you-still-dont-have

**Critical Fixes for the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act**

In the wake of Aaron Swartz’s tragic death this month, EFF has been working with a coalition of legislative staffers and experts on the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act (CFAA) to finalize a proposal for changes that would make major improvements to the law. We’ve written a series of posts outlining our ideas as they’ve developed, but that analysis has built on the foundation of the intricacies of the law. Here are the three areas of the CFAA that we’ve zeroed in on. We believe it’s critical to fix them  
https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2013/01/these-are-critical-fixes-computer-fraud-and-abuse-act

**International Privacy Day: Anti-Surveillance Success Stories**

January 28 marks International Privacy Day. Different countries are celebrating this day calling attention to their own events and campaigns. This year, EFF is honoring the day by sharing some advocacy strategies utilized by human rights advocates and activists from Argentina, the UK, Canada, and the United States, that have helped to defeat overreaching surveillance proposals that threaten civil liberties.  
https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2013/01/international-privacy-day-anti-surveillance-success-stories

**IP**

**Lenz v. Universal: This Baby May Be Dancing To Trial**

After years of litigation, it appears Stephanie Lenz may have a chance to tell her story to a jury. Back in 2007, you’ll remember, she posted a video to YouTube of her children dancing and running around in her kitchen with Prince’s “Let’s Go Crazy” playing in the background. A few months later, Universal Music Corp. used the Digital Millennium Copyright Act’s rapid-fire takedown process to get the video removed from YouTube, claiming that it infringed copyright law. With help from EFF and Keker & Van Nest, Lenz fought back. She filed a lawsuit asking a federal court to hold Universal accountable for misrepresenting that her fair use video violated copyright law. Late last week, Judge Jeremy Fogel issued a ruling in the case that sent contradictory signals on the future of fair use under the DMCA.  
https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2013/01/lenz-v-universal-baby-may-be-dancing-trial-0

**International Outlook**
President’s Message – An Investment That Pays Dividends

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2013/01/presidents-message-an-investment-that-pays-dividends/

January 30, 2013

Categories: Bayline, Chapter Leadership
Tags: President's message, volunteering

Happy 2013, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter of SLA!

Last week, the chapter’s Executive Board and Advisory Council had our 2013 turnover meeting; this is the time that outgoing Chairs officially hand their duties over to the new incoming Chairs. This also marks the start of my term as chapter President and I am both thrilled and humbled by this opportunity.

Once again, I would like to thank the many chapter members who have volunteered their time to serve as Board and Council members. None of the many fantastic chapter events and resources available to you would exist without their efforts. I would like to ask all of our members to think about some of the chapter benefits that have been made possible by their efforts. Maybe you love to attend the informative speaker programs, tours, and professional development events organized throughout the year. Perhaps you are drawn more to the social nature of the neighborhood dinners and holiday party. Or maybe you look forward to reading Bayline articles posted on the chapter website, or are kept informed of government activities that impact our access to information by the Intersect Alert. When you see a chapter Council member, take a moment to thank them for their efforts.

Now think about how lucky we are to be members of a chapter that has all of this to offer in a relatively compact geographic area. It is true that many of our programs are held in San Francisco, although there are events annually in the East Bay, and neighborhood dinners several times a year in Marin. But consider the SLA chapters which encompass entire states; for example, the Nebraska chapter with its 21 members. Or entire regions, like our neighbors to the north in the Pacific Northwest chapter, which covers members in Idaho, Montana, Washington, and Alaska. Or entire continents, like the Europe chapter, home to SLA’s current President-Elect. It may seem difficult to make it to a chapter function 20 or 30 miles from home, but consider how much easier that is relative to negotiating state and country borders?

Like so many of the San Francisco Bay Region chapter presidents before me, I’ve selected a theme for my term; that theme is Investment. Whether you are brand new to the chapter or a long-time member, this is the year I want to challenge you to get invested. Is there a topic about which you are knowledgeable, perhaps digitization technologies, social networking strategies, or business research resources and techniques? Share it in an article for Bayline. Is there a skill set that you would like to develop? Look at the various Advisory Council committees and select the one that you think would have a volunteer opportunity that would facilitate that growth. Throughout the year, I will be sending notices to the discussion list asking for volunteers to help with discrete, focused projects. Take me up on it.

Maybe you’re hesitant to come to events because you don’t know anyone there, or you just haven’t seen how SLA can impact your career. Well, here’s the thing about volunteering: you get to know people. Last year, an SLA task force surveyed 527 association members about volunteering with SLA. When asked how their volunteer experience paid off:

- 35% said they got new job because of the volunteer experience
- 30% said they built professional connections
- 30% said the volunteer experience helped with their career development and professional growth

Think about all that your San Francisco Bay Region chapter can offer you, and then think about how you can maximize those benefits. During my years volunteering with the chapter, I have known several people on the chapter’s Executive Board and Advisory Council to get both internships and full-time jobs as a direct result of their networking with others in the chapter. However, it’s difficult for chapter members to be of assistance if we don’t know you, that you’re looking for a job, or what you’re interested in. The best way for SLA to benefit you is by giving you the networking opportunities and professional development tools you can use to broaden your prospects.

Your SLA leaders work throughout the year to provide our members with programming and information to help you grow as a professional. We are invested in you. This is the time for you to invest in your career and your profession. It’s time for you to invest in SLA. Just ask me how.

By Anne N. Barker
Chapter President
Intersect Alert February 4, 2013

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2013/02/intersect-alert-february-4-2013/ February 4, 2013 Categories: Intersect Alert Tags: freedom of information, intellectual property, international outlook, open access, public policy

Intellectual Property Issues

Publishers and Library Groups Spar in Appeal to Ruling on Electronic Course Reserves

Fair use and electronic course reserves are back in court. A keenly watched copyright case that pitted three academic publishers against Georgia State University has entered the appeals phase, with a flurry of filings and motions this week and more expected soon. The case in question is Cambridge U. Press et al. v. Mark P. Becker et al. In 2008, Cambridge, Oxford University Press, and SAGE Publishers sued Georgia State, asserting it had committed widespread copyright violations when it allowed some of their content to be used, unlicensed, in e-reserves. The Association of American Publishers and the Copyright Clearance Center, which specializes in licensing content to universities, bankrolled the legal action.


EPO and USPTO launch Cooperative Patent Classification

The European Patent Office (EPO) and the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) today launched the Cooperative Patent Classification scheme (CPC), a global classification system for patent documents. The system is the result of partnership between the EPO and the USPTO in their joint effort to develop a common, internationally compatible classification system for technical documents, in particular patent publications, which will be used by both offices in the patent granting process. The CPC is an ambitious harmonisation product that incorporates the best classification practices of both offices.


Open Access

World wide web creator sees open access future for academic publishing

Activists pushing for free, open access to academic papers will eventually defeat publishers who seek to lock scholarly findings behind paywalls, the founder of the world wide web said today. Sir Tim Berners-Lee, who revolutionised the way we access information on the internet through the creation of the world wide web over 20 years ago, has been a vocal proponent for making data freely available while also protecting people’s privacy.


Public Policy

Agency Attempts to Block Scientific Assessments of Toxic Chemicals

In a report released today, the Center for Effective Government (formerly OMB Watch) documents attempts by the Office of Advocacy at the Small Business Administration to thwart important agency assessments of chemical toxicity at the behest of lobbyists for large chemical companies. No actual small businesses requested these interventions, according to the materials the Center for Effective Government obtained through Freedom of Information Act requests.

Specifically, the report, titled Small Businesses, Public Health,
and Scientific Integrity: Whose Interests Does the Office of Advocacy at the Small Business Administration Serve?, reviewed the Office of Advocacy’s activities regarding toxicity assessments by the Department of Health and Human Service’s National Toxicology Program and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Integrated Risk Information System of the cancer-causing potential of three substances: formaldehyde, styrene, and hexavalent chromium. “In each case,” said Randy Rabinowitz, Director of Regulatory Policy at the Center for Effective Government and one of the authors of the report, “the Office of Advocacy claimed that small businesses took issue with labeling these substances as known or suspected cancer-causing agents. We found no evidence that this was the case.”


EPA Releases New Report on Children’s Health and the Environment in America

EPA today [Jan. 25, 2013] released "America’s Children and the Environment, Third Edition," a comprehensive compilation of information from a variety of sources on children’s health and the environment. The report shows trends for contaminants in air, water, food, and soil that may affect children; concentrations of contaminants in the bodies of children and women of child-bearing age; and childhood illnesses and health conditions.

"This latest report provides important information for protecting America’s most vulnerable – our children. It shows good progress on some issues, such as reducing children’s blood lead levels and exposure to tobacco smoke in the home, and points to the need for continued focus on other issues”, said EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson.

http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/bd4379a92ceceea8525735900400c27/1fe31a8bc6eb3c4385257afe0061b1f4!OpenDocument.

Privacy Issues

Congress Will Battle Over Internet Privacy in 2013

Last year, we saw more battles in Congress over Internet freedom than we have in many years as user protests stopped two dangerous bills, the censorship-oriented SOPA, and the privacy-invasive Cybersecurity Act of 2012. But Congress ended the year by ramming through a domestic spying bill and weakening the Video Privacy Protection Act.

In 2013, Congress will tackle several bills – both good and bad – that could shape Internet privacy for the next decade. Some were introduced last year, and some will be completely new. They include:

- Update to the Electronic Communications Privacy Act (ECPA)
- Restricting Government and Corporate Use of your Cell Phone GPS Info
- Cybersecurity Legislation

and more.


Facebook Graph Search: Privacy Control You Still Don’t Have

Facebook’s Graph Search has certainly caused quite a stir since it was first announced two weeks ago. We wrote earlier about how Graph Search, still in beta, presents new privacy problems by making shared information discoverable when previously it was hard—if not impossible – to find at a large scale. We also put out a call to action – and even created a handy how-to guide – urging people to reassess their privacy settings. One notable blog that has been making rounds on the Internet is Tom Scott’s Actual Facebook Graph Searches. Scott has compiled a number of unnerving—and in some cases, humorous—examples of Graph Searches, such as "Family members of people who live in China and like Falun Gong."

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2013/01/facebook-graph-search-privacy-control-you-still-dont-have.

Drone Programs Spark Budgetary, Privacy, Legal Concerns

The development of unmanned aerial systems (or drones) for military and civilian applications appears to be accelerating earlier this month.


Activists Flood Government Agencies With FOIA Requests in Tribute to Aaron Swartz

In honor of the transparency fights that coder and internet activist Aaron Swartz led while alive, an online records processing service has submitted more than 100 public records requests on behalf of members of the public.

Muckrock, a site that processes public records requests for a fee on behalf of journalists, lawyers, activists and others, decided to waive its fee (generally $20 for five requests) last week and offer to submit federal Freedom of Information Act requests for free to honor Swartz, who committed suicide.

faster than the normal policy process can adapt to it. Aside from festering doubts about the legality, propriety and wisdom of their routine use in targeted killing operations, drone programs are beset by budgetary confusion, and a host of privacy and other legal problems are poised to emerge with the expanded use of drones in domestic airspace.

"With the ability to house high-powered cameras, infrared sensors, facial recognition technology, and license plate readers, some argue that drones present a substantial privacy risk. Undoubtedly, the government’s use of drones for domestic surveillance operations implicates the Fourth Amendment and other applicable laws," said a new report from the Congressional Research Service.

http://www.fas.org/blog/secrecy/2013/01/drone_legal.html.

International Outlook

From Timbuktu, Reports That Most Manuscripts Were Saved

Reports from Timbuktu, Mali, on Wednesday indicate that most of the ancient manuscripts at a famed library may have been saved by residents before Islamist radicals had the chance to burn them. "I can say that the vast majority of the collections appear from our reports not to have been destroyed, damaged or harmed in any way," Shamil Jeppie, an expert on the documents who teaches at the University of Cape Town in South Africa, told Reuters.

http://www.npr.org/blogs/thetwo-way/2013/01/30/170680222/from-timbuktu-reports-that-manuscripts-have-been-saved.

Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety.

The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.

Intellectual Property Issues

The Orphan Works Problem: Time to Fix It

Can Congress embrace and enact sensible copyright policy? Four years ago, for a brief shining moment, it seemed the answer might be yes, as various interested stakeholders rallied around long-overdue legislation that would have helped to fix the orphan works problem. Orphan works are those whose owner cannot be located. Consequently, those who would like to use and share these works may hesitate to do so out of fear that they could later be found liable for copyright infringement because they didn’t get permission. In 2008, a variety of interested parties managed to come up with a way to limit that liability. It wasn’t perfect, but it represented real progress. Sadly, that effort collapsed. In the past several months, however, momentum started slowly building once again toward a solution.

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2013/02/orphan-works-problem-time-fix-it.

Public Policy

Law Library Sues San Francisco for Breach of City Charter

The San Francisco Law Library filed a lawsuit today against the City and County of San Francisco, alleging that since 1995 the city has violated a City Charter provision that requires it to provide proper funding and adequate space for the Law Library. Since 1995, the Library has been housed in a cramped, leaky and damaged upper room of the San Francisco Veterans War Memorial building. The Veterans building is set to close for renovation in May 2013, meaning that if the city continues to violate the Charter and fail to meet its obligations, the Law Library will then be homeless.


Tech, telecom giants take sides as FCC proposes large public WiFi networks

The federal government wants to create super WiFi networks across the nation, so powerful and broad in reach that
consumers could use them to make calls or surf the Internet without paying a cellphone bill every month. The proposal from the Federal Communications Commission has rattled the $178 billion wireless industry, which has launched a fierce lobbying effort to persuade policymakers to reconsider the idea, analysts say. That has been countered by an equally intense campaign from Google, Microsoft and other tech giants who say a free-for-all WiFi service would spark an explosion of innovations and devices that would benefit most Americans, especially the poor.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/2013/02/03/eb27d3e0-698b-11e2-ada3-d86a4806d5ee_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/2013/02/03/eb27d3e0-698b-11e2-ada3-d86a4806d5ee_story.html).  

**Open Access**

**Researchers opt to limit uses of open-access publications**

Academics are – slowly – adopting the view that publicly funded research should be made freely available. But data released yesterday suggest that, given the choice, even researchers who publish in open-access journals want to place restrictions on how their papers can be re-used – for example, sold by others for commercial profit.


**NISO Launches New Initiative to Develop Standard for Open Access Metadata and Indicators**

NISO [National Information Standards Organization] voting members have approved a new project to develop standardized bibliographic metadata and visual indicators to describe the accessibility of journal articles with respect to how “open” they are.

Many offerings are available from publishers under the banner of Open Access (OA), Increased Access, Public Access, or other names; the terms offered vary both between publishers and within publishers by journal, and in some cases, based on the funding organization of the author. Adding to the potential confusion, a number of publishers also offer hybrid options in which some articles are &quotopen&quot while the rest of the journal’s content are available only by subscription or license. No standardized bibliographic metadata currently provides information on whether a specific article is openly accessible and what re-use rights might be available to readers. Visual indicators or icons indicating the openness of an article are inconsistent in both design and use across publishers or even across journals from the same publisher.


**Privacy Issues**

**In a Major Privacy Victory, Seattle Mayor Orders Police to Dismantle Its Drone Program After Protests**

In an amazing victory for privacy advocates and drone activists, yesterday, Seattle’s mayor ordered the city’s police agency to cease trying use surveillance drones and dismantle its drone program. The police will return the two drones they previously purchased with a Department of Homeland Security grant to the manufacturer. EFF has been warning of the privacy dangers surveillance drones pose to US citizens for more than a year now. In May of last year, we urged concerned citizens to take their complaints to their local governments, given Congress has been slow to act on any privacy legislation. At least thirteen states are now considering legislation to restrict drone use to protect privacy, and there are also members of Congress on both sides of the aisle pushing the same thing.


**Security fears slow cloud progress: Concern over government stopping companies from using the cloud**

Almost half of IT professionals are deterred from keeping sensitive data in the cloud because of fear of government intervention and possible legal action. The survey, which looked at IT and cloud experts’ attitudes to storing data in the cloud, revealed that government and legal interference puts 48% of them off from entering the cloud environment. These figures highlight that IT managers are deterred from the Cloud, because they are unsure if their organisation’s sensitive data is adequately protected and will therefore pass IT security audits or indeed government regulatory checks which hosted cloud environments are subjected to.


**Obama wants your immigration story – and personal data**

Writing from a BarackObama.com email account, self-described “undocumented immigrant” Jose Magana last night shared his personal immigration story with the masses. Magana said he came to the United States from Mexico at age 2. He slept on a couch for much of his young life. He worked hard and excelled in school but lived in fear of being deported to a
“Everyone has a story – I’m sure you do, too,” Magana wrote in touting immigration policy reform on behalf of Organizing for Action, President Barack Obama’s new nonprofit advocacy organization that sprung from his campaign committee. “Will you share your immigration story? Organizing for Action will use these stories to move the conversation forward.”

What isn’t immediately evident to people inclined to submit their names, emails, ZIP codes, photo and personal immigration story through a provided online form: that the group reserves the right to use submissions “for any purpose whatsoever at the sole discretion of OFA, including without limitation any political, advertising or commercial use of any kind.”


The FTC and Mobile Privacy: Be Careful in Collecting User Data, or Face the Consequences

The FTC’s announcement late last week of a settlement with a mobile app developer and the Commission’s simultaneous release of a mobile privacy report highlighted the agency’s focus on protecting consumer privacy in the popular mobile space. Moreover, the Commission’s actions provided a pointed reminder to app developers that they must consider privacy at the earliest stages and in all phases of creating their innovative products.

The settlement was with Path, a social networking company, arising out of alleged violations of the Children’s Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA) and the FTC Act. With respect to COPPA, the company had not actually targeted children, but it collected birthdates in the enrollment process and that, the FTC concluded, was enough to give the company knowledge that it was collecting data from children under 13.


Rebooting the Government Printing Office: Keeping America Informed in the Digital Age


“Over the past two decades, the shift from an industrial age to an information age has affected the way both public and private sector organizations operate. For GPO, the demand for federal print products has declined by half over the past twenty years, but the demand for information that government creates has only increased. While conducting this review, the Panel determined that GPO faces challenges in dealing with the movement to the digital age that are shared across the federal government. Critical issues for the federal government include publishing formats, metadata, authentication, cataloging, dissemination, preservation, public access, and disposition. The Panel believes that the federal government needs to establish a broad government-wide strategy to manage digital information through all stages of its lifecycle. The absence of such a strategy has resulted in a chaotic environment with significant implications for public access to government information—and, therefore, the democratic process—with some observers describing federal digital publishing as the “wild west.” Now that approximately 97 percent of all federal documents are “born digital,” many important documents are not being authenticated or preserved for the future, and the public cannot easily access them. GPO has a critical role to play along with other agencies in developing a government-wide strategy that streamlines processes, clearly defines agency responsibilities, avoids duplication and waste, and effectively provides information to current and future generations.”


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The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.

Digital History

SLA Annual Conference Registration—Opening Today

Registration for SLA’s Annual Conference in San Diego, June 8-11, opens today! This is the first time the conference has been in our time zone since Seattle in 2008. Think about being able to make it to those 8:00 am sessions without the feeling that no amount of caffeine will keep your eyes open!

The conference schedule has changed this year; all CE programs will be on Saturday and regular sessions start on Sunday. The conference ends on Tuesday. The online conference planner is already up and running, so you can start choosing your sessions now.

Make sure to put the Western States Chapter Reception on your calendar for Sunday the 9th at 7:30. This year’s reception is being planned by our neighbors to the east in the Sierra Nevada Chapter. I spoke with BJ Combs, of the Sierra Nevada Chapter, while at the Leadership Summit last week, and the food and beverages promise to be plentiful!

Get to know San Diego and all it has to offer by visiting the conference wiki. Keep an eye on the site leading up to the conference as it will be continually updated.

It’s a short, inexpensive flight down the coast to beautiful San Diego! More details will be coming soon, but you’ll even have a chance to win lunch on the beach with Deb Hunt, who, it seems, could be easily convinced to take you on a boogie boarding adventure!

President’s Message – Give Us Something to Talk About!

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2013/02/presidents-message-give-us-something-to-talk-about/ February 15, 2013 Categories: Bayline, Chapter Leadership Tags: President’s message, social media

I am very pleased to announce the launch of the SF Bay Region chapter’s newly revitalized social media presence. Many of you may already be aware of the chapter’s group on LinkedIn. This group will continue on as it has, albeit with a few additional administrators. If you aren’t already a member of this group, I urge you to join.

In addition, thanks to the efforts of Lauren Reid, our new Networking Chair, our chapter has new, active accounts on Twitter and FaceBook. Lauren has been working energetically on both accounts for a few weeks now, so check them out to see the type of information that is being made available to you. In addition to SLA announcements and links to Bayline posts, you’ll find information about networking and professional development opportunities, calls for papers, and news of general interest to information professionals.

Follow the Twitter feed at http://twitter.com/SLASFBay.

On FaceBook, we opted for a group, rather than a page, because it is focused more on the people making up the community. All group members should feel free to post stories of interest or comment on anything you see on that page. I hope you’ll join our group at https://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/50637818626/. We also plan to use this account to promote chapter events, so be sure to connect with your colleagues by marking yourself as “attending” an event if you plan to register.

In addition to using these venues to connect with each other, we hope these resources will also help us communicate our presence and value to non-members. Heather Gamberg, our PR Chair, is currently strategizing the best ways to use these resources, and other forms of media, to push our message out past the choir box and into the larger world.

Finally, on the topic of chapter communications, are you signed up for the chapter discussion list? If you’re reading this via e-mail, you may be thinking that I have lost my mind. “Of course, I’m signed up for the discussion list. I’m reading this, aren’t I?” Look up at the “From” line. If you only receive chapter messages that appear to come from Linda Yamamoto, you are not signed up for the discussion list.

Linda very ably administers the discussion list, but she also moderates the chapter reflector. The reflector is an e-mail list used for official chapter and SLA headquarters announcements. You will see event listings and important messages from yours truly on this list, but the only person with permission to post to this account is Linda. All chapter members are automatically signed up for the chapter reflector by SLA headquarters.

The discussion list is a completely separate resource to which any subscriber can post. You’ll see the same types of official announcements as on the reflector, but also a variety of other e-mails sent by members, from requests for recommendations for particular software or services, to a vast array of webinar opportunities forwarded from other SLA units, many of them free to members.

If you are starting to wonder if you are on the discussion list, but can’t remember who has always been in that “From” line, there’s another easy way to tell. Have you been getting the Intersect Alert? This newsletter is sent to the discussion list every Sunday or Monday by the faithful members of your Government Relations committee, Michael Sholinbeck, Tony Sheafer, and me. It provides annotated links to news stories...
related to the intersection between libraries/librarians and government information policies. If you have not seen this newsletter recently, you are not on the discussion list.

Please sign up for the chapter discussion list by sending an e-mail to lyris@sla.lyris.net in the following format (leave the subject line blank):
Subscribe SLA-CSFO your-e-mail_address “FirstName LastName” (e.g. Subscribe SLA-CSFO jdoe@xyz.com “John Doe”)

If you are not on the chapter discussion list, you are missing a great opportunity to connect with our chapter and its members. Don’t worry; the number of e-mails is not overwhelming.

Please note, even if you signed up in the past, the Lyris platform has an unfortunate tendency to drop people from time to time. This usually happens if your employer’s e-mail server flags a few messages as spam and, unknown to the subscriber, sends an “unsubscribe” request back. For those of you who signed up with your UC Berkeley e-mail address, it’s probably time to sign up again. I am working with HQ to try and find a way to resolve this ongoing issue, so hopefully we’ll have a better way to deal with it in the future.

Your chapter leaders are working hard to offer you ways to engage through a number of communication channels. Pick the one(s) that work best for you. I hope to be hearing from you soon!

By Anne N. Barker
Chapter President

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Taxonomies: What are they and how are they useful?

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2013/02/taxonomies-what-are-they-and-how-are-they-useful/ February 15, 2013 Categories: Bayline, Chapter Programs & Events Tags: events, professional development

**Taxonomies: What are they and how are they useful?**

**Online Webinar on Tuesday, March 12, 2013, 5:30 – 6:30pm (Pacific)**

**presented by Margie Hlava**

**Why:**
Members of the SLA are perfect candidates to build and implement taxonomies. The oceans of data coming at us through the Internet portals need to be harnessed to power our research, development and management of existing knowledge as a foundation for growth and profitability. This webinar is a great introduction to a powerful skill that sets us apart from IT and adds value to our information systems.

**Who:**
Marjorie M.K. Hlava is President, Chairman, and founder of Access Innovations, Inc., in New Mexico. Very well known in the international information arena, she is the founding Chair of the SLA Taxonomy Division established in August 2009. She is past president of NFAIS (2002-2003), the organization of those who create, organize, and distribute information. Ms. Hlava is past president of the American Society for Information Science and Technology – 1993 (ASIST) and the 1996 recipient of ASIST’s prestigious Watson Davis Award. Ms. Hlava was also twice a member of the Board of Directors of SLA where she was awarded the President’s Award for her standards work. She has been granted 21 patent claims for her work.

**When:**
Tuesday, March 12, 2013, 5:30 – 6:30pm (Pacific)

**Where:**
By phone and online via GoToWebinar, hosted by SLA-SF. You will need a PC with internet access. You can use your computer audio or telephone (toll call). The link and call information will be provided after verification of registration payment.

**Cost:**
$25 for SLA members, $50 for non-members/guests, and $15 for students/retirees/unemployed.

**Registration:**
Registration is now closed.

Are you a current member of the SLA Taxonomy Division? Taxonomy Division members may attend this webinar for free. Do not use the registration link shown above. Instead, send your name, email address and phone number with your interest in the webinar to Wendi Pohs, Taxonomy Division PD Chair: wphhs@infoclearonline.com. The deadline for this special offer is March 1, 2013.
Take Action!

Call to action: Tell Congress you support the Bipartisan Fair Access to Science and Technology Research Act (FASTR)

Today (February 14, 2013), Senators Cornyn (R-TX) and Wyden (D-OR) and Representatives Doyle (D-PA), Yoder (R-KS), and LoFGren (D-CA) introduced the Fair Access to Science and Technology Research (FASTR) Act, a bill that will accelerate scientific discovery and fuel innovation by making articles reporting on publicly funded scientific research freely accessible online for anyone to read and build upon.

Every year, the federal government funds over sixty billion dollars in basic and applied research. FASTR will make these articles freely available for all potential users to read and ensure that articles can be fully used in the digital environment, enabling the use of new computational analysis tools that promise to revolutionize the research process.

Act Now!


Open Access

Open Access Journal PeerJ Publishes First Articles

Multidisciplinary Open Access journal publisher PeerJ announced the publication of its first 30 peer-reviewed articles today. Co-founders Jason Hoyt, formerly chief scientist and VP for research and development for Mendeley, and Peter Binfield, formerly publisher of the Public Library Of Science (PLOS), launched PeerJ in June 2012. They quickly garnered support for the project, ultimately assembling an Editorial Board of 800 academics and an advisory board of 20 – five of whom are Nobel Laureates. PeerJ is now hoping that its business model can help make academic publishing more efficient and less expensive for both researchers and libraries.


California bill to release the state's building codes online for free

Assemblyman Brian Nestande of California has introduced Assembly Bill 292, which would open source the California Code of Regulations (including the Building Codes!!). The summary reads: "This bill would provide that the full text of the California Code of Regulations shall bear an open access creative commons attribution license, allowing any individual, at no cost, to use, distribute, and create derivative works based on the material for either commercial or noncommercial purposes."

http://freegovinfo.info/node/3869.

Public Policy

New GPO report suggests charging taxpayers twice for government info

The National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA) recently released their congressionally mandated report, Rebooting the Government Printing Office: Keeping America Informed in the Digital Age. NAPA’s five-member panel spent ten months conducting an audit of the Government Printing Office (GPO). The panel’s lengthy 166 page report does present some interesting, and at times, troubling thoughts.

On one hand the panel definitely grasps the difficult position that GPO is in considering that, with 97% percent of today’s federal documents are born digital, the GPO has had to make many changes over the past two decades. While much of the report is reasonable and responds to the needs of libraries, the public, and GPO itself, the section in Finding III-5, Government Information Dissemination and Access, is cause for concern. It gives some ideas on how GPO might ensure funding for FDsys in the future. One of these ideas is that "now might be the time to revisit charging the public for access to FDsys content."


What’s the Difference Between an Executive Order and a Directive?

The Obama Administration issued policy statements this week on critical infrastructure protection and cyber security, including measures to encourage information sharing with the private sector and other steps to improve policy coordination. Curiously, the Administration issued both an Executive order and a Presidential directive devoted to these topics.

"There are probably two significant differences between an EO and a PD, at least to my understanding," said Harold Relyea, who served for decades as a Specialist in American National
Government at the Congressional Research Service. "First, in almost all cases, for an EO to have legal effect, it must be published in the Federal Register. Second, is the matter of circulation and accountability. EOs are circulated to general counsels or similar agency attorneys, which can be readily accomplished by FR publication. Again, a PD may be more selectively circulated, and this is done through developed routing procedures."

http://www.fas.org/blog/secrecy/2013/02/eo_pd.html.

Privacy Issues

CISPA is Back; All Your Data Are Belong to Us

 Barely a year after the defeat of SOPA, Congress is back to testing the waters for legislation that many internet users believe to be in violation of their fundamental rights to privacy and free expression. CISPA, a bill that would make it easier for corporations and the government to share internet users’ personal data, was officially re-introduced in the House on Wednesday. It’s already being rushed forward in the legislative process. The House Intelligence Committee is holding a full hearing on the bill today [Feb. 14] at 10 am. They will hear from four witnesses – all from the business sector and all known supporters of CISPA. No experts with concerns about privacy issues in the bill were invited to address the committee.

http://www.opencongress.org/articles/view/2527-CISPA-is-Back-All-Your-Data-Are-Belong-to-Us.

Mandatory Black Boxes in Cars Raise Privacy Questions

 The Electronic Frontier Foundation urged the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration today to include strict privacy protections for data collected by vehicle "black boxes" to protect drivers from long-term tracking as well as the misuse of their information.

Black boxes, more formally called event data recorders (EDRs), can serve a valuable forensic function for accident investigations, because they can capture information like vehicle speed before the crash, whether the brake was activated, whether the seat belt was buckled, and whether the airbag deployed. NHTSA is proposing the mandatory inclusion of black boxes in all new cars and light trucks sold in America. But while the proposed rules would require the collection of data in at least the last few seconds before a crash, they don’t block the long-term monitoring of driver behavior or the ongoing capture of much more private information like audio, video, or vehicle location.


International Outlook

Egyptian Court Orders 30-Day Ban On YouTube Over Hosting "The Innocence of Muslims" Video and There’s Plenty of Blame to Go Around

This weekend, the Cairo Administrative Court issued a 30-day ban order on YouTube and all other websites that host or link to content from the anti-Islam film "The Innocence of Muslims," which was protested worldwide after footage from the trailer was shown on Egyptian television. The court’s ruling may force the hand of the National Telecom Regulation Authority and the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, which have refrained from pursuing such a ban themselves.

It is unclear what the court hopes to gain by temporarily blocking access to YouTube. YouTube had voluntarily blocked access to the video in Libya and Egypt in mid-September – a clear breach of Google’s own policy of only removing content if it is found to be in violation on their Terms of Service or in response to a valid court order.

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2013/02/egyptian-court-orders-30-day-ban-youtube-over-hosting-%E2%80%9C-innocence-muslims%E2%80%9D-video.

Freedom of Information

Congress Asking the Right Questions on FOIA

A recent letter from Congress to the Justice Department represents a positive development toward strengthening the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). The letter (PDF), sent Feb. 4 by the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, asks what steps the government is taking on a number of key transparency improvements. The reforms, if implemented, could significantly improve the public’s access to information about critical topics such as food safety, compliance with environmental standards, and special interest influence in government decision making.

Open government advocates praised the letter. The Sunshine in Government Initiative said the letter asks "pointed questions," and the Washington Examiner’s Mark Tapscott wrote that it "could be the most comprehensive congressional review of FOIA in three decades."


Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety. The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.
If this review is late, it’s Tasha Bergson-Michelson’s fault. She’s got me compulsively clicking on every pixel of my Google search page, looking for hidden treasures.

We all search – a LOT, in this job – but do we think about HOW we search? That’s Tasha’s job. She’s a self-described “passionate search geek” who opened her presentation to the SLA-BayNet joint meeting with “My world is about learning what you search for, and how.” Since Google has, to quote legendary reference professor Terry Crowley, “drenched us all with a fire-hose of information,” its Search Education program is working to make sense of all that information. Dan Russell, whom we visited at Google in 2011, and Tasha are at the forefront of this effort, introducing us to all the features of Google search that relatively few searchers know about or use.

The site at http://www.google.com/insidesearch/searcheducation/ offers a variety of tools for getting the most out of these features, along with sample searches, self-paced lesson plans, and tests — even a Continuing Education certificate for the truly dedicated.

The way we in the profession talk about search both helps and hinders us: the jargon doesn’t translate. Things we get stoked about – Boolean logic, controlled vocabulary, stop words — are meaningless to most end-users. That’s why Tasha and Dan teach classes: it gives them shoulders to peek over, to see how people with basic skills do basic searches.

We tend to make our initial searches very specific, forgetting that every word counts and too much precision rules out partial answers that could lead us to better ones. Sometimes an informal search works best, as Tasha showed with the Stanford basketball song that goes “oooh-oooh-oooh.” Who’d think you could get a viable answer by entering “sports song oooh-oooh-oooh.” Try it! The song elected “Best Answer” at Ask.com, “Kernkraft 400 “ by Zonbuie Nation, has been taken down by the copyright owner, which may prove something, but it’s amazing how large the result set is.

Yes, this did remind me of the reference desk classic where the kid says “Mom wants to know what this song is” and hands the librarian a slip of paper on which Mom has written “dum-dum-dum DAH de-dee-dum,” — but it worked. And Tasha addressed the other ref-desk classic, “I don’t remember the title or a detail but the color was pink.” Under the “search tools” button (“there’s good stuff is hiding under this button,” she says) Image search is an “any color” button. This pulls down to give a clickable choice of colors, so when you enter the word “book” and whatever the patron does remember of the subject – Anglo-Saxon art, in her example – and filter by color, this will limit the results to a less overwhelming number. She also showed us how to use background color for implied context: where searching for SF Giants images brings up the predictable orange and black, filtering for green gives you action shots on the green field.

Learning how to read search results productively is a skill in itself. A first question, especially a more formal one, can bring in results that look far off the point – but much can be learned from them: better key words to use, the type of sites that seem to have the best answers, criteria to filter by. One of the most interesting experiments Tasha mentioned on watching people search is one she’s doing with Diane Sands of the California Academy of Sciences, whose cartoons and drawings (and brownie recipe) have been featured on this newsletter (she also has a book out, Hot From the Toaster.) The team is encouraging searchers to draw their queries, bypassing words altogether. The results have been “eye-opening, sometimes stunning.” I’d love to hear more about this – perhaps another meeting topic?

The main take-home lesson was “Know your options.” In Tasha’s case, that meant exhaustively experimenting with everything on the Google search page, especially the wonders
hidden under that magical search button. For us, it can be one-click easy:

[http://www.google.com/insidesearch/searcheducation](http://www.google.com/insidesearch/searcheducation) will get you to the Power Search class, live training opportunities, and the addictive “Google-a-day” trivia search challenge.

Enjoy!

Jo Falcon

Thanks go to [Information Express](http://www.informationexpress.com) for their generous sponsorship of this event.

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### Intersect Alert February 25, 2013


February 24, 2013 Categories: Intersect Alert Tags: digital preservation, freedom of information, intellectual property, internet access, libraries, privacy, public policy, research

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**Freedom of Information**

**Justices consider Va. limits on access to public records**

The Supreme Court’s justices suggested Wednesday that state laws limiting access to government records to their own state residents might be pointless, but the justices seemed not to be persuaded that the laws are also unconstitutional. Lawyers for two men who had sought government records from Virginia – joined by a broad group of media organizations and professional data miners – asked the court Wednesday to invalidate those restrictions, arguing that they discriminated against out-of-state residents in ways that violated two separate constitutional limits.


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**Intellectual Property Issues**

**Free Speech Battle Over Publication of Federal Law**

The Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF) asked a federal judge today to protect the free speech rights of an online archive of laws and legal standards after a wrongheaded copyright claim forced the removal of a document detailing important technical standards required by the federal government and several states. Last month, the association of Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors (SMACNA) claimed an online post of a federally-mandated 1985 standard on air-duct leakage violated its copyright and demanded the post be removed. After a threat of legal action from SMACNA, the document was taken down.

[https://www.eff.org/press/releases/free-speech-battle-over-publication-federal-law](https://www.eff.org/press/releases/free-speech-battle-over-publication-federal-law)

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**Public Domain, My Dear Watson? Lawsuit Challenges Conan Doyle Copyrights**

Some 125 years after his first appearance, Sherlock Holmes remains a hot literary property, inspiring thousands of pastiches, parodies and sequels in print, to saying nothing of the hit Warner Bros. film starring Robert Downey Jr. and such television series as “Elementary” and the BBC’s “Sherlock.”

But according to a civil complaint filed on Thursday in federal court in Illinois by a leading Holmes scholar, many licensing fees paid to the Arthur Conan Doyle estate have been unnecessary, since the main characters and elements of their story derived from materials published before Jan. 1, 1923, are no longer covered by United States copyright law.


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**DRM Lawsuit Filed By Independent Bookstores Against Amazon, “Big Six” Publishers**

Three independent bookstores are taking Amazon and the so-called Big Six publishers (Random House, Penguin, Hachette, HarperCollins, Simon & Schuster and Macmillan) to court in an attempt to level the playing field for book retailers. If successful, the lawsuit could completely change how ebooks are sold. The class-action complaint, filed in New York on Feb 15., claims that by entering into confidential agreements with the Big Six publishers, who control approximately 60 percent of print book revenue in the U.S., Amazon has created a monopoly in the marketplace that is designed to control prices
and destroy independent booksellers. The complaint centers on
digital rights management, or DRM, the technological lock that
prevents consumers from transferring any ebook they buy on
an Amazon Kindle onto, say, a Nook or Kobo ereader.


Internet Access

Oxford Blocks Google Docs in Response to Phishing Scams

The University of Oxford temporarily blocked Google Docs on
Monday in an attempt to make its students and professors more
aware of an increase in phishing scams that use the Web
service. In a blog post, Robin Stevens, a communications
programmer at Oxford, said university officials had decided to
take “extreme action” after what they perceived to be Google’s
inaction on the issue.

In the schemes, attackers, often pretending to be from Oxford,
send out Google Doc forms that ask users to enter their
personal e-mail passwords. Students and faculty members
deceived by the form then freely type in that information,
unwittingly lending their account to the attacker. “Almost all
the recent attacks have used Google Docs URLs, and in some
cases the phishing e-mails have been sent from an already-
compromised university account to large numbers of other
Oxford users,” said Mr. Stevens.


Research – Public Reporting of Hospital Infection Rates

Health-care associated infections (HAIs) kill about 100,000
people annually; most are preventable, but many hospitals have
not aggressively addressed the problem. In response, twenty-
five states and the U.S. Department of Health and Human
Services require public reporting of hospital infection rates for
at least some types of infections, and other states and private
entities are implementing such reporting. We report on work in
progress, in which we assess the quality and suitability of
different state websites and reports for different target
audiences and the extent to which they meet best practices for
online communication.


White House Open Access Memo Strong, Could Be
Stronger

Today [Feb. 22], the White House released a memorandum
(PDF) in support of a more robust policy for public access to
research, making the results of billions of dollars of taxpayer-
funded research freely available online. The memorandum
gives government agencies six months to detail plans to ensure
the public can read and analyze both research and data, without
charge. Both open access and open data are key to promoting
innovation, government transparency, and scientific progress.
This comes on the heels of Congress’ introduction of FASTR
(Fair Access to Science & Technology Research), a bill that
sets into law many of the same goals as the memorandum.
There are, however, some key differences.

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2013/02/white-house-open-access-memo-strong-could-be-stronger.

Public Policy

33% of Seafood Mislabeled in Grocery Stores, Restaurants
& Sushi Venues

Oceana, the largest international advocacy group working
solely to protect the world’s oceans, uncovered widespread
seafood fraud across the United States, according to a new
report (PDF) released today. In one of the largest seafood fraud
investigations in the world to date, DNA testing confirmed that
one-third of the 1,215 fish samples collected by Oceana from
674 retail outlets in 21 states were mislabeled. Among the
report’s other key findings include:

- Only seven of the 120 red snapper samples collected
nationwide were actually red snapper
- 84 percent of the white tuna samples were actually
escolar, a species that can cause serious digestive issues
for some individuals who eat more than a few ounces
- Fish on the FDA's “DO NOT EAT” list for sensitive
groups such as pregnant women and children because of
their high mercury content were sold to customers who
had ordered safer fish

Oceana is calling on the federal government to require
traceability of all seafood sold in the U.S. Tracking fish from
boat to plate would not only significantly reduce seafood fraud
and help keep illegally caught fish out of the U.S. market, it
would also give consumers more information about the fish
they purchase, including the species name, where, when and
how it was caught, if it was farmed or previously frozen and if
any additives were using during processing.

/oceana-study-uncovers-widespread-seafood-fraud-nationwide.

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https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2013/02/white-house-open-access-memo-strong-could-be-stronger.
Privacy Issues

Mobile Device Security: Boosting Confidence and Trust in Health IT

Mobile devices like laptops, smartphones and tablets have the potential to increase the quality and efficiency of health care by, among other things, making it easier for health care providers to access patient information when and where they need it. Because health care providers are increasingly using these devices, the HHS recently released a new set of online tools to help providers comply with their obligations under HIPAA when using mobile devices. Mobile devices pose unique risks to the security of health information; the biggest cause of health information breaches is theft and loss of laptops and other portable media.


Digital History

Kerala State Central Library Starts Digitizing Hundreds of Rare Books

The Kerala State Central Library, which happens to be one of the oldest in India, has made the big leap to the digital age by having digitized hundreds of books, some which dates back hundreds of years. During the initial phase, 707 rare documents which includes 644 English and 63 Malayalam books comprising 3,28,268 pages were added to the Digital Archive. 480 more English books comprising a total of 1,84,321 pages were added in the second phase in 2012.


Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety.

The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.

President’s Message – Highlights from the 2013 Leadership Summit


Way back what seems like ages ago, but is, in reality, only 3 weeks past, I was in Dallas for SLA’s 2013 Leadership Summit. Many thanks to the Texas Chapter for all of their hard work and their big Texas welcome! For those unfamiliar with the event, this annual meeting brings together the SLA Board, HQ staff, and chapter and division Presidents/Chairs and Presidents/Chairs-Elect to discuss the state of the Association, the challenges we face, and the plans for the road ahead.

This was my first Summit – my trip last year as President-Elect was cancelled at the very last minute due to some personal drama – so I was very excited to be able to attend this year. In spite of the fact that I spent two full days in a hotel conference room, it was a wonderful experience and I encourage anyone interested in getting involved in leadership positions with SLA, or who is just interested in the inner workings of the association, to attend. You do not have to be a current unit Board member to go. While there are obviously plenty of opportunities to meet people at the Annual Conference, the Leadership Summit provides a more intimate setting, bringing together folks with SLA-famous Twitter handles for the common goal of making our Association more vital and relevant to members and potential members everywhere.

Some of the highlights of this year’s Summit include:

In his Treasurer’s Report, new SLA Treasurer John DiGilio emphasized the “we are all one SLA” theme, and introduced specific plans for enhanced openness. He has started a new discussion list for unit Treasurers to more easily share information and ideas, and has committed to sending financial reports to unit leaders throughout the year. I will be sharing this information with the chapter as it arrives. John also reported that SLA broke even in 2012, and is projected to do so again in 2013. However, he noted an ongoing trend – over the last four years, SLA has managed to decrease expenses to keep in line with decreasing revenue, resulting in a balanced budget. This has led to some projects being deferred and, as we all know, a reduction in SLA HQ staff. They are running a very small,
tight crew in Alexandria right now. There isn’t much fat left to
cut, so the key issue going forward has to be bringing that
downward revenue line on the graph back up. John also noted
that 63% of SLA’s revenue comes from the annual conference,
while conference expenses represent 43% of our outflow. So,
everyone, register for the conference in San Diego!

SLA’s new **Strategic Agenda** was emphasized throughout the
Summit. All leaders are being encouraged to consider how the
decisions and actions we take in our chapters and divisions can
support one of the five tiers of this program. For those
unfamiliar with the agenda items, they include:

1. Strengthening and Improving the Annual Conference
2. Providing Professional Development Opportunities for
   Our Members Throughout the Year
3. Creating Richer Volunteer Experiences to Help Members
   Develop In-Demand Skills
4. Opening New Markets through Collaboration
5. Growth through Diversification of Information
   Professionals

Your chapter Board and Advisory Council will be exploring
ways to promote and incorporate these ideas into our chapter
activities going forward.

Chris Zammarelli, Chair of the **First Five Years Advisory
Council**, announced a plan to hold a focus group at the 2013
conference to explore what our colleagues who are newer to
the profession would find helpful and meaningful through their
association membership. Please contact me if you are a newish
information professional attending the conference and you
would like to participate, or if you know someone who should.

By far, the announcement that received the most excitement,
demonstrated by frequent “oohs”, “aahs”, and applause, was
the introduction of the **new SLA web site**. Built on WordPress,
the new site not only reflects the unified design aesthetics
adopted by the units under **Operation Vitality**, it also makes
things <gasp> easier to find. The site is attractive, intuitive, and
functional. Prompted largely by a suggestion made by our own
Tony Landolt, the new web site will also feature an
association-wide event calendar, allowing members to view the
programs hosted by various units throughout the year. You can
use the calendar to find webinars in which you’d like to
participate, or possibly to find interesting programs to attend
and SLA members to meet if you happen to be travelling to
another chapter region. The new web site is currently set to
launch in early April. I stopped holding my breath a long time
ago, but now that I’ve seen what’s coming, I’m virtually
breathless with anticipation.

The Leadership Summit also serves as the official kick-off for
planning the **2014 Annual Conference**. The conference will
be held in Vancouver (June 8-10, 2014), and the theme is **Beyond
Borders**. More changes are in store as SLA explores various
ways to make the conference even more relevant to members,
including a variety of session time slots lasting 60, 90, and 120
minutes, and 15-minute “Quick Take” slots for hot topics.

Three themes were also announced for further consideration by
all divisions in spotlight sessions, Sunday: **Embedded
Information Services**, Monday: **Digital Content and Big Data**,
Tuesday: **Leadership in the Human Age**.

I represented the San Francisco Bay Region Chapter with a
presentation on our chapter’s first foray last fall into
**charging for webinars**. The extremely detailed procedures document
written by Chris Orr, our Professional Development Chair,
proved invaluable in developing the presentation, and the
session was well-received. The detailed instructions, lessons
learned, and issues to consider going forward seemed to be
very useful for the units who have not embarked on this
endeavor before. My presentation was also well-matched with
that of Rachel Bates Wilfahrt, president of the Rocky Mountain
Chapter. Since their chapter sponsored several webinars last
year, it was nice to have the perspective of a unit with lots of
experience to show what’s possible, as well as that of our
chapter which still has our lessons learned so fresh in our
heads. The slides from my presentation, as well as all of the
other presentations from the 2013 Leadership Summit, are
available here: [http://www.sla.org/content/resources/leadcenter
/LeadershipSummit/13leadsummit/slides.cfm](http://www.sla.org/content/resources/leadcenter/LeadershipSummit/13leadsummit/slides.cfm). Note, member
login is required for access.

Finally, last, but most certainly not least, the **2013 Fellows and
Rising Stars** were announced:

2013 Fellows: David Cappoli, Dennie Heye, Martha Foote,
Mary Talley, Rebecca Vargha
2013 Rising Stars: Alyson Avery, Kendra Levine, Amy Sarola,
Mary Talley, Rebecca Vargha

A special shout out for San Francisco Bay Region Chapter
member Kendra Levine, current Chair of the Transportation
Division, for her recognition.

The Summit concluded with a look forward to San Diego,
including the introduction of SLA’s “**Get on the Beach**”
**Recruitment Campaign**, and the enjoyment of the always
visionary musical stylings of Richard Geiger and Tim DeWolf.
As you gear up to attend the conference, kick your excitement
up to 11 with this rousing rendition of a Woody Guthrie
classic! You can listen while you register!
**Intersect Alert March 3, 2013**


**Freedom of Information**

**White House Regulatory Office Too Quiet About Its Activities, Study Finds**

“A notable portion of meeting records, oral communications and public comments related to agency rulemaking are absent from the White House Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs website, according to a new study that faults OIRA for less-than-full transparency during the last 12 years.”


**Senator Tester Keeps Fighting the Good Fight for Transparency**

“Today, Senator Tester announced that once again he has introduced the Senate Campaign Disclosure Parity Act, (not yet online) a bill that would bring the Senate into the 21st Century by requiring senators and Senate candidates to electronically file their campaign finance reports with the Federal Election Commission.”


**Public Policy**

**E-rate’s looming Fiscal Cliff**

“While Congress and the White House debate how to prevent the looming across-the-board budgets cuts known as sequestration, those of us in the E-rate world are worrying about our own “fiscal cliff.” For the past several years E-rate applicants have been biting their nails waiting to see what totals are going to be requested from the capped fund and if there will be enough money to fund their applications. In 2012, we heard a collective gasp when the school and library applications showed that for the first time in the 15 years of the program there was not going to be enough money to cover all the priority one requests, with a shortfall of some $2.8 billion. After shaking out the couch cushions and emptying the penny jars, USAC was able to make up the deficit so that all of these applications could receive funding and the first tier of priority two applications would also receive funding.”


**Open Access**

**SLA Supports Open Access to Federally Funded Research**

“SLA, along with 11 other library, publishing, research and advocacy organizations, wrote a letter thanking U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden for introducing legislation titled “The Fair Access to Science and Technology Research Act” (FASTR). This bill, introduced on February 13, will provide an important mechanism to ensure that manuscripts of peer-reviewed scientific articles reporting on research funded by the U.S. Government can be freely accessed and fully used by all American taxpayers – including researchers, teachers, students and businesses.”

[http://slablogger.typepad.com/sla_blog/2013/02/sla-supports-open-access-to-federally-funded-research.html](http://slablogger.typepad.com/sla_blog/2013/02/sla-supports-open-access-to-federally-funded-research.html)

**Internet Access**

**Internet Governance, Policy Up for Debate at UNESCO Meeting in Paris**
“This week, Internet governance experts and advocates gather in Paris to start preparing for the ten-year review of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) in 2015. This week’s meeting is hosted by the UN Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); CDT’s Leslie Harris and Matthew Shears will be appearing on several panels addressing questions of privacy, free expression, and cybersecurity – key issues in Internet policy that will shape governance debates over the next few years. The WSIS+10 event will give government, industry, civil society, academics, and the technical community an opportunity to continue conversations about Internet governance and policy that were features of the WCIT debates.”

**Digital History**

**Building the Digital Public Library of America**

“The [Digital Public Library of America](http://www.knightfoundation.org/blogs/knightblog/2013/2/28/building-the-digital-public-library-america/) will launch on April 18 after two and a half years of careful planning and preparation. The project known as DPLA is the first national effort that seeks to aggregate existing records in state and regional digital libraries so that they are searchable from a single portal. Up until now, the documents that tell the story of our nation’s history and cultural heritage have largely been siloed in state and local libraries, museums, and archives. Some institutions have the ability to digitize those valuable materials and put them online, but strained budgets mean that most do not. The project’s funding will also allow it to work with local communities to digitize their cultural-heritage—preserving them for the future and bringing them online as part of our first national digital library.”

**Intellectual Property**

**Copyright Alert System Launching Today**

“The long-discussed Copyright Alert System (CAS) is launching today — but don’t expect any immediate fireworks. It’s going to take some time to see how the system operates in practice; all that will happen this week is that some Internet users may receive initial informational alerts. Under the CAS, ISPs will send warning notices to subscribers that copyright holders have identified as engaging in copyright infringement on peer-to-peer networks. In the optimistic scenario, this notification-centric approach will serve a largely educational purpose, informing users that their file sharing activity may be both illegal and observable by rightsholders. Some users may not have been fully aware of that. And in some cases, notices may clue parents in to illegal behavior they weren’t aware of, such as file sharing by the household teenager. This is why CDT has said that the CAS has the potential to help reduce peer-to-peer copyright infringement while sidestepping the serious concerns raised by approaches that involve (for example) government mandates or the adoption of new snooping or filtering technologies. There are risks, however.”
https://www.cdt.org/blogs/david-sohn/2502copyright-alert-system-launching-today

**New German Law Will Allow Free “Snippets” By Search Engines, But Uncertainty Remains**

“The good news for search engines like Google is a proposed German copyright law won’t require them to pay to show short summaries of news content. However, uncertainty remains about how much might be “too much” and require a license. The new law is expected to pass on Friday.”

**Privacy Issues**

**Supreme Court Dismisses Challenge to FISA Amendments Act; EFF’s Lawsuit Over NSA Warrantless Wiretapping Remains**

“Yesterday, the Supreme Court sadly dismissed the ACLU’s case, Clapper v. Amnesty International, which challenged the FISA Amendments Act (FAA)—the unconstitutional law that allows the government to wiretap Americans communicating with people overseas. Under the FAA, the government can conduct this surveillance without naming individuals and without a traditional probable cause warrant, as the Fourth Amendment requires. The court didn’t address the constitutionality of the FAA itself, but instead ruled that the plaintiffs—a group of lawyers, journalists, and human rights advocates who regularly communicate with likely “targets” of FAA wiretapping—couldn’t prove the surveillance was “certainly impending,” so therefore didn’t have the “standing” necessary to sue. In other words, since the Americans did not have definitive proof that they were being surveilled under the FAA—a fact the government nearly always keeps secret—they cannot challenge the constitutionality of the statute.”
https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2013/02/supreme-court-dismisses-challenge-to-fisa-amendments-act;EFF’s-lawsuit-over-NSA-warrantless-wiretapping-remains

**International Outlook**

**German National Data Portal Launched**

“Wednesday saw the launch of the [German national data portal](http://epsiplatform.eu/content/german-national-data-portal-launched). While the portal had been longtime expected, in the last days before the launch the German open data community has been vocal in its criticism of the introduction of a newly created national license framework, which includes the option to limit re-use to non-commercial use forms. The portal will also hold non-open data as well as data in closed formats. This in the expectation that once data is published in some shape or form the pressure on the data holder will rise to provide the data as really open data as well.”
http://epsiplatform.eu/content/german-national-data-portal-launched

Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety.
Recap of Behind the Scenes Tour of the Cantor Arts Center

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2013/03/recap-of-behind-the-scenes-tour-of-the-cantor-arts-center/ March 5, 2013 Categories: Bayline, Chapter Programs & Events Tags: events

In late November of last year, the San Francisco Bay Region and Silicon Valley Chapters of SLA hosted a joint chapter tour of the Cantor Arts Center at Stanford University. This was a special behind-the-scenes tour, showcasing the museum’s archives, collection storage, and other areas seldom seen by the public.

Our tour guide, Patience Young, presented us with a thorough history of the museum along with an overview of its operations day to day. We got to see where future exhibits are designed and put together, where Japanese swords and Mediterranean pottery are stored and kept safe from earthquakes and the elements, and where the entire collection is being digitally photographed, one piece at a time. As a participant on the tour, I was struck by the commonalities between museums and archives. The techniques used to store and preserve items, and the use of digital tools to document them brought me back my days as an intern at the Society of California Pioneers’ archive and research library.

The Cantor Center has been an integral part of Stanford University since its founding. Its original purpose was to make the Stanford family’s art collection available to students and the general public. The Stanford family, including Leland Jr., collected art as they traveled around the world, and this formed the basis for what was to become the Cantor Center. The museum now boasts a collection spanning more than 5,000
years of art history and including the largest collection of Auguste Rodin sculptures outside of the Musée Rodin in Paris. After the tour, many of us gathered in the museum’s Kool Café for dinner and networking. It was wonderful to see that the tour was attended by members based throughout the Bay Area, from Danville to the San Jose area. Some of us also took some time to wander about the museum, taking in some of the exhibits after getting a sense of the work involved in creating them. This was a very memorable tour, and I think everyone who attended was thankful to the Cantor Center for giving us such an in-depth look behind the scenes.

By Kim Ewart

Intersect Alert March 10, 2013

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2013/03/intersect-alert-march-10-2013/ March 10, 2013 Categories: Intersect Alert Tags: freedom of information, intellectual property, open access, privacy

It's Sunshine Week!

Celebrating Sunshine Week 2013

“Sunshine Week, a nationwide initiative highlighting the importance of open government and accountability, will be held this year from March 10-16. Created by journalists in 2002, Sunshine Week is designed to educate people on their right to access public information in understandable, user-friendly formats to participate more effectively in democracy and to use such information to protect and improve their communities. Sunshine Week coincides with James Madison’s birthday on March 16. Madison is considered the “Founding Father of Freedom of Information.” During the week, news media, government officials, educational institutions, libraries, nonprofit organizations, individuals, and anyone with an interest in open and transparent government can take part in a variety of events and activities. Shedding new light on the latest developments in freedom of government information, these events will include conferences, panel discussions, and workshops. Here are some notable events that will take place in Washington, D.C., throughout the week”

http://www.foreffectivegov.org/blog/celebrating-sunshine-week-2013

Google Transparency Report Highlights Just How Much We Don’t Know About National Security Letters

“In an unprecedented win for transparency, yesterday Google began publishing generalized information about the number of National Security Letters that the company received in the past year as well as the total number of user accounts affected by those requests. Of all the dangerous government surveillance powers that were expanded by the USA PATRIOT Act, the National Security Letter (NSL) power provided by five statutory provisions is one of the most frightening and invasive. These letters—the type served on communications service providers such as phone companies and ISPs and are authorized by 18 U.S.C. 2709—allow the FBI to secretly demand data about ordinary American citizens’ private communications and Internet activity without any prior judicial review. To make matters worse, recipients of NSLs are subject to gag orders that forbid them from ever revealing the letters’ existence to anyone.”

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2013/03/new-statistics-about-national-security-letters-google-transparency-report

In Maine, ‘sunshine’ law’s fate looks dim

“The public’s access to government information is under attack in Maine. The Legislature will take up several bills this session that would further puncture the state’s open-government law, snatching from public view information that is now considered part of the public’s right to know. If approved, the measures will reinforce Maine’s national reputation as a place where transparency and government accountability rank behind privacy and other powerful interests.”

http://www.publicintegrity.org/2013/03/06/12277/data-transparency-advocates-register-lobbyist
across federal agencies. The report, titled Harvard and MIT, are promoting open access publishing. It provides unrestricted online access to peer-reviewed journal publications, forms, and documents, including the Emancipation Proclamation, Social Security cards, Medicare and Medicaid information, census forms, tax forms, citizenship forms, military histories ranging from the Official Records of the War of the Rebellion to the latest accounts of our forces in Afghanistan, emergency documents like the ration cards and the “Buy Bonds” posters used during World War II, the Warren Commission Report on President Kennedy’s assassination, the Watergate transcripts, the 9/11 Commission Report, Presidential inaugural addresses, Supreme Court opinions, and the great acts of Congress that have shaped American society.”

GPO Celebrates 152 Years of Keeping America Informed
“Today is the 152nd birthday of the U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO). The agency first opened its doors for business on March 4, 1861, the same day Abraham Lincoln was inaugurated as the 16th President, with a mission based on the requirement in Article I, section 5 of the Constitution that “each House shall keep a journal of its proceedings and from time to time publish the same.” Since Lincoln’s time GPO has produced the official version of every great American state paper and an uncounted number of other Government publications, forms, and documents, including the Emancipation Proclamation, Social Security cards, Medicare and Medicaid information, census forms, tax forms, citizenship forms, military histories ranging from the Official Records of the War of the Rebellion to the latest accounts of our forces in Afghanistan, emergency documents like the ration cards and the “Buy Bonds” posters used during World War II, the Warren Commission Report on President Kennedy’s assassination, the Watergate transcripts, the 9/11 Commission Report, Presidential inaugural addresses, Supreme Court opinions, and the great acts of Congress that have shaped American society.”

NIU Libraries launches Open Access Fund
“NIU Libraries has launched a pilot Open Access Fund that will provide small grants to faculty and graduate students to help defray the upfront costs associated with open access publishing. Grappling with the costs for expensive journal subscriptions, a number of universities nationwide, including Harvard and MIT, are promoting open access publishing. It provides unrestricted online access to peer-reviewed journal articles, thus broadening access to scholarly research. The NIU Open Access Fund seeks to advance the use of open access as a means of distributing the research and creative work of the Northern Illinois University community.”

Library Copyright Alliance Submits Reply Comments to Copyright Office on Orphan Works
“On March 5, the Library Copyright Alliance (LCA, of which the American Library Association is a member) filed reply comments (pdf) to the US Copyright Office in response to the office’s October 22, 2012, Notice of Inquiry about the current state of play with orphan works and mass digitization.”

Google Says Authors Guild Lawsuit Could Shred Modern Card Catalog
“A victory for the Authors Guild in its copyright infringement case against Google would do nothing less than destroy the “modern version of the card catalog,” the search company argues in new court papers filed this week. “This case is about whether Google’s modern version of the card catalog — a search tool that allows anyone with access to the Internet to search among millions of books — can continue to exist,” Google says. Google’s sweeping rhetoric comes in its latest round of papers stemming from its book digitization effort, which involves scanning library books and displaying snippets of some of them in its search engine, in response to queries. The company is currently appealing an order by U.S. Circuit Court Judge Denny Chin allowing the Authors Guild to proceed with its case as a class-action lawsuit.”

The privacy-invasive bill known as CISPA—the so-called “cybersecurity” bill—was reintroduced in February 2013. Just like last year, the bill has stirred a tremendous amount of grassroots activism because it carves a loophole in all known privacy laws and grants legal immunity for companies to share your private information. EFF has compiled an FAQ detailing how the bill’s major provisions work and how they endanger all Internet users’ privacy.”

Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety.
Neighborhood Dinners – Coming soon to a restaurant near you!

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2013/03/neighborhood-dinners-coming-soon-to-a-restaurant-near-you/  March 13, 2013  Categories: Bayline, Chapter Programs & Events  Tags: events

A favorite chapter tradition, Neighborhood Dinners, will take place in April. See the Neighborhood Dinners webpage for information on how to host or attend a dinner. The list of upcoming dinners will be updated periodically, so check back often to learn about new dining and networking opportunities!

Intersect Alert March 17, 2013

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2013/03/intersect-alert-march-17-2013/  March 17, 2013  Categories: Intersect Alert  Tags: freedom of information, government, intellectual property, open access, privacy, public policy

Freedom of Information

Sunshine Week: In Celebration of Open Government

“As President Barack Obama has stated, “Openness will strengthen our democracy, and promote efficiency and effectiveness in Government.” This week, we celebrate Sunshine Week — an appropriate time to discuss the importance of open government and freedom of information, and to take stock of how far we have come, and think about what more can be done.”

http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2013/03/11/sunshine-week-celebration-open-government

Sunshine Week: A Round-up of EFF’s Year in Transparency

“This week, EFF once again joins a coalition of national and local transparency and press organizations in celebrating Sunshine Week as a way to bring attention to the importance of public records and the need to remain vigilant despite government push-back. Forty-seven years ago, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) into law, giving the public the right to access records pertaining to government activities. Pronounced “foy-yah” by those who regularly employ it, the law serves as a sort of citizen subpoena process; if you ask for a record that doesn’t fall under a confidentiality exemption, the government has to produce it. Each day this week, EFF will be sharing details about our efforts to hold the government accountable using this crucial tool, including our successes and challenges. To kick it all off, here’s a breakdown of our greatest transparency hits since the last time Sunshine Week rolled around.”

http://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2013/03/sunshine-week-year-transparency

Open States: Transparency Report Card

“Today we’re making available our Transparency Report Card, a byproduct of the work we did in producing Open States. In the course of writing scrapers for all 50 state legislatures, our Open States team and volunteers spent a lot of time looking at state legislative websites and struggling with the often inadequate information made available. Impossibly difficult to navigate sites, information going missing and gnarly PDFs of tabular data have become daily occurrences for those of us working on Open States. People are always curious to know how their state stacked up compared to others — in fact one of the most frequent questions we have been asked has been “so which state was the worst?” That question got us thinking: How could we derive a measure of how “open” a state’s legislative data was?”


Governor Cuomo Launches Open.NY.Gov Providing Public Unprecedented User-Friendly Access to Federal, State and Local Data

“Governor Andrew M. Cuomo today launched “open.ny.gov,” a new and comprehensive state data transparency website that provides – for the first time – user-friendly, one-stop access to data from New York State agencies, localities, and the federal government. The website, featuring economic development, health, recreation, and public services information, was unveiled today during Sunshine Week, a nationwide initiative designed to raise awareness about the importance of open government.”

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA): Background and Policy Options for the 113th Congress

“This report provides background on FOIA, discusses the categories of records FOIA exempts from public release, and analyzes statistics on FOIA administration. The report also provides background on several legal and policy issues related to FOIA, including the release of controversial records, the growth in use of certain FOIA exemptions, and the adoption of new technologies to improve FOIA administration. The report concludes with an examination of potential FOIA-related policy options for Congress.”

Bipartisan Bill Aims to Beef Up FOIA Compliance

“The Republican and Democrat sitting atop Congress’ top watchdog panel unveiled joint proposed legislation Tuesday that would mandate a single online portal for all Freedom of Information Act requests across government. The 2013 FOIA Oversight and Implementation Act would direct officials to look closely at FOIA Online, a 5-month old joint FOIA Portal for the Commerce Department, the Environmental Protection Agency and a handful of other agencies. It would leave the door open for the governmentwide FOIA system to be built elsewhere, though, according to a press release from sponsors Rep. Darrell Issa, R-Calif., and Rep. Elijah Cummings, D-Md.”
http://www.nextgov.com/emerging-tech/2013/03/bipartisan-legislation-aims-beef-foia-compliance/61821/

Freedom of Information Act Performance, 2012: Agencies Are Processing More Requests but Redacting More Often

“A building block of American democracy is the idea that citizens have a right to information about how their government works and what it does in their name. However, citizen access to public information was only established by law in 1966 with the passage of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). The law has since been strengthened and improved over the years, and FOIA currently requires federal agencies to formally respond to requests for information within 20 working days or potentially face a lawsuit. While there are exemptions that agencies can use to avoid the disclosure of sensitive information or information that violates privacy rights, agencies processed over half a million FOIA requests in 2012. In about 41 percent of these cases, the information requested was released “in full” with no parts “redacted” – i.e., clean, complete documents with no blacked-out parts were provided to the person who requested the information. How does this compare to past years and past administrations? How well has President Obama met his goal of being the most transparent administration in history with regard to access to public information? This report examines the processing of FOIA requests from 25 major federal agencies in 2012 and reviews the processing of FOIA requests by agencies since 1998.”
http://www.foreffectivegov.org/freedom-information-act-agencies-are-processing-more-requests-but-redacting-more-often

Whither whistleblowing: Where have all the leaking sites gone?

“More than two years ago, a flurry of new WikiLeaks clones sprung up around the world inspired by the world’s most famous transparency-driven organization. They had all kinds of names: QuebecLeaks, BaltiLeaks, Enviroleaks, and more. PirateLeaks (based in the Czech Republic), BrusselsLeaks (Belgium) and RuLeaks (Russia) all did not respond to Ars’ requests for comments. HonestAppalachia’s Jimmy Tobias wrote to Ars to say the group was “active indeed, and working on a variety of projects.” To date, HonestAppalachia has yet to publish anything, despite receiving a $5,000 grant from the Sunlight Foundation nearly a year ago. Most of these clones never got very far and appear to have all but shut down. Balkanleaks seems to be just one of a handful still actively receiving and publishing new documents. “I think this points to the fact that what WikiLeaks did was fairly unique and probably a few years ahead of its time,” said Trevor Timm, co-founder of the Freedom of the Press Foundation. So how does Balkanleaks thrive where others haven’t?”
http://arstechnica.com/business/2013/03/whither-whistleblowing-where-have-all-the-leaking-sites-gone/

Aaron Swartz to receive posthumous ‘Freedom of Information’ award for open access advocacy

“Internet activist and Reddit co-founder Aaron Swartz is slated to receive posthumous recognition in Washington for his efforts promoting free access to taxpayer-funded research. The James Madison Freedom of Information Award is administered by the American Library Association, and recognizes “individuals who have championed, protected and promoted public access to government information and the public’s right to know national information.””

Senator Tester Champions Government Transparency; Reintroduces POIA

“Today, Senator Jon Tester reintroduced The Public Online Information Act (POIA) a bill that would take already public government information out of file cabinets and put it online in user friendly formats.”
http://sunlightfoundation.com/blog/2013/03/12/senator-tester-champions-government-transparency-reintroduces-poi/

National Security Letters Are Unconstitutional, Federal Judge Rules

“A federal district court judge in San Francisco has ruled that National Security Letter (NSL) provisions in federal law violate the Constitution. The decision came in a lawsuit challenging a NSL on behalf of an unnamed telecommunications company represented by the Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF). In the ruling publicly released today, Judge Susan Illston ordered that the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) stop issuing NSLS and cease enforcing the gag provision in this or any other case. The landmark ruling is stayed for 90 days to allow the government to appeal.”
Shining a Light on FOIA Practices

“In celebration of Sunshine Week, a number of organizations released Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) reviews. These reviews, conducted by National Security Archives, the Center for Effective Government, Cause of Action, Associated Press, and OpenTheGovernment.org, indicate how agencies measure up when it comes to providing the public with information. Although the studies indicate that agencies on the whole increased their responses to FOIA requests in 2012, disparities remain between agencies on things like response time, compliance with the 2007 Open Government Act and 2009 Guidance from the White House, cost of responding, fee waivers, and backlog reductions. A majority of responses to FOIA requests in 2012 were only partial responses, and use of exemptions to withhold or redact information increased. The following snapshots contain some of the highlights of each review.”

http://www.pogo.org/blog/2013/03/20130315-shining-a-light-on-foia-practices.html

Public Policy

2013 World Press Freedom Index: Dashed hopes after spring

“After the “Arab springs” and other protest movements that prompted many rises and falls in last year’s index, the 2013 Reporters Without Borders World Press Freedom Index marks a return to a more usual configuration. The ranking of most countries is no longer attributable to dramatic political developments. This year’s index is a better reflection of the attitudes and intentions of governments towards media freedom in the medium or long term.”


National Archives to Help Launch the Digital Public Library of America’s Pilot Project

“Archivist of the United States David S. Ferriero announced today that the National Archives, as a leading content provider to the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA), will help launch its first pilot project. The DPLA is a large-scale, collaborative project across government, research institutions, museums, libraries and archives to build a digital library platform to make America’s cultural and scientific history free and publicly available anytime, anywhere, online through a single access point.”


Open Access

IMLS Director Susan Hildreth Supports Broad Access to Federally Funded Research

“The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) announced today its continuing commitment to expanding public access to IMLS funded research. In a February 22 memorandum, the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy directed agencies to develop plans to increase access to federally funded scientific research and improve the management of research data. The following is a statement from IMLS Director Susan H. Hildreth.”

http://www.imls.gov/imls_director_susan_hildreth_supports_broad_access_to_federally_funded_research.html

Intellectual Property

What Librarians Need to Know about the New Copyright Alert System

“Late last month, the Center for Copyright Information (CCI) launched its Copyright Alert System, creating a new effort by rights holders (including the Recording Industry Association of America and Motion Picture Association of America) and Internet Service Providers (ISPs), such as Comcast, Verizon, Cablevision and Time Warner Cable) to curb online copyright infringement.”

http://www.districtdispatch.org/2013/03/new-copyright-alert-system-what-librarians-need-to-know/

Privacy Issues

Wimberly, Jasey Introduce “Reader Privacy Act” Bill Upgrading NJ Book Privacy for the Digital Age

“The rise in popularity of digital book purchasing, borrowing and concerns for individual privacy protections has prompted Assembly Democrats Benjie E. Wimberly and Mila M. Jasey to introduce legislation that would place readers and purchasers of books and electronic books –“e-Books”– under similar protections as library records by expanding reader privacy law. Wimberly and Jasey note the invention of digital books and e-readers has raised questions around the country about privacy and broadening protections to include new literary mediums. California enacted similar legislation in 2011 extending library privacy laws to include digital book records.”


Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety.

The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.
Taxonomies: What are they and how are they useful
with Marjorie M.K. Hlava, President and Chairman of Access Innovations, Inc.

An SLA-SF Professional Development Webinar

By Lisa Ngo

Margie Hlava makes the world better one search term at a time. If you’ve ever conducted a search online or tagged a photo in social media, you’ve likely taken advantage of our friend the Taxonomy. Taxonomies make information findable and direct users to consistently relevant search results, and Margie Hlava is one of SLA’s resident experts in taxonomies.

Margie, President and Chief Scientist at Access Innovation, was also founding Chair of the SLA Taxonomy Division. She took time from her busy schedule on March 12th to present an SLA-SF Professional Development Webinar on taxonomies, educating us on how to build and implement them, as well as the international standards applicable to developing taxonomies.

Though many of us may remember learning about them in library school, unless you work with them on a daily basis, you probably never think twice about taxonomies when you execute a search. But did you know that they’re now used for image databases, in data mashups, data visualizations, web crawlers, spam filters, and social networking sites? Margie explains that, at their core, taxonomies help us leverage our data and make it discoverable and findable, and are defined as “a collection of controlled vocabulary terms organized into a hierarchical structure” (ANSI/NISO Z39.19-2005).

So how do you build and implement a taxonomy?

First, you should know that there are standards that govern taxonomies; the ANSI/NISO Z39.19-2005 standard is one reference, but there are also standards from ISO and W3C.

Margie explains that it’s not scary at all to build a taxonomy; in fact, you may not even need to build it from scratch. There are term registries and taxonomy warehouses where you can find a base for the taxonomy you need and build out from there. You can also mix and match existing taxonomies; in the process, you need to organize and fill in gaps, and then flesh out and interrelate terms.

Margie has great advice about how to determine terms – for instance, be unambiguous with your vocabulary and only use one term for each concept. Relationships between terms are also important and need to be considered when building your term hierarchy. When you think you’re done, you’re not done! You must edit, test, edit, and test some more; taxonomies should evolve with usage and need to be maintained for them to remain relevant.

Lastly, taxonomies can be implemented in a myriad of ways, with search and websites being the most popular.

I am sure I have done Margie a disservice with my incredibly brief recap of her talk, but fear not. Margie is presenting an in-depth “Introduction to Taxonomies” workshop in June at SLA in San Diego – get your tickets now.

Thanks go to Information Express for their generous sponsorship of this event.

Intersect Alert March 24, 2013

Freedom of Information

Sunshine Week in Review

“As Emily recently shared, last week marked the ninth annual Sunshine Week, a time to reflect on the state of public access to
government information and work together to make our government more transparent. In addition to the release of two new reports to which AALL contributed, we were busy celebrating Sunshine Week at events across Washington, DC. Read on for event recaps and a few exciting legislative developments.”
http://aallwash.wordpress.com/2013/03/19/sunshine-week-in-review/

**NASA Technical Reports Database Goes Dark**

“This week NASA abruptly took the massive NASA Technical Reports Server (NTRS) offline. Though no explanation for the removal was offered, it appeared to be in response to concerns that export controlled information was contained in the collection. “Until further notice, the NTRS system will be unavailable for public access. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause you and anticipate that this site will return to service in the near future,” the NTRS homepage now states. NASA Public Affairs did not respond yesterday to an inquiry about the status of the site, the reason for its suspension, or the timeline for its return.”
http://www.fas.org/blog/secrecy/2013/03/ntrs_dark.html

**One Step Forward, One Step Missed: House Committee Approves Limited FOIA Improvements**

“Yesterday, the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform approved the FOIA Oversight and Implementation Act (H.R. 1211), sponsored by the committee’s chair and ranking member, Reps. Darrell Issa (R-CA) and Elijah Cummings (D-MD). The bill would take steps to improve agency compliance with the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and require agencies to post more public information online. However, more reforms will be needed to address fundamental flaws in the current FOIA system.”

**Tester offers e-filing amendment to budget bill**

“Sen. Jon Tester, D-Mont., has this evening introduced an amendment to the Senate budget bill that would require senators to electronically file campaign finance reports, the Center for Public Integrity has learned. The move comes a month after Tester re-introduced legislation toward the same goal. Senate campaign committees are the only federal political committees not required to file their financial disclosure reports electronically with the Federal Election Commission. As a result, it can take weeks, if not months, to get detailed information about who is bankrolling senators and Senate hopefuls.”
http://www.publicintegrity.org/2013/03/22/12377/tester-offers-e-filing-amendment-budget-bill

**Congress Makes a Law and the Pentagon Redacts It**

“National Security Archive staffers have seen all sorts of responses from U.S. government agencies, often routine, sometimes extraordinarily helpful, but once in a while absurd. A recent Pentagon mandatory declassification review action falls into the “absurd” category: Pentagon reviewers censored language from a U.S. public law and an unclassified report to Congress.”
http://nsarchive.wordpress.com/2013/03/22/congress-makes-a-law-and-the-pentagon-resects-it/

**Copyright Office Calls for Major Reforms To Copyright Law**

“Could the copyright policy debate be turning another significant corner? For years, the dominant focus of the debate has been enforcement of current law – essentially, a debate about how to catch, punish, and deter “pirates.” The fight over SOPA and PIPA started out as a stark example of the single-minded pursuit of copyright enforcement. It ended up, however, as a powerful demonstration that copyright law has a much wider circle of stakeholders than just rights holders and pirates. Now, Register of Copyrights Maria Pallante has issued a call for Congress to launch a fundamental review aimed at modernizing copyright law for the digital age. In a recent speech and congressional testimony yesterday, she suggests a broad agenda, including possible reforms aimed at challenges facing not just major copyright holders, but other stakeholders and the public as well. There’s no guarantee that Congress will heed the call, but it’s a potentially significant development.”

**Updating the Copyright Act? It’s up to all of us.**

“On Wednesday, the head of the U.S. Copyright Office is going to testify to Congress and call for an update to U.S. copyright law. If Congress takes up the challenge, supporters of free expression and the promise of digital technology will have a great opportunity to forge a copyright law that reflects our fundamental values. Of course, a major reform of copyright law could lead the other way – back towards SOPA and beyond to a world of more centralization, censorship, and technology regulation.”
https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2013/03/update-copyright-act-its-up-to-all-of-us

**Library Copyright Alliance Statement on Supreme Court Decision in Kirtsaeng v. Wiley—Total Victory for Libraries**
and Their Users
“Today the US Supreme Court announced its much-anticipated decision in Kirtsaeng v. Wiley, a lawsuit regarding the bedrock principle of the “first sale doctrine.” The 6-3 opinion is a total victory for libraries and our users. It vindicates the foundational principle of the first sale doctrine—if you bought it, you own it. All who believe in that principle, and the certainty it provides to libraries and many other parts of our culture and economy, should join us in applauding the Court for correcting the legal ambiguity that led to this case in the first place. It is especially gratifying that Justice Breyer’s majority opinion focused on the considerable harm that the Second Circuit’s opinion would have caused libraries.”
http://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/12pdf/11-697_d1o2.pdf

Privacy Issues
Victory for Transparency: Microsoft Releases Report on Law Enforcement Requests for User Data
“In January of this year, EFF was part of a coalition led and organized by Nadim Kobeissi that called for Microsoft to release a report on government requests for Skype user data. The letter pointed out that with 600 million users worldwide, Skype is effectively one of the world’s largest telecommunications companies. Many users rely on Skype for secure and private communications and for some of them—whether they’re activists working in states governed by authoritarian regimes or journalists communication with sensitive sources—the stakes are high. We are pleased to see that Microsoft has not only answered that letter on behalf of Skype, it has answered on behalf of the entire company. Yesterday the company released its first transparency report, which covers all law enforcement requests and court orders received in 2012 related to all of their online and cloud services, including Hotmail/Outlook.com, SkyDrive, Microsoft Account, and Messenger.”
https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2013/03/victory-transparency-microsoft-releases-report-law-enforcement-requests-user-data

Senate “Dream Team” Introduces ECPA Reform Bill
“Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT) and Senator Mike Lee (R-UT) today introduced a bill that would reform the Electronic Communications Privacy Act (ECPA). This Senate “Dream Team” will give ECPA reform a strong boost: Leahy, the Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee and original author of the 1986 ECPA, is joining forces with Mike Lee, a Tea Party favorite, and a strong voice for Constitutional rights when the Committee marked up a nearly identical bill last year. The Leahy-Lee bill would amend ECPA to require government officials to obtain a warrant in order to require ISPs or other online service providers to disclose the private communications of their users (except, of course, in emergency cases).”

Tell your Representative to Oppose CISPA
“The Cyber Intelligence Sharing and Protection Act (CISPA) has been reintroduced in the House of Representatives (H.R. 624) and contains the same dangerous provisions that would allow companies to liberally share sensitive personal information with the government for purposes unrelated to cybersecurity and without meaningful oversight. Last year, CISPA passed the House of Representatives but was not taken up in the Senate. The White House threatened to veto CISPA in 2012. AALL has joined a coalition of groups dedicated to government openness and accountability to encourage Congress to oppose CISPA. Please write your Representative today and urge him/her to oppose CISPA, which would create a gaping new exemption to existing privacy law.”
http://aallwash.wordpress.com/2013/03/20/tell-your-representative-to-oppose-cispa/

International Outlook
From Canada – Federal librarians fear being ‘muzzled’ under new code of conduct that stresses ‘duty of loyalty’ to the government
“Federal librarians and archivists who set foot in classrooms, attend conferences or speak up at public meetings on their own time are engaging in “high risk” activities, according to the new code of conduct at Library and Archives Canada. Given the dangers, the code says the department’s staff must clear such “personal” activities with their managers in advance to ensure there are no conflicts or “other risks to LAC.” The code, which stresses federal employees’ “duty of loyalty” to the “dually elected government,” also spells out how offenders can be reported.”
http://news.nationalpost.com/2013/03/15/library-and-archives-canada/

Library and Archives Canada Code of Conduct
“The Canadian Library Association urges Library and Archives Canada to revisit its Code of Conduct in order to strike a more even balance between the duty of loyalty to the Government of Canada to all public servants have and the freedom of expression that is imperative to the work of librarians in a strong democracy.”
http://www.cla.ca/AM/Template.cfm?Section=News1&CONTENTID=14028&TEMPLATE=%2F%2F%2FContentDisplay.cfm

Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety.
The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.
2013 Conference Buddy Program

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2013/03/2013-conference-buddy-program/ March 26, 2013 Categories: Bayline, Chapter Leadership
Tags: annual conference, President's message, professional development

I’m happy to introduce the SF Bay Region Chapter’s first annual Conference Buddy Program!

Are you going to the conference in San Diego as a first-timer or relative novice? If you’re feeling a bit new at all this, or would like to be introduced to other SLA members, sign up today! We’ll pair you with a buddy to help you navigate the programs, INFO-Expo Hall, and receptions. Once you have a familiar face or two at the conference, you’ll be amazed at how often you’ll see them in the halls!

Are you a more experienced conference-goer with several years under your belt and a heavy weight of conference pins for your lanyard? Sign up to mentor a chapter member with less experience, and gain a chance to see this year’s conference through fresh eyes.

We’ll be pairing up first-timers with veteran conference-goers for as much advice, mentoring, and familiar-face-at-networking-events as is desired. Mentor buddies will be asked to contact their mentees before the conference in order to help answer any pre-conference questions that come up. Buddies can attend an open house or reception together, grab something to drink during a break, hit a dine-around, or whatever works for the pair. The experienced buddy can introduce the newbie to other SLA members and provide tips on how to best tackle the conference.

Please sign up for the Conference Buddy Program by Monday, April 22nd. We’ll match up buddies and email you so that you can make plans for the conference, and maybe meet first at the chapter program on May 22nd!

Of course, the first tip is to catch that worm! If you haven’t already registered for the conference, stop delaying! The Early Bird rate is only available through April 12th; on April 13th, the full member rate rises from $529 to $699. Student registrations are just $190!

Intersect Alert March 31, 2013


Freedom of Information

Bipartisan ECPA Reform Bill Introduced in;Technology – Keeping the Internet Open, Innovative and Free

Washington — Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT) and Senator Mike Lee (R-UT) today introduced a bill that would reform the Electronic Communications Privacy Act (ECPA). The Leahy-Lee bill would amend ECPA to require government officials to obtain a warrant in order to require ISPs and other online service providers to disclose the private communications of their users.

https://www.cdt.org/pr_statement/bipartisan-ecpa-reform-bill-introduced-senate

New Coalition Launches to Promote 4th Amendment Protections in the Digital Age

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Organizations from across the political spectrum joined forces today to launch Digital 4th, a new coalition dedicated to updating the Electronic Communications Privacy Act (ECPA). Originally passed in 1986, ECPA established standards for government access to private information that is transmitted and stored on the Internet. That was nearly three decades ago, and while technology has evolved rapidly and transformed the way we live, work and store our private information, ECPA remains virtually unchanged.


Consumer Financial Protection Bureau releases largest collection of federal consumer financial complaint data

Today the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) goes live with the nation’s largest public database of federal consumer financial complaints, opening up to consumers across the country information on more than 90,000 individual complaints on financial products and services.


Public Policy

Heritage Action for America Joins ECPA Coalition

WASHINGTON, DC — Digital 4th, a pro-Internet-privacy reform group, today announced Heritage Action for America
joined Americans for Tax Reform (ATR), the Center for Democracy & Technology (CDT) and the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) in supporting reforms that bring communications privacy protections into the 21st century. Digital 4th is a coalition dedicated to ensuring the information we transmit or store online has the same Fourth Amendment protections as data that is stored in a file cabinet or exchanged over the phone and through the mail. Digital 4th also works to ensure that the government obtains a warrant before tracking the location of a person’s cell phone over time.

https://www.cdt.org/pr_statement/heritage-action-america-joins-ecpa-coalition

ARTstor to help launch the Digital Public Library of America

ARTstor is partnering with the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA) to provide access to more than 10,000 high-quality images from six leading museums. As part of its collaboration with ARTstor, the DPLA will aggregate and make available data records and links to images from six major American museums.


Law library supporters lose space debate

Dozens of lawyers made their case for more space at San Francisco’s Law Library Wednesday, but the verdict they got from a group of supervisors was not the decision they hoped for.

http://www.librarystuff.net/2013/03/28/law-library-supporters-lose-space-debate/

Technomagic: How new technology can accommodate the print-disabled

Yesterday, I had an excellent opportunity to tune in to an accessibility webinar presented by Clayton Lewis of the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR) in the United States Department of Education. Lewis has been a partner in the Global Public Inclusive Infrastructure (GPII) project.

http://www.districtdispatch.org/2013/03/technomagic-how-new-technology-can-accommodate-the-print-disabled/

Privacy Concerns

A Look Back at Congressional Oversight of Intelligence, 2011-2012

Several nuggets of interest are presented in the latest biennial report from the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, summarizing the Committee’s oversight activities in the 112th Congress:

http://www.fas.org/blog/secrecy/2013/03/oversight_2012.html

DoD Inspector General Has Unrestricted Access to Classified Info

A Department of Defense instruction issued on Friday reinforces the policy that the DoD Office of Inspector General (OIG) is to have full access to all records, including classified records, that it needs to perform its function, and that no DoD official other than the Secretary himself may block such access.

http://www.fas.org/blog/secrecy/2013/03/dodig_classified.html

Intellectual Property

Journal’s Editorial Board Resigns in Protest of Publisher’s Policy Toward Authors

The editor and the entire editorial board of the Journal of Library Administration have resigned in response to a conflict with the journal’s publisher over an author agreement that they say is “too restrictive and out of step with the expectations of authors.”

http://www.librarystuff.net/2013/03/27/journals-editorial-board-resigns-in-protest-of-publishers-policy-toward-authors/

International Outlook

The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.

Share this:

SLA Rising Star: San Francisco Chapter’s Kendra Levine


SLA named San Francisco Chapter member Kendra Levine one of this year’s “Rising Stars.” An award presented to information professionals who show exceptional promise of leadership and contribution to their profession and to SLA.

Kendra is research, outreach, and Web services librarian at the Institute of Transportation Studies Library at the University of California, Berkeley. Hired in 2008 after earning her library degree from Drexel University, she has since supported a variety of initiatives: revamping bibliographic instruction sessions for Berkeley students, redesigning the library’s Website, and creating an information portal that serves as a
I was thrilled when Kendra agreed to answer some questions about her career, personal interests, and SLA.

What initially attracted you to librarianship?

I really can’t remember. I was working in the library as an undergrad and it seemed like a pleasant place. It was either this or a coffee shop. After I graduated I went through the entirely age-appropriate (though nobody warned me!) existential crisis, and I realized that being a librarian would be a pretty suitable career – it’s flexible, dynamic, encourages curiosity and investigation, and is problem solving. Even if I don’t stick around in transportation libraries, or even actual libraries, I love that librarians can pretty much be anything they want to be.

How did you end up at the Institute of Transportation Studies Library?

This story is sounds sort of silly now, but it’s the truth. When I was an undergrad and returning from a semester in Germany, I needed a job. I applied to a couple of coffee shops and a couple of campus library positions and this was the first place to call me back. Did I think I’d still be here almost 9 years later? Not at all. I’m still here though because the Institute of Transportation Studies performs research in a number of areas that I’ve grown to find fascinating. I also really appreciate the support I’ve received to grow as a professional over the years. I like to jokingly warn our student employees not to get stuck like I have, but I also know that though I’m in the same location – I’m not doing the same job at all. (That said, I still shelve now and then.)

Tell us about a typical day in your library?

We’re only open to the public in the afternoon, so my mornings are usually spent catching up with email, working on projects, conference calls, and processing material. In the afternoons I tend to work in the reading room with our grad students. It’s really valuable to listen in on their conversations and get a very practical idea of what they’re working on and what their information needs are. I also interject friendly reminders about resources they often forget about.

Tell us about a particularly gratifying moment in your job/career.

I’ve had lots of little small victories, but I guess the moment that really sticks out in my mind was from the 2013 Transportation Research Board (TRB) Annual Meeting. I organized a poster session about Open Data in transportation, a topic I’ve been advocating for the past few years. The response from conference attendees was extremely encouraging, particularly from some government agencies. I had hoped that the session would highlight innovation that is possible with open data, and the partnerships that are possible, and I think to that end it succeeded. The real gratification came when the chair of all of the TRB data committees stopped to congratulate me on such a successful session and promised to support my organization of an Open Data group within TRB.

What’s your favorite part of your job?

Talking to my colleagues and learning about what they do. Basically any opportunity for collaboration makes me happy. One reason I love special libraries (and transportation) is that it’s very interdisciplinary by nature, so there’s lots of opportunities to learn new things.

What is the most challenging thing on the horizon for you right now?

Over the past few years the library has gone through some major structural changes – layoffs, resource allocation, space shifting – and we’re still adapting to the new situation. It’s been a challenge. Add to that, we’re trying to launch new services, such as data management and research syntheses. Balancing the old and the new is difficult, but it’s also exciting.

What best prepared you for your current position? Is there a particular Library School course that has helped you do your job well?

My natural tendency to see the world as
interconnected systems has really helped me figure out what’s important and worth focusing on, particularly where friction points in processes tend to be. This has been a very useful as we realign the library’s functions to better meet the needs of the institute. I hate to say it, but the two classes that best prepared me for my job were actually part of the Information Systems program at Drexel – Project Management (which also introduced me to Agile) and Social Informatics. I really wish every librarian was required to take a course on Social Informatics because people are at the heart of everything we do, and we really need remember that.

What skills do you think are unique to transportation librarianship?

I can’t think of any particular skills. Maybe a deep appreciation for Public Private Partnerships? A keen understanding on the way transportation research is actually funded? Funding seems to be the bane of everyone’s existence.

What’s the biggest misconception you encounter when telling people that you’re a librarian?

“You must love books” or something like that. I sometimes wish I cared about books or reading more, but it’s just not my bag. I understand collecting though, since I collect vinyl records. For some reason a lot of librarians don’t think that’s the same thing.

What do you like about being a member of SLA?

The community. There are so many brilliant and engaging SLA members, and I love that I am part of an organization where I can regularly interact with them. Really helps keep things in perspective. I’ve learned so much from my SLA colleagues. It’s like a secret weapon.

If you had not chosen librarianship what would you be doing?

I have no idea. Possibly working in community radio? Punk rock mailorder distribution? Historical Germanic Linguistics? Most likely some dull desk job.

Thank you Kendra for sharing with us!

For a list of all SLA’s Rising Stars visit the main press release at SLA.org

by Tricia Soto, Bayline Editor
Photos courtesy of Kendra Levine

Intersect Alert April 14th, 2013


Freedom of Information

Wikileaks opens Public Library of US Diplomacy (PLUSD) with large cache of 1970s US diplomatic and intel documents

Wikileaks today announced the launch of the Public Library of US Diplomacy (PlusD), a searchable database with the release of Special Project K: the Kissinger cables — ostensibly, PlusD will include other records in the future. WikiLeaks has published more than 1.7 million U.S. diplomatic records — including cables from previously released Cablegate cables, intelligence reports, and congressional correspondence — from January 1, 1973 to December 31, 1976, the period during which Henry Kissinger was secretary of state and national security advisor. The documents were formerly confidential, classified, or labeled “NODIS” (“no distribution”) or “Eyes Only”.

http://freegovinfo.info/node/3908
**Reading, Writing and Video Games**

WHEN I was a child, I liked to play video games. On my brother’s Atari, I played Night Driver. On his Apple II, I played Microwave, Aztec and Taipan! When I got to go to the arcade, I played Asteroids and Space Invaders.

Here’s what I learned: At a certain level on Microwave, the music from the bar scene in Star Wars comes on. If I am at the front line when aliens descend to Earth, we’ll all be in trouble. Also, dealing opium in the South China Sea is more lucrative than trading in commodities.

http://www.nytimes.com/2013/03/17/sunday-review/reading-writing-and-video-games.html?_r=0

**Public Policy**

**Library collects food instead of fines**

T.B. Scott Free Library will celebrate National Library Week, April 14 to 20, with food, programs and an opportunity to give back to the community. For the 14th consecutive year, library patrons are encouraged to settle their overdue fines and, at the same time, help others in need through the Food For Fines program.


**Budget projects FHA bailout, draws criticism**

The Obama administration’s announcement that a key housing program will most likely need a taxpayer bailout drew sharp criticism from House Republicans who are making the Federal Housing Administration a piñata this year in an effort to highlight their differences with Democrats over housing policy.


**New Website for State Online Legal Information**

The Digital Access to Legal Information Committee (DALIC) of the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) has created a new website to host information about the status of online legal materials in every state with respect to authentication, official status, preservation, permanent public access, copyright, and universal citation.

http://freegovinfo.info/node/3910

**OpenGov Champion Sandra Moscoso used open data to fund DC school librarians**

Sunlight Foundation’s OpenGov Champion of the month is Sandra Moscoso. Sandra is a mom of two public school students in Washington DC, and a member of the Capitol Hill Public School Parent Organization (CHPSPO) — oh and she just happens to manage an open data portal at the World Bank’s financial sector.

http://freegovinfo.info/node/3909

**Privacy Concerns**

**Cybersecurity: New version of old fight**

 Battling rogue hackers and digital spies — it’s precisely the sort of cutting-edge challenge that typically confounds Congress.

But the cybersecurity debate about to begin in the House this week is merely a more modern take on an old political fight: a classic lobbying battle set against the backdrop of a post-Sept. 11 struggle between privacy and security.


**EPA nominee Gina McCarthy is grilled on email, transparency**

Republican senators grilled EPA administrator-nominee Gina McCarthy over the agency’s recent email controversy on Thursday, asking her to commit to greater transparency at the already embattled agency.


**CISPA still missing the mark for Dems, White House**

A bill to fortify U.S. cyberdefenses is returning to the House floor — and right back to the political scrum that enveloped it last time.

For backers of the Cyber Intelligence Sharing and Protection Act, it all comes down — yet again — to convincing skeptics in Congress and the White House that the proposal won’t trample on Americans’ privacy.


**Intellectual Property**

**Elsevier: All your data belongs to us**

A distinct sense of déjà vu kicked in Tuesday afternoon as I read a series of outraged tweets decrying the news that Elsevier, the giant publisher of scientific journals, was buying Mendeley, a cloud-based social media research platform popular with academics for such tasks as organizing citations and managing access to articles.

http://www.salon.com/2013/04/09/elsevier_all_your_data_belongs_to_us/

**Scientific Articles Accepted (Personal Checks, Too)**

The scientists who were recruited to appear at a conference called Entomology-2013 thought they had been selected to make a presentation to the leading professional association of scientists who study insects. But they found out the hard way that they were wrong. The prestigious, academically sanctioned conference they had in mind has a slightly different name:
Entomology 2013 (without the hyphen). The one they had signed up for featured speakers who were recruited by e-mail, not vetted by leading academics. 


International Outlook

Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety.

Joint Meeting: An Evening with Phoebe Ayers

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2013/04/joint-meeting-an-evening-with-phoebe-ayers/ April 19, 2013 Categories: Bayline, Chapter Programs & Events Tags: events, librarians

Annual Joint Meeting of the San Francisco Bay Region and Silicon Valley chapters of SLA

An Evening with Phoebe Ayers: Librarian, Author, and Notable Wikipedian

Wednesday, May 22, 2013, 5:30 – 8:00 pm
South Sea Seafood Village, Millbrae

Phoebe Ayers is a science and engineering reference librarian at the University of California, Davis. Since 2003 she has been an editor and volunteer with the Wikimedia Foundation, which runs Wikipedia and its sister projects, and from 2010-2012 was a member of the Foundation’s Board of Trustees. She is also the co-author of a book about Wikipedia, “How Wikipedia Works.”

Our annual joint chapter meeting is an excellent opportunity to network with your Bay Area colleagues. The evening will include networking time (with no host bar) and a buffet Chinese dinner (including vegetarian and vegan options) followed by the presentation.

Agenda

5:30-6:15 Check-in and networking
6:15-7:00 Dinner
7:00-8:00 Presentation by Phoebe Ayers

SLA Program Cost
$30 for SLA members
$25 student/retiree/between jobs members
$60 for non-members

Location
South Sea Seafood Village is located at 195 El Camino Real in Millbrae.
The restaurant is a 5-minute walk from Millbrae BART and CalTrain. Street parking is also available.

Registration
Registration is now closed.

Many thanks to our generous sponsors, IEEE and Information Express!

Intersect Alert April 21st, 2013


Freedom of Information

Debate Continues Over Enhanced, Interactive eBooks

“Last week, The Guardian ran an article about the introduction of “next generation” ebooks at this year’s London Book Fair. Publisher Faber&Faber unveiled an updated, gaming-style edition of John Buchan’s The 39 Steps, created with the help of The Story Mechanics, with enhancements like hand-created
digital visuals of turn-of-the-century Great Britain, stop-frame animation, and the ability to unlock achievements throughout the book

http://www.librariystuff.net/2013/04/22/debate-continues-over-enhanced-interactive-ebooks/

Public Libraries, Corporate Publishers and
“Last week Simon & Schuster signed a deal with 3M and the NYPL to distribute eBooks into libraries. Now all of the “Big6?” corporate publishers have some type of agreement selling eBooks into public libraries. Libraries are indispensable. Publishers agree on this. Eventually the business models will all align and every publisher will make available their entire list of digital to libraries.”
http://www.librarystuff.net/2013/04/19/public-libraries-corporate-publishers-and-ebooks/

Public Policy

Hill’s newest earmarks: Sequestration exemptions

Sequestration exemptions are shaping up to be Washington’s newest version of earmarks. Agencies, companies and other groups are on the hunt for Capitol Hill allies with the juice to save their pet issues from the full force of the across-the-board cuts. Some have already been successful.

http://www.politico.com/story/2013/04/hills-newest-earmarks-sequester-exemptions-90470.html#ixzz2RVik3qAZ

Senate energy committee gives Ernest Moniz thumbs-up

Massachusetts Institute of Technology physics professor Ernest Moniz has emerged as the anti-Chuck Hagel, easily passing his first Senate test and even winning support from conservative Republicans.

The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee voted 21-1 Thursday morning to approve Moniz’s nomination for energy secretary.

http://www.politico.com/story/2013/04/senate-energy-committee-gives-moniz-thumbs-up-90303.html#ixzz2RVjNute9

Harry Reid wants online sales tax on Senate floor

Majority Leader Harry Reid began the process late Tuesday that would allow the bill, known as the Marketplace Fairness Act, to come before the full chamber without first going through the Senate Finance Committee — whose leaders largely dislike the proposal.

http://www.politico.com/story/2013/04/harry-reid-wants-online-sales-tax-on-senate-floor-90233.html#ixzz2RVk0jtrG

Privacy Concerns

Chuck Grassley eyes former aide in Medicare Advantage leak

A Washington law firm and a former congressional aide are facing scrutiny over a leak of sensitive details on Medicare Advantage payment rates that may have sparked hundreds of millions of dollars in stock trading on insurance companies before the information was made public.


House Passes CISPA from Center for Democracy & Technology – Keeping the Internet Open, Innovative and Free

Washington — Today, the House of Representatives passed the Cyber Intelligence Sharing and Protection Act (CISPA). Although the bill was improved before final passage, it remains fundamentally flawed. CDT reaffirms its opposition to the bill.

https://www.cdt.org/pr_statement/house-passes-cispa

Note to Full Text Reports followers — Grab It When You See It!

Our friends Gary Price and Shirl Kennedy over at Full Text Reports have a handy reminder today:

…some of the papers and reports posted on FullTextReports.com are freely available online for just a limited time before they disappear behind a paywall (or go away entirely). If you see something you suspect might be useful to you (or a colleague) in the future, download it the day you see it because it may not be accessible later without a subscription (or it may have been moved or taken offline).

Just another reason to remember that libraries should be collecting, not pointing.

http://freegovinfo.info/node/3918

Leaked E-mails Show the State Department’s Top Watchdog May Lack Independence

The independence of the de facto State Department Inspector General (IG), Ambassador Harold Geisel, is in question due to information obtained by POGO, including several troubling State Department e-mails. For instance, POGO has learned that Geisel has recused himself from a State Office of Inspector General (OIG) investigation involving Under Secretary of State for Management Patrick Kennedy and a company called Aurora, LLC. Geisel’s recusal is due to a perceived conflict of interest between him and Kennedy. Kennedy is in charge of State’s day-to-day operations.
Australian census made both easier and more difficult to freely access

Here’s a reminder that we all have to be constantly diligent to make sure govt information continues to be freely available for the long term! Australian Census Data Released Under CC License, But Official Site Tries To Make It Hard To Download.

http://freegovinfo.info/node/3919

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Intersect Alert April 27th, 2013

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2013/05/intersect-alert-april-27th-2013/ May 3, 2013 Categories: Intersect Alert Tags: freedom of information, government, international outlook, libraries, open access, professional development, research

Freedom of Information

US government sends itself a takedown notice

As you may know, works of the U.S. Government are not protected by copyright in the U.S. (17 USC §105), but we often discover copyrighted government publications that one would reasonably think would be in the public domain and, more recently, we see works that were treated as public domain in print suddenly being treated as copyrighted when they are converted to digital. No matter how clear the law is, this can lead to confusing situations.

http://freegovinfo.info/node/3920

Open access: four ways it could enhance academic freedom

The power of funding alone should not be enough to override academic freedom, argues Curt Rice, nor does open access automatically skew the world of scholarship.

http://www.guardian.co.uk/higher-education-network/blog/2013/apr/22/open-access-academic-freedom-publishing

Order and Liberty: The DPLA Launches

I wasn’t entirely sure what the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA) would look like when the long-awaited launch date of April 18 approached. The suspense is finally over: it looks great.

The DPLA is an effort to unify access to cultural assets of the nation and make them free to all. We are not the first country to try this; in fact we’re a bit behind, perhaps because we have a tradition of local library planning and support and because we


Owner, new CEO of Powell’s Books see strength in brick and mortar

It’s tough to think about how people will read in 50 years when you’re worrying about what they’ll read tomorrow. So after just a couple of years as chief executive of Powell’s Books, Emily Powell — granddaughter of the bookseller’s founder — told employees last month she would step down and focus on the Portland company’s long-term strategy in a quickly changing market.


Public Policy

3D-printed guns are inevitable

NEW YORK–For months, a debate has raged in the media and on Capitol Hill about whether or not society (and the law) should allow 3D-printed guns. After listening to Cody Wilson speak for a few minutes, one can’t help but come away feeling that the national discussion is moot: 3D-printed firearms are inevitable.


Privacy Concerns
The Dark Side of the Digital Revolution

How do you explain to people that they are a YouTube sensation, when they have never heard of YouTube or the Internet? That’s a question we faced during our January visit to North Korea, when we attempted to engage with the Pyongyang traffic police. You may have seen videos on the Web of the capital city’s “traffic cops,” whose ballerina-like street rituals, featured in government propaganda videos, have made them famous online.

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887324030704578424650479285218

Feds Push for Backdoor Wiretap Capabilities

Washington – The Washington Post reported today that the FBI is seeking authority to require surveillance backdoors in all popular Internet products and services.

“A wiretapping mandate is a vulnerability mandate,” said CDT Senior Staff Technologist Joe Hall. “The unintended consequences of this proposal are profound. At the very time when the nation is concerned about cybersecurity, the FBI proposal has the potential to make our communications less secure. Once you build a wiretap capability into products and services, the bad guys will find a way to use it.”

https://www.cdt.org/pr_statement/feds-push-backdoor-wiretap-capabilities

Intellectual Property

Human genome: US Supreme Court hears patents case

The US Supreme Court has heard arguments questioning whether the human genome can be claimed as intellectual property. The case relates to a lawsuit filed by the American Civil Liberties Union in 2009, and centres on whether companies should be able to patent genes.

http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-22157410

International Outlook

World Book Night 2013: half a million free books to be handed out

20,000 volunteers will hand out half a million books tonight as part of World Book Night 2013. The event, now in its third year, aims to promote literacy and share the joy of books with people who might not normally read.

http://www.telegraph.co.uk/culture/books/10011224/World-Book-Night-2013-half-a-million-free-books-to-be-handed-out.html

Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety.

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Share this:

Intersect Alert May 5, 2013

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2013/05/intersect-alert-may-5-2013/ May 5, 2013 Categories: Intersect Alert Tags: digital preservation, freedom of information, government, libraries, open access, public policy, research

Freedom of Information

Justices say states can limit access to public records

“The Supreme Court on Monday said states are free to allow public records access only to their own citizens, delivering a blow to freedom of information advocates who had challenged a Virginia law. In a unanimous ruling, the court said two out-of-state men did not have a right to view the documents. Various other states, including Tennessee, Arkansas and Delaware, have similar laws, although some do not enforce them.”

http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/04/29/us-usa-court-records-idUSBRE93S0N420130429

Support for the PIDB’s Recommendations Continues to Grow

“The Public Interest Declassification Board received recognition at a recent academic conference titled The Legal and Civil Policy Implications of “Leaks” at the American University Washington College of Law. A panel focusing on the legislative response to “leaks” discussed what impact over-classification and the current state of the security classification
system have on the prevalence of leaks.”
http://blogs.archives.gov/transformingclassification/?p=467

USAID releases open data tools to increase government openness
“The U.S. Agency for International Development announced April 29 the launch of a plethora of new datasets and tools to increase transparency. The unveiling took place at the G-8 Conference on Open Data for Agriculture in Washington, D.C., and brought together G-8 countries and the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition to discuss open data for agriculture and to create action plans for food security datasets.”

Public Policy

As Works Flood In, Nation’s Library Treads Water
“The Sea Creatures, who recently sent their recording “Naked in the Rain” to the Library of Congress, probably did not ponder the impact of sequestration on their music’s journey from dream to copyright. Just as military contractors, air traffic controllers and federal workers are coping with the grim results of a partisan impasse over the federal deficit, the Library of Congress, whose services range from copyrighting written works — whether famous novels or poems scribbled on napkins — to the collection, preservation and digitalization of millions of books, photographs, maps and other materials, faces deep cuts that threaten its historic mission.”
http://www.nytimes.com/2013/05/04/books/budget-cuts-hobble-library-of-congress.html?_r=0

2013 World Press Freedom Index: Dashed hopes after spring
“After the “Arab springs” and other protest movements that prompted many rises and falls in last year’s index, the 2013 Reporters Without Borders World Press Freedom Index marks a return to a more usual configuration. The ranking of most countries is no longer attributable to dramatic political developments. This year’s index is a better reflection of the attitudes and intentions of governments towards media freedom in the medium or long term.”

Open Access

Open Access Spreads
“A bill in the California legislature would require state-funded research to be made public free of charge within a year of its publication. If it passes, the bill would create an open access policy for California’s state-funded research similar to a policy announced earlier this year by the Obama administration. The federal policy, which is not yet finalized, would apply to most federally supported non-defense research. California is not the only state moving to make public the published research it helps to fund; Illinois is weighing a similar proposal.”

Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety.

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Digital History

Mosaic: What’s Happening With Our Members

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2013/05/mosaic-whats-happening-with-our-members-6/ May 8, 2013 Categories: Bayline, Chapter Programs & Events Tags: member highlights

Deb Hunt is just back from two trips in her role as SLA President. She traveled to the Pharmaceutical and Health Technology Division Conference in Philly at the beginning of April and stayed an extra evening in Philly to nosh with the Philadelphia Chapter members. She then flew to Seattle to present to the UW iSchool students at their annual student night. (It was a long trip getting there with bad weather in Chicago that resulted in an unplanned layover in Portland for one night.)
After being home for one week, Deb was off again to co-present with ALA President, Maureen Sullivan, for a gathering of some 165 SLA and non-SLA members for the Maryland Chapter. This was the first time in 25 years that both presidents spoke at the same event. The event was taped and Deb will get the word out about when and where it will be available. While in the DC area, Deb met with DC Chapter members in downtown DC and Virginia Chapter members at SLA HQ in Alexandria.

Deb is sorry to miss so many San Francisco Bay Region Chapter events while visiting other chapters.

Barbara Janis’ Poster Session: Connect, Collaborate and Strategize will take place at the San Diego SLA conference Monday, June 10 at 4 p.m. Her poster will focus on the Presidio Heritage Center which will open Summer 2014 in the renovated Officers’ Club on the Main Post of the Presidio of San Francisco. Check the conference listings for location and please stop by if your schedule allows.

Jaye Lapachet recently had two of her quilts shown in the Modern Quilt exhibit of the Shoot for the Stars show of the Santa Clara Valley Quilt Association. The Zig Zaggy quilt was made in 2011. It was inspired by quilts from Monica Solario-Snow and Elizabeth Hartman. The Renewed Jelly Roll Race quilt was finished in 2012 and uses a concept called “the Jelly Roll Race”. You can see more information at: http://artquiltmaker.com/blog/quilts-2/quilts-2012/renewed-jelly-roll-race/

Wess-John Murdough says: “Aloha”:

I completely retired in December 2012. I had been working part-time for Krames Health & Safety. I now spend 3 to 4 months of the year in Hawaii and the rest here in SF. Currently keeping busy with house remodeling here in SF. I plan to continue as a chapter member and try to attend several events each year. This year I have only been available for the neighborhood dinner but hope to see more members at future events. Aloha to all.

Chris Orr writes:

I am plunging into SharePoint to help build our intranet. My learning comes from hands-on experience, webinars from AIIM and an information architecture for SP workshop taught by Seth Earley of Earley and Associates. Common problems abound in SharePoint installations that librarian minds can solve: lack of governance, lack of understanding of metadata and term management, inadequate analysis of users’ needs for info organization and search, lack of training levels to accommodate different learning styles. SharePoint is a platform, not an out-of-the-box solution. Collaboration with IT is essential and I have the help of a talented IT project manager. For me, that is all part of the fun.

Speaking of fun, I completed three metric centuries in April. For non-bicycle riders, that means I rode my bike in three 100K events. They were sponsored by local bike clubs in gold country of the Sierra foothills, wine country in Sonoma county and the remote back roads of Alameda and Contra Costa counties. Best way (IMHO) to see gorgeous landscapes, sniff spring air and hear bird songs all day!

Inside the mind of member and information professional Andrea Rubin:

Last Saturday in the late afternoon I was happily riding along on the Pittsburg/Baypoint Line, reading an abandoned section of the Wall Street Journal that I had picked up in the Powell Street BART station.

The pages were a bit out of order, so I put the paper back together. Suddenly noticed a label that indicated I was reading a Library Copy from the Fenwick law firm!

Encountering this Library Copy on a Saturday afternoon on BART I went into a state of cognitive confusion. A veritable busman’s holiday on BART. Does the Fenwick library throw their Wall Street Journal out at the end of each day? Do they keep the Wall Street Journal for a month? Am I to bring this paper section home and then bring it to work on Monday, contact Fenwick, and have them send a messenger for their Wall Street Journal section? Would they want a single section of their paper? Were the other sections gone from the Library too? Or were they still in the Fenwick library or perhaps abandoned in a Fenwick men’s room or kitchen?

I cannot tell you the time it took these musings and meditations to pass through my head.

But after a length of time I decided…to “let it go.” to leave the Wall Street Journal section on BART for the next rider reader, with hope that Fenwick has access to an electronic version of the Wall Street Journal…or at least has multiple print library copies.
2013 Neighborhood Dinners

Ranging in sizes from 4 to 14, the 2013 neighborhood dinners showcased the eclectic interests of our members. Food, wine and great conversation was had by all. Thank you to all who participated, and especially to those who provided the recaps below. – Tricia

Marin/Sonoma
by Diane Rosenberger
Nine of us enjoyed good food and heard good music at Panama Hotel & Restaurant in San Rafael on Tuesday, April 23. Conversation was a challenge because of the music, but still everyone seemed to have a good time.

Shane Curtin, currently an intern under David Grossman’s direction in the Mill Valley Public Library History Room, said that he will be starting the MLIS program at San Jose State in the fall. We all offered encouragement.

Barbara Janis distributed information about the many activities going on at the Presidio. See http://www.presidio.gov/welcome and http://offthegridsf.com/picnic

Angie Brunton continues to enjoy her mystery and music-filled retirement.

The next dinner is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday July 24 in northern Marin or southern Sonoma.

Oakland
by Lauren Reid
On April 18 there were 11 of us who met at Bocanova in Jack London Square for what was a stupendous night of wonderful food, superb company, and refreshing wine. Those who attended were Sarah Rae Cook, Kathryn Olson, Lauren Reid, Debbie Bardon, Lydia Petersen, Sandy Malloy, David Grossman, Cynthia Eastman, Claudia Fenelon, Julie Tunnell, and Kris Waller. Conversations were diverse, with discussions about career opportunities, life in Oakland, and current library/information trends. Everyone chimed in on their favorite dishes, such as the wine (which included a California pinot gris and a Spanish merlot/cab blend), asparagus, cooked peppers, and cauliflower. Everyone was also asked to provide a word or two about what they felt about the dinner, which included such inspiring words as: “my tribe,” “jovial,” “impressed,” “warm,” “energizing,” “sparkling,” “relaxing and easy,” “scintillating,” and “happy to be reprieved.”

Daly City
By Craig Cruz, Jr.
On a cool but clear Thursday evening, our quartet of librarians met at Boulevard Café in Daly City. Over cocktails and the restaurant’s mix of upscale bistro food (with touches of Greek cuisine), we discussed the state of librarian employment today. Jaye Lapachet shared her experience in law librarianship and Linda Yamamoto talked about the situation in the academic world. Claressa Mazzetti talked about her exciting job in research, where deadlines and new topics allow no room for boredom. She asked for information on open-source ILS options and we offered suggestions and caveats. Jaye, in particular, had ideas from her days as an independent consultant. Craig detailed his job search efforts, and Jaye and Linda recommended the upcoming SLA conference to him and Claressa as a prime networking opportunity, especially as the event will be held in California this year. Eventually, conversation turned to leisure time reading, including how audiobooks enable one to enjoy books while remaining occupied with hobbies and commuting to work. By the time technology made its way into the discussion – this time in the form of phone apps and the challenge in identifying an unmet need, it was time to head home. The much smaller group this year allowed us to really spend time on topics with the whole group. We encourage everyone to attend a Neighborhood Dinner. See you next year at Boulevard Café in Daly City!

Bernal Heights, San Francisco

A intimate group of 4 dined at Liberty Cafe on April 24th: Matthew Woods, Jo Falcon, Phi Huynh and Phi’s guest. Below is a brief recap of the conversation by Matthew. – ed.

We didn’t talk about the same old “there are no jobs” and “my boss sucks” glarb. In fact we really didn’t talk shop much at all, we instead discussed: the history of Bernal Heights, focusing on its gentrification; local restaurants, particularly those in “Vega’s empire;” the manga Drops of God and manga history; the concept of perfection, particularly in one’s appearance; and several other things I don’t remember enough details of. I noticed that Jo has a wealth of stimulating knowledge and guided much of the conversation. We talked, we finished our meals, and then we departed. A pleasing evening that almost didn’t happen but thankfully did.
Fourteen chapter members converged on Aslam’s Rosoi in San Francisco’s Mission District on April 11 for an evening of lively conversation and great food. Yes, it’s Neighborhood Dinner time, and our long table was filled by librarians from law firms, corporations, and universities, as well as students from SJSU. Host Hilary Schiraldi chose an excellent location for our annual smaller get-together where the focus is on the members rather than an invited speaker.

Conversations ranged far and wide and touched on some of the Bay Area’s favorite topics – house buying, travel in our beautiful state, and how easy it is to fill your days after retirement. We didn’t completely neglect the professional side as career change tips were exchanged, we commiserated about tight resources and difficult co-workers, and were even able to cheer on some successes.

This flexible format is a great way to meet new people, reconnect with old colleagues, and try a new place for dinner. All in all, a most successful evening!

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Intersect Alert May 12, 2013

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2013/05/intersect-alert-may-12-2013/

May 12, 2013 Categories: Intersect Alert Tags: freedom of information, government, intellectual property, international outlook, internet access

Freedom of Information

New Executive Order will increase government transparency

The White House has issued a new Executive Order (EO 13642) making open and machine readable the new default for government information and a memo, Open Data Policy – Managing information as an asset. These documents provide a new set of guidelines for government agencies that will help to ensure a more open and accessible government. “This Memorandum establishes a framework to help institutionalize the principles of effective information management at each stage of the information’s life cycle to promote interoperability and openness.”

http://www.districtdispatch.org/2013/05/new-executive-order-will-increase-government-transparency/

Internet Access

ALA Highlights Benefits of Federal Broadband Funding, Argues that E-Rate Must Be Enhanced to Sustain Progress

“The National Telecommunications and Information Administration’s $4 billion Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) has helped about 20 percent of U.S. libraries make improvements to publicly available technology resources and digital literacy within their communities, according to a report released on Monday by the American Library Association’s (ALA) Office for Information Technology Policy (OITP).”


Intellectual Property

New Bipartisan Bill Proposes Real Fixes to Bad Copyright Law

“A new bill introduced in Congress today aims to resolve the restrictions that complicate phone unlocking, and it’s doing it the right way. While other proposals would apply temporary “bandaid” fixes that fail to address the underlying problems behind the restrictions, this bi-partisan proposal from Representatives Zoe Lofgren, Thomas Massie, Anna Eshoo, and Jared Polis, gets to the root of the issue.”

http://www.districtdispatch.org/2013/05/new-bipartisan-bill-proposes-real-fixes-to-bad-copyright-law/
Google, Authors Guild Back in Court

“After a nearly eight-month delay, lawyers for Google and the Authors Guild were back in court this morning. In oral arguments scheduled before a panel of the Second Circuit Court of Appeals, Google was set to argue that Judge Denny Chin’s 2012 order granting the Authors Guild’s motion for class certification should be reversed. The long-running case over Google’s library book scanning has been stayed since September, 2012, pending the Second Circuit’s review of Chin’s decision.”

LCA Submits Comments Regarding the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP)

“LCA welcomes this opportunity to comment on the proposed Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). LCA has long been engaged in trade matters, submitting comments on many of the free trade agreements, TPP, and GATS. At this preliminary stage, we offer a few brief recommendations.”

New Research Report from the National Research Council

“Copyright in the Digital Era: Building Evidence for Policy examines a range of questions regarding copyright policy by using a variety of methods, such as case studies, international and sectoral comparisons, and experiments and surveys. This report is especially critical in light of digital age developments that may, for example, change the incentive calculus for various actors in the copyright system, impact the costs of voluntary copyright transactions, pose new enforcement challenges, and change the optimal balance between copyright protection and exceptions.”

Syrian Internet Goes Dark, Leaving Questions and Uncertainty

“Earlier today, we learned that Internet traffic between Syria and Western online services had plummeted drastically, indicated that the country’s connection to the wider Internet had been shut down. Reports from Renesys and Google confirmed the routes into Syria had been withdrawn, implying either a massive infrastructure cut, or a deliberate silencing of online communication. The details of the situation in Syria are still unknown, but we’re deeply concerned that this blackout is a deliberate attempt to silence Syria’s online communications and further draw a curtain over grave events currently unfolding on the ground in Syria.”

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agreement, and the laws published through the service are subject to copyright restrictions, according to the press release. The new platform makes the legal code available to developers through an API and in XML format published on GitHub. For regular users, the website, built with free, open-source software, offers the legal code in what the Open Government Foundation calls a searchable, user-friendly format. In addition, users are invited to share their ideas for projects or improvements building and expanding on the provided legal code.”


**DATA Act discussion draft emerges**

“Close to a week after the White House unveiled its open data policy, a congressman has released a new discussion draft of the Digital Accountability and Transparency Act of 2013, which would unlock and standardize federal spending data. Released by Rep. Darrell Issa (R-Calif.), chairman of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, the new document is the culmination of months-long discussions between Issa and Sen. Mark Warner (D-Va.). The two are expected to soon formally reintroduce the bill, according to the Data Transparency Coalition.”


**Public Policy**

**Subpoena of AP Phone Records Said to Damage Press Freedom**

“The government seizure of Associated Press telephone records in the course of a leak investigation undermined freedom of the press in the United States, congressional critics said yesterday.”

http://blogs.fas.org/secrecy/2013/05/ap-phone-records/

**German online copyright law to take effect in August**

“A German online copyright law that will give publishers the exclusive right to the commercial use of their publications on the Internet will come into effect on Aug. 1. The law was published in Germany’s Federal Law Gazette (Bundesgesetzblatt) on Tuesday. After a law is published in the gazette, it will come into effect, a spokeswoman said. The new rule is a toned down version of a controversial online copyright bill that aimed to give publishers the right to charge search engines like Google for republishing short text snippets of the kind used in Google News. The law as published does not extend to news snippets though. It states that publishers have the exclusive right to commercialize their products or parts thereof, except in the case of single words or very small text snippets. This change has made the impact of the new law on search engines and publishers unclear.”


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May 27, 2013 Categories: Intersect Alert Tags: freedom of information, government, intellectual property, international outlook, open access

**Freedom of Information**

**Data.gov embraces open source data management**

“As part of a series of major upgrades, Data.gov today moved to a new data catalog based on an open source data management system, the Comprehensive Knowledge Archive Network – better known as CKAN. The new data catalog is a key component of the Data.gov 2.0 coming in the next few months. Users visiting the new data catalog will notice the improved search function, which now allows the user to find all datasets for a particular location, better sorting and tagging of datasets and improved metadata.”


**DATA bill introduced**

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2013/05/intersect-alert-may-27-2013/ May 27, 2013 Categories: Intersect Alert Tags: freedom of information, government, intellectual property, international outlook, open access

“A bill to change the way federal government spending data is reported was formally introduced in the House and the Senate on May 21. The Digital Accountability and Transparency Act establishes standards for federal spending data published to the USASpending.gov portal, and requires agencies to report internal spending in addition to awards, grants, and contracts. The House version was quickly and unanimously approved on May 22 by the Oversight and Government Reform Committee, where it has the strong backing of committee chairman Rep. Darrell Issa (R-Calif.) and ranking member Rep. Elijah Cummings (D-Md.). Passage in the full House is widely expected. The Senate companion measure was introduced by Sen. Mark Warner (D-Vir.) and Sen. Rob Portman (R-Ohio).”

http://fcw.com/articles/2013/05/22/data-act.aspx

Committee on House Administration Supports Public’s
Right to Gov’t Docs
“The influential Committee on House Administration released a letter yesterday that endorsed the principle that “the documents of our democracy should be available to all Americans electronically, in perpetuity, and for free.” The letter, signed by every member of the committee, rejected a recommendation made in a flawed report issued by the National Academy of Public Administration, which had called for the Government Printing Office to consider charging “end uses” for online access to government documents made available through the online portal FDsys.”
http://sunlightfoundation.com/blog/2013/05/23/committee-on-house-administration-supports-publics-right-to-govt-docs/

House Administration Rejects NAPA Recommendation to Charge Public for Access to Legislative Documents
“Today, House Administration Chairman Candice Miller, R-Mich., and Ranking Member Robert Brady, D-Pa., issued the following statement after the full Committee sent a letter to the Acting Public Printer of the U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO) rejecting a recent recommendation by the National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA) to charge the public for access to GPO’s congressional documents.”

Open Access
Illinois State Senator Biss’ open access legislation passes House
“Legislation State Senator Daniel Biss (D-Evanston) sponsored to work toward making state universities’ taxpayer-funded research available to the public passed the House today by a vote of 98-16. Senate Bill 1900, which will require each public university to convene an open access task force, now awaits the governor’s signature.”

Don’t Believe the Publishers’ Hype: Support Open Access
“Once again, we are seeing entrenched interests try to fight the future with scare tactics and misinformation. This time, it’s major journal publishers, and their target is open access to taxpayer-funded research.”
https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2013/05/dont-believe-publishers-hype-support-open-access

Intellectual Property
Obama Stops Championing Treaty That Gives the Blind

Better Access to E-Books
“The Obama administration went on record four years ago supporting a proposed international treaty to make books more accessible to the blind. But as world leaders prepare to gather in Morocco next month to finalize a deal that Brazil, Ecuador and Paraguay proposed in 2009, the administration is mum on whether it supports a treaty that would, for the first time, loosen copyright restrictions. Many fear lobbying by Hollywood and dozens of the world’s largest corporations, including ExxonMobil, may scuttle the treaty altogether.”
http://www.wired.com/threatlevel/2013/05/ip-blind-treaty/

International Outlook
Her Majesty’s Government Wants to Monetize Open Data
“A new paper from the chair of the U.K. government’s Open Strategy Board outlines the best practices for the government’s open data policies. The government-commissioned Shakespeare Review – after author Stephan Shakespeare – looks into ways to monetize open data, and recommends an all-encompassing National Data Strategy. According to Shakespeare, CEO of YouGov and chair of the Open Strategy Board, the U.K. leads the world in making government data public. However, his report cautions the government against releasing data willy-nilly if they want to capitalize on the open data market (which the report finds could generate £2 billion ($3 billion) in the short term and £6 – 7 billion ($9 – 10.6 billion) later on. Many of his suggestions are aimed at simply streamlining the open data: designating leadership for the initiative, ensuring that what is said will be done is done, and releasing rough data quickly and refined and verified data in a second, higher quality data set. The Open Rights Group took issue with some of Shakespeare’s provisions for privacy and transparency. They found the “exclusive focus on economic growth, against transparency and accountability” troubling.”

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Intersect Alert June 2, 2013
Freedom of Information

Major Library Associations Thank Committee on House Administration for Rejecting NAPA Suggestion to Charge for FDsys
“The five major library associations – AALL, American Library Association, Association of Research Libraries, Medical Library Association and Special Libraries Association — joined together this week to thank the Committee on House Administration for opposing the suggestion in the National Academy of Public Administration’s (NAPA) report, “Rebooting the Government Printing Office: Keeping America Informed in the Digital Age,” that GPO charge public user fees for FDsys.”
http://aallwash.wordpress.com/2013/05/30/major-library-associations-thank-committee-on-house-administration-for-rejecting-napa-suggestion-to-charge-for-fdsys/

The Declassification Engine: Your One-Stop Shop for Government Secrets
“. . . “The state of the declassified archives is really stuck in the middle of the 20th Century,” says Aftergood. He calls it a “fairly dismal picture,” but he also says there’s an enormous opportunity to improve the way we research declassified materials — and improve it very quickly — through the use of modern technology. That’s the aim of a new project launched by a team of historians, mathematicians, and computer scientists at Columbia University in New York City. Led by Matthew Connelly — a Columbia professor trained in diplomatic history — the project is known as The Declassification Engine, and it seeks to provide a single online database for declassified documents from across the federal government, including the CIA, the State Department, and potentially any other agency.”
http://www.wired.com/wiredenterprise/2013/05/the-declassification-engine/

Calif. to post raw campaign filings online daily
“California Secretary of State Debra Bowen has agreed to expand the way her office presents campaign finance data online after initially rejecting the request from a coalition of good-government groups, research organizations and newspapers, her spokeswoman said Tuesday. The Secretary of State’s Office will make California’s entire campaign finance and lobbying database, known as Cal-Access, available for download on one spreadsheet daily by Labor Day. Currently, the secretary of state’s office creates CD-ROMs upon request and sends them by mail for $5, or the public has to search online by each candidate, group or committee.”

Intellectual Property

Treaty for the Blind in Jeopardy, Copyright Zealots to Blame
“In a few weeks, the 186 governments that are members of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) will gather in Morocco with the goal of crafting a Treaty For The Blind. The agreement would facilitate global production and lending of audio books, Braille translations, and otherwise enable the visually impaired and those with certain learning disabilities to have affordable access to books. This will most benefit the millions of blind people in the developing world who live in poverty, by adopting many of the rights to translate works into braille or other forms accessible to the visually impaired that are already law in the United States. But last minute lobbying by Hollywood and publishing interests in the U.S. and Europe have threatened to derail the Treaty for the Blind at the last minute.”
http://www.publicknowledge.org/blog/treaty-blind-jeopardy-copyright-zealots-blame

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The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.
**Action sought on Farm Bill amendment that would exempt factory farms from Freedom of Information Act**

I just got word that the terrible Farm Bill Amendment #970 proposed by Grassley-Donnelly could go to a vote as soon as tomorrow. The amendment would exempt factory farms from the Freedom of Information Act so that EPA would not be able to release any information about them to the public as it relates to any of their environmental regulations (e.g., the Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, CERCLA, EPCRA, etc.). Luckily Senator Ben Cardin (MD) has introduced a side-by-side amendment that will hopefully be voted on as an alternative to Senator Grassley’s Amendment. It balances Freedom of Information to protect the public, but also respects information personal in nature.


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**States’ Hospital Data for Sale Puts Privacy in Jeopardy**

Hospitals in the U.S. promise to keep a patient’s health background confidential. Yet states from Washington to New York are putting privacy at risk by selling records that can be used to link a person’s identity to medical conditions using public information. The potential for a patient’s hospital record to be made public by anyone buying data compiled by states adds to ways privacy is vulnerable in an age of digitized health record keeping and increasingly sophisticated hacking. State public-health agencies received an exemption from the federal law, formally the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, or HIPAA, enacted in 1996. The privacy rules took effect in 2003, though they apply only to health-care providers, insurers, billing and claims processors and their contractors.


**ALA calls for accountability and transparency in nation’s surveillance laws**

The American Library Association (ALA) is gravely concerned, but unfortunately not surprised, at this week’s revelations that the U.S. government obtained the phone records of all Verizon customers for the last seven years. Leaders of the association again call upon Congress to provide more accountability and transparency about how the government is obtaining and using vast amounts of information about innocent people. ALA’s response follows media reports that the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court (FISC) has every three months, for seven years, been renewing a Section 215 order to obtain phone records of all Verizon customers.


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**The "Internet of Things": New Technologies and the Promise of Ubiquitous Computing**

Refrigerators that can order fresh gallons of milk. Electricity meters that provide detailed usage analytics. Medical devices that can collect detailed biometric data. Until recently, such consumer products have been confined to the dreams of futurists and Jetsons devotees. But with the rise of smart grid technology and Internet-enabled consumer goods, the so-called "Internet of Things" has become less of a fantasy and more of a foreseeable future in consumers’ lives. However, the rise of such technologies will create new challenges for companies, policymakers, and regulators seeking to determine adequate privacy and security models.


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**Public Policy:**

**Protecting Military Whistleblowers and Victims of Sexual Assault**

Members of Congress are rightly outraged at the epidemic of sexual assault in the military. No one should have to suffer the trauma of sexual assault – least of all those Americans who have volunteered to serve our country, and whom our military has a duty to keep safe. Sadly, that promise is not being kept. Approximately 26,000 service members were victimized in the past year, according to a recent Defense Department survey. Even worse, of the women service members who suffered sexual assault, nearly 70 percent did not report the crime to a military authority – a majority of which said that they felt uncomfortable making a report. And no wonder why: of the women who did report, more than 60 percent said they suffered retaliation for doing so.

In response, lawmakers have proposed ways to strengthen whistleblower protections for members of the armed services. The legislation comes against a broader backdrop of government and media reports that have found problems with the handling of military whistleblower protection cases and weaknesses in the current state of the law over the last several years.


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**Open Access:**

**Publishers Offer CHORUS as Solution to Federal Open Access Requirements**

The Association of American Publishers (AAP) has put forward its bid for a coalition of publishers to handle many of the requirements outlined in the recent Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) memo requiring open access to federally funded research, in the form of the Clearinghouse for the Open Research of the United States (CHORUS). The publishers are in discussions with OSTP, the funding agencies, universities and research library communities (as are other proposed solutions by other stakeholders, not yet announced).
Others in the scholarly community have raised sinister ideas as possible motivations. "Given that the AAP clearly thinks that public access policies are bad for their businesses, they would have a strong incentive to make their implementation of a public access policy as difficult to use and as functionless as possible in order to drive down usage and make the policies appear to be a failure," PLOS co-founder Michael Eisen wrote. http://lj.libraryjournal.com/2013/06/oa/publishers-offer-chorus-as-ostp-solution/.

**The Impact of Opening Up Zoning Data**

The content, format, and quality of the zoning information municipalities share varies widely. Posting this information online empowers policymakers to better understand the impact of their decisions and allows people to provide accountability on the process. Access to this information can also help people understand what they are or are not allowed to do — but zoning data, even in an open format, is not always easy to understand. Thankfully, having this data publicly available has also enabled applications and news stories that contextualize the information and show people just how zoning regulations and processes can impact them.

http://sunlightfoundation.com/blog/2013/06/05/the-impact-of-opening-up-zoning-data/.

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**Intersect Alert June 17, 2013**

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2013/06/intersect-alert-june-17-2013/ June 17, 2013 Categories: Intersect Alert Tags: intellectual property, international outlook, internet access, open access, privacy, public policy

**Freedom of Information:**

**U.S. federal judge lifts ban on public access to Medicare data**

A U.S. federal judge lifted a 33-year-old injunction barring public access to a confidential database of Medicare insurance claims, a decision that could lead to greater scrutiny of how physicians treat patients and charge for their services. Judge Marcia Morales Howard ruled in favor of a motion by Dow Jones, the publisher of the Wall Street Journal, that the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida lift an injunction imposed in 1979.

http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/05/31/medicare-lawsuit-idUSL2N0EC25U20130531.

**Intellectual Property Issues:**

**Academic Authors: Guild Does Not Speak for Us**

On June 11, some 133 academic authors filed an amici curiae brief in the Authors Guild v. HathiTrust case, in support of the HathiTrust. (In October 2012, The Honorable Harold Baer, Jr., held that the HathiTrust’s mass digitization is fair use, but the Guild filed an appeal in November.)

http://lj.libraryjournal.com/2013/06/litigation/academic-authors-guild-does-not-speak-for-us/.

**Justices rule human genes cannot be patented**

The Supreme Court ruled Thursday that human genes cannot be patented, a decision with both immediate benefits for some breast and ovarian cancer patients and long-lasting repercussions for biotechnology research. Since 1984, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office has granted more than 40,000 patents tied to genetic material. About one-fourth of the 22,000 human genes have been patented — patents that are now invalidated. That could open up competition in genetic testing for diseases ranging from Duchenne muscular dystrophy to inheritable heart arrhythmia.


**Open Access:**

**The Papers of the Founding Fathers Are Now Online**
What was the original intent behind the Constitution and other documents that helped shape the nation? What did the Founders of our country have to say? Those questions persist in the political debates and discussions to this day, and fortunately, we have a tremendous archive left behind by those statesmen who built the government over 200 years ago. The Founders Online is a new website at the National Archives that will allow people to search this archive of the Founding Era, and read just what the Founders wrote and discussed during the first draft of the American democracy. http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2013/06/13/papers-founding-founders-are-now-online.

Privacy Issues:

It's Not Just About Us: How the NSA Threatens Human Rights Internationally
The recent news about the NSA's overreaching mass surveillance isn't just about us in the US: it impacts everyone who uses the Internet and the major services that are offered over it. And although not everyone is entitled to rights under the US Constitution, every person is entitled to human rights — including the right to be free from unchecked surveillance. That was the overriding message of a joint civil society statement delivered on Monday to the United Nations Human Rights Council. That statement in turn relied on a recent report (PDF) to the UN by Special Rapporteur on the freedom of opinion and expression Frank La Rue highlighting growing concern about the impact of widespread government surveillance on human rights worldwide. https://www.cdt.org/blogs/1206it%E2%80%99s-not-just-about-us-how-nsa-threatens-human-rights-internationally.

Internet Access:

Library For All Builds Ebook Platform for Developing World
Library For All has launched a Kickstarter campaign to fund an ebook platform that would enable the distribution of ebooks in the developing world. The organization is seeking $100,000 in pledges to roll out a pilot program at the Respire School in Gressier, Haiti this fall. http://www.thedigitalshift.com/2013/06/ebooks/library-for-all-builds-ebook-platform-for-developing-world/.

International Outlook:

Open Wi-Fi Comes to Tunisia: Ex-Dictator’s House Turned Into "openwireless.org" Hotspot
The Open Wireless Movement has come to Tunisia! When former Tunisian dictator Ben Ali was ousted, the Tunisian Internet Agency (ATI) was quickly transformed from an institution of control to one of openness, reversing the oppressive censorship policies of the Ben Ali era. Similarly, the ATI’s building- once a private home of Ben Ali-is now being transformed into a space for citizens to innovate. Inside the basement of the building is #404Lab, a hackerspace that reclaims the space where censorship was once conducted. https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2013/06/open-wi-fi-comes-tunisia-ex-dictators-house-turned-openwirelessorg-hotspot.

How Timbuktu’s manuscripts were smuggled to safety
When Islamist rebels set fire to two libraries in Timbuktu earlier this year, many feared the city’s treasure trove of ancient manuscripts had been destroyed. But many of the texts had already been removed from the buildings and were at that very moment being smuggled out of the city, under the rebels’ noses. When Islamist rebels took over Timbuktu last year, looking after the documents began to look like an impossible task. The rebels soon began destroying shrines they considered "idolatrous." http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-22704960.

Report: "Library and Archives Canada Private Deal Would Take Millions of Documents Out of Public Domain"
Library and Archives Canada has entered a hush-hush deal with a private high-tech consortium that would hand over exclusive rights to publicly owned books and artifacts for 10 years. The plan is scheduled to be announced publicly on Friday and according to documents obtained by the Ottawa Citizen, a gag order has been placed on everyone involved in the project until then. The plan effectively means that Canadians will have to pay twice for timely access to material they already own. http://www.infodocket.com/2013/06/12/report-library-and-archives-canada-private-deal-would-take-millions-of-documents-out-of-public-domain/.

Public Policy:

"Fix the Debt" Corporate Supporters Would Reap $173 Billion Windfall from Territorial Tax
Fifty-nine corporations behind the "Fix the Debt" campaign could reap $173 billion in immediate tax windfalls if a "territorial tax" is enacted, according to a new report by the Institute for Policy Studies. The Fix the Debt campaign has lobbied extensively for a territorial tax system. The adoption of a territorial tax system, which would exempt U.S. corporations' foreign profits from taxation, would ensure that the coalition's members permanently avoid taxes on more than $544 billion in offshore profits. http://www.foreffectivegov.org/blog/fix-debt-corporate-supporters-would-reap-173-billion-windfall-territorial-tax.

Weird Stuff:

11 Weird Books That Really Exist
Although not every author’s masterwork is cut out for The New York Times Best Seller list, there are some books that are just so downright bizarre that it’s hard to imagine anyone reading them at all. Online bookseller AbeBooks collects the best and strangest in its Weird Book Room, which is full of gems like these, including Dating for Under a Dollar: 301 Ideas, How to Land a Top-Paying Pierogi Makers Job, and
Does God Ever Speak Through Cats?


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Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety.

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**SLA – BayNet – NOCALL Mashup, June 27th**

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2013/06/sla-baynet-nocall-mashup-june-27th/ June 17, 2013 Categories: Bayline, Chapter Programs & Events Tags: events

Who: Librarians of NOCALL, SLA & BayNet
What: Librarian Mashup

Join us on Thursday, June 27th from 5-7 PM for an SLA/NOCALL/BayNet Librarian Networking event! Meet us at The Holding Company, Promenade Level of Embarcadero Two in the Financial District of San Francisco. It is a no host bar, so bring cash as well as business cards, for a casual after-work meet-up!

RSVP by June 21st to Rachael Samberg at rsamberg@law.stanford.edu

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**Chapter Tour of the Sonoma County Wine Library – Registration Open!**


**Chapter Tour of the Sonoma County Wine Library – Healdsburg Regional Library**

**Saturday, July 27th, 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

Please join us for a tour of Sonoma County Library’s special collection of materials on wine and wine-related topics!

Comprised of 5,000 books and 80 active serial subscriptions, as well as valuable catalogs, historic archives, photographs, oral histories, and a vast collection of wine labels, the Sonoma County Wine Library is the primary resource for information on wine and winemaking for enologists, wine makers, and other interested individuals. With more than 1,000 rare books about wine dating from the 16th century, the librarians are poised to use the library’s materials to fulfill special information requests regarding the history of wine, as well as to provide current information on wine and winemaking from the collection’s more contemporary materials.

Librarian Jon Haupt will be our guide through this section of Sonoma County’s Healdsburg Regional Library, which has been building its unique collection for the past 25 years. Jon will also provide attendees with a printed guide to nearby wineries for some post-tour wine tasting.

**This tour is limited to 25 attendees, so please register early!**

**Cheers!**

**SLA Tour Agenda**

10:30 a.m. Check-in.
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Tour
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. Networking and refreshments on the library’s patio

**Location**

The Sonoma County Wine Library is located within the Healdsburg Regional Library at 139 Piper St. (corner of Piper and Center), Healdsburg. Telephone: 707-433-3772.

**Registration**

$10 flat registration for everyone
The registration is now closed.
Intersect Alert June 24, 2013

June 23, 2013 Categories: Intersect Alert Tags: intellectual property, open access, privacy, public policy

Public Policy:

Lawmakers, Jerry Brown flip on Public Records Act changes
Beset by widespread criticism of a proposal to weaken California’s public records law, Gov. Jerry Brown and lawmakers capitulated Thursday, abandoning a bill the governor appeared ready to sign as recently as a day earlier. The reversal resolved a controversy that swept over the Capitol in recent days, with the media and other open-government advocates decrying language in a budget bill that would have made compliance with some provisions of the California Public Records Act voluntary for local agencies.


Return of the Regulatory Accountability Act: A Veiled Threat to Public Protections
On May 23, Sen. Rob Portman (R-OH) reintroduced the Regulatory Accountability Act (RAA), a serious threat to environmental standards, workplace safety rules, public health, and financial reform regulations. The Regulatory Accountability Act of 2013, is the latest version of a bill first introduced in 2011 and then again in 2012. The seemingly innocuous legislation is a drastic overhaul of the Administrative Procedure Act that would undermine the regulatory process. In addition to adding new procedural hurdles and cost-benefit analysis requirements to rulemaking, the RAA would dramatically change the substance of regulations by establishing a default rule that an agency adopt the "least costly" rule out of all the alternatives considered.


Open Access:

Document of the day. Or why a paper document may be better than a digitized version
I just received an old Department of Commerce publication called "Commercial handbook of China" by Julean Arnold, commercial attaché (WorldCat record). It’s actually a 1975 reprint of a 1919 publication. It’s chock full of statistics relating to provinces, cities, and consular districts — agriculture, minerals and mining, populations, exports and imports, revenues, transportation, ports and shipping facilities etc. In short, this is a gold mine of historic information and statistics from the Republic of China (pre-Communist China). The document was digitized and is available in HathiTrust as well as the Internet Archive.

However, in comparing the digitized version with the paper version in hand, I came upon several issues …

http://freegovinfo.info/node/3960.

New G8 Open Data Charter
The G8 countries today released a new declaration, and with it an Open Data Charter policy paper, which together constitute a significant high-level commitment to open data and transparency.

Sunlight [Foundation] has been close to the ideas, movement, and conversations that have helped lead to this announcement. We’re thrilled to see such a visible, detailed statement from the G8, moving what has long been a national level issue, and more recently a multi-stakeholder issue, to now an idea jointly promoted and celebrated by some of the world’s most powerful governments on their own terms.

http://sunlightfoundation.com/blog/2013/06/18/new-g8-open-data-charter/.

Library of Congress Transitions to Free, Online-Only Cataloging Publications
The Library of Congress has announced a transition to online-only publication of its cataloging documentation. As titles that are in production are released, the Library’s Cataloging Distribution Service (CDS) will no longer print new editions of its subject headings, classification schedules and other cataloging publications. The Library will instead provide free downloadable PDF versions of these titles. Beginning July 1, print publications that are currently sold through CDS will become available as free, downloadable PDF titles through the Library’s Acquisitions and Bibliographic Access Directorate website at www.loc.gov/aba/.


Privacy:

How Dozens of Companies Know You're Reading About Those NSA Leaks
As news websites around the globe are publishing story after story about dragnet surveillance, these news sites all have one thing in common: when you visit these websites, your personal information is broadcast to dozens of companies, many of which have the ability to track your surfing habits, and many of which are subject to government data requests. These news websites are not alone. Other websites that send information about all of their visitors to large companies that are subject to US government data requests include CNN, Huffington Post, MSNBC, BBC, Al Jazeera, BoingBoing, Slashdot, WordPress.com, Occupy Wall Street, Internet Defense League, and hundreds of thousands of others.

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2013/06/third-party-resources-nsa-leaks.

Remember When the Patriot Act Debate Was All About Library Records?
In the months following the October 2001, passage of the
Patriot Act, there was a heated public debate about the very provision of the law that we now know the government is using to vacuum up phone records of American citizens on a massive scale. But the consternation didn’t focus on anything like the mass collection of phone records. Instead, the debate centered on something else: library records.

Civil liberties groups and librarians’ associations, which have long been fiercely protective of reader privacy, quickly raised fears of the FBI using that authority to snoop on circulation records. Yet as the Guardian and others revealed this month, the government has invoked the same provision to collect metadata on phone traffic of the majority of all Americans – a far larger intrusion than anything civil libertarians warned about in their initial response.


**Why Won’t the FBI Tell the Public About its Drone Program?**

Today we’re [EFF] publishing—for the first time—the FBI’s drone licenses and supporting records for the last several years. Unfortunately, to say that the FBI has been less than forthcoming with these records would be a gross understatement. EFF received these records as a result of our Freedom of Information lawsuit against the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for the licenses the FAA issues to all public entities wishing to fly drones in the national airspace.


**Intellectual Property:**

**Stevie Wonder appeals for finalization of books for blind treaty**

Music legend Stevie Wonder has appealed to more than 600 negotiators from WIPO’s 186 member states to go the final sprint and conclude a new international treaty to ease access to books for blind, visually impaired, and other print disabled people.

Video: http://youtu.be/l6Dp2s3CidI;

**German Parliament Says No More Software Patents**

The German Parliament recently took a huge step that would eliminate software patents when it issued a joint motion requiring the German government to ensure that computer programs are only covered by copyright. Put differently, in Germany, software cannot be patented. The Parliament’s motion follows a similar announcement made by New Zealand’s government last month, in which it determined that computer programs were not inventions or a manner of manufacture and, thus, cannot be patented.

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2013/06/german-parliament-says-no-more-software-patents.

**Bad News For Patent Trolls! FTC To Look Under the Hood of the Trollmobile**

The Federal Trade Commission announced today that it stands ready to take on patent trolls. In a speech at the National Press Club, Commissioner Edith Ramirez made two big announcements. First, she revealed that the FTC will conduct a wide-ranging investigation into the conduct of patent trolls. Second, she confirmed that, when appropriate, the FTC is committed to using its antitrust enforcement powers. This is great news for innovation and very bad news for trolls.


**New DRM Will Change the Words in Your E-Book**

The next e-book you buy might not exactly match the printed version. And those changes are there to make sure you’re not a pirate.

German researchers have created a new DRM feature that changes the text and punctuation of an e-book ever so slightly. Called SiDiM, which Google translates to "secure documents by individual marking," the changes are unique to each e-book sold. These alterations serve as a digital watermark that can be used to track books that have had any other DRM layers stripped out of them before being shared online. The researchers are hoping the new DRM feature will curb digital piracy by simply making consumers paranoid that they’ll be caught if they share an e-book illicitly.


Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety.

*The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.*

Share this:


June 28, 2013 Categories: Bayline, Chapter Leadership Tags: annual conference, President's message
As shocking as it is to realize that we are now halfway through the year, we have somehow landed on the backside of June. The first six months of 2013 have been full of excellent chapter programs and events of all kinds, from evening speaker programs to neighborhood dinners to a professional development webinar. But looking forward to the next six months, you’ll see even more opportunities to participate in chapter events.

Last night, we had a joint networking event with our colleagues from NOCALL and BayNet at The Holding Company in San Francisco’s Financial District. Registration also opened this week for our first tour of 2013; a rare Saturday event on July 27th, this tour provides a fantastic chance to tour the Sonoma County Wine Library. Rare those Saturday events may be, but another networking event is being planned for the following weekend on August 3rd. Details are still being worked out, but plan for a fun outing with our NOCALL colleagues touring the Computer History Museum. Finally, the end of August will see our annual Student/New Member reception before we ramp back up with yet more evening speaker programs, tours, and professional development events for the fall.

The volunteers planning these various events have been almost elf-like in their level of activity, and I’m so excited by all of the opportunities they have provided for our members this year. Keep your eye on the discussion list and on the chapter blog for more details about all of these events. And, of course, keep in mind that you’re always welcome to join this merry band of volunteers. There are so many ways for you to become more involved with the chapter. Please contact me if you are interested in hearing more.

Difficult as it may be to accept that the year is half over, the SLA Annual Conference in San Diego was a pretty good indicator of the passage of the year. The conference this year was all about expanding our roles and developing new ways of thinking.

Beginning with the keynote speaker, Mike Walsh advised us to “Think New, Think Big, Think Quick”. Walsh noted that in the 21st century, where information is as accessible to people as the device in their hands, the smartest kid in the class won’t be the one who simply knows the answer; it will be the one who can craft the best searches, analyze the best resources, and use the best visualization tools. That’s us, kids. The flood of information availability is offering us a fantastic opportunity and we just need to grab it with both hands! As Janice Lachance would say when closing the conference 3 days later, “we may not be able to change the external economic situation, but we can change our context within it.”

The conference definitely delivered on its promise to provide eye-opening educational programs and engaging networking events. Many of our chapter members were active participants in the conference, appearing as both presenters and moderators, and you will see several articles over the coming weeks from people who have graciously agreed to write about their presentations or their conference experiences. As for the networking events, my perennial favorites are the Western States Chapters Reception, the Karaoke Party, and the Dance Party.

Jaye Lapachet, Mimi Calter, and Michael Sholinbeck. Photo by Anne Barker.

Planned this year by our friends in the Sierra Nevada chapter, the Western States Chapters Reception certainly did not disappoint, providing an abundance of food and drink, with ample room to mingle. Our entertainment was provided by Joey Carano, a local San Diego Jazz Guitarist. It was so wonderful to be able to speak with so many SLA members from across the region, although at one point my beverage did start to grow warm sitting at a table while I progressed slowly back and forth across the room to the dessert table. Fortunately, an ever-helpful and observant friend saw my dilemma and brought said beverage to me, easing my passage.

I’d definitely like to give a huge thank you to all of the reception sponsors. San Jose State University School of Library and Information Science was the “Catering Sponsor”, providing the delicious food. Our next major sponsors were Zubal Books, with Michael Zubal contributing substantially to our reception over the last few years, and IEEE, where our own George Plosker has been very helpful in securing continued sponsorship. Thanks as well to ProQuest Dialog for their support, and to Libby Trudell for helping shepherd the sponsorship through. And finally, thank you to EOS International for their sponsorship as well. The reception was originally budgeted for an estimated attendance of 150 people. Our popularity apparently surged this year, helped along by the West Coast location, no doubt, and total attendance for the reception was 215. Our sponsors were all extra generous in helping us accommodate these increased numbers, and they all deserve our thanks and appreciation.
After the Western States Chapters Reception, it was time to head to the Karaoke Party, sponsored by the Academic and IT Divisions, where several of our chapter members were breakout stars. Kendra Levine, Michael Sholinbeck, Mimi Calter, and yours truly actively engaged in the party. As I’ve said before, you get so much more out when you are willing to put something in. In this case, fun!

Finally, the Dance Party, while making it difficult to make it to the first program the next morning, is simply not to be missed. A great chance to just let loose with good friends, this year’s party had the added benefit of the California Dreamin’ theme, complete with costume contest. Remote voting is currently underway for the winning costume, so you can participate even if you weren’t able to attend. It’s worth clicking the link just to see Silicon Valley Chapter leaders Phil and Kathleen Gust all dressed up; they really went all out for this contest! Visit http://bit.ly/11wCwkA by Friday July 5th to vote.

Great educational sessions and super-fun networking events make up most people’s conference agendas, but important Association business takes place, too. The Open Session Board Meeting was held on Saturday morning. Although the minutes are not available online yet, the agenda is; since the committee reports presented at the Board meeting are linked attachments to the agenda, you can already find out a lot about the great things the many Association committees are working on this year. You can always find Board meeting agendas and minutes on the SLA web site.

The Chapter and Division Cabinets – made up of all chapter presidents and presidents-elect and division chairs and chairs-elect – held their individual and joint business meetings on Monday evening. Several important actions were begun at those meetings. Further discussions and Cabinet votes are scheduled in the coming months regarding the ways the Association can support members who are not in a geographic region covered by a chapter, and a recommendation from the Public Relations Advisory Council to survey the membership about how we feel about an association name change; with no specific name in mind, are we generally in favor, opposed, or not sure but willing to discuss the possibility. The outcome of such a proposed survey would be used to determine if a name change should be incorporated in SLA’s strategic agenda goals. The Joint Cabinet will be meeting remotely in late July to discuss and vote on the proposed survey, and you will certainly be hearing more about the issue. Information about how to register as a non-voting observer was sent to the Governance list, and I have forwarded that to the chapter’s reflector.

In addition to these important issues, our own chapter put forward a Motion to the Joint Cabinet related to the practice and procedures by which the Board disseminates information to the unit leadership. Mimi Calter, Cindy Hill, and I put a lot of time into all aspects of this effort, drafting the text, reaching out to Association Board members, and answering questions and concerns of other unit leaders. I am quite pleased to report that our Motion was passed unanimously by the Joint Cabinet. It now heads to the Board for decisions on how to respond or implement our recommendations.

Finally, the Annual Business and Membership Meeting closed the conference. John DiGilio evoked Captain Stubing for his Treasurer’s Report, saying that we are embarking on new voyage of self-determination. He continued to advocate his One SLA theme, stating that we must work together to turn the Association’s delicate stability into growth and strength. As originally reported at the Leadership Summit, SLA is projected to break even in 2013, but we must reverse the downward trend line of both revenues and expenses; there isn’t much left we can cut from the expenses line to match ever-decreasing revenues. DiGilio noted that over the last few years we have re-envisioned and re-aligned SLA; now we need to re-invigorate it. SLA sustains us, for some “just” professionally with continuing education, skills-building, and networking opportunities; for others, also personally, with friendships and shoulders to lean on in tough times. In either case, we have to work to sustain it, too.

Following presentations by Janice Lachance, who noted that about 240 attendees traveled from outside the U.S. to be at the conference and called out Tom Rink as the first $1,000 Loyalty Club member, and Deb Hunt who detailed the steps the Association is taking towards the five platforms of the Strategic Agenda, we said goodbye to another SLA Annual Conference while looking ever forward, this time to Vancouver in 2014. Don’t forget to renew your passport if needed! The Conference Re-envisioning Task Force made themselves available throughout the conference for feedback about what members think works and doesn’t work about the conference. They are still looking for your input and can be e-mailed at slacrft@gmail.com.

Whether or not you were there in person, the Post-Game Recap, sponsored by the SLA Baseball Caucus, Illinois Chapter, and the Business & Finance Division, provided an exceptional opportunity to catch up on important Association information you may have missed. Speakers included: Deb Hunt, SLA President; Kate Arnold, SLA President-Elect; John DiGilio, SLA Treasurer; Tony Landolt, SLA Baseball Caucus Convener; and little ol’ me. You can view a recording of the
webinar at (URL removed). Make sure to use the download link in the upper-right corner rather than play the file in your browser.

I’ll have more exciting developments to share with you in the coming weeks, and look forward to seeing many of you at upcoming chapter events.

By Anne N. Barker
Chapter President

Intersect Alert June 30, 2013

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2013/06/intersect-alert-june-30-2013/

June 30, 2013 Categories: Intersect Alert Tags: freedom of information, intellectual property, libraries, open access, privacy, public policy, research

Digital History:

NSA Deletes Surveillance ‘Fact’ Sheet
The NSA has deleted its own published fact sheets on Section 702 of FISA and Section 215 of PATRIOT Act. Luckily someone saved the document and we’ve attached it here (1.8 MB PDF) for public perusal. This is exactly the reason why FDLP libraries need to be in place to preserve public domain govt publications, even the ones that are embarrassing or describe govt illegality. Govt publications in 1200 libraries are difficult to expunge from the public record.

http://freegovinfo.info/node/3962.

Stanford Libraries preserves historical software collection with Federal Agency
Stanford University Libraries has partnered with the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to preserve one of the world’s largest collections of software. Stanford and NIST will spend two years digitally preserving the 15,000 software titles in the Stephen M. Cabrinety Collection in the History of Microcomputing held by Stanford University Libraries.


Freedom of Information:

Congress Says Special-Ops Budget Too Secret
While details on spending on specific national-security programs are sometimes kept from the public, such secrecy is not supposed to extend to Congress. Lawmakers are supposed to have detailed information on executive branch activities so they can knowledgeably exercise their constitutional power of the purse. But that is not always the reality.

Both the House Armed Services and Appropriations committees, as well as the Senate Armed Services Committee, are seeking more information from the military’s secretive Special Operations Command (SOCOM), whose budget has grown markedly since 9/11. SOCOM engages in a wide variety of activities from direct actions – small-scale offensive strikes – to special reconnaissance activities to training of foreign military forces.


Intellectual Property:

Library Copyright Alliance Hails WIPO for Landmark Victory for the Blind
The Library Copyright Alliance applauds the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) for finalizing the Treaty for the Blind, a treaty that will allow nations to share or make accessible copies for the print disabled in other countries, who more often than not, have little access to reading materials. The Treaty for the Blind creates a copyright exception and makes it legal to share accessible print copies with other nations. Before the landmark decision, antiquated international copyright laws made it difficult for developing nations – where 90 percent of the world’s 285 million blind live – to convert print materials into Braille books, audio recordings or accessible digital files.


Open Access:

LibraryBox 2.0 Project Moves Forward with Kickstarter | ALA 2013
Jason Griffey, head of library IT for the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, has launched a Kickstarter campaign to help fund expansions and upgrades for his open-
source LibraryBox project. LibraryBoxen are self-contained, battery-powered, pocket-sized routers that enable wireless distribution of ebooks, images, and other digital content without an Internet connection.

As LJ described in a July, 2012 profile of the project, libraries are already using these portable devices to distribute out-of-copyright and Creative Commons licensed ebooks at local coffee shops and farmers markets. Likewise, one teacher in China told Griffey that s/he had made a LibraryBox to simplify the distribution of classroom materials in an area where Internet traffic is heavily monitored and censored.


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**Public Policy:**

**Internet Archive Sues to Stop Dangerous New Jersey Law Putting Online Service Providers at Risk**

The Internet Archive has filed a new legal challenge against a New Jersey state law that aims to make online service providers criminally liable for providing access to third parties’ materials, conflicting directly with federal law and threatening the free flow of information on the Internet. This is the second time that the Electronic Frontier Foundation is representing the Internet Archive in order to block enforcement of a law that’s aimed at combating online ads for underage sex workers but instead includes language that could put online libraries and other service providers at risk.


**Trade group to FEC: ‘Corporate funds’ financed campaign ads**

Ahead of the 2012 election, the Direct Selling Association reported spending more than $50,000 on advertisements touting two of its favorite politicians. And in new disclosures filed Wednesday with the Federal Election Commission, the organization confirmed what’s widely assumed but rarely confirmed about trade associations: that the money it spent on electoral politics came specifically from “corporate funds,” although the group isn’t naming names. Such corporation-fueled political activity by the Direct Selling Association would have been illegal prior to the U.S. Supreme Court’s Citizens United decision.


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**Privacy:**

**How Confident Are U.S. Adults in the Privacy of Their Data When Using Online Health Services?**

Only thirteen percent of U.S. adults surveyed said they are very confident that the privacy of their medical information would be secure when using online health services from their physician’s office, according to a recent Harris Interactive/HealthDay survey. In other results, more than one-third of respondents who are online said they were “very” or “extremely” interested in using smartphones or tablets to ask their doctors questions, make appointments or get medical test results.


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**How the Presidio Trust Library is using its Digital Asset Management System to support the Presidio Heritage Center**

The Presidio Trust Library uses its Digital Asset Management System to support the Presidio Heritage Center: A Poster Presentation Sponsored by the divisions of Museums, Arts and Humanities, Academic, Social Science and Education at the 2013 SLA San Diego Conference

By Barbara Janis, Past-president, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter

The Presidio Heritage Center will open in the summer of 2014 in the historic Officers’ Club in the heart of the Main Post. Here visitors will be able to personally connect with the nature, history, and culture of the Presidio. The Center will serve as a portal to other park destinations. The goal is to create a new comprehensive heritage experience that utilizes the entire Presidio as an outdoor museum, a “museum without walls.”

The Trust library is contributing to this endeavor by making images and documents available via the WIDEN Digital Asset Management System, which the library launched in 2012. WIDEN is a cloud-based product. The resources will be used to support some of the activities of the Heritage Center, such as exhibits, dioramas and interpretative programs. Many of the images displayed in the poster have been collected over the past 15 years from visits to archives across the country, including the U.S. Army Military History Museum in Carlisle, PA, the National Archives and Records Centers in Washington, DC and College Park, MD, and the Bancroft Library at the University of California, Berkeley. Some images have been purchased from online archives such as the San Francisco Historical Photo Collection, the Library of Congress American Memory Collection, Calisphere, and the President Truman Library. Many assets have been provided by the Golden Gate National Recreation Area Park Archives located here at the Presidio. Local institutions such as the Sutro Library and University of the Pacific Library Archive in Stockton also proved to hold important Presidio material.

One major addition was from a volunteer docent who allowed the library to scan his collection of 300-plus Presidio-related postcards, spanning over 100 years. This inspired me to visit local antique fairs and peruse their postcard stalls, where I found a tri-fold postcard of the 1915 Panama-Pacific International Exposition, included in the poster. Other staff became involved in the hunt for artifacts, purchasing diaries, photographs and other ephemera on eBay, all now in the collection.

A special contribution came from our colleague and past chapter president Marian Wickline, who donated a monograph to the Trust Library entitled The life of Col. Guy Lewis Edie, M.D. DSM Medical Corps, USA (rtd) : IV decades of service by Col. Carroll Peeke. This item was given to her father, Colonel Wickline, by the author. Only 100 copies were printed by Robert Grabhorn Press, so it is one of our rare items.

The poster concentrates on photographs, which are displayed in 3 columns labeled Early History, Army-era and Significant Events. Beneath each image the contributing institution’s name is displayed in red. Crediting an institution for sharing an image (whether you have paid for the use of the image or not) is a vital courtesy. And sending the institution a copy of the brochure or a photograph of a wayside exhibit in which a photograph was used gladdens a curator’s heart. It demonstrates the value of their collection and may engender referral business.

We greatly appreciate the many donations we have received. They provide a reference point for our historic landscape architect and natural resources staff when they restore an area such as El Polín Spring. The Presidio Trust’s preservation staff and historic architects examine historic images to become informed on how buildings were used and to take note of architectural details that might now be in need of restoration. Photographs also are essential for showing visible changes over time, elements that have been altered or removed and past activities that affected the building and site. Beyond using the images in the upcoming Center, we also utilize them in our program material, marketing collateral and annual report.

WIDEN is a useful tool for compiling archival photos and documents from a variety of sources. But it also can display PowerPoint, InDesign, as well as audio and video files. At the Library of Congress website I found a video clip of Fatty Arbuckle, of all people, visiting the 1915 Panama-Pacific International Exposition. Part of the exposition was located on Presidio land and thus is a worthy addition to the WIDEN collection, with the attribution duly noted of course. Crissy
Field was the site of a racecourse during the PPIE and you can see a photo of this event in the poster. As we approach 2015 look for Bay Area institutions holding commemorations of the PPIE…maybe even the Presidio.

This project has been great fun, but I should mention that two industrious individuals have also been contributing to the Heritage Center by digging deeper into the history of the Presidio of San Francisco to uncover artifacts and stories. One is a recent MLIS graduate from San Jose State University and a SF Bay Region Chapter member, John Bertland. But I won’t steel his thunder. John will have to write his own article to share his investigative activities and discoveries.

I hope you will join us in sharing your Presidio photographs and stories, and will plan on visiting the new immersive Presidio Heritage Center in summer 2014.

Download the 2013 SLA Conference Poster in pdf format.

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**Registration open for SLA/NOCALL tour of the Computer History Museum!**


Categories: Bayline, Chapter Programs & Events Tags: events, technology

Have you been waiting for the inside scoop on the history of computers and technology? Well wait no longer!

**Join us for a private, docent led tour of the Computer History Museum in Mountain View on Saturday, Aug. 3 from 11am to noon**

Our 1 hour tour begins at 11am and will be led by former NOCALL & SLA member, and museum docent, Wynne Dobbins! We encourage everyone to stay for lunch at the museum cafe and then catch the 1pm demonstration of the Babbage Engine. Current exhibits include:

**Revolution: The First 2000 Years of Computing**

Premiering in 2011, this exhibit celebrates the spectacular history of computing, from mysterious ancient devices to technologies of the future. Journey through 19 alcoves, each dedicated to a different aspect of computing and featuring an iconic object. Discover, in our multi-media displays, the back-stories, development drama, and astonishing breakthroughs of the gadgets, gurus and companies you love or love to hate.

**Come see the IBM Watson exhibit featuring the original Jeopardy! Stage Set**

Write your name on the podium from the original Jeopardy! stage set where Watson debuted. Take your Jeopardy! photo. Play Jeopardy! with a simulated version of Watson. Learn about Watson and cognitive computing. All at the Computer History Museum through May 2014.

In 2011, the Watson computing system made history on the quiz show Jeopardy! by besting the show’s two greatest champions in a televised exhibition match. Watson received the first prize of $1 million.

**Going Places – Google Maps with Street View**

Since 2007, Google Maps with Street View has transformed our ideas about going places, from faraway lands to a restaurant across town. Visitors will get to sit inside a Street View car, ride a Street View trike, hear behind the scenes stories from the Google Street view team and learn about vintage street views, including the revolutionary Aspen Movie Map project from 1978.

**The Fine Print:**

– Cost is $16 per person, tour size is limited to 20 people; please arrive 15 minutes early to register and listen to a brief orientation.

– Although children normally receive free admission with a paying adult, we must charge the full rate if they are part of our group.

– Tickets are non-refundable, but you may send someone in your place if things come up and you cannot join us.

– As part of our reservation, each member of the party will receive a copy of the Revolution Exhibit Souvenir Guide, a book documenting the creation of our primary exhibit, and a 10% discount on all purchases in the Museum's Gift Shop.

– Registration ends when we’ve filled our spaces or on Friday, July 26, whichever comes first.

– Registration is now closed!

To learn more about this fascinating and uniquely Silicon Valley venue, please visit the Computer History Museum website.

Questions? Please contact Ellen Platt (eplatt@scu.edu) or (408) 554-5139

Hope to see you at the museum!
Intersect Alert July 7, 2013


Intellectual Property:

Why Your Library May Not Have the E-Book You Want
While most small presses sell all their books freely and happily to libraries, the “Big Five” publishers continue to be terrified by the idea of letting public libraries have their e-books, and to punish libraries for even trying to get their e-books to customers.
In October, 2012, a certain best-selling book sold in print for $15.51. If you bought the e-book on Amazon, the price was $9.99. If your public library bought the e-book, they paid $84.00 for it.
http://bookviewcafe.com/blog/2013/05/20/why-your-library/.

How Copyright Makes Books and Music Disappear (and How Secondary Liability Rules Help Resurrect Old Songs)
A random sample of new books for sale on Amazon.com shows three times more books initially published in the 1850’s are for sale than new books from the 1950’s. Why? This paper presents new data on how copyright seems to make works disappear. First, a random sample of 2300 new books for sale on Amazon.com is analyzed along with a random sample of 2000 songs available on new DVDs. Copyright status correlates highly with absence from the Amazon shelf. Together with publishing business models, copyright law seems to stifle distribution and access.

Libraries:

San Francisco’s library spending higher than average, report finds
When it comes to spending money on libraries, San Francisco is leaving other cities in the dust. A new report from the city controller’s office shows that the library’s operating expenditures per capita are $100.17, or twice the average spending of libraries in other big cities like Los Angeles, Boston and Seattle. San Francisco also holds a lead over other cities in staff members per borrower and circulation per borrower. The report also finds that San Francisco has the most branch libraries per square mile at one branch for every 1.8 square mile.

Freedom of Information

Farm groups file lawsuit to stop EPA release of farmers’ personal data
The American Farm Bureau Federation and the National Pork Producers Council filed a lawsuit and sought a restraining order on Friday in an attempt to stop the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) from releasing personal information about farmers and ranchers in response to Freedom of Information requests from environmental organizations. The EPA is expected to respond to several Freedom of Information Act requests this week and the groups hope to stall disclosures of farmers’ and ranchers’ names, home addresses, GPS coordinates and personal contact information until a court can clarify EPA’s obligation to keep personal information about citizens private. The lawsuit was filed before the U.S. District Court for the District of Minnesota.

Public Policy:

Who pays for all those public records?
In the end it wasn’t really about public records or the people’s right to see them. It was about money. And a generation-long spat between state and local governments about who pays for what.
To recap: Gov. Jerry Brown proposed a budget that would have saved the state some money by lifting the mandate on cities, counties, school districts and other local governments to help
members of the public get public records. The Assembly at first said no but ultimately went along with the whole budget package, as did the Senate. [link]

Privacy Issues:

Montana Tells Police: No Location Tracking Without a Warrant
Throughout the country, elected officials are working to update 4th Amendment protections to reflect the technological demands of the twenty first century. Montana recently became the first state to enact a comprehensive law requiring law enforcement officials to obtain a search warrant before obtaining location information generated by the operation of electronic devices such as cellular telephones. The bill requires a warrant regardless of whether the location information is generated by GPS or by proximity to one or more cellular towers. It appears to require warrants for such location information no matter how it is obtained. [link]

International Outlook:

Iran’s Internet Throttling: Unacceptable Now, Unacceptable Then
Last week, Iran’s minister for communications and information technology, Mohammad Hassan Nami, admitted the government purposely slowed Iran’s Internet during the days leading up to their June 2013 election in order to “preserve calm in the country” and to prevent interference from “foreigners trying to disrupt the election process.” During that time, users reported both slower Internet speeds as well as the censorship of popular communications services such as Gmail, Skype, and Viber. [link]

Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety.

The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.

Intersect Alert July 14, 2013


Freedom of Information

July 12: Call on Congress to Restore the Fourth Amendment

Over July 4th, thousands of people in cities across the United States rallied in defense of the Fourth Amendment. [link]

Tomorrow, Restore the Fourth – the grassroots, nonpartisan movement supporting the Fourth Amendment and opposing NSA spying – is taking the battle to the phones. A number of Restore the Fourth chapters will be hosting a “Restore the Phone” event. They will be encouraging concerned citizens to call their members of Congress and demand transparency and reform of America’s domestic spying practices. [link]

Public Policy

Library Foundations Raise Money for Libraries… Right?

Everywhere you turn in the world of libraries these days, you hear people talking about the need for private fundraising. ALA conferences have multiple concurrent sessions on fundraising, articles dealing with fundraising in library publications abound, and listservs everywhere are dissecting the pros and cons of private fundraising. [link]

California’s Open Access Bill Encounters A Hurdle, But Gathers Support
California’s landmark open access bill, the California Taxpayer Access to Publicly Funded Research Act (AB 609), has stalled in the State Senate. But take heart—it is far from dead.

Due to some procedural glitches, the Senate Governmental Organization (G.O.) Committee hasn’t been able to officially sign off on the bill. At last week’s hearing, the bill barely missed out on a quorum, getting five yes votes and zero no votes. (The other members abstained.) However, the bill was granted reconsideration by the Chair of the G.O. That means the Committee will pick up the bill in January 2014, exactly where it left off.

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2013/07/californias-open-access-bill-encounters-hurdle-gathers-support

Massachusetts’ Legislature Considering a Step Forward, and Backward, for Privacy

When it comes to making progress around privacy, it’s sometimes best to look at what individual states are doing. Unfortunately, faster legislative changes on the state level can be a double-edged sword. Massachusetts is the latest example: while they are considering a bill implementing strong warrant requirements around electronic communications, they are also looking to unnecessarily expand wiretap laws.


Privacy Concerns

Whether High School or College, Students’ Speech Rights Are Being Threatened Online

Attention, high school and college students: Your online speech is not nearly as private as you think. And no, we’re not talking about the National Security Agency. The threat to student speech comes from a far more local and immediate source: the prying eyes of school administrators apparently unaware of their students’ rights. All too often, students face unwarranted punishment for online communications.

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2013/07/whether-high-school-or-college-students-speech-rights-are-being-threatened-onlin-0

Civil Liberties Groups to the FISA Court: Ungag Google and Microsoft

Two of the world’s largest Internet companies are currently engaged in a legal battle to reveal the scope of their involvement in the controversial NSA spying programs exposed by a former intelligence contractor through a series of high-profile leaks. EFF has now joined a coalition to file a brief in support of Google and Microsoft as the companies seek permission from the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance court to reveal aggregate data about the federal government’s access to user information.

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2013/07/civil-liberties-groups-fisa-court-ungag-google-and-microsoft

Intellectual Property

Independent Game Developers: The Latest Targets of a Bad Patent Troll

A growing number of independent game developers have received demand letters from Treehouse Avatar Technologies for allegedly violating patent 8,180,858, a “Method and system for presenting data over a network based on network user choices and collecting real-time data related to said choices.” Essentially, this patent covers creating a character online, and having the game log how many times a particular character trait was chosen.

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2013/07/independent-game-developers-latest-targets-bad-patent-troll

International Outlook

NSA Leaks Prompt Surveillance Dialogue in India

This is the 8th article in our Spies Without Borders series. The series looks at how the information disclosed in the NSA leaks affect internet users around the world.

As we have discussed throughout our Spies Without Borders series, the backlash against the NSA’s global surveillance programs has been strong. From Germany, where activists demonstrated against the mass spying, to Egypt—allegedly one of the NSA’s top targets—where the reaction is largely the same: “I’m not American, but I have rights too.”

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2013/07/nsa-leaks-prompt-surveillance-dialogue-india

Online and Off, Information Control Persists in Turkey

Demonstrators in Turkey have occupied Istanbul’s Taksim Square since last May, in a movement that began as an effort to protect a city park, but has evolved into a larger mobilization against the ruling party’s increasingly autocratic stance.

Prime Minister Erdogan and the ruling AKP party have used many tools to silence voices of the opposition. On June 15, police began using tear gas and water cannons to clear out the large encampment in the park. But this effort also has stretched beyond episodes of physical violence and police brutality into the digital world, where information control and media intimidation are on the rise.
TAFTA, the US-EU’s Trojan Trade Agreement: Talks (and Leaks) Begin

The first round of talks in what the U.S. and EU trade representatives intend to be the largest bilateral trade agreement ever have begun. The governments call it TTIP, the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). Everyone else calls it TAFTA, the Trans-Atlantic Free Trade Agreement. Whatever the name, it will regulate all U.S. and EU trade, or around 30 percent of world trade in goods. And according to the first leaks of negotiation documents, it threatens to be yet another trojan horse for copyright and internet issues.

We have been following developments since Pres. Barack Obama announced his intention to create a U.S.-EU agreement at his State of the Union address earlier this year. Now, it seems that our concerns were warranted: a newly leaked document from La Quadrature du Net shows how EU delegates intend to set rules around liability for Internet Service Providers and regulations over the transfer and processing of users’ personal online data, as well as rules to set a “uniform approach” to cyber security across the region. While the document makes no mention of copyright enforcement, other statements lead us to believe that it will also be included.

Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety.

The UCSF Patient Health Library: Conquering the Mountains of Health Information

By Ari Kleiman, MLIS, Patient Health Librarian

The good news: you are an information professional and can quickly and capably distinguish between authoritative websites and those that are less so.

The bad news: everyone else needs help.

More good news: the UCSF Patient Health Library is here to help.

The UCSF Patient Health Library began in December 2009 as a pilot project by Gail Sorrough, MLIS, Director, Medical Library Services for the UCSF Medical Center at Mount Zion. I was hired in April 2010 as Patient Health Librarian.

In administrative terms, I have the best of two worlds. The Patient Health Library is a small library with a very specific purpose and an autonomous feel. At the same time, because it is a satellite of the H.M. Fishbon Memorial Library—the staff medical library at Mount Zion—I gain the advantages of a larger organization. I work alongside a group of very experienced librarians and support staff, and the library receives all the benefits of being part of a UC campus and a major academic medical center.

The Patient Health Library is open to the public, Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm. It provides an oasis within the bustling
Medical Center, where patrons can check email at public workstations; fax, copy and scan; or use the collection of reference books and health and wellness newsletters. Better yet, the patrons can get help with in-depth health and medical research!

Many of our patrons are happy to search on their own, but have no idea where to begin. Some patrons ask me to teach them to use specific resources, for example, using PubMed to find articles, how to get those articles full-text or the nuances of searching for clinical trials. Most patrons contact me to perform research for them, a service that is provided for free. The extent of questions has been sobering, enlightening, humanizing and sometimes quite funny.

For searching, I rely heavily on a mix of free online sources—mostly government and non-profit research/advocacy organizations—and subscription-based databases. Many of our patients are surprised that the majority of their questions can be answered using free, high-quality resources. If I had to list three resources I appreciate most at this job, I would choose:

- **MedlinePlus**: the gold standard in free consumer health resources, from the National Library of Medicine
- **UpToDate**: frequently updated, evidence-based monographs written for medical professionals (by subscription)
- **Natural Standard**: an evidence-based database of complementary and alternative medicine (by subscription)

No matter the level of help that is requested, the results have been outstanding. I have never had a more feel-good job! Many patients have written us to praise the Patient Health Library. They have lauded the provision of useful information and reported an easing of anxiety, a boost in morale and a saving of their time and energy during circumstances where both are of utmost importance. In a letter to the Medical Center’s CEO, one patient wrote, “The patient library has been crucial to my treatment.” This positive feedback has resulted in the transition of the library from pilot project to a permanent part of the Medical Center and my temporary job to a fully-funded position.

Please visit the UCSF Patient Health Library in person or online:

**UCSF Patient Health Library**
UCSF Medical Center at Mount Zion
1600 Divisadero Street
1st Floor, Hospital Building (‘A’ Bldg)
San Francisco, CA  94115
Phone: 415-885-7285
Email: patientlibrary@ucsfmedctr.org
Web: http://www.UCSFPatientHealthLibrary.org
Blog: http://ucsfphl.blogspot.com/
Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/ucsfphl
Twitter: http://twitter.com/#!/ucsf_phl

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**Intersect Alert July 23, 2013**

July 22, 2013  
Categories: Intersect Alert  
Tags: archives, freedom of information, government, intellectual property, international outlook, public policy

**Freedom of Information**

**Who Has Your Back? Companies Demand Transparency around Government Data Requests**

EFF has joined a broad coalition of technology companies and other civil liberties groups in demanding that online services be allowed to report for the first time complete information about the government’s requests for user data. In a [letter](https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2013/07/who-has-your-back-companies-demand-transparency-around-government-data-requests) addressed to President Barack Obama, Congressional leaders, and top intelligence officials, over 50 organizations laid out the need for more transparency around national security requests.


**Public Policy**

**State Courts Join State Lawmakers in Demanding Warrants for Location Information**

We’ve all heard a lot in the last month about the government’s flimsy excuse for the NSA’s massive collection of telephone and Internet metadata: that this sensitive information is somehow just “business records” that don’t require a warrant for government access. That same argument has been used by the government to also justify the warrantless collection of cell site data — the mobile company’s record of which tower your phone connects to — despite the fact that these records can reveal enormous amounts of information about where you go and with whom.

[https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2013/07/promising-developments-location-privacy](https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2013/07/promising-developments-location-privacy)
Bills Introduced by Congress Fail to Fix Unconstitutional NSA Spying

In the past two weeks Congress has introduced a slew of bills responding to the Guardian’s publication of a top secret court order using Section 215 of the PATRIOT Act to demand that Verizon Business Network Services give the National Security Agency (NSA) a record of every customer’s call history for three months. The order was confirmed by officials like President Obama and Senator Feinstein, who said it was a “routine” 90 day reauthorization of a program started in 2007.

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2013/07/bills-fail-fix-unconstitutional-nsa-spying

NARA search changes

The U.S. National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) will be permanently retiring its Archival Research Catalog (ARC) on August 15th.

NARA's other search engine, the Online Public Access search, contains all of the descriptions and digitized content that was in ARC. The Online Public Access search also searches the NARA web site, Archives.gov, and the web sites of the Presidential Libraries.

http://freegovinfo.info/node/3975

ALA Annual Conference Day Three: First Time Authors, Top Tech Trends, Library of the Year | ALA 2013


Privacy Concerns

EFF Boards a Balkan Battleship: SHARE’s Croatia Workshop on Fighting Surveillance

The Electronic Frontier Foundation and SHARE Defense are organizing a three day workshop on state surveillance and human rights (SSHR) in Rijeka, Croatia on 18 – 20 July. It’s part of an amazing array of festivals taking place simultaneously in the city, including the Share Cyberpunk Academy and Republika Festival. EFF’s Katitza Rodriguez and Jillian York will be joining Djordje Krivokapic from SHARE Defense to explore the new technologies of surveillance, how to protect your privacy against the growing powers of the surveillance state — and most importantly, how to fight back with better laws and greater oversight.

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2013/07/croatia-workshop-fighting-surveillance

Yahoo’s Fight for its Users in Secret Court Earns the Company Special Recognition in Who Has Your Back Survey

Each year, EFF’s Who Has Your Back campaign assesses the policies and practices of major Internet companies as a way to encourage and incentivize those companies to take a stand for their users in the face of government demands for data. Normally, when a company demonstrates it has a policy or practice that advances user privacy, like fighting for its users in courts, we award the company a gold star. Sometimes, even when companies stand up for their users, they’re forbidden from telling us about it because of unduly restrictive secrecy laws or court orders prohibiting them from doing so.

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2013/07/yahoo-fight-for-users-earns-company-special-recognition

International Outlook

What Will Japan’s Entry Into TPP Mean for Internet Users?

The Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) agreement threatens the rights of Internet users in all its potential signatories, from Peru to Canada to the United States. This week as part of the 18th round of meetings in Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia, a new country, Japan, officially joins the negotiations. Japan is arriving late to the TPP table, but its participation already risks making Japanese law harsher while demolishing the hard-won victories of copyright reformers in the country.

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2013/07/what-will-japans-entry-tpp-mean-internet-users

Moderating a Panel Discussion is a Lot Like Being a Reference Librarian

Categories: Bayline, Chapter Programs & Events Tags: annual conference
By David Grossman

If you’re looking for an easy way to participate in a conference session or want to sharpen your reference interviewing skills, being a panel discussion moderator is the job for you. You don’t have to know much about the topic or spend a lot of time creating a presentation because you will be asking the questions someone else will be answering. As a once and sometimes journalist, moderating a panel discussion is almost second nature to me, but it also bears much similarity to being a reference librarian, a role many of us routinely play each day.

The ability to ask the right questions in a reference interview can be the difference between success and failure and whether you will have a happy or frustrated customer. Moderating a panel is the pretty much the same. Asking the right questions will yield answers your audience will find useful and earn great accolades for your panel.

One technique I’ve learned as a reporter, panel moderator or reference librarian, is to ask open ended questions that cannot be answered with a single word. This is best accomplished by asking “how” or “why” questions whenever possible. This elicits the most comprehensive responses from your interviewee and may generate new information that will stimulate further discussion and additional questions.

Getting to know your interview subject(s) in advance is another way to generate better questions and improve the quality of the experience whether you are writing a news story, moderating a panel or conducting a reference interview. This can involve researching the background of an individual or simply asking the interviewee for some biographical information before your interview begins as I do by asking my panelists to provide me with a brief bio well in advance of the session I am moderating.

Prepping your interviewee in advance is another good idea from the journalism world that can often be applied to increase the chances of success in other situations. As a reporter and conference session moderator, I always try to send my interviewees/panelists a list of questions I might ask during the interview so they have time to conduct any necessary research and come to the interview fully prepared to answer my questions. While this technique may not always be possible in the reference world, conducting a pre-reference interview to uncover additional information may ultimately yield better results in the end.

Good listening is another essential component of conducting a good interview. No matter how many good questions I ask initially, it is always important for journalists, moderators and librarians to be attuned to your interviewee’s response to frame your next question.

Using multiple sources is yet another way to obtain better results. While librarians and journalists in search of answers often check multiple sources to improve the quality of the information they may find, as a panel moderator I usually ask the same questions to more than one panel member to get a different perspective on any particular topic.

Finally, I would like to offer reframing the question as another way to vastly improve the interview experience. Reframing the question or rephrasing the question back to the requestor to verify or better articulate what they are asking, is a technique we are all taught in an introductory reference class. In the journalism or panel moderator world, I always like to ask my interview subjects if there are any questions they’d like me to ask them that I haven’t already asked. Many people are surprised to hear a reporter or panel moderator ask such an open ended question, essentially giving the interviewee license to talk about whatever is top of mind, but I often find that this line of questioning yields some of the most revealing and valuable information that might have been missed if the interviewer did not pose that question. Because this technique forces the interviewee to rethink their message and construct their own question that would derive an answer they are prepared to give, it is a very effective way to reframe the question and a technique that works well in the reference world as well as it does for journalists and panel moderators.

So now you know how being an effective panel moderator or a competent journalist, for that matter, is a natural for any trained reference librarian because the skills we’ve all been taught as librarians are eminently transferable to the skills you will need as a journalist or a panel moderator.

David Grossman is Adult Reference and History Room Librarian at the Mill Valley Public Library and recently published “The Librarian’s Skillbook: 51 Essential Career Skills for Information Professionals”, with co-author, Deb Hunt. Visit http://www.librarianskillbook.com/ to learn more about this book and the transferability of your own skill sets or how to acquire vital new skills to advance your career. Also see related article by David Grossman on “eBooks in Special Libraries: A Hot Topic in the Spotlight”.

Share this:

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eBooks in Special Libraries: A Hot Topic in the Spotlight

These days, during those hours when I staff the public reference desk, I find myself increasingly confronted by people brandishing eReader devices they don’t know how to use. For many people there’s nothing easy about accessing eBooks, whether they are shopping for new titles to purchase online or attempting to borrow an eBook from their local library.

After dealing with numerous library users who are baffled by this new technology, I’m convinced we’re still in the early stages of eBook use where standards are lacking and products are not intuitive just yet.

Many people have no idea how to get an eBook into their eReader, tablet or any computer for that matter, and with an ever expanding array of eReader capable devices and multiple versions in current use, it is often a challenge to teach library users how to use that mysterious device with all those books inside.

The experience becomes even more frustrating when people discover that the specific title they want isn’t currently available as an eBook or they don’t understand why they might have to wait if all of a library’s eCopies of any given title are already in use by other library users.

Because of the confusion, frustration and misinformation in this rapidly evolving area, I decided it might be interesting to moderate a panel discussion on eBooks, co-sponsored by the Academic, Arts and Humanities and Museums Divisions, at the recent SLA Annual Conference in San Diego.

Though my issues in the public library world might be somewhat different than what my counterparts in more traditional special library settings are experiencing, I thought I might learn a lot more about eBooks from my SLA colleagues.

The session was called “eBooks and How They Affect Special Libraries” and SLA offered the Sunday afternoon program as a “Spotlight Session”, one of just a handful of featured conference sessions given top billing.

Curiously, there was only one other eBook session scheduled for the entire conference. I didn’t know if that indicated that perhaps most special libraries are not yet using eBooks, but by the start of the conference more than 250 conference goers had indicated an interest in attending the session, far more than the number of people who had shown interest in any other conference session, excluding the general/keynote sessions and exhibit hall events.

Each of my four panelists came from a different part of the library world. Kristin LaLonde, the session organizer, worked most recently at the Arab American National Museum in Dearborn, MI. Representing the corporate library sector was Britt Mueller from Qualcomm. Wil Weston from San Diego State University represented academia and Scott Wasinger from the eBook sales division of EBSCO provided the vendor viewpoint.

Scott Wasinger opened the session by outlining a checklist of five key areas to consider when selecting an eBook vendor. These are: 1) content, 2) business model options, 3) library workflow, 4) end user experience and 5) value. He then stated the case for consolidating your eBook acquisitions by using an eBook aggregator (like EBSCO), vs. forming relationships with multiple, individual publishers.

Taking an opposing viewpoint was Britt Mueller. “Our strategy has evolved over time, where we now prefer to partner directly with publishers, large and small, to create electronic access to the needed content in ways that support a demanding and distributed user base.” said Britt.

For Britt and Qualcomm, the most important factors to consider when evaluating an eBook publisher or other vendor include:

- Full enterprise accessibility (global, regional, local)
- Pricing determined by usage not potential access
- Avoidance of onerous digital rights management or the need for separate viewing software
- Perpetual access purchasing models
- Avoidance of password based models
- SAML based SSO or IP authentication access
- Making the purchased eBook content available to multiple internal enterprise systems through robust APIs

Britt also said that user expectations for eBook access in the corporate environment are heavily influenced by consumer experience with eBook access. She said her users would not tolerate geographic limits on distribution, the inability to download eBooks to multiple devices or onerous digital rights management restrictions. “These expectations create a significant challenge for corporate libraries,” Britt told the audience.

Wil Weston talked about the challenges of deploying a patron driven acquisitions program for eBook purchases or licenses as well as acquiring eBooks through library consortium memberships, both relevant to the massive and geographically dispersed California State University Library system.

As the manager of a historical library/archive (my other job when not working at the Reference Desk) where eBooks haven’t yet arrived, I was most interested in Kristin LaLonde’s experiences with eBooks at the Arab American National Museum.

LaLonde said she never considered the role of eBooks in her museum library until someone donated a copy of a book to the library in an electronic PDF format. She realized that she had no idea what kind of usage or distribution license that eBook should have or if the donor even had a legal right to donate that PDF file to the museum. Furthermore, LaLonde had no infrastructure in place to process a PDF file acquisition or
make it available for public use.

LaLonde speculated on how she might handle a situation where someone might donate a Kindle full of Arab American poetry to her library. In a historical library, archive or museum, where most materials acquired for the collection are donated by the public including the creator of a work or other historic item, this type of situation is bound to occur sooner or later.

Overall, I was surprised to learn just how much eBooks have already penetrated the special libraries segment, at least among my panel members. However, I was surprised to learn that user access and technology issues that are so prevalent in the consumer market for eBooks, was not an issue in the special libraries world. While I came to the session to learn how to better serve a technology challenged public, I left wondering how I will react when that first eBook arrives in my local History Room.

David Grossman is Adult Reference and History Room Librarian at the Mill Valley Public Library and recently published “The Librarian’s Skillbook: 51 Essential Career Skills for Information Professionals”, with co-author, Deb Hunt. Visit http://www.librarianskillbook.com/ to learn more about this book and the transferability of your own skillsets or how to acquire vital new skills to advance your career. Also see related article by David Grossman on “Moderating a Panel Discussion is a Lot Like being a Reference Librarian”.

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**Intersect Alert July 28, 2013**

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2013/07/intersect-alert-july-28-2013/

July 29, 2013 Categories: Intersect Alert Tags: freedom of information, intellectual property, international outlook, public policy

*Freedom of Information*

1 Million Gates Grant to Fund Chicago, Aarhus Libraries’ Innovation Partnership | ALA Annual 2013

On June 30, at the Chicago Public Library’s YouMedia wing, Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel announced a $1 million grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The grant will allow the Chicago Public Library (CPL) and Aarhus Public Libraries in Denmark to work together to create a new model for innovation, experimentation and decision-making within libraries.

http://lj.libraryjournal.com/2013/07/shows-events/ala/1-million-gates-grant-to-fund-chicago-aarhus-libraries-innovation-partnership-ala-annual-2013/#comment-141668

Browser Extension Encourages Amazon Searchers to Head to Their Library

Avid readers who have made New Year’s resolutions to visit their local library more often might be interested in the Library Extension for Google Chrome. The free extension lets users know whether specific books, ebooks, audiobooks, and music CDs are available at their local library while they browse for those titles at Amazon.com.


**Momentum Continues on the Hill with Two New Patent Reform Bills**

Traditionally, D.C. slows down over the summer months. This year, that is not the case with patent reform. Two new bills have already been introduced since Congress returned from its July 4th recess.

The first, a comprehensive bill called the Patent Litigation and Innovation Act, was introduced by Reps. Blake Farenthold (R-Texas) and Hakeem Jeffries (D-N.Y.).

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2013/07/momentum-continues-hill-patent-reform

**CRS on Cloture and Filibusters**

In recent years it has become increasingly common for Senators to seek cloture in order to limit chamber consideration of presidential nominations to positions in the executive and judicial branches of government. Cloture, which requires a super-majority vote, places time limits on consideration of a matter, and so may be employed as a means of overcoming filibusters. This report presents data on all nominations on which cloture motions have been offered…

http://freegovinfo.info/node/3977

Public Policy
Today, Congress Votes on an Amendment to Defund Domestic Spying: Here’s How You Can Help

There’s a fight brewing in Washington around NSA surveillance, and pro-privacy Representatives from both parties are taking the battle to the budget. The House is gearing up for a vote on the Defense Appropriations Bill (basically, the budget for the Department of Defense) and a bipartisan coalition of Representatives will be introducing a novel amendment that attempts to strike at funding for one type of particularly egregious surveillance power of the NSA.

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2013/07/tomorrow-congress-votes-amendment-defund-spying-heres-how-you-can-help

State AGs Ask Congress to Gut Critical CDA 230 Online Speech Protections

Earlier today, 47 state attorneys general asked Congress to severely undermine the most important law protecting free speech on the Internet. In a letter to Congressional leaders, the AGs asked Congress to amend Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act — which protects online service providers from liability for the vast majority of what their users do — to carve all state criminal laws from the statute’s protection. The letter highlights long-cited concerns about the use of the Internet by child sex traffickers, legitimate concerns shared by law enforcement officials and advocates who dedicate significant time and resources towards fighting this practice.

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2013/07/state-ags-threaten-gut-cda-230-speech-protectons

Human Rights in the Digital Age: Exploring the Colombian Experience

Governments enact new digital policies in the name of national security and intellectual property, but they often have the effects of chilling free speech and violating privacy. A conference in Bogotá, Colombia, this week called Human Rights in the Digital Age will bring together activists, advocates, and policymakers to examine human rights within the context of these international digital policies and experiences.

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2013/07/human-rights-digital-age-exploring-colombian-experience

Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety.

Intellectual Property

“Fair Use Creep,” and Other Copyright Bogeymen, Appear in Congress

The Congressional subcommittee that addresses copyright heard testimony today from five witnesses about the role of

The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.

Share this:

Incubators and Alligators: Fun with Digital Library Projects at SLA 2013

Categories: Bayline, Chapter Programs & Events Tags: annual conference
by Becky Morin

I’ve been attending the SLA Annual Conference since 2008, but the recent meeting in San Diego marked my first time as an SLA speaker. I’ve presented at a variety of conferences over the years, but this one was a little intimidating; it’s a big event with librarians and information professionals from so many different career tracks and disciplines. It becomes disconcertingly easy to preach to the choir, discussing projects and initiatives in front of one’s fellow subject specialists or the local Northern California “home team.” The chance speak to real colleagues on an international level was too good to be true. When the Natural History Caucus invited me to speak as part of a joint session on the Biodiversity Heritage Library and the Medical Heritage Library, I jumped at the opportunity.

The Biodiversity Heritage Library (BHL) and the Medical Heritage Library (MHL) are collaborative projects dedicated to the digitization of scholarly material held in the collections of member libraries, and to making that material available free of charge to anyone with an internet connection. I spoke about BHL, as the California Academy of Sciences has been a member of the consortium since 2009, and Juliane Schneider from Harvard presented on MHL.

Both presentations are available for downloading (pdf format) via the following links:

Becky Morin’s Biodiversity Heritage Library presentation

Juliane Schneider’s Medical Heritage Library presentation

Of course, I should not have been nervous at all. SLA is always a welcoming group full of friendly, intelligent colleagues. Juliane was a delightful co-presenter, and the SLA audience was, as always, attentive, curious, and full of great, conversation-sparking questions. I love spreading the word about the Biodiversity Heritage Library, how far we have come as a group, doubling our membership since launch in 2007, and sharing information about the over 40 million pages of taxonomic literature that we’ve made available for free. It was a great opportunity to talk more about a BHL-related project I oversee, Connecting Content: A Collaboration to Link Field Notes to Specimens and Published Literature. This collaborative project, funded by a National Leadership Grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, has allowed the member libraries to digitize field notes in our collections, serve them through the Biodiversity Heritage Library, photograph related specimens, and explore the complicated practice of building links between these related elements as they reside in different platforms.

And naturally, SLA members showed their excellent senses of humor, sparking spirited discussion of exactly why a natural history museum needs an alligator on the ceiling:

Engraving from Ferrante Imperato, Dell’Historia Naturale (Naples 1599)

and how an early 19th century infant incubator rather disturbingly resembles a toaster oven.

L’etude et les progrès de l’hygiène en France : de 1878 a 1882

Share this:

Intersect Alert August 5, 2013
Open Access:

**JSTOR Releases Documents and Summary of Its Role in Swartz Case**

JSTOR, the digital-journal archive, has released all the documents it provided to federal prosecutors relating to the case of Aaron Swartz, the activist and Harvard University researcher.

Mr. Swartz, who committed suicide in January, faced criminal charges after downloading 4.8 million scholarly articles from JSTOR in 2010 in defiance of the archive’s terms of service. He used a laptop hidden in a wiring closet at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.


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**Freedom of Information:**

**KRRP [Kid’s Right to Read Project] Defends ‘The Bluest Eye’ Among Others in Latest Spate of Book Challenges**

School’s out for the summer, but there’s no vacation from book challenges. The Kids’ Right to Read Project is battling a handful of censorship cases...

In Adams County, CO, The Bluest Eye, by Toni Morrison, has come under fire from a handful of parents. The book was taught this year to 11th grade students in Advanced Placement Language classes. In order to inform parents beforehand, a permission slip was sent home with information about the book and an alternate assignment was offered. Notwithstanding the fact that their children were able to opt out and did so, a group of parents filed a complaint with the district. After reviewing the challenge, the district superintendent offered to create a special section of the course without the book next year. Still not enough, parents say, though their children opted out of the lesson. Meanwhile, a student petition to keep the book has garnered almost 1,200 signatures.


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**Digital History:**

**Library of Congress races to preserve TV history**

Discover the TV treasures that the Library of Congress is racing against time to preserve.

(Video post)
copyright system. The good news is that these discussions aim
to go well beyond the black-and-white debate of rights holders
vs. pirates and the tech industry vs. Hollywood.
https://www.cdt.org/blogs/david-sohn/3107copyright-report-
shows-mostly-positive-shift-copyright-debate.

**Ninth Circuit Rules That Celebrity “Rights” Trump Free Speech**
Should a minor celebrity’s right to wring every drop he can
from his fame trump the right to create a realistic work? The
Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals put its thumb on the scales
today, issuing a terrible decision holding that a celebrity’s right
of publicity is more important than any First Amendment right
to depict real people in a video game. This ruling follows
closely on the heels of a similar decision from the Third Circuit
and threatens a wide range of speech – such as biographies and
documentaries – which seeks to realistically depict famous
people.
Taken literally, this reasoning could impact an extraordinary
range of protected speech. As Judge Sidney Thomas explained
dissent:
“The logical consequence of the majority view is that all
realistic depictions of actual persons, no matter how incidental,
are protected by a state law right of publicity regardless of the
creative context. This logic jeopardizes the creative use of
historic figures in motion pictures, books, and sound
recordings.”
https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2013/07/ninth-circuit-says-
celebrities-are-more-important-free-speech.

**International Outlook:**

**Secret Trade Negotiations Could Threaten Britain’s Popular National Health Service**
The Trans-Atlantic Free Trade Agreement (TAFTA) is set to
include dangerous Investor-State Dispute Resolution
mechanisms that grant private corporations the unprecedented
right to sue sovereign governments in extra-legal tribunals for
“lost revenues” that they claim resulted from important public
protections. This poses significant threats to essential standards
and safeguards including environmental preservation, food
security, and chemical safety.
Now the British Medical Association, England’s largest union
of doctors and medical students, is warning its members that
the trade agreement’s inclusion of these unprecedented
corporate privileges could also result in “significant damage to
the health of Europe’s citizenry” by opening up the widely
popular National Health Service to less effective and more
expensive private competition.
http://www.foreffectivegov.org/blog/secret-trade-negotiations-
could-threaten-britains-popular-national-health-service.

**Government Information:**

**Updated Database Reveals Significant Chemical Risks Are Distributed Across the Country**
The latest data on chemical storage risks shows that over 50
billion pounds of toxic and flammable chemicals are stored at
12,761 facilities nationwide. The distribution of high-risk
chemical facilities – i.e., those that handle significant quantities
of 140 dangerous chemicals – are available at a website the
Center for Effective Government created and maintains
through the Right-to-Know Network (RTKNET.org).
At facilities that store large quantities of toxic or flammable
chemicals, accidents can quickly become major catastrophes
for workers and residents of surrounding communities. Since
1999, high-risk chemical plants have reported 1,844 accidents
that have resulted in 58 deaths, 17,054 injuries, and over $1.6
billion in property damage. Moreover, almost 263,000 people
in surrounding communities had to be evacuated when the
accidents occurred.
http://www.foreffectivegov.org/updated-database-reveals-
significant-chemical-risks-are-distributed-across-country.

**President’s Message – A New Opportunity to Pay It Forward and Invest in Our Future**
http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2013/08/presidents-message-a-new-opportunity-to-pay-it-forward-and-invest-in-our-future/ August 6,
2013 Categories: Bayline, Chapter Leadership Tags: annual conference, awards, President's message
I am absolutely delighted to announce the creation of a new chapter scholarship program to support student attendance at
the SLA Annual Conference! Beginning in 2014, our chapter
will offer a Conference Travel Stipend Award to a student chapter member.

The award may be granted annually to a student member of the chapter who demonstrates interest in and involvement with the SLA organization, and particularly with the SF Bay Region chapter. The stipend of up to $750 can be used to cover costs associated with attending the SLA Annual Conference. A complete description of the award, qualifications, and requirements, can be accessed at [http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/award-descriptions/student-conference-travel-stipend-award/](http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/award-descriptions/student-conference-travel-stipend-award/); ALA accreditation is not required. The [application](http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/award-descriptions/student-conference-travel-stipend-award/) deadline for 2014 is February 15th.

After 2014, the chapter Board will make a decision annually by the November Board meeting as to whether or not it will be financially feasible for the award to be funded the following year; the availability of the stipend award will then be announced to chapter members by the first week of December annually.

Now, go back and consider the first part of that last sentence. I am thrilled that we’re going to be able to offer this opportunity to our student members in 2014, but we’re also looking for ways to be sure we can continue to fund this award in the long-term, and we want to get as many members involved as possible. Starting with the next chapter program, you will see a new option on the registration form to add a donation to the stipend fund. The PayPal form will allow you to add a $5 donation to your cart. Of course, you can always increase your donation amount in $5 increments by changing the quantity before you check out. You can make similar donations via check with a mailed registration form.

There will be other ways for you to contribute to the long-term viability of this program that will be announced as the year goes on; in the meantime, let me know if you have any suggestions.

I remember going to my very first SLA Annual Conference in Los Angeles in 2002. My attendance was made possible in large part due to the generous [William B. Neff Award](http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/award-descriptions/students-neff-award) offered by the Museums, Arts, and Humanities Division. My career path has diverged from that particular specialty area, but I am still extremely grateful to MAHD for giving me the opportunity to connect with SLA on the Association level. I want our own fantastic student members to have the same opportunity.

I began the year by talking about the theme for my term as chapter president: [Investment](http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/award-descriptions/student-conference-travel-stipend-award/). We are very fortunate to have so many student chapter members who are already investing in their new careers and in SLA. Fully 25% of the Advisory Council committees have been chaired by a student member this year. Many of your other chapter leaders began their service to SLA when they were still students, and I fully expect our tradition of a vibrant student membership to continue. This is a chance for the chapter to invest in our student members. I hope you’ll think back to your first SLA conference, or to a time when an SLA member offered guidance when you were a student or brand new baby librarian, and consider paying that debt forward to the next generation of energetic, actively-involved professionals coming up through our ranks.

By Anne N. Barker
Chapter President

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**Something to do at a conference when you’re a newbie: Get a conference mentor**

Categories: Bayline, Chapter Programs & Events
Tags: annual conference, professional development

_by Henry Mensch_

Even though I have attended the Special Libraries Association annual conference once before, I took advantage of an opportunity offered by the local San Francisco chapter of SLA: the opportunity to have the assistance of a conference mentor. In this case, a conference mentor is someone who helps you figure out how to make the conference work best for you.

I was lucky in that two different conference mentors were assigned to me. They are both well-known in the field (something I didn’t expect—people who were obviously busy but were still willing to make time for an unknown), and both got in touch with me before the conference. Unfortunately, my schedule the week before the conference (combined with my day job’s distance from civilization) meant that I wouldn’t meet up with either mentor until I was actually at the conference. One of my mentors offered the opportunity to meet up for lunch the week before the conference, so this was a missed opportunity for me.

Once we met, however, I found both to be attentive listeners (which turns out to be something I needed at the moment—I have some concerns about the job search that are unique to people in my position that I’ll write up in another blog post) with useful suggestions for directions and approaches to consider. In the week since the close of the conference I’ve already been in touch with both about next steps and have already had responses.
Both also reminded me why I belong to the SLA in the first place: it’s an association for information professionals working in a variety of settings. These information professionals aren’t limited to working in libraries, and that adds up to opportunity for all of us.

Intersect Alert August 11, 2013

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2013/08/intersect-alert-august-11-2013/ August 12, 2013 Categories: Intersect Alert Tags: freedom of information, intellectual property, librarians, open access, privacy, public policy, research, technology

Privacy Issues:

House Subpoenas Personal Medical Information in Continued Assault on Clean Air Policies
On Aug. 2, the House Science Committee issued a subpoena demanding the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency release all underlying data and personal medical information from two crucial studies the agency has relied on in setting air quality standards since 1997. The main study at issue, called the Six Cities Study, was peer reviewed and originally published in the New England Journal of Medicine in 1993. Researchers from Harvard tracked thousands of adult Americans over a 16-year period and concluded that there exists a “statistically robust association between air pollution and mortality.” C. Arden Pope, an economist and one of the original authors of the Six Cities Study, has criticized the subcommittee’s actions. Pope reminded the subcommittee that the complete data set was not released because doing so would “undoubtedly violate the confidentiality agreement made with [study] participants.”


Global Coalition States Principles to Protect Human Rights from Surveillance
For some time now there has been a need to update understandings of existing human rights law to reflect modern surveillance technologies and techniques. Nothing could demonstrate the urgency of this situation more than the recent revelations confirming the mass surveillance of innocent individuals around the world. To move toward that goal, today we’re pleased to announce the launch of the International Principles on the Application of Human Rights to Communications Surveillance. The thirteen principles articulate what international human rights law – which binds every country across the globe – require of governments conducting surveillance in the digital age. The product of over a year of consultation among civil society, privacy and technology experts, the principles have already been co-signed by over hundred organisations from around the world.

Open Access:

[University of California] Academic Senate approves open access policy
The Academic Senate of the University of California has passed an Open Access Policy, ensuring that future research articles authored by faculty at all 10 campuses of UC will be made available to the public at no charge. Articles will be available to the public without charge via eScholarship (UC’s open access repository) in tandem with their publication in scholarly journals. Open access benefits researchers, educational institutions, businesses, research funders and the public by accelerating the pace of research, discovery and innovation and contributing to the mission of advancing knowledge and encouraging new ideas and services.


The new policy was criticized, however, for having an “opt-out” option.

Obama Administration Releases Previously Secret Legal Opinion on NSA’s Associational Tracking Program
The Administration released a White Paper on Friday that summarized its claimed legal basis for the bulk collection of telephony metadata, also known as the Associational Tracking Program under section 215 of the Patriot Act, codified as 50 U.S.C. section 1861. While we’ll certainly be saying more about this analysis in the future, the paper makes one central point clear:

There is no direct authorization for the Associational Tracking Program in section Patriot Act section 215.

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2013/08/administration-white-paper-associational-tracking-program.

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This post also appeared on Henry Mensch’s Info Guy blog and is re-posted with the author’s permission. -editor
Public Policy:

Diverse Contributors Revisit CIPA: 10 Years Later
Recently the [ALA] Office for Information Technology Policy and [ALA] Office for Intellectual Freedom hosted day-and-a-half symposium to look at how libraries have implemented the requirements of the Children’s Internet Protection Act (CIPA) over the last 10 years since the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the law’s constitutionality. Symposium participants reviewed old issues (such as the fact commercial filtering companies decide what is blocked and do not share this information with libraries and schools), as well as new ones (inhibiting user-generated content) that have emerged as the internet and technology tools continue to evolve. OITP and OIF will produce a final white paper sharing background, key findings and recommendations from the symposium later this fall.
http://www.districtdispatch.org/2013/08/diverse-contributors-revisit-cipa-10-years-later/.

5th Anniversary of Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act: Five Safety Breakthroughs in Five Years
On August 14, 2008, the CPSIA was signed into law after a deliberative process and overwhelming bipartisan support in both the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate. The law includes strong product safety reforms that revitalized the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC). In the five years since CPSIA was passed, there have been five significant safety breakthroughs:
– The SaferProducts.gov database;
– Third-party premarket testing for children’s products;
– The reduction of lead in children’s products through lower lead limits;
– Strong mandatory standards for cribs and other infant and toddler products; and
– A mandatory safety standard for children’s toys.
The CPSIA represents the most comprehensive strengthening of product safety laws in a generation.

Digital History:

Internet Search Engines Drove US Librarians to Redefine Themselves
Although librarians adopted Internet technology quickly, they initially dismissed search engines, which duplicated tasks they considered integral to their field. Their eventual embrace of the technology required a reinvention of their occupational identity, according to a study by University of Oregon researchers. The story of the successful transition — of accommodating a new technology — into a new identity is a good example for professionals in other fields who have faced or currently face such challenges.
http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2013/08/130807134506.htm

Freedom of Information:

Migration Declassified: ICE’s Controversial Secure Communities Program
Recently, Laura Kauer of the Archive’s Mexico/Migration Project launched a new round of Freedom of Information Act requests on what has become one of the most controversial immigration enforcement initiatives in the United States: the Secure Communities deportation program. The data-sharing program requires participating state and municipal jurisdictions to run the fingerprints of arrestees through various federal law enforcement databases to check for immigration violations. More than 90% of those arrested through the Secure Communities are Latino, and approximately 3,600 U.S. citizens have been arrested by ICE through the program. More than one-third (39%) of individuals arrested through Secure Communities reported that they have a U.S. citizen spouse or child, meaning that approximately 88,000 families with U.S. citizen members have been impacted by the program.
http://nsarchive.wordpress.com/2013/08/06/migration-declassified-ices-controversial-secure-communities-program/

FreedomHack: A Hackathon for Good
This weekend, August 10-11, coders, hackers, policy experts and journalists will spend 24 hours at a hackathon feverishly working together to develop tools and products that will help those living in the most dangerous parts of the world tell their stories. This is FreedomHack. This hackathon will focus on developing secure tools and products for those who live in parts of Mexico that have been overrun by cartel violence and human rights related issues. Citizen reporters and journalists regularly face threats on their lives and at the very least, censorship on the vital topics they are reporting. FreedomHack will provide these individuals with the tools and the confidence to get their stories out of their town or village and into the global community. This can foster the change and awareness necessary to make a positive impact on the lives of those affected.

Intellectual Property Issues:

Hospitals Say Device Manufacturers Resist Boosting Cybersecurity
Hospitals face increasing security threats from the many connected devices that now occupy their facilities. [The] American Hospital Association, the [National Business Group on Health] and the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society are among the trade groups joining in a legal battle with device manufacturers to have the consumer electronics manufacturers agree to boost the security of their products. Hospitals say that because they have limited resources, they are at risk to the cyberattacks.
manufacturers frequently resist or delay boosting the security of their products to protect against cyberattacks. They say that manufacturers cite concerns about FDA medical device regulations and whether adding such security measures would require them to re-submit their devices for approval.

Mac McMillan — co-founder and CEO of CynergisTek — said that every time his company “[goes] into a hospital to conduct a risk analysis we have heard the same consistent story: medical devices running on obsolete software, that are not encryptable, that don’t have antivirus running on them, that aren’t patched or fixed, because the manufacturers won’t allow it.”


Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety. The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.

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**Intersect Alert August 18, 2013**


**Freedom of Information:**

**Federal Judge: EPA May Have Skirted FOIA Law with Secret Emails**
The Environmental Protection Agency may have intentionally skirted public disclosure requirements under the Freedom of Information Act, a federal judge ruled Thursday.

U. S. District Judge for the District of Columbia Royce Lambert ordered [PDF] the EPA to submit to discovery in a case brought against it by the conservative group Landmark Legal Foundation and said the foundation can seek information to determine whether top EPA officials used personal email accounts to conduct official business.

Lambert also said the EPA’s statements concerning its search for records were incomplete and “contain numerous inconsistencies and reversals which undermine confidence in their truthfulness.”


**Kickstarter: FOIA Machine, by The Center for Investigative Reporting**

To make government accountable, people have to know the facts. But prying secrets out of Washington is hard. FOIA Machine can help. Some of America’s top investigative reporters are building a sophisticated and open online platform to give people a legal way to get these secrets from the government. It’s called FOIA Machine.

FOIA Machine [is] an integrated web platform developed by veteran investigative reporters and technology pros. It’s sponsored by the award-winning nonprofit The Center for Investigative Reporting. It’s like TurboTax for government records. We’re streamlining the complicated process of filing and tracking public record requests, putting all of the steps, rules, exceptions and best practices in one place and allowing users to track requests on dashboards, receive alerts, share request blueprints and get social support and expertise from the FOIA Machine community.

http://www.kickstarter.com/projects/cir/foia-machine and


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**Publishing:**

**Millions Qualify for E-book Refunds**
The $166 million publishers have agreed to pay to settle e-book price fixing charges with the states and consumer class could soon begin flowing to consumers, and PW has learned that more than 23 million consumer accounts are eligible to receive refunds. Representatives from Rust Consulting, the firm retained to administer the settlement fund, confirmed to PW that 23,073,840 customers of Amazon, Apple, Barnes & Noble, Kobo, Google, and Sony have been directly notified via e-mail or by postcard that they are eligible to participate in the settlement.


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**Digital History:**

**Hot off the presses: NDSA National Agenda for Digital Stewardship**
The inaugural National Agenda for Digital Stewardship has
just been released in conjunction with the first day of the Digital Preservation 2013 meeting in Washington, D.C. While the report admits that “it has become increasingly difficult to adequately preserve valuable digital content because of a complex set of interrelated societal, technological, financial, and organizational pressures,” it’s great to see this call for community effort that especially speaks to the need to preserve digital government records.

The Agenda outlines the challenges and opportunities related to digital preservation activities in four broad areas: Organizational Roles, Policies, and Practices; Digital Content Areas; Infrastructure Development; and Research Priorities. http://freegovinfo.info/node/3990.

Library of Congress acts as America’s hard drive
There’s more than one site for the Library of Congress, and some of its campuses can be pretty far outside of the Beltway and off the beaten path, while still serving an important job. Located 70 miles southwest of D.C., the Library of Congress’s Packard Campus is in Culpeper, Va. In a thick, sturdy building that makes you feel as if you’re perpetually in some sort of “LOST” bunker (it actually was built as an apocalypse bunker during the Cold War), it is ground zero for the library’s efforts to digitize and save every TV program, movie, CD and album in American history. Even video games and the occasional YouTube clip.

Open Access:
Visual Proof That Geographic Data Really Should Be Free
When the New York City government released a huge collection of geo-spatial data sets a few weeks ago, it really was Christmas in July — at least for all those who love analyzing the city through data and maps. Just a few weeks ago, New York City government gave in to mounting pressure from New York’s open data community, and opened up the PLUTO and MapPLUTO, data sets filled with tax lot information. Data sets on zoning and sidewalk cafes are now also available to the public.

Whereas you once had to pay $1,500, now the entire package of data — cleverly trademarked “BYTES of the BIG APPLE” by the city — can be accessed for free.

Open Content, An Idea Whose Time Has Come
Today the Getty becomes an even more engaged digital citizen, one that shares its collections, research, and knowledge more openly than ever before. We’ve launched the Open Content Program to share, freely and without restriction, as many of the Getty’s digital resources as possible. The initial focus of the Open Content Program is to make available all images of public domain artworks in the Getty’s collections. Today we’ve taken a first step toward this goal by making roughly 4,600 high-resolution images of the Museum’s collection free to use, modify, and publish for any purpose. These are high-resolution, reproduction-quality images with embedded metadata, some over 100 megabytes in size.

Libraries:

Marin’s top librarian: Public has right to know
Marin County’s chief librarian is a public information advocate who believes libraries must become increasingly relevant to the communities they serve. “The challenge I face as the leader for the Marin County Free Library is determining how to be the library that thrives and provides truly exceptional service to the community,” said Sara Jones, who took over last month.

“I am a huge believer in the public’s right to know and access to public records,” she said. Her advice to other public officials: “Write an email the way you want it to appear in the newspaper. It is public information.”

Registration open for “What’s in the News” with Lori Hines
What’s in the News:
A look at the Fang Family San Francisco Examiner photographic negative collection

with

Lori Hines, Pictorial Archivist

Bancroft Library, UC Berkeley

Tuesday, September 24, 2013, 5:30 – 8:00 P.M.
Pican Restaurant, Oakland

Seven years ago, the Bancroft Library received its largest gift to date, the San Francisco Examiner’s photographic archive. This remarkable collection serves as a comprehensive document of life in the Bay Area through the 20th century. In addition to photographs, it contains 50 bound volumes of the newspaper’s archival copy, which spans from 1888 to 1956, as well as the clipping files, which add up to more than 3,000 linear feet of materials combined. The collection’s contents date from 1919 to the late 1990’s, and consist of roughly 5 million items. Featured subjects include Jim Jones, the 1978 assassination of San Francisco Mayor George Moscone and Supervisor Harvey Milk, Joan Baez performing with the Grateful Dead, Pope John Paul II’s visit to San Francisco in 1987, and the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake.

An effort is currently underway to digitize the collection, which has been named the Fang Family Archives. As one of the archivists leading this effort, Lori will present a slideshow and talk on her experience sorting, re-housing, and describing the contents of the collection, as well as trends in journalism, culture, and history.

Please note: Some images shown might be shocking or considered offensive.

The talk will take place at Pican, a modern, California-infused southern restaurant in downtown Oakland. We’ll gather for appetizers and networking at 5:30, with announcements at 6:45. The presentation will begin promptly at 7:00.

When: Tuesday, September 24th, 2013, 5:30 – 8:00

Agenda:

- 5:30 – 6:45 Registration, networking and appetizers
- 6:45 – 7:00 Announcements
- 7:00 – 8:00 Program with Q&A following

Where: Pican, 2295 Broadway, Oakland, CA 94612 (4 blocks from 19th Street BART)

Menu: A variety of hot and cold hors d’oeuvres will be served, as will non-alcoholic beverages. Beer, wine and cocktails will be available for purchase from a no-host bar.

Cost: $30 for SLA members and SIIA INFO Local: San Francisco members, $50 for non-members, and $20 for student/retiree/between jobs members.

Registration Deadline: Registration is now closed.

We would like to extend our thanks to the generous sponsors of this event:

Share this:

Fall Professional Development Webinar: Success in Tough Times

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2013/08/fall-professional-development-webinar-success-in-tough-times/ August 24, 2013 Categories: Bayline, Chapter Programs & Events Tags: events, professional development

Richard Hulser

Success in tough times:

How to re-energize library services

Online Webinar on Tuesday, October 22, 2013, 6pm – 7:30pm (Pacific)

Presented by

We are all challenged with limited resources in a changing information services landscape. In this webinar Richard Hulser will talk about strategies and tactics you can use to successfully re-energize your library services. Richard P. Hulser is chief librarian, Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County. He will use his library as a practical case study for this enlightening webinar.
Whether you are currently working in a library or not, this will be an interesting session. The Research Library has been an integral part of the Museum since its founding in 1913, and its holdings reflect the breadth of its collections in anthropology, ethnology, zoology, mineralogy, paleontology, and history – especially as they relate to Southern California history, geography and industry.

Richard has over 30 years of international experience working in and with a variety of library and cultural institutions to enhance their use of technology for information management. Richard is an SIIA Certified Contents Rights Manager, a Fellow of SLA, and has served on the SLA Board of Directors. He has held a variety of other elected and appointed positions in SLA, including Chair of the SLA Museums, Arts & Humanities Division, President of the Connecticut Valley Chapter, and Chair of the Science-Technology Division.

Richard holds an ALA accredited M.A. in librarianship & information management from the University of Denver; M.Ed. in instructional media and instructional product development from Utah State University; and B.S. in earth & space sciences from Stony Brook University. His blog is Cybrarian Views

SLA Program Costs:
$15 for SLA members and SIIA INFO Local: San Francisco members; $30 for non-members/guests; $10 for students/retirees/unemployed.

Where:
By phone and online via GoToWebinar, hosted by SLA-SF. You will need a computer with internet access. For the audio, you can use your computer audio or telephone (toll call). The link and call information will be provided after verification of registration payment.

Registration:
Registration is now closed.

Intersect Alert August 25, 2013


Freedom of Information:

Bradley Manning: “Sometimes You Have to Pay a Heavy Price to Live in a Free Society”
From a transcript of the statement made by Pfc. Bradley Manning after Manning was sentenced to 35 years in prison:
“Patriotism is often the cry extolled when morally questionable acts are advocated by those in power. When these cries of patriotism drown out any logically based intentions […], it is usually an American soldier that is ordered to carry out some ill-conceived mission.

I will serve my time knowing that sometimes you have to pay a heavy price to live in a free society.”
http://www démocracynow.org/blog/2013/8/21/bradley_manning_sometimes_you_have_to_pay_a_heavy

CIA closes office that declassifies historical materials
The budget ax has fallen on a CIA office that focused on declassifying historical materials, a move scholars say will mean fewer public disclosures about long-buried intelligence secrets and scandals. The Historical Collections Division, which has declassified documents on top Soviet spies, a secret CIA airline in the Vietnam War, the Cuban missile crisis and other major operations, has been disbanded. The office that handles Freedom of Information Act requests will take over the work.

“This move is a true loss to the public,” said Mark Zaid, a Washington lawyer who frequently litigates against the CIA. He said the CIA office that handles Freedom of Information Act requests “is the most obstructionist and unfriendly of those I have dealt with.”

Nixon tapes [to be released] span Watergate, Soviet summit
The final chronological installment of [the] tapes – 340 hours – were posted online by the National Archives and Records Administration as part of a release that also includes more than 140,000 pages of text documents. Another 700 hours of tapes remain sealed for national security and privacy reasons. Since 2007, the National Archives has released hundreds of hours of the tapes, offering the public an unvarnished and sometimes shocking view of the inner workings of Nixon's administration and insight into the president’s private musings on everything from Watergate to Vietnam.
EFF Victory Results in Release of Secret Court Opinion Finding NSA Surveillance Unconstitutional

For over a year, the Electronic Frontier Foundation has been fighting the government in federal court to force the public release of an 86-page opinion of the secret Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court (FISC). Issued in October 2011, the secret court’s opinion found that surveillance conducted by the NSA under the FISA Amendments Act was unconstitutional and violated “the spirit of” federal law. In response to EFF’s FOIA lawsuit, the government has released the 2011 FISA court opinion ruling some NSA surveillance unconstitutional. 


Digital History:

Women Contributors Still Face Hurdles at Wikipedia

For all its efforts, Wikipedia has been unable to attract more women to its ranks of contributors. Wikipedia has come a long way since its inception in 2001, but the proportion of female contributors at the online encyclopedia remains stubbornly low. Men still account for an overwhelming 87% of Wikipedia’s contributors.

Wikipedia’s “deletionist” culture toward entries submitted by or about women exacerbates the situation. Articles about women scientists, biographers and women’s issues get flagged for speedy removal more often than other types of articles.


Launching the world’s first 3D virtual fossil collection

The British Geological Survey is today launching the world’s first 3D virtual fossil collection to the public. Thousands of 3D digital fossil models, plus several thousand quality images, many in 3D, can now be browsed and downloaded for free on a computer, tablet or phone. The GB3D Type Fossils Online project, funded by Jisc, has rescued fossils from dusty drawers and made them available for academics, researchers and fossil enthusiasts to enjoy at their leisure.


Intellectual Property:


Today, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) released a report that legitimizes the White House and public interest claims that patent abusers are taking advantage of innovators at an increasing rate. The report, which is based on interviews with various stakeholders and independent researchers, identifies numerous areas for potential reform within the patent system. The GAO report shows that the number of patent lawsuits has greatly increased in the last few years because of an industry of patent assertion entities (PAE) or patent trolls.


Privacy:

CVS thinks $50 is enough reward for giving up healthcare privacy

The drugstore chain is expanding its ExtraCare rewards program for prescription drugs, but to join consumers must give up healthcare privacy protections under HIPAA. Since February, CVS Caremark has been pushing its pharmacists to enroll customers in a prescription-drug rewards program. The benefit to customers is the opportunity to earn up to $50 a year in store credits that can be used to buy shampoo, toothpaste or other products. The benefit to CVS is persuading pharmacy customers, through questionable means, to give up federal privacy safeguards for their medical information and permitting the company to share people’s drug purchases with others.


Internet Access:

Limiting the Use of Port Blocking Advances Internet Neutrality

In debates over Internet neutrality, “port blocking” may not be getting the headlines these days, but it was once a more common practice among Internet service providers (ISPs) and is still in use today. A new report (PDF) from the Broadband Internet Technical Advisory Group (BITAG) makes a strong recommendation against the practice of port blocking unless no other reasonable alternatives exist. The report discusses alternatives to port blocking for ISPs to consider and other steps to minimize its impact when deployed.

“Port blocking” refers to the practice of an ISP identifying Internet traffic by its port number (and some information about
the transport protocol in use) and blocking it from reaching its destination. Port blocking can cause applications to “break” by preventing applications from using the ports they were designed to use. BITAG recognizes that there can be security benefits to port blocking, but that overall it can also have detrimental effects for users, application developers and the Internet ecosystem.


Libraries:

Books Behind Bars: The Literary World of “Orange is the New Black”
“Orange is the New Black” (OITNB; based on the real life memoirs of Piper Kerman via her book Orange is the New Black: My Year in a Women’s Prison) premiered on Netflix on July 13 and I, like many others, settled down with a family-size bag of Sun Chips to unapologetically binge-watch the entire season that very same Saturday. It struck me how many people on the show are seen doing something that’s unusual for television: reading books.

One of Kerman’s goals while she was in prison was to read through her Amazon Wish List (which is still up if you want to check it out). In prisons in the US, books and libraries are lifelines for inmates. But aside from the library itself, books are visible in a majority of scenes in the show.


Intersect Alert September 1, 2013


Intellectual Property:

I Have a Copyright: The Problem With MLK’s Speech
I have a dream that on the red hills of Georgia, the great-grandsons of former slaves and the great-grandsons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood this week, open their MacBooks and pull up the seminal speech on the internet.

But that speech is not free, alas. It will not be in the public domain until 2038, 70 years after King’s death. Until then, any commercial enterprises wishing to legally broadcast King’s iconic "I Have a Dream" speech, delivered August 28, 1963, on the National Mall, or reprint its words must pay a hefty fee.

Due to the well-known lawsuits against news organizations and other smaller legal scuffles, King’s children have a reputation for maintaining a level of control over their father’s legacy that is rigorous at best and avaricious at worst.


Former White House "intellectual property czar" immediately jumps ship to Microsoft-driven anti-piracy lobbying group BSA
Just weeks after leaving the White House, Victoria Espinel will take over as the head of the Business Software Alliance, a group with a shameful past of overaggressive anti-piracy and pro-software patent positions, driven in large part by legacy software companies long past their innovation stage, and well into their "litigation" against innovators stage. The organization tends to take its orders mainly from Microsoft and Autodesk, two proponents of very strong copyright and patent enforcement, because it helps those legacy companies ward off competitors and disruptive innovators.


A Year Later, Opposition Briefs Filed in Authors Guild vs. Google
After a delay of more than a year, the long-running Authors Guild vs. Google case is heating up again with opposition to Summary Judgment briefs filed this week in the long-running case. In its filing, Authors Guild attorneys argue that Google’s fair use analysis fails, and that its library scanning project is not some public service but a commercial attempt to "gain a competitive advantage over other search engines and to generate even greater advertising revenues." Google counters that its scan plan is protected by fair use, and argues that the program offers public benefits as well as benefits to authors. And, it argues, there is no evidence of any harm to copyright holders.
Federal District Court Orders Food and Drug Administration to Produce Records Regarding New Drug Application Pursuant to Freedom of Information Act

Sponsors of developmental new drugs may want to take additional steps to protect their trade secrets and confidential information in the wake of a recent federal court decision narrowly interpreting certain exemptions to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). On August 6, 2013, the United States District Court for the Central District of California ordered the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to release unredacted versions of safety and efficacy records regarding a new drug application, finding that the new drug’s sponsor faced no current or immediate threat of future competition. http://www.natlawreview.com/article/federal-district-court-orders-food-and-drug-administration-fda-to-produce-records

Public Policy:

OpenGov Voices: Keeping Tabs on Your Local City Council with Councilmatic

City councils shape nearly every aspect of city life, from what kind of canopy you can have on a storefront, to how much we pay in taxes, to the number of cops on the street. Unfortunately, it is hard for citizens to keep tabs on what their city council is doing. A few years ago, if you wanted to be informed about a city council’s actions, you had to go to the clerk’s office and page through the hundreds or thousands of bills that were added or updated every month. In recent years, many city clerks have taken a big step forward by publishing this legislation online. However, the current generation of municipal legislative information systems are mainly built to help councilmembers and clerks’ offices manage legislation. They were not built to help the public to understand what their city council is doing.

Well, like so many of our problems, now there’s an app for that: Councilmatic. https://sunlightfoundation.com/blog/2013/06/21/opengov-voices-keeping-tabs-on-your-local-city-council-with-councilmatic/.

International Outlook:

India seeks transparency with Right to Information Portal

Following a slew of public corruption cases over the last few years, India fights back with citizens now demanding transparency and accountability through the Government’s new Right to Information Portal. They can now submit online requests for information on all central government ministries and departments. Launching the portal, the Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, V. Narayanasamy, described it as “a weapon in the hands of the people.” http://www.futuregov.asia/articles/2013/aug/23/india-seeks-transparency-right-information-portal/

Libraries for Afghan women are Scots aid worker’s legacy

A network of 40 community libraries will be set up across Afghanistan thanks to the charity established in memory of a Scots aid worker killed in the country. The Linda Norgrove Foundation will set up the scheme after receiving a grant of nearly £500,000 from the United States International Development Agency, specifically to fund the establishment of the libraries and literacy schemes for women and girls. Some 840 women will receive literacy classes and more than 20,000 people are expected to use the community libraries being set up by Afghanistan Reads, a community literacy project supported by the Norgrove Foundation. Literacy in Afghanistan is among the lowest in the world. It is estimated only 20% of women are literate and the figure is three times lower in rural areas. Recent research from Unicef Afghanistan suggests only a third of women educated to primary school level retain their literacy skills because of a lack of ongoing access to written materials. http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/libraries-for-afghan-women-are-scots-aid-workers-legacy.21955110.

Freedom of Information:

National Archives Quietly Pulls School of the Americas Human Rights Evidence Citing Possible "Terrorist Activity"

In August 2012 records of School of the Americas (the U.S. military school that trained notorious Latin American leaders such as Manuel Noriega and Efraín Rios Montt) started disappearing from the shelves of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). These student academic records shed light on U.S. complicity in the training of some of Latin America’s most infamous human rights violators. These specific records are valuable for both academic researchers and legal efforts to bring human rights violators to justice, and their disappearance from NARA’s shelves illuminates the larger chilling problem with NARA’s opaque guidelines for restricting previously accessible documents. http://nsarchive.wordpress.com/2013/08/30/national-archives-quietly-pulls-school-of-the-americas-human-rights-evidence-citing-possible-terrorist-activity/.

Libraries:

Shanghai metro creates a subway-only library for commuters

Chinese subway riders using Shanghai’s Metro Line 2 will soon have their very own unofficial library. Pick up a book at
one station, drop it off at any other. The project was initiated by a bookstore, the subway line and the online education provider Hujiang.com.

Special bookshelves are installed at the metro stations, containing rows books for the taking. There’s no registration necessary, and no fee; readers are simply encouraged to make a small charitable donation when taking a book.

http://www.latimes.com/books/jacketcopy/la-et-jc-shanghai-metro-library-20130826,0,2592726.story

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**Intersect Alert September 8, 2013**

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2013/09/intersect-alert-september-8-2013/ September 8, 2013 Categories: Intersect Alert Tags: freedom of information, government, intellectual property, international outlook, internet access, open access

**Freedom of Information**

**Shedding Light on Political Ads: Database Should be Comprehensive, Easier to Use**

"On Aug. 26, the Center for Effective Government joined comments by the Public Interest Public Airwaves Coalition and the Sunlight Foundation urging the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to make information about televised political advertisements more accessible. Greater disclosure of political ad spending will strengthen the integrity of our elections by informing voters about who is buying such ads."

http://www.foreffectivegov.org/shedding-light-political-ads-database-should-be-comprehensive-easier-to-use

**National Archives Issues Guidance for Managing Billions of Federal Emails**

“The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) has issued guidance for Federal agencies on a simplified approach to managing email. NARA Bulletin 2013-02: Guidance on a New Approach to Managing Email Records introduces a new approach to managing the billions of email messages that are sent or received in Federal agencies. The approach is called “Capstone.”"


**Appeals court says White House visitor logs can be kept from public**

"President Obama and his successors in the Oval Office are not obligated to make public the names of individuals visiting the White House, according to a decision of the federal Circuit Court for the District of Columbia made public Friday. The case was brought by Judicial Watch, the government watchdog nonprofit that has been fighting a long legal battle seeking to force release of the White House visitor logs as public records under the Freedom of Information Act. But in a decision that is drawing intense criticism from across the ideological spectrum, the circuit court said the president has a “constitutional prerogative” not to tell the American people who he or his staff meets with in the White House."


**White House opens up on Open Government 2.0**

“The next iteration of the National Action Plan on Open Government is in the works and the administration wants public input, according to a blog post from Deputy Chief Technology Officer Nick Sinai. Sinai posed a series of questions that hint at possible policy directions for the administration. The post asks for suggestions on improving agency interaction with citizens in decision-making, boosting transparency in tracking federal spending, deciding what kinds of government information should be released to the public, and augmenting customer service for those seeking information or benefits. The administration is also looking for suggestions on information that could help entrepreneurs launch new businesses and ideas on policy areas that could benefit from the administration’s “challenge grant” system of finding solutions to knotty problems through public contests.”

http://fcw.com/articles/2013/09/04/open-gov-2-point-0.aspx

**Internet Access**

**The Cost of Censorship in Libraries: 10 Years Under the Children’s Internet Protection Act**

“This year marks the 10-year anniversary of the enforcement of the Children’s Internet Protection Act (CIPA), which brought new levels of Internet censorship to libraries across the country. CIPA was signed into law in 2000 and found constitutional by the Supreme Court in 2003. The law is supposed to encourage public libraries and schools to filter child pornography and obscene or “harmful to minors” images from the library’s Internet connection in exchange for continued federal funding. Unfortunately, as Deborah Caldwell-Stone explains in Filtering and the First Amendment, aggressive interpretations of this law have resulted in extensive and unnecessary censorship in libraries, often because libraries go beyond the legal requirements of CIPA when implementing content filters. As a result, students and library patrons across the country are routinely and unnecessarily blocked from accessing constitutionally protected websites.”

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2013/09/cost-censorship-libraries-10-years-under-childrens-internet-protection-act
What is Net Neutrality Again?
“Net neutrality is going to be back in the news for the next week or so. That’s because next week will feature an oral argument about the FCC’s Open Internet rules (that’s the FCC’s name for its net neutrality rules) before the DC Circuit Court. Since it has been a little while since the last big net neutrality news, we wanted to take a moment to bring everyone back up to speed. Today’s post will remind you what net neutrality is and why it is a good idea. Tomorrow we’ll discuss the FCC’s actual implementation of net neutrality through its Open Internet order. And on Thursday we will go over the issue actually being argued before the DC Circuit – if the FCC even has the authority to implement rules in the first place. Contrary to how it is sometimes used, net neutrality is not synonymous with “something bad happening on the internet.” It actually refers to something fairly specific. Simply put, net neutrality is the principle that the company that connects you to the internet does not get to control what you do on the internet.”

http://www.publicknowledge.org/blog/what-net-neutrality

Taking a Closer Look at Net Neutrality Rules
“Yesterday, Michael wrote about the importance of net neutrality, and what’s at stake in the court case that will be argued next Monday. Today, I’d like to take a closer look at the source of the court case that’s going to be argued next Monday: the FCC’s net neutrality rules that Verizon is suing to overturn.”


What The Court Will Decide On Network Neutrality—Officially
“On Tuesday, Michael Weinberg wrote about why we at PK think network neutrality is important, and Sherwin Siy explained the actual net neutrality rules the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) adopted. None of this, however, will get debated in the courtroom on Monday September 9 when the oral argument finally happens – at least not officially. In theory, the reviewing court will focus on two things. Did the FCC have the authority to make the net neutrality rules? And, even if the FCC does have the authority, does something else prohibit the FCC from exercising that authority here?”

http://www.publicknowledge.org/blog/what-court-will-decide-network-neutrality-off

Open Access

Introducing the Open Access Policy Implementation (OAPI) project
“On July 24, 2013, the Academic Senate of the University of California passed an Open Access Policy, ensuring that future research articles authored by faculty at all 10 campuses of UC will be made available to the public at no charge. The Open Access Policy Implementation (OAPI) project is a partnership between the California Digital Library and UC campuses to build tools and services that will support faculty participation in the UC Open Access Policy.”

http://www.cdlib.org/cdlinfo/2013/09/04/introducing-the-open-access-policy-implementation-oapi-project/

International Outlook

Brazil’s lower house bans secret voting after protests
“Brazil’s Chamber of Deputies has approved a ban on secret voting in both houses of Congress. The measure, which will now have to be approved by the Senate, had been a key demand by protesters who took to the streets of major cities in June. They said they wanted more transparency to know where their parliamentary representatives stood on key decisions.”

http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-latin-america-23960001

From Canada: Release of government documents backlogged
“Canada’s Privy Council Office has stopped releasing 30-year-old federal cabinet records on an annual basis, resulting in a seven-year backlog of archival government material. In the early 1980s, the PCO began transferring cabinet records, declassified after a 30-year holding period, to the National Archives (which became Library and Archives Canada in 2004) where they became publicly available. After an initial document dump that included records dated from 1937 to 1952, the PCO released the records on an annual basis. After 2008, two years after Prime Minister Stephen Harper was elected, the tradition of annual releases stopped.”


Intellectual Property

Eight Years Later, the Google Books Fight Lumbers On
“Like a pair of boxers staggering from their corners for the ninth round, Google and the Authors Guild traded another round of briefs last week in their long-running, slow-moving Google Books fight. There is very little left to be said at this point in the case, and they said it at great length. The question is, why are they still fighting?”


Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety.

The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.
Bay Area professional information seekers and sellers strengthen association


Contact: Heather Gamberg, SLA SF Bay Region PR Chair, 415-438-6437 or hgamberg@foley.com

San Francisco, 9 September 2013 – The Special Libraries Association and the Software & Information Industry Association are strengthening their relationship through collaboration in the Bay Area.

SLA’s SF Bay Region Chapter and SIIA’s INFO Local: San Francisco program are cross-promoting and offering reciprocal registration at member rates for their programs. “We are very excited to be developing the SLA-SIIA partnership in the San Francisco area,” said Anne Barker, president of the San Francisco chapter of SLA. “In addition to expanding the programming available for our members, this collaboration expands our professional networks. Many of our members have purchasing responsibility for information and database products within their organizations, and we all use these services on a daily basis. Creating opportunities for SLA and SIIA members to engage with each other at the local level is a natural expansion of our associations’ efforts.”

At the association level, SLA has been an SIIA member since 2006 and SLA and SIIA’s Content Division have partnered since 2011 on the Buyer-Seller Project, including co-hosting Buyer/Supplier Forums at SIIA’s Information Industry Summit and SLA’s Annual Conference. The Buyer-Seller Project is a series of programs designed to build meaningful dialog between buyers of enterprise-class information and content products, and the vendors selling those products.

SLA-SF Bay Region Chapter’s next program, the first in which SIIA is invited to attend for member prices, takes place Tuesday, Sept. 24, in Oakland. Lori Hines, pictorial archivist at the Bancroft Library, will present “What’s in the News: A Look at the Fang Family San Francisco Examiner Photographic Negative Collection.” This remarkable collection serves as a comprehensive documentation of life in the Bay Area through the 20th Century. Featured subjects include the 1978 assassination of San Francisco Mayor George Moscone and Supervisor Harvey Milk, Joan Baez performing with the Grateful Dead, Pope John Paul II’s visit to San Francisco in 1987, and the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake. The program is open to anyone who wants to attend. The non-member fee is $50 per person. For more information, visit http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2013/08/registration-open-for-whats-in-the-news-with-lori-hines.

About SLA
The Special Libraries Association (SLA) is a nonprofit global organization for innovative information professionals and their strategic partners. SLA serves 9,000 members in 75 countries in the information profession, including corporate, academic and government information specialists. SLA promotes and strengthens its members through learning, advocacy and networking initiatives. For more information, visit www.sla.org.

About SLA SF Bay Region

The San Francisco Bay Region Chapter (http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/about/), established in 1924, has been organizing programs of interest to librarians and information professionals for nearly 90 years. There are currently more than 300 members who are employed by law firms, corporations, universities, nonprofits, and other organizations or are interested in the information field, for instance students of library or information science.

About SIIA

The Software & Information Industry Association is the principal trade association for the software and digital content industry. SIIA provides global services in government relations, business development, corporate education and intellectual property protection to more than 700 leading software and information companies. The SIIA Content Division serves the media, publishing, information services and technology companies that drive the $506 billion content industry. The division is dedicated to helping its members successfully navigate the dramatic changes in content creation, business models, and technology impacting the content industry. Member companies create, publish, and deliver content across all online, mobile and digital platforms; produce content-focused software applications and tools; develop enabling technologies; and offer services focused on the content industry. For more information, visit www.siia.net/content.

About SIIA INFO Local: San Francisco

SIIA has more than 60 member companies in the Bay Area and organizes events under the banner of INFO Local: San Francisco (http://www.siia.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1267&Itemid=1326).

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Share this:
Sonoma County Wine Library Tour Recap

On July 27th about 20 members of the SLA SF Bay Region toured the Sonoma County Wine Library which was started in 1989 and is located in the Healdsburg branch of the Public Library. It’s right in the back of the library. The tour was given by Jon Haupt, their generous and knowledgeable librarian.

The collection focuses on the history of wine production in California, but broadens out to all of America, and then the rest of the wine growing regions in the world. The library is a reference resource for the wine makers in the region, with science and technical materials to support winemaking and viticulture, including Biology of Water Treatment. The range of books in the collection goes from Wines for Dummies, Africa Uncorked to Okanagan Wine Tour Guide (the Okanagan wine region is in the Thompson River Valley of British Columbia – it’s in the book).

Jon said “there comes a point when you can’t talk about wine without food, so we could become a culinary library.” This explained the olive oil, spirits and beer sections.

There is a team of users who help Jon with the strategic planning for the library. “Some of the neatest things we have were given to us by vintners”, Jon said. One of the most interesting parts of the collection to me were the files of materials on the old wineries and the historical labels. The wine library has a grant from the California State Library to migrate and index these wine files as part of a worldwide index of wine articles.

The library has some old and rare books in the collection, though funding for developing this part of the collection has been diminishing over the years. I have to say that I was happy to see the 27 CFR for 1991 (Code of Federal Regulations, Title 27 – Alcohol, Tobacco Products and Firearms).

The library has lots of events, including talks and wine tasting – of course. You can follow the wine library on their blog at http://sonomalibrary.org/blogs/wine/.

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SLA Annual Conference Session Recap: “Dream Jobs: What’s it Like to Work THERE?”
by Jon Haupt

At the SLA annual conference in San Diego this past June I was asked to participate in a session called “Dream Jobs: What’s it Like to Work THERE?” This session was devised by Brandy King, owner of Knowledge Linking, who had noted that SLA was a place where it seems commonplace to run into librarians with surprisingly interesting job titles or locations. I shared the podium with Amy Jankowski, Associate Director —Library Services at San Diego Zoo Global and Mary Ann Williams, Digital Archivist currently working for Guthy-Renker and formerly Disney Animation Studios.

I was definitely ambivalent about speaking at a session like this. Yes, I am very excited to have gotten this job, and was surprised, considering the buzz generated by the position posting and how many people I know who said “I want THAT job!” Yet it is still a librarian job, and the kind of work I do is very much like that of other LIS professionals. That was definitely a piece of advice shared by all of us—LIS skills transfer well between jobs. When I was working on my MLIS at the University of Washington, a lot of people would complain that the focus was too much on theory and they didn’t feel entirely prepared for the nitty gritty of a job; but I have learned a lot of practical knowledge on the fly, whereas the theory has stuck with me and I have applied it in so many different ways.

I felt like a new librarian in some ways moving from academic to public libraries and from music and arts librarianship to wine librarianship, but all of the experience I have picked up along the way has come in handy. Obviously reference, collection development and instruction are important, but also liaison strategies, development skills, communication skills across myriad departments and community groups, management and supervision, reformatting and digital projects, project management, and writing skills.

The Wine Library really is a neat collection in a great place— Healdsburg, center of three distinct and acclaimed Northern Sonoma valleys, is a good location for a wine information center. From our rare books dating back to 1512, to our 65 current wine periodicals subscriptions, our collections span the gamut of subjects one might research related to wine. The library has something of interest for grape picker, grower, winemaker, winery owner, marketing and PR professional, enthusiast and home winemaker alike. There was a SLA SF Bay Region tour of the Wine Library the last weekend in July, but there’s no need to wait for a formal event—please drop by anytime!

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Intersect Alert September 15, 2013

SARAH Lets You Request Information From 21 Government Agencies

“At The Same Time The federal government collects gobs and gobs of data on people, and thanks to a little something called the Freedom of Information Act, people can make requests to liberate some of it. It sounds simple enough, but navigating the labyrinthine process and drafting the request is no easy thing. That’s where SARAH comes in. Created by Enigma co-founder (and Disrupt NY 2013 winner) Hicham Oudghiri, SARAH is a dead-simple tool that lets users submit Freedom of Information Act requests to 21 different government agencies with single click of a button. Using SARAH is simple enough: all you have to do is fill out a form with some personal information like your name, address an phone number. At the very bottom of the page you’re prompted to detail the specifics of your request, and with one final keystroke you’ve fired off your inquiry to those agencies.”

The Impact of Opening Up Crime Data
“Many cities in the U.S. release crime data, but how much information is available and how it’s released varies greatly. Although there are more static tables with crime stats posted on websites than we’d like to count, there are also plenty of examples of decently structured data releases that form the foundation for informative and creative uses of crime data — raising the bar for what is possible. All around the country, journalists, developers, and many other groups are transforming public crime data into meaningful stories, apps, data visualizations, and more, responding to the high demand for access to and better understanding of this information. Below, we’ve rounded up a few of the strongest examples of the different ways crime data can be used.”


House Oversight Hearing is Renewed Call for Records Management

“Yesterday, the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee (HOGR) again turned its focus to federal records and transparency laws in a hearing titled “Preventing Violations of Federal Transparency Laws.” Witnesses included four current and former senior administration officials who have been publicly linked to compliance problems for their use of personal or nonofficial email accounts to conduct official business. Archivist of the United States David Ferriero also testified.”


Obama officials can keep private e-mail accounts for federal business, Archives says

“High-level administration officials and other federal employees can continue to conduct official business using secret government e-mail accounts, but the messages must be preserved electronically and turned over to the country’s record-keeping agency. Archivist of the United States David S. Ferriero told the House Oversight and Government Reform committee Tuesday that his agency, the National Archives and Records Administration, clarified the rules this week on the use of private e-mail accounts. They must be turned over to anyone seeking them under the Freedom of Information Act, Ferriero said. The accounts must be “managed, accessible and identifiable” under federal record-keeping rules. But the archivist told lawmakers that his agency “discourages the use of private e-mail accounts to conduct federal business.”


Agencies haven’t told NARA where their records are

“The National Archives and Records Administration doesn’t know where all agencies store their physical records, the Government Accountability Office says. NARA has tried to gather that information, but not all agencies submitted it. The data that NARA has received is mostly from 2008 and 2009 and is now outdated, the GAO says in a report (.pdf) released Sept. 10. The report also criticizes NARA for relying on data that agencies self-reported.”

http://www.fiercegovernment.com/story/agencies-havent-told-nara-where-their-records-are/2013-09-10

Public Policy

Make a Difference for Libraries in D.C. (Really, it’s Possible): new webinar

“What happens in D.C. doesn’t stay in D.C!! Every day and in every way, libraries of all shapes and sizes are impacted by what Congress does (or does not) do. . . If you want to take action, tune in to this fast-paced and informative webinar where we’ll help you develop a specific and actionable plan for influencing legislators and their staff.”


Shield law broadens definition of ‘journalist’

“A new media shield law expected to pass committee on Thursday broadens the definition of “journalist” to include, among other things, any individual deemed appropriate by a federal judge. The new amendment is a step forward for independent and non-traditional media organizations who feared that an amendment introduced to the original bill would exclude them from protections granted to the traditional press corps, including protection from revealing information and sources except in extreme circumstances.”


Privacy Issues

Government Releases NSA Surveillance Docs and Previously Secret FISA Court Opinions

“In Response to EFF Lawsuit The Director of National Intelligence (DNI) just today released hundreds of pages of documents related to the government’s secret interpretation of Patriot Act Section 215 and the NSA’s (mis)use of its massive database of every American’s phone records. The documents were released as a result of EFF’s ongoing Freedom of Information Act lawsuit. We’ve posted links to each document below.”


Open Access

UK Open Access

“Whilst there is widespread agreement that the transition to open access is essential in order to improve access to knowledge, there is a lack of consensus about the best route to achieve it. To achieve open access at scale in the UK, there will need to be a shift away from the dominant subscription-based business model. Inevitably, this will involve a transitional period and considerable change within the scholarly publishing market. For the UK to transition to open access, an effective, functioning and competitive market in scholarly communications will be vital. The evidence we saw over the course of this inquiry shows that this is currently far from the
case, with journal subscription prices rising at rates that are unsustainable for UK universities and other subscribers. There is a significant risk that the Government’s current open access policy will inadvertently encourage and prolong the dysfunctional elements of the scholarly publishing market, which are a major barrier to access.”


International Outlook

Vietnam’s Internet Censorship Bill Goes Into Effect

“Internet freedom has gone from bad to worse in Vietnam as an online censorship law known as Decree 72 went into effect this month. It bans bloggers and users of social media from quoting, gathering, or summarizing information from press organizations or government websites. While the main justification for the law is to uphold “national security,” Vietnamese authorities also claim that this law is aimed at combating online copyright infringement.”

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2013/09/vietnams-internet-censorship-bill-goes-effect

Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety.

The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.

Computer History Museum Tour Recap

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2013/09/computer-history-museum-tour-recap/ September 18, 2013 Categories: Bayline, Chapter Programs & Events Tags: events, technology

On August 3rd members of the SLA San Francisco Bay Region Chapter teamed up with the Northern California Association of Law Librarians (NOCALL) to tour Mountain View’s Computer History Museum. There were 16 librarians in attendance, and even our tour guide was a law librarian for several years at Apple. If you’ve not been to the museum, the first thing you notice is the beautiful facility that was recently built in 2011. Made of almost complete glass on one side of the entrance, it doesn’t take long to know that this museum is massive. So massive, in fact, that it holds the world’s largest collection of information technology artifacts.

The docent provided a one hour tour throughout the museum’s signature exhibition titled Revolution: The First 2000 Years of Computing. In reality, one could spend days exploring the museum’s immense collections and many hours attending lectures and classes.

The exhibition we saw began with the earliest examples of computing tools—the trusty abacus and sectors. One sector in particular was used to calculate insurance plans dating back hundreds of years. Further into the exhibition, it was unsurprising to learn that our most modern technological advances were due to wartime investments and Cold War mentalities. One room in particular is filled with large sections of the Semi-Automatic Ground Environment (SAGE) computer, which was used to detect enemy planes during the Cold War era. Beginning with the 1970s, computers began popping up in our homes, with the exhibition including a wide range of familiar personal computer, gaming, and home equipment artifacts.

Some of the most spectacular highlights from the tour included: an original Apple I, the first (wooden!) mouse prototype, and a Babbage Engine, a machine invented 153 years ago but only first built in 2002. For those interested in the museum’s archives, they have also posted finding aides and oral histories.

Overall, it was a fantastic tour allowing both SLA San Francisco Bay Region and NOCALL members to become acquainted and delve into one of our region’s richest information resources.

Intersect Alert Spetember 22, 2013

Freedom of Information

Voters will decide fate of California Public Records Act
“A proposed constitutional amendment on California’s June primary ballot could shift the cost of complying with public records requests, which now rests with the state, to the local agencies that get the document requests. The legislature voted Tuesday to put the proposal on the ballot.”

Wisconsin State Sen. Leah Vukmir tries to sidestep open records suit
“State Sen. Leah Vukmir is trying to sidestep an open records lawsuit by claiming she can’t be sued while in office — a legal argument that, if successful, would let all lawmakers ignore the open records law.”

With 3 Months Left, Bloomberg Admin Has No Plan to Save Many City Emails
“The Bloomberg administration could let an important part of its legacy end up in a digital Dumpster. Currently, the city only has plans to retain the emails of a finite number of agencies from the Bloomberg era — and those are mainly being saved to protect itself in the event of future litigation, DNAinfo New York has learned. But the city still hasn’t decided whether to preserve the emails of major agencies like the mayor’s office, NYPD, the Department of Education and FDNY, sources said.”

Public Policy

ALA Urges FCC to Accelerate E-Rate Goals
“The American Library Association (ALA) on Monday asked the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to accelerate the goals of E-rate, the program that provides discounted Internet access and telecommunications services to U.S. schools and libraries. ALA’s statement specifically calls for faster deployment of high-capacity broadband and new strategic investments in infrastructure, as well as program changes to save costs and streamline the process so that more schools and libraries can participate in the program.”

Intellectual Property

Authors Guild: Wait for Congress to Sort Out Google Scanning
“In its final brief before oral arguments, the Authors Guild this week closed by imploring Judge Denny Chin to shoot down Google’s book scanning program, and let Congress ask questions later.”

Open Access

SJSU Open Access Un/Conference: Promote, Impact, Assess
“In celebration of Open Access Week, San Jose State University will be hosting a one-day conference October 25, 2013 on all things Open: Open Access, Open Resources, Open Education. This event will be a dynamic combination of formal refereed conference and informal unconference.”
http://scholarworks.sjsu.edu/oa-un-conference/

International Outlook

Entering a New Era of Open Data in the U.K.?“The U.K. government, last week, began releasing its inventory of hitherto “unpublished” data on data.gov.uk while also allowing users to comment on the quality and content of the data. Is the U.K. onto something new or is it some of the same old?”

Meet the Officers for the 2014 San Francisco Bay Region SLA Chapter

Categories: Bayline, Chapter Leadership Tags: member highlights

On behalf of the Nominating Committee for the San Francisco Bay Region Chapter of SLA, I would like to present our slate of Chapter officer candidates for 2014:
• Jaye Lapachet for President-Elect
• Lori Guidry for Treasurer
• Sarah Cook for Assistant Director of Programs

Please join me in congratulating Jaye, Lori and Sarah on their nominations. A ballot will be sent in October for the chapter Board election. A short bio of each candidate follows below:

Jaye Lapachet

Jaye A. H. Lapachet, M.L.I.S., is a professional law librarian. She has worked in law firms and law libraries since 1987, and was an information management consultant for eight years.

Ms. Lapachet has set up databases and workflow systems in numerous libraries and is an expert at identifying ways to streamline workflow. These projects have included a variety of database projects, technology implementation, training programs and department reorganizations. She has written for a variety of publications and speaks at conferences.

Ms. Lapachet’s strength is asymmetrical thinking and idea generation. She feels that the identification of information assets, followed by the organization and reuse of those information assets is critical to the ongoing success of an organization as whole.

Lori Guidry

Lori Guidry relocated to the Bay Area a year ago from Chicago, where she was a longtime active member of the SLA Illinois Chapter. She is still employed by Chicago area-based Threshold Information, working from home for the independent secondary research firm. As the Business Project Manager, she both conducts and oversees ad hoc research projects and newsletters for corporate clients.

For the Illinois chapter, Lori has served as Vending Relations co-chair and as a contributor to the online newsletter. She credits her involvement with the chapter for helping land her current job and the previous one at Columbia College Chicago. Attending chapter events and volunteering also helps her stay connected with colleagues, since she has mostly telecommuted for the past 14 years.

Lori has an undergraduate degree in journalism from Depaul University and an MLIS from Dominican University. In her spare time, she also volunteers with the Women’s Initiative of San Francisco and Oakland, which helps low-income women start their own businesses. Though she loves and misses her hometown of Chicago, she is enjoying exploring the Bay Area and doesn’t miss the snow.

Sarah Cook

Sarah Cook is currently employed as a library assistant at multiple law firms in the Bay Area. She has a BA in Creative Writing from San Francisco State University (SFSU). While at SFSU, she received an award from the Creative Writing Department for her role as Managing Editor of Transfer Magazine, the literary magazine at SFSU.

Sarah will receive her MLIS from San Jose State University this fall. At SJSU, she studies legal research and information architecture. She expects to continue legal research or branch out into structural design of shared information environments in her future endeavors.

Sarah has been a member of SLA since 2011, serving as Hospitality Chair for the San Francisco Bay Region Chapter from 2011 to 2013. In 2012, she received the Horizon Award from the Chapter.

In addition to work, school and her role in SLA, Sarah enjoys making art, playing music and spending time with her family.
Coming Soon: New Member Happy Hour

A New Member Happy Hour!

Where: The Holding Company
2 Embarcadero Center, San Francisco

When: Thursday, October 10, 2013, 5:30-7:30 PM

What: The event will be free for new and prospective members, students, and for seasoned members who bring along one or more prospective member. The fee for all others is $10. One drink ticket will be given to each attendee. Appetizers will also be provided.

To register as a FREE attendee, please e-mail Shelli Owens at shellio@outlook.com and include your name, phone number, and email.

DEADLINE: Registration is now closed

Laid Off? Complete these Tasks Immediately

Many of us have worried about layoffs during our careers. I am a career corporate informationist and I was laid off for the third time in April. As a service to my fellow SLA members I thought I’d write about the experience for informational purposes and for me, a cathartic tool.

I don’t need to describe the devastation. Suddenly, your whole world just stops. Where to go? Who to call? Why does it feel as though you’ve just lost your closest friend? When you loved your job, when you’ve received nothing but positive feedback from your clients for nearly eleven years, it’s stunning to hear: “We have to let you go, we’re closing the Resource Center.”

After being given your “separation agreement,” (agreement???) you will be escorted out of the company, asked to return your badge, company credit card, and whatever else the company owns:

- Do not say anything snarky – should you run into a colleague, take the high road.
- Try to hold yourself together emotionally until you get home or someplace you feel safe.
- Then, cry, scream, take a nap or do whatever your body is telling you for a few hours or even the rest of the day

(don’t worry, this will not delay your job search).

- Call to warn the people most likely to call you at work and be told, “Jan no longer works for the company.” Explain to these loved ones, Dad, sister, boyfriend, that you are upset and will call in a few days to offer details. If you do not want them to tell other family and friends ask them not to. (I asked my sister to call my Dad because I knew I would get emotional and upset him further; I spoke to him three days later).
- Sit down and begin a list of things to do. I found structuring fooled me into believing I had some control over my life! This list will be as long as your arm – keep writing until you can’t think of a single thing left to do – right down to taking out the recycling. Drain your brain completely.

My list:

- File for unemployment immediately; [www.EDD.gov](http://www.EDD.gov) The Employee Development Department (EDD) is online but there have been serious glitches holding up my funds for as long as a month. DO THIS FIRST.
- Call the [Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA)](http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2013/09/first-steps-after-being-laid-off/) office to be certain you understand the insurance process; for example,
when do you have to submit your first payment.
(Do NOT RELY on your former company’s human resource department to explain it. I actually called four different COBRA reps because I kept receiving mixed information.
○ Make doctor/dental appointments with any relevant doctors while your health insurance is active (I was fortunate to receive 3 months health insurance).
○ Deposit the final check, your severance – monitor the checking account closely, especially auto-payments (it’s easy to forget about these regular payments and you may need to budget more severely).
○ Call your broker and ask for advice on what to do with your 401K. I ended up transferring my 401K to another company.

IF YOU HAVE A SEVERANCE PACKAGE, SEPARATION AGREEMENT, ETC.

• You will be required to sign and return the documents.
• Over the next 48 hours decide if you want to sue your former employers. Definitely contact a lawyer to review your separation agreement (if you are over 40, your employer is required by law to advise you of this during your exit conversation). Have someone you trust also review it. If you were offered a severance payment, you won’t receive it until you return the signed agreement. This is one reason so few people sue – they need the severance dollars.
• If you received outplacement services with your severance package, call and make your first appointment. They will be expecting you! Your company engages their services but only pays for those employees who register. Even if you don’t want the services, register anyway so the company has to pay for your participation (OK, I’m not completely over it yet).
• Dig out your resume. Ask a few people you trust, who understand your career, to review it. This resume is your most important tool, accompanied by a well-designed, customized cover letter. You will spend a great deal of time revising and polishing the resume. You will also hear a different idea with everyone you ask, so make your resume format/content decision and don’t be cowed by others.

At my first outplacement meeting the facilitator opened with:

“When you find a job, begin looking for the next one…”

This is a first in a series of articles by Jan Keiser for the unemployed and job-seeking information professional. Next: “What the EDD offers the unemployed professional.” –Ed.

Share this:

Intersect Alert September 29, 2013


Freedom of Information

New database allows custom comparisons of city finances
“The Fiscally Standardized Cities (FiSC) database makes it possible to compare local government finances for 112 of the largest U.S. cities across more than 120 categories of revenues, expenditures, debt, and assets. As Detroit faces bankruptcy and other U.S. cities address an ongoing crisis in municipal finance, a new interactive database allows for the first time meaningful comparisons of city finances — from spending on schools, police, and public works to revenues from the property tax and other sources. . . With a few exceptions, the database includes all the nation’s largest central cities. It allows users to compare local government finances for 112 large U.S. central cities across more than 120 categories of revenues, expenditures, debt and assets. Based on U.S. Census data, the database provides 34 years of data (1977-2010), with more years to be added as data become available.”

The Law Belongs To Everyone, We Tell Standards Organizations
“In the latest salvo in the battle to defend the right to publish the law, EFF filed a counterclaim on Friday against three standards development organizations (“SDOs”), asking a federal court in Washington to declare that the online publication of safety codes does not violate copyright or trademark law.”

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2013/09/law-belongs-everyone-we-tell-standards-organizations

3 ways big data is transforming government
“There is enormous opportunity ahead for government agencies to use big-data technologies to manage data growth, gain new insights and innovate in ways they couldn’t before. Here are some of the ways big data is already beginning to
transform government.
1. Enhancing security and preventing fraud
2. Improving service delivery and emergency response
3. Democratizing information"


Non-Profit “Free Law Project” Provides Open Access to U.S. Case Law
Although case law is technically public domain, the legal decisions that interpret and apply statutory law are often scattered across the Internet, locked up in proprietary systems, and only available by paying exorbitant fees. A new non-profit launching this week aims to make these legal materials easily and freely available to all.

http://www.ischool.berkeley.edu/newsandevents/news/20130925freelawproject

Big data needs governance
“For federal agencies to truly make big data a big deal, data governance will be every bit as important as the technology itself. The U.S. government has always applied governance to its records – policies on who can view them, how they are shared and stored and managed – but for most of its 237-year history, those records were paper-based and relatively manageable in size. The amount of data the government collects in the digital age is growing exponentially thanks to technology, but without proper governance it’s not going to be used anywhere close to optimally, according to John Dvorak, section chief for the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s Special Technologies and Applications Division.”


Freedom of Information Act Ombudsman Not Yet at Full Force, Report Finds
“A recent report by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) found that the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) doesn’t have a plan for conducting comprehensive reviews of federal agencies’ Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) policies or their compliance with the law. Oversight of agency FOIA implementation and assistance for people using the law are vital to guarantee that this fundamental aspect of government transparency operates effectively. Indeed, such oversight and assistance were the purposes for which Congress passed the 2007 law creating OGIS within the National Archives and Records Administration. In response to persistent concerns about agency non-compliance with FOIA and difficulties facing requesters, the new office was established as a “FOIA ombudsman” and tasked with assisting the public in using the law to access information. But it is not obvious that Congress necessarily intended for OGIS to conduct comprehensive reviews, as GAO assumes, or that such an approach is necessary for OGIS to exercise effective oversight.”


Public Policy

Google launches ‘Constitute,’ a new tool for designing governments
“The process of drafting a constitution is usually long, intricate and politically fraught — but with 160 different active constitutions to draw from, it’s also uniquely amenable to data analysis. With that in mind, Google has partnered with the Comparative Constitutions Project to launch a new site called Constitute, devoted to comparing the world’s constitutions. It examines nearly 350 constitutional themes, organized into topics like the duties of a citizen and the role of the executive. The result is a comprehensive view of how countries structure their governments, and a powerful tool for any would-be founders. As one co-founder put it, “If want to see what African constitutions have to say about the rights of women after 1945, you can do that in just a few clicks.”"

http://www.theverge.com/2013/9/23/4761922/google-launches-constitute-a-new-tool-for-designing-governments

In Supreme Court Opinions, Web Links to Nowhere
“Supreme Court opinions have come down with a bad case of link rot. According to a new study, 49 percent of the hyperlinks in Supreme Court decisions no longer work.”


Intellectual Property

Google Books Case Moves Forward
“In U.S. District Court on Monday, Judge Denny Chin held a hearing on Authors Guild v. Google, another step in the long-running “Google Books” case. At issue is whether Google’s scanning of over 20 million copies of books, largely received from university libraries, to create a searchable database constitutes a fair use under copyright law. For a recap of how the case got to this stage, see this flowchart from Library Copyright Alliance (LCA) counsel Jonathan Band. In a positive development for libraries, Judge Chin indicated Monday that he sees validity in Google’s fair use argument. More specifically, his line of questioning to the Author’s Guild attorney made frequent reference to the Google Books project as seemingly having “benefits to society.”

http://www.districtdispatch.org/2013/09/google-books-case-moves-forward/

International Outlook

Libraries Work Together to Preserve Canadian Federal Government Electronic Publications
“Librarians at eleven organizations have formed a partnership to preserve Canadian electronic government information. This partnership, known as the Canadian Government Information Private LOCKSS Network (CGI-PLN), has established a geographically distributed infrastructure to preserve government information in a secure environment, helping ensure access to digital content in the future.”

http://clagov.wordpress.com/2013/09/23/cgi-pln/
Lori Hines and the “SF Examiner’s” Fang Family Archives

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2013/10/lori-hines-and-the-sf-examiners-fang-family-archives/ October 2, 2013 Categories: Bayline, Chapter Programs & Events Tags: archives, events, libraries

by Lori Austin [photos by George Plosker]

Lori Hines, speaker at the September 24 SLA San Francisco Bay Region chapter meeting at Pican in Oakland, had a very engaging presentation about the San Francisco Examiner’s Fang Family photographic archive given to the Bancroft Library at the University of California at Berkeley in 2006. The archive includes 3.6 million images (1,000 boxes), many of which are “out-takes” but some of which ran in the Examiner. The negatives are from 1874 to 2000, ending when digital photographs became the mode of photography for the newspaper.

Lori Hines shows photos from the archives

Hines described how the archive has been organized, digitized, and preserved. The finding aid is viewable through the Online Archives of California at http://www.oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:/13030/k6ks6phw/. Hines had a very comprehensive and entertaining presentation on the types of images in the archive such as Market Street, Fisherman’s Wharf, Cable Cars, Playland at the Beach, Bridges (including suicide attempts); Holidays, Politics and Politicians, Industry, Disasters (earthquakes, floods, etc.), Art and Culture; Lost San Francisco (places and neighborhoods in SF that are no longer existing), and Odd Things, that are “only in San Francisco” experiences.

Hines also gave a cultural perspective on how photographic journalism changed over time. For example, individual privacy was not considered important until the latter part of the 20th century. The archive has photos of violence, labor unrest, “mob hits” in the 1930s, and many booking photos of celebrities charged with drug possession, homosexuality, etc. in the 1950s and 1960s. The archive includes different sized negatives including 4 inch by 5 inch negatives and 35 mm ones. All are black and white until the 1990s when color became popular. Hines said that graduate students help to organize and describe the images. Both the negatives and accompanying sleeves (envelopes) were digitized with grant money, but so far only one percent of the images are available online.

Some of my favorite images include the construction of the Bay Bridge and the opening of the Golden Gate bridge in the 1930s; the 1939 World’s Fair on Treasure Island; the WWII end-of-war celebration on Market Street in the 1940s; and different politicians over the years including Ronald Reagan, Bobby Kennedy, Jerry Brown and Willie Brown. Some more of my favorites are of events such as the occupation of Alcatraz Island in the 1960s and the shootings of Harvey Milk and then San Francisco Mayor George Moscone in the 1970s. The collection also has a Facebook page so one can keep up on changes to the collection. I highly recommend a visit to either Facebook or the OAC to see some of the treasures the archive contains.
Intersect Alert October 6, 2013

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2013/10/intersect-alert-october-6-2013/

October 10, 2013 Categories: Intersect Alert  Tags: freedom of information, intellectual property, public policy

Freedom of Information

Top Four Things Library Supporters Can Do To Make a Difference | Advocate’s Corner

Are you concerned about operating budgets, database funding, or enhancing (or maintaining) your community’s access to materials? How about copyright restrictions, recognition of school libraries in the education process, or cybersecurity? Maybe public safety? Or Internet access? Or simply having enough parking?

http://lj.libraryjournal.com/2013/01/advocacy/top-four-things-library-supporters-can-do-to-make-a-difference-advocates-corner/#comment-151526

Seizing the Day or Seizing the Opportunity? | Not Dead Yet

When I was a new librarian I was continually looking for opportunities to add to my experience and to my résumé. I was on high alert to find chances to practice my craft (while I stopped short of offering reference service to passersby on the street, uncannily enough I’m continually stopped on the street
and asked directions by strangers—is there a palpable librarian aura?), present, and publish, as well as to try out new technologies and develop new services. [http://lj.libraryjournal.com/2013/10/opinion/not-dead-yet/seizing-the-day-or-seizing-the-opportunity-not-dead-yet/#comment-151354]

**In "A Copyright Masquerade," Corporate Lobbying Takes the Spotlight**

It's no secret that the copyright lobby exerts an undue influence in shaping Internet policy. But the mechanisms by which that happens—which can include not just the legislative bodies of dozens of countries, but also backroom, off the record dealings—can be confusing and opaque, even to people following it closely. [https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2013/09/copyright-masquerade-corporate-lobbying-takes-spotlight]

**Public Policy**

**NSA Tracked US Cell Phone Locations For Two Years, Senator Says More Is Still Secret**

The National Security Agency (NSA) has finally admitted to tracking the cell phone location of Americans. For two years, in 2010 and 2011, the spy agency ran an "experiment" pilot project in which they wanted to test how location information would flow into their massive databases containing other information on Americans. [https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2013/10/nsa-tracked-americans-cell-locations-two-years-senator-hints-theres-more]

**The Budget Balancing Act: LJ’s Budget Survey Shows Modest Improvement, and Signs of More To Come**

Though there aren’t a lot of whoops and cheers to be heard, a cautious optimism seems to describe the 2012 library budget landscape, according to LJ’s annual survey. Some 60 percent of libraries increased their funding, while 36 percent decreased it. Only four percent stayed the same. [http://lj.libraryjournal.com/2013/01/funding/the-budget-balancing-act-library-budgets-show-modest-improvement-and-]

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**The Employment Development Department (EDD) in 2013**


October 10, 2013 Categories: Bayline, Chapter Programs & Events Tags: professional development

*by Jan Keiser*

There used to be an “Unemployment Office” downtown on Van Ness St. in San Francisco. The Unemployed Person arrived, took a number and sat to wait. What stands out in my memory is that I *spoke to a EDD representative*. I went to a window and spoke directly to the EDD representative, face to face.
While the EDD has certainly progressed – the site really does have a great deal of valuable information – having no human being to speak with is a real drawback to the EDD’s progress. Not unlike any other business, they’d rather you troll their website to find answers. I understand that a current lack of communication is due to the sequestration efforts and lay-offs at the EDD. It can be frustrating if you are waiting for benefits that don’t arrive but eventually the EDD does straighten out any benefit problems.

Receiving Unemployment Funds

The first EDD mailing I received was a VISA debit card with my name on it. The insert explained how to access the funds (use the card). Since my property manager doesn’t yet accept VISA for the rent, the other option is to have the funds transferred into your checking account: www.bankofamerica.com/eddcard. The amount received is based on your last salary and the highest benefit award is $450.00 per week. The salary caps out at $11,674, so anyone earning more than that will receive the highest award of $450.00. Even someone earning the high 3 figures only receives $450.00 per week.

In order to claim your benefits, every other week claimants will either submit a paper form or submit the same information online – you can also call it in and speak to a robot. There are the same standard questions in all formats, e.g., “Did you look for work this week?” “Did you refuse any work this week?” “Did you make money besides at a job?”

It’s probably clear how these questions should be answered. Before electronic submission, (it was only in April of this year!) it was necessary to list the companies you had applied to on the paper claim form each week. EDD even called these prospective employers occasionally to check that you actually did apply. When submitting your claim electronically, listing prospective employers isn’t necessary, while you must still list employers when using the paper form. You must keep good records of resumes submitted and the dates – anything of note. The EDD can ask at any time that you produce these records.

Information Offered by the EDD – One Stop Career Centers

The second week I was unemployed, I received an invitation (a mandate, actually) to attend an “informational workshop” at the San Francisco One Stop Career Center. When the EDD requests that you do something, there is usually fine print that reads, “refusal to participate, show up, whatever, etc., could affect your unemployment benefit eligibility.” Who knows if this is true, so it’s smart to respond positively to EDD invitations. While I grumbled at being forced to attend this meeting, it was a very informative workshop. I was impressed with the EDD speaker who quoted unemployment figures and industry statistics, while explaining that Northern California had the lowest unemployment figures in the nation (currently around 5.8%). Most of the other attendees were also “professionals,” e.g. accountants whose company had transferred their jobs to another country (now that is a lively discussion at the EDD). Attendees were walked through the EDD website to showcase the worthwhile information for the job seeker along with instructions for using it http://www.edd.ca.gov. The facilitator told stories of job-seekers who didn’t find a position in less than one year; they want users to understand this job search will be challenging. One-Stop Career Centers are available in each county and a calendar of events is posted each month on the EDD website. Workshops with titles such as: How To Start And Manage A Small Business; Link Your Way To A Job (LinkedIn training); Workforce Investment Act (financial assistance with training – see http://etpl.edd.ca.gov/wiaetplnd.htm) and Successful Resume workshops are available. There is also a weekly meeting of “professionals” facilitated by a member to encourage networking and emotional support, named Experience Unlimited.

Jobs!!

The EDD has created what is called the CalJOBS℠ “America’s Job Center in California https://www.caljobs.ca.gov/. The EDD requires that users register and create a password (I noticed it tallied my previous sign-in’s). The job board can be searched in various ways, by employer, occupation or professional title. The CalJOBS℠ dashboard will help you to “build” a resume – or you may upload your own. Users can upload more than one – I have three different resumes on CalJOBS℠. The site is also available to employers – the EDD makes an effort to enlist employer participation by describing the breadth of unemployed workers to select from and by not charging a “finding fees.” The EDD will also direct California employers to training for their employees.

While the EDD lists as “Core” a long list of services, most of these are online. There is plenty of self-directed career guidance in the form of California Occupational Guides, Job Projections, California Career Planning Guide, Self Assessment Testing, Apprentice Opportunities, etc. Another section offers labor market information providing occupational data, employers in the area, monthly data summaries, DOL statistics, GIS maps of the labor market, economic indicators, census data, etc. The employer search list is so good it could be a resource for your next “new business” assignment. Use a key word like “advertising,” filter to the appropriate MSA and a list of every advertising company along with their complete contact information comes up.

Training
One of the first hand-outs I received was a list of Internet Job & Related Sites. (Download pdfs below) The EDD features prominently the training offered or the access to training offered. Under the Workforce Investment Act it’s possible to qualify for training that would otherwise cost a great deal. One example is the association the EDD has established with the Bay Area Video Coalition (BVAC), and a program developed called TechSF http://bavc.org/techsf. By attending a workshop delivered by BVAC you’ll learn they offer complete training resulting in a certificate in one of three areas: Programming, Web Development and Web Design. Eligibility for the Web Design and Web Development programs are a website designed by the candidate – and they prefer websites built from scratch – writing in HTML and CSS code, rather than using a template program offered on the web; a list of ten employers you have researched and wish to work for; a LinkedIn account with at least 100 connections and an interview with TechSF decision makers. According to TechSF, they have developed strong ties to technology companies and have placed many people directly. TechSF offers cocktail parties and get-togethers where the students can meet company decision makers who attend specifically to find new talent.

Another training example is the program established by Step Into A Job:

“ a non-profit organization whose mission is to tackle the problem of unemployment one person at a time. In partnership with employers, we equip individuals with the knowledge and skills needed for upward socio-economic mobility while preparing the health care workforce of the future.” (from their website http://www.stepintoajob.org)

In partnership with City College and UCSF, the program offers those interested in a Medical Assistant, Certified Nursing Assistant, Pharmacy Tech or Dental Assistant career, the opportunity for an education at City College and an internship at UCSF. Apparently, most internships result in a permanent position.

There are other options for job-seeking and training, but using the websites in these pdf documents (EDD Internet Site List Pg 1, EDD Internet Site List #2) you can search according to your own interest.

This is the second in a series of articles by Jan Keiser for the unemployed and job-seeking information professional. The first article is “Laid Off? Complete these Tasks Immediately.” Next: “Educational and training possibilities – both free and fee” –Ed.

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**Intersect Alert October 13, 2013**


*Freedom of Information*

**New Report Finds Obama’s Policies Threaten an Independent Press**

The Committee to Protect Journalists has released its first-ever special report on freedom of the press in the United States. For many years, CPJ has documented attacks on journalists in many countries around the world. The report focused on how policies and practices of the Obama administration disrupt relationships between journalists and government sources, allow officials to circumvent scrutiny by the press, and create a chilling environment for whistleblowers who might otherwise serve as journalistic sources. The report also discusses the ramifications of NSA surveillance, which leaves journalists and their sources reluctant to communicate electronically.

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2013/10/new-report-finds-obamas-policies-threaten-independent-press

**$1 Million Gates Grant to Fund Chicago, Aarhus Libraries’ Innovation Partnership | ALA Annual 2013**

On June 30, at the Chicago Public Library’s YouMedia wing, Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel announced a $1 million grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The grant will allow the Chicago Public Library (CPL) and Aarhus Public Libraries in Denmark to work together to create a new model for innovation, experimentation and decision-making within libraries.

http://lj.libraryjournal.com/2013/07/shows-events/ala/1-million-gates-grant-to-fund-chicago-arhus-libraries-innovation-partnership-ala-annual-2013/#comment-151771

*Public Policy*
The Librarian in 2020 | Reinventing Libraries

Students often ask about the job market—how it’s going, what they can expect, where they might be able to do the work they want, and what sorts of jobs they should seek. This triggers flashbacks to my own days in library school, in the early 1980s, when I thought I would likely either run my hometown public library or be a subject bibliographer in an academic library. http://lj.libraryjournal.com/2013/10/future-of-libraries/the-librarian-in-2020-reinventing-libraries/#comment-152344

Books in Dumpsters Spark Debate on Future of Fairfax County, VA Libraries

Community outrage over having weeded a quarter of a million books into dumpsters isn’t the kind of public relations brouhaha that any library relishes dealing with. That scandal, though, may be the least of the problems for the Fairfax County Public Library, VA, (FCPL) where the library’s Board of Trustees has pressed pause on implementing a strategic plan that was supposed to help guide the library forward. http://lj.libraryjournal.com/2013/09/library-services/books-in-dumpsters-spark-debate-on-future-of-fairfax-county-va-libraries/#comment-152050

How The NSA Deploys Malware: An In-Depth Look at the New Revelations

We’ve long suspected that the NSA, the world’s premiere spy agency, was pretty good at breaking into computers. But now, thanks to an article by security expert Bruce Schneier—who is working with the Guardian to go through the Snowden documents—we have a much more detailed view of how the NSA uses exploits in order to infect the computers of targeted users. The template for attacking people with malware used by the NSA is in widespread use by criminals and fraudsters, as well as foreign intelligence agencies, so it’s important to understand and defend against this threat to avoid being a victim to the plethora of attackers out there. https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2013/10/how-nsa-deploys-malware-new-revelations

Polls Continue to Show Majority of Americans Against NSA Spying

Shortly after the June leaks, numerous polls asked the American people if they approved or disapproved of the NSA spying, which includes collecting telephone records using Section 215 of the Patriot Act and collecting phone calls and emails using Section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act. The answer then was a resounding no, and new polls released in August and September clearly show Americans’ increasing concern about privacy has continued. https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2013/10/polls-continue-show-majority-americans-against-nsa-spying

Perma.cc Aims to Bring Staying Power to Online Legal Citations

For all its use to researchers, the Internet can be an awfully ephemeral thing. Websites change hands, services that were once free land behind paywalls, and servers go offline. Whatever the reason, the result is the same—all too often, a once-valid link no longer directs users to the information they need. For many of us, the familiar 404 message, indicating that a page can’t be found, is a common but inconsequential hassle of Internet use. For scholars and legal professionals, though, being unable to find a piece of information cited in a court case can be a costly and time-consuming hurdle. Now Perma.cc, a new service spearheaded by the Harvard Law School Library, is aiming to put a stop to disappearing links to citations in legal documents and court decisions by creating individual caches of content at the moment that authors and journal editors cite it.

Intellectual Property

As Online Degrees Become More Prevalent, Questions Linger

Online MLS programs have become more and more widespread, offering people who don’t live near an American Library Association (ALA) accredited university, who work full time, or who are otherwise unable to attend a traditional Master’s program the chance to get their library science degree through online coursework. The perception of these programs, according to a recent poll on the blog Hiring Librarians, hasn’t kept pace with their prevalence. The informal survey found that some librarians remain concerned about the quality of these programs, and question whether they provide students the skills to succeed in the field.

http://lj.libraryjournal.com/2013/10/schools/as-online-degrees-become-more-prevalent-questions-linger/#comment-152078

International Outlook
Casual Conversation and Networking at the New Member Happy Hour

Categories: Bayline, Chapter Programs & Events Tags: events

Anne Barker and SLA-SF Bay members chatting at the New Member Happy Hour

The SLA San Francisco Bay Region New Member Happy Hour gathering at The Holding Company in San Francisco provided a casual, low-stress environment to meet new people and catch up with old friends. The Holding Company, opened in 1974, has a classic feel to it, reminiscent of a different time in San Francisco. Price of admission to this gathering included a drink ticket as well as plenty of food to nosh on as we mingled. Every attendee received a clever conversation starter in the form of a name tag that, in addition to one’s name, included “ask me about ——”; I added in “pumpkins”, which seemed appropriately seasonal.

SLA-SF Bay members mingle at The Holding Company in San Francisco

This particular gathering was focused on students and new SLA members and it was a great atmosphere for that. Everyone was open to chatting and sharing. There was a nice mix of newer and more experienced members who were willing to discuss their work and talk about how/why they participate in SLA. Happy hour was a terrific format and it really contributed to the atmosphere of collegiality. As a networking event, this was a clear success, new connections were made and old ones were affirmed in a quick post-work stop.

by Ciaran Essex photos by Tricia Soto
Skill Building Resource: The Amazing San Francisco Public Library

Until recently, I haven’t been a heavy user of the public library – occasionally I would order a book on CD, and have it sent to my branch library. I thought that was great!

I began looking for technology training – programming or improving Excel skills, preferably free. I made a list of all the material I found and then based on a tip from the Employment Development Department (EDD) I checked in with San Francisco Public Library (SFPL).

San Francisco Public Library eLearning tab on sfpl.org

eLearning

I call your attention to the eLearning tab on the SFPL’s home page. I recently spent a couple of hours going through the site page by page and was astounded at how much this library has collected (I imagine the other county libraries are similar). I found an impressive list of databases (some of us have paid large sums to use these in the workplace!) available as well as all the reference and research information needed for business. SFPL also carries the full text of over 3000 Safari Books technical titles, including all digital media, web design, desktop publishing, personal/professional development, IT, etc. http://proquest.safaribooksonline.com.ezproxy.sfpl.org

Free Courses

I found a service that I’ll never tire of, http://www.ed2go.com/l-sfpl/. This site is called Learn 4 Life and offers Cengage Learning-developed courses. The instructor-led classes are entirely online and continue for 6-15 weeks. As with most online learning, users can log in at any time to work on their lessons, post questions to the discussion list or download relevant web resources posted by the instructor. I signed up for Advanced Excel, Web Development and Introduction to SQL classes. I wasn’t expecting to become an expert; rather, I wanted to be acquainted with the software and familiar with its purpose. I have just completed my first round and signed up for the next level of web design class, and a beginning drawing class.

There are also software tutorials available from the Learning Express Library (eLearning tab), including design software like DreamWeaver.

SFPL Job & Career Center

The EDD tip I mentioned earlier was to visit the SFPL Job & Career Center. This is a separate niche at the library (3rd Floor) that holds material for the job-seeking patron. It was surprising to see how many titles are published in this category. The selection is broad and the titles are instructive, not of a “self-improvement” nature.

Categories include job-seeking tasks like Face-to-Face Interviewing, Telephone Interviewing (which I’d never heard of and now understand is the norm), Salary Negotiation, Skill Assessment, industry coverage, age-related issues, etc. These titles help to inject some reality into 2013’s job-hunting world; the competitive environment is sobering. Obviously, a trip to the Career Section would be wise before you actually need it.

The SFPL Job & Career Center has workshops to explain how to use their materials, job searching over the Internet, using social media to promote yourself, etc. The SFPL Job & Career Section also has a link to Career Transitions with snapshots of different careers (Green Jobs: Jobs in environmental remediation), along with videos (Working With a Career Counselor), along with a job search engine.

After all my discoveries, I actually felt proud to be part of a profession that provides so much intelligent and actionable information.

I have compiled a list of other training courses Free and Fee Coursework on the Web that can be downloaded here.

This is the third in a series of articles by Jan Keiser for the unemployed and job-seeking information professional.

- First article: Laid Off? Complete these Tasks Immediately
- Second article: The Employment Development Department (EDD) in 2013
Privacy Issues:

Facebook Post by Arizona Hospital Employee Results in Identity Theft

Last week, an Arizona woman filed a police report after a University of Arizona Medical Center-South Campus employee posted a photo on Facebook that included a computer screen displaying the woman’s personal health information. In June, an emergency department employee at the Tucson-based health care provider posted a photo on Facebook that inadvertently displayed a patient’s personal health information. The employee was taking a photo of something else on her work station, according to Green Valley News. The Arizona woman said the Facebook post displayed her name; address; and Social Security number. The affected patient filed the police report after the Arizona Department of Economic Security called and notified her that someone had used her personal information to apply for food stamps.


Freedom of Information:

Erotic fairytale first book pulled from the New Zealand National Library for being too explicit

A graphic novel that depicts the sexual encounters of fairytale heroines has made history as the first book pulled from the New Zealand National Library catalogue for being too explicit. The book has never been classified by the censor and the decision of the library to self-censor has angered those who say libraries should be champions of literary freedom.

Lost Girls, by English graphic novel writer Alan Moore and his wife, artist Melinda Gebbie, was originally purchased in 2008 for the library’s collection at the request of a member. It was removed from the catalogue after questions were raised over its content. The three-volume book has Wendy, from Peter Pan, Dorothy from The Wizard of Oz and Alice from Alice in Wonderland meeting by chance as adults on the eve of World War I. They talk through their sexual experiences, and also violence and drug use.


Cybersecurity Directive From Bush Kept Secret

President George W. Bush’s presidential directive on cybersecurity is not subject to the Freedom of Information Act, a federal judge ruled. The Electronic Privacy Information Center had filed the FOIA request in June 2009, seeking information related to National Security Presidential Directive 54. Bush had sent the confidential document to “a select and limited group of senior foreign policy advisors, cabinet officials, and agency heads on the subject of cybersecurity,” EPIC claimed. While the document is classified top secret,
portions of it are unclassified. U.S. District Judge Beryl Howell ruled Monday, however, that the directive is not an agency record subject to a FOIA request because it did not originate with the National Security Administration. http://www.courthousenews.com/2013/10/23/62295.htm.

Open Access:

ACS Publications announces the large-scale digitization and open availability of data coupled to ACS Legacy Archives Journals
The Publications Division of the American Chemical Society (ACS) announced today the completion of a comprehensive undertaking to digitally convert and conserve the Supporting Information for its broadly subscribed ACS Legacy Archives journals collection. This initiative was part of the Society’s commitment to broaden the online accessibility of the Supporting Information and data associated with the ACS Legacy Archives — a premium collection of nearly half a million original research articles published in ACS journals between the years 1879 and 1995. The digitization effort has generated new Supporting Information files for 40,000 ACS original research articles, and in total comprises 800,000 pages of highly valuable data and underlying research information. http://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/pressroom/newsreleases/2013/october/acs-publications-announces-the-large-scale-digitization.html.

The Impact of Opening Up Municipal Campaign Finance Data
What kinds of information municipalities release about campaign finance and how they release it varies widely, but the impacts that come from its release are fairly universal. Every year, as elections take place in municipalities of all sizes across the country, journalists and other watchdogs track campaign finance data to follow the trail of money in politics and contextualize this information for the public. Sometimes, the narratives revealed in this process have led to reforms at the state and local level as people realize, and seek to curb, the influence that money can have on government officials’ decisions. Accessible campaign finance data paves the way for these activities and others, and its potential impact only continues to increase as more transparency and flexibility are built into the data releases. http://sunlightfoundation.com/blog/2013/10/25/the-impact-of-opening-up-municipal-campaign-finance-data/.

Take Action!:

Ten Steps You Can Take Right Now Against Internet Surveillance
One of the trends we’ve seen is how, as the word of the NSA’s spying has spread, more and more ordinary people want to know how (or if) they can defend themselves from surveillance online. But where to start? The bad news is: if you’re being personally targeted by a powerful intelligence agency like the NSA, it’s very, very difficult to defend yourself. The good news, if you can call it that, is that much of what the NSA is doing is mass surveillance on everybody. With a few small steps, you can make that kind of surveillance a lot more difficult and expensive, both against you individually, and more generally against everyone.
Here’s ten steps you can take to make your own devices secure. https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2013/10/ten-steps-against-surveillance.

Public Policy:

American Workers Can’t Report Health, Safety Violations on the Job Without Fear of Retaliation
A study released today by the Center for Effective Government calls for better protections for workers who report health and safety hazards on the job. “American workers who report health and safety risks need better protections against employer retaliation,” said Katherine McFate, President and CEO of the Center for Effective Government. “Federal workplace health and safety laws are weak and outdated and leave workers who experience retaliation without adequate remedy.”
The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) is the agency responsible for enforcing the federal workplace health and safety statute, known as the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSH Act). While the number of workplaces in the U.S. doubled between 1981 and 2011, the number of OSHA inspectors in 2011 was lower than in 1981. As a result, it is even more important for workers to be the eyes and ears of OSHA and report health and safety problems in factories, laboratories, construction sites, and other workplaces. “But too often, when workers raise concerns about health and safety hazards on the job, employers retaliate with reduced hours or dismissal. As a result, it is even more important for workers to be the eyes and ears of OSHA and report health and safety problems in factories, laboratories, construction sites, and other workplaces. But too often, when workers raise concerns about health and safety hazards on the job, employers retaliate with reduced hours or dismissal.”

Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety. The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.
Intersect Alert November 3, 2013

Open Access:

Oakland's Public Participation Route to Open Data Legislation

Oakland passed an open data law earlier this month that was generated quite literally by the people, for the people. Open Oakland, Oakland City Councilmember Libby Schaaf, the Urban Strategies Council, and open government supporters around the country joined forces to draft and chat the best open data policy for Oakland, in a truly open and collaborative format. In addition to garnering support for the open data policy, the greater Oakland community led greatly by the charge of Open Oakland captain, Steve Spiker (Spike), cultivated the policy from start to finish through drafting, public comments, a call to experts, and a [teleconferenced] round table. The Oakland public input process serves as an excellent example of the community's role in generating open data policy, and an exemplar route to incorporating public perspectives into policy.


National digital library gains traction

For a 6-month-old, the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA) already has grown quite large: from an initial 2.4 million available items in April to more than 5 million. Fame came fast too, “even in our infancy,” said DPLA Executive Director Dan Cohen. This free online portal into American culture was less than three weeks old when Time magazine named it one of the best 50 websites of the year. DPLA is an enormous free public library under a digital roof. With a few clicks of computer keys, users can access millions of links to online books, photographs, movies, and other cultural artifacts from collaborating institutions.


New paper explains how data reuse helps novice researchers join academic communities of practice

“The Role of Data Reuse in the Apprenticeship Process” describes how data reuse provides a pathway to internalizing disciplinary norms and methods of inquiry for novice quantitative social scientists, archaeologists and zoologists on their way to becoming members of their respective disciplinary communities. The paper will be published in the forthcoming ASIS&T 2013 Annual Meeting Proceedings. A preprint [pdf] is currently available online.

Key findings include:
– Data reuse provides a unique opportunity for advisors to mentor students through the research process by both guiding the student’s research project and walking them through the research of others
– Reuse was a pathway to various aspects of disciplinary culture, including the formation of ethics, norms for evidence, and interdisciplinary approaches to research.
– Students observed data reuse in the literature and critiqued data producer’s documentation to learn what constitutes acceptable vs. unacceptable research practices within their discipline.
– Repository tools and services matter: Well-written documentation, data citations, and links to works were used by students to see whether data production and analysis aligned with disciplinary norms and could be reused to answer new research questions.


Public Policy:

Sen. Dianne Feinstein’s New NSA Bill Will Codify and Extend Mass Surveillance of Americans

Sen. Dianne Feinstein, the chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee and one of the NSA’s biggest defenders, released what she calls an NSA “reform” bill today. Don’t be fooled: the bill (PDF) codifies some of the NSA’s worst practices, would be a huge setback for everyone’s privacy, and it would permanently entrench the NSA’s collection of every phone record held by U.S. telecoms. We urge members of Congress to oppose it. Sen. Feinstein wants the NSA to continue to collect the metadata of every phone call in the United States – that’s who you call, who calls you, the time and length of the conversation, and under the government’s interpretation, potentially your location – and store it for five years. This is not an NSA reform bill, it’s an NSA entrenchment bill.


AALL Endorses USA FREEDOM Act

Today, Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.) and Congressman Jim Sensenbrenner (R-Wisc.),
chairman of the House Judiciary Crime and Terrorism Subcommittee, [introduced legislation](http://aallwash.wordpress.com/2013/10/29/aall- endorses-usa-freedom-act/) that seeks to significantly limit the collection and use of Americans’ information under our nation’s domestic surveillance authorities. The Uniting and Strengthening America by Fulfilling Rights and Ending Eavesdropping, Dragnet Collection, and Online Monitoring Act, or “USA FREEDOM Act,” would amend the USA PATRIOT Act and FISA Amendments Act of 2008 to better protect Americans’ privacy and require greater oversight, transparency, and accountability with respect to domestic surveillance authorities. AALL has joined more than 20 diverse organizations in endorsing this legislation. 


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**Intellectual Property:**

**Trolls, Watch Out: Senator Hatch Introduces New Patent Legislation**

Patent trolls are facing another legislative threat from Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-UT), who today introduced the Patent Litigation Integrity Act (S. 1612). This bill is a fairly simple – but very important – one that would curb patent troll’s dangerous litigation practices.

The Litigation Integrity Act is a fee-shifting bill. Fee shifting, often called “loser pays,” is not a new idea. It’s long existed in copyright law, for instance. In patent litigation, this type of provision would help tilt the playing field slightly more in favor of the good guys. To understand, think about the patent troll business model: making broad claims of infringement based on patents of questionable validity is the troll’s favorite move. It’s no wonder that many defendants choose to pay up rather than take the time, energy, and especially the money to fight in court. Fee shifting would empower innovators to fight back, while discouraging trolls from threatening lawsuits to start.


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**Digital History:**

**How the HathiTrust Digital Library Handles 11 Million Digitized Volumes**

Digitization is a widely used means of preservation reformatting for print and analog materials, especially with the large-scale capabilities that efforts such as the Google Books Project and the Internet Archive are bringing to many research and academic libraries.

But large-scale digitization means that libraries increasingly require large-scale, preservation-grade infrastructure that’s also suitable for providing access to materials at scale. The HathiTrust Digital Library is answering that call. Launched by the 12-university Committee on Institutional Cooperation (CIC) and the 11-university libraries of the University of California system, HathiTrust is collectively undertaking preservation with access. Today it has more than 80 partners, more than two dozen of whom are depositing content in its repository.


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**Freedom of Information:**

**Rwandan Genocide: Declassification in Revers**

As we approach the twentieth anniversary of the Rwandan genocide, the National Security Archive is utilizing formerly
classified documents released by the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) to help bring accountability for and inform the public of the atrocity. The only problem is, the DIA released these documents nearly a decade ago – and is now redacting the information they once released.

Back in 2004, the Archive submitted a FOIA request about the Rwandan genocide, and the DIA released 14 responsive documents. In 2013, the Archive submitted a Mandatory Declassification Review request for the re-review and release of information withheld in the 2004 case (a common technique to compel agencies to disclose more information). Usually agencies release more information, as the passage of time has made its protection no longer necessary, but in this case, the DIA attempted to retroactively classify information. 


Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety. The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.

Annual Holiday Party and Awards Ceremony!


SF Bay Region Chapter Holiday Party & Annual Awards Ceremony

Thursday, December 5, 2013, 5:30 – 9:00 pm

Urban Tavern Restaurant

333 O’Farrell Street, SF

Please join us as we celebrate the season, another year of terrific Chapter events, and the contributions of some of our distinguished members.

Agenda:

5:30 – 6:30     Party!
6:30 – 7:00     Awards!
7:00 – 9:00     More Party!

In the spirit of this festive season, please join our own Deb Hunt and David Grossman as they celebrate the launch of their new book, The Librarian’s SkillBook: 51 Essential Career Skills for Information Professionals. Deb and David will be selling and signing books throughout the party. They’ ll be offering a discounted price of $20 cash or check or $23 credit card.

Menu:

Enjoy a spread of culinary delights. Plus one free drink ticket will be provided!

SLA Program Cost:

$25 for everyone.

Location:

Urban Tavern is located in San Francisco’s Union Square neighborhood. It is a 5 minute walk from Powell BART and MUNI. Parking is at the Hilton San Francisco Union Square Garage.

DEADLINE:

Registration is now closed.

Thanks to our generous sponsors!

Trak Records and Library

IEEE

Taylor and Associates
Bay Area information professionals step up to provide leadership to their peers


Contact: Heather Gamberg, SLA SF Bay Region PR Chair, 415-438-6437 or hgamberg@foley.com

Nov. 4, 2013 – Three members of the San Francisco Bay Region Chapter of the Special Libraries Association will join its Executive Board in 2014, filling important leadership roles that help determine the course of the local organization.

The new Executive Board members in 2014 will be President-elect Jaye Lapachet, Treasurer Lori Guidry, and Assistant Programs Director Sarah Cook. Their work experiences demonstrate the variety of roles information professionals fill in today’s business environment.

Lapachet is a professional law librarian at Coblentz Patch Duffy & Bass LLP in San Francisco. She has worked in law firms and law libraries since 1987, and was an information management consultant for eight years. She has a Master of Library and Information Studies.

Lapachet has set up databases and workflow systems in numerous libraries and is an expert at identifying ways to streamline workflow. Her strength is asymmetrical thinking and idea generation. She has written for a variety of publications and speaks at conferences.

Guidry relocated to the Bay Area a year ago from Chicago, where she was a longtime active member of the SLA Illinois Chapter. She is still employed by Chicago area-based Threshold Information, an independent secondary research firm. As the Business Project Manager, she conducts and oversees ad hoc research projects and newsletters for corporate clients.

Guidry has an undergraduate degree in journalism from Depaul University and a Master of Library and Information Science from Dominican University.

Cook is currently employed as a library assistant at multiple law firms in the Bay Area. She has a BA in Creative Writing from San Francisco State University. While at SFSU, she received an award from the Creative Writing Department for her role as Managing Editor of Transfer Magazine, the university’s literary magazine.

Cook will receive her MLIS from San Jose State University this fall. At SJSU, she studies legal research and information architecture. In the future, she expects to continue legal research or branch out into structural design of shared information environments.

Four others who served on the chapter’s Executive Board in 2013 will continue to lead next year. Cindy Hill, who manages the Research Library at the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, will be President, and Anne Barker, a law librarian at Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP, will move into the Past President role. Kim Ewart, Corporate Intranet Manager at Pandora, will be Director of Programs. Donna Purvis, now retired but formerly a law librarian and a representative of LexisNexis, will continue as Secretary.

About the San Francisco Bay Region Chapter of SLA:

Established in 1924, the chapter (http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/about/) has been supporting the professional interests of librarians and information professionals for nearly 90 years. There are currently more than 300 members who are employed by law firms, corporations, universities, nonprofits, and other organizations or are interested in the information field, for instance students of library or information science.

About SLA:

The Special Libraries Association (SLA) is a nonprofit international organization for innovative information professionals and their strategic partners. SLA serves 9,000 members in 75 countries in the information profession, including corporate, academic and government information specialists. SLA promotes and strengthens its members through learning, advocacy and networking initiatives. For more information, visit www.sla.org.

Share this:

Upcoming Tour of Research Library & Bank Archives


Library Tour:

Research Library & Bank Archives
Intersect Alert November 11, 2013


Freedom of Information:

Multiple Efforts to Bar Access to Ag Info Sprouting on Capitol Hill

Recently we wrote about a successful effort to keep a provision out of the Senate-passed Farm Bill that would have barred the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) from releasing information about farm owners or operators. Unfortunately, though, it seems that the attempt to attach the language to the Farm Bill in the Senate was only the opening salvo in a wider war to stop the EPA from releasing potentially important public health and safety information. The Senators who proposed the Farm Bill amendment, Senators Grassley and Donnelly, recently introduced an identical bill, and similar language appears in the House-passed version of the Farm Bill and the House Appropriations Committee’s version of the 2014 Interior spending bill. The language some Members of Congress are trying to make a part of the law goes well beyond the stated objectives. Rather than appropriately protecting private information, the language cuts off all public access to any information the EPA has collected on any owner, operator, or employee of a livestock operation.
http://www.openthegovernment.org/node/4079.

E-Gov Spotlight: EPA’s Enforcement Database Gets Updated

On Oct. 23, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released a beta 2.0 version of its enforcement and compliance web-based tool. The new version should make it easier for the public to find information on which facilities near their communities violate air, water, and pollution standards. The agency has requested user feedback, so we encourage readers to visit the website and provide comments to the agency. The new ECHO website provides the same information found in the previous database. It allows users to search for enforcement and compliance information on facilities in a particular community or review the performance of all the facilities in a state. However, the new version is more user-friendly, has better tools for site visitors, and makes it easier for a user to find his or her way around the database.

White House Commitments Would Expand Access to Information

During last week’s Open Government Partnership meeting in London, the Obama administration released a preview (PDF) of its U.S. Open Government National Action Plan 2.0 (NAP). While the second NAP will not be finalized until December 2013, six new commitments to further advance the goals of transparency and accountability in the federal government were...
announced. They include expanding open data, increasing fiscal and corporate transparency, advancing citizen engagement, more effectively managing public resources, and most significantly, modernizing the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

http://aallwash.wordpress.com/2013/11/05/white-house-commitments-would-expand-access-to-information/.

Public Policy:

Voter ID law snags former House Speaker Jim Wright
Former House Speaker Jim Wright was denied a voter ID card Saturday at a Texas Department of Public Safety office. “Nobody was ugly to us, but they insisted that they wouldn’t give me an ID,” Wright said. Wright and his assistant went to DPS to get a State of Texas Election Identification Certificate. Wright said he realized earlier in the week that the photo identifications he had – a Texas driver’s license that expired in 2010 and a TCU faculty ID – do not satisfy requirements of the voter ID law, enacted in 2011 by the Legislature. The legendary Texas political figure says that he has worked things out with DPS and that he will get a state-issued personal identification card in time for him to vote Tuesday in the state and local elections. But after the difficulty he had this weekend getting a proper ID card, Wright, 90, expressed concern that such problems could deter others from voting and stifle turnout.


Farewell, Thomas.gov. Hello, Congress.gov
On November 19th, Thomas.gov, the venerable website of the United States Congress, will begin to redirect visitors to Congress.gov. The new site, which launched in beta in September 2012, will become the primary governmental resource for the text of legislation, past, present and future, along with reports from committees, speeches from the floor of Congress and cost estimates from the Congressional Budget Office. The Library of Congress indicated that the old site will remain accessible from the Congress.gov homepage through late 2014. After that, historians may have to hope that the National Archives adopts whatever code or data retains historical interest into its servers – unfortunately, the configuration of the robots.txt file for Thomas.gov appears to have prevented the Internet Archive from preserving its iterations over the years.

http://www.ifla.org/node/8132.

Goldman Sachs to Make Minority Investment in ProQuest
ProQuest, a global information firm renowned for powering serious research, announced today that an affiliate of Goldman Sachs will purchase a significant minority equity interest in the Company, including the stake held by private equity firm ABRY Partners. Goldman Sachs will join majority shareholder Cambridge Information Group (CIG) as a partner.


Roundup: Library Votes 2013
“We plan to update this post with new and additional material as it becomes available.” A roundup of the yays and nays across the US – most dealing with increasing taxes to support libraries, or closing libraries to save money.


Congressmen call for federal investigation of black lung benefits program, citing Center-ABC reports
Two U.S. congressmen have called on the Labor Department’s inspector general to investigate whether doctors and lawyers, working on behalf of coal companies, have helped improperly deprive hundreds of mine workers of disability benefits they should have received after contracting black lung disease. And, the request comes as Democratic Sens. Robert Casey (Penn.) and Jay Rockefeller (W.Va.) have begun looking into possible legislative action to address the issues raised in those reports, which revealed how powerful – and sometimes surprising – forces have helped the industry defeat claims.


Digital History:

Columbia and Cornell Libraries Receive Mellon Grant for Expanding E-Journal Preservation
The libraries at Columbia University and Cornell University are pleased to announce an 18-month, $150,000 grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to conduct a project intended to expand significantly the preservation coverage of e-journals and to implement strategies that will sustain the initiative beyond the duration of the project. The project, a joint undertaking of the partnership between the libraries of Columbia and Cornell known as 2CUL, will identify priority content from the perspective of the research library community and make significant progress towards increasing the number of e-journals archived by major preservation programs.

http://www.ifla.org/node/8132.

Goldman Sachs to Make Minority Investment in ProQuest
ProQuest, a global information firm renowned for powering serious research, announced today that an affiliate of Goldman Sachs will purchase a significant minority equity interest in the Company, including the stake held by private equity firm ABRY Partners. Goldman Sachs will join majority shareholder Cambridge Information Group (CIG) as a partner.


Internet Access:

Only One in Five Searches is Right First Time
The search for corporate information, either in the office itself
or out on the road, is eating into workplace productivity, according to the latest research from Simplexo. The research, conducted in both the UK and the US, found that on workers spent up to 25 minutes looking for a single document in over a third of searches conducted. Furthermore, in 80% of cases it took up to eight attempts to find the right information. Only 20% of 300 respondents reported first time successful searches. http://www.iwr.co.uk/information-management-and-technology/3011673/Only-one-in-five-searches-is-right-first-time.

Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety.
The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.

Intersect Alert November 17, 2013


International Outlook::

Progress Made Revising EU Data Privacy Laws
For the past few years, European policymaking institutions have been working to revise the European Union’s data privacy laws. Last month that effort took a significant step forward as the Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs Committee of the European Parliament voted on and passed new legislative text on a General Data Protection Regulation. One of the most significant and controversial elements of the revised text is the retention of the “legitimate interest” basis for data processing – that is, if a company has a “legitimate interest” in collecting and using your data, it may legally do so under the law. This provision has drawn the ire of privacy advocates because of the extremely broad scope of the provision. The revised legislation retains, though narrows, the “legitimate interest” basis, but also strengthens a user’s ability to object to such processing (effectively, the ability to opt out). https://www.cdt.org/blogs/justin-brookman/1211progress-made-revising-eu-data-privacy-laws.

Open Access:

NASA Brings Earth Science ‘Big Data’ to the Cloud with Amazon Web Services
NASA and Amazon Web Services Inc. (AWS) of Seattle, Wash., are making a large collection of NASA climate and Earth science satellite data available to research and educational users through the AWS cloud. The system enhances research and educational opportunities for the U.S. geoscience community by promoting community-driven research, innovation and collaboration. “NASA continues to support and provide open public access to research data, and this collaboration is entirely. “Earth science research is important to every person on the planet, and we welcome contributions from all researchers in improving our understanding of Earth and its climate.” This agreement allows NASA and AWS to experiment with a new way to provide data services. By using the cloud, research and application users worldwide gain access to an integrated Earth science computational and data management system they can use on their own. NASA has uploaded terabytes of data from three satellite and computer modeling datasets to the AWS platform and will upload more in the future. The NASA datasets will be available through the Amazon Public Data Sets program at http://aws.amazon.com/datasets.

64 Federal Courts Now Publish Opinions on FDsys
A project providing free online access to federal court opinions has expanded to include 64 courts. The federal Judiciary and the Government Printing Office partner through the GPO’s Federal Digital System, FDsys, to provide public access to more than 750,000 opinions, many dating back to 2004. The Judicial Conference approved national implementation of the project in September 2012, expanding participation from the original 29 courts. FDsys currently contains opinions from 8 appellate courts, 20 district courts, and 35 bankruptcy courts. http://news.uscourts.gov/64-federal-courts-now-publish-opinions-fdsys.

National Library of Medicine Launches Emergency Access Initiative, Granting Free Access to Books and Journals for Those Responding to Typhoon Haiyan
The National Library of Medicine (NLM) Emergency Access Initiative (EAI) has been activated in support of medical efforts in the Philippines and surrounding area following the devastating typhoon. The EAI is a collaborative partnership between NLM and participating publishers to provide free access to full-text from over 650 biomedical journals and over 4,000 reference books and online databases to healthcare professionals and libraries affected by disasters. It serves as a temporary collection replacement and/or supplement for
libraries affected by disasters that need to continue to serve medical staff and affiliated users. It is also intended for medical personnel responding to the specified disaster. 

Public Policy:

Senators Introduce Bill to Fund Open Education Resources
A new bill introduced in the U.S. Senate seeks to tackle the rising cost of textbooks by giving states an incentive to experiment with open educational resources. The Affordable College Textbook Act, introduced by U.S. Senators Dick Durbin and Al Franken, Democrats of Illinois and Minnesota, respectively, would create a grant program that would fund the creation of new textbooks — as long as they are made available for free online. 

Digital History:

Smithsonian makes push in 3D imaging of artifacts
With most of its 137 million objects kept behind the scenes or in a faraway museum, the Smithsonian Institution is launching a new 3D scanning and printing initiative to make more of its massive collection accessible to schools, researchers and the public worldwide. A small team has begun creating 3D models of some key objects representing the breadth of the collection at the world’s largest museum complex. Some of the first 3D scans include the Wright brothers’ first airplane, Amelia Earhart’s flight suit, casts of President Abraham Lincoln’s face during the Civil War and a Revolutionary War gunboat. Now the Smithsonian is launching a new 3D viewer online Wednesday with technology from 3D design firm AutoDesk to give people a closer look at artifacts in their own homes. The data can also be downloaded, recreated with a 3D printer and used to help illustrate lessons in history, art and science in schools. 

Privacy:

The Wild West Becomes Less Wild: States Fill Privacy Gap Left by Congress
Every day, consumers introduce more and more personal health data into the commercial space – through mobile applications, social networking sites and personal health records. Yet the U.S. does not have a comprehensive, baseline privacy law that protects such data. As a result, states are increasingly taking matters into their own hands, passing laws that both provide important protections for consumers and exacerbate the problematic patchwork of sometimes conflicting state laws that hamper easy, secure data sharing on a nationwide basis. On the federal level, last year both the Federal Trade Commission and the White House called on Congress to enact baseline
consumer privacy legislation, though as of yet there has been no congressional movement on this front. 

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Success in Tough Times: How to re-energize library services

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2013/11/success-in-tough-times-how-to-re-energize-library-services/  
November 19, 2013  
Categories: Bayline, Chapter Programs & Events  
Tags: professional development

Online Webinar on Tuesday, October 22, 2013, 6pm – 7:30pm (Pacific)

Presented by
Richard Hulser

It is a given that we are all challenged with limited resources in a changing information services landscape. Our speaker Richard Hulser presented strategies and tactics we all can use to successfully re-energize our services, whether delivered through corporate, non-profit or academic libraries, archives, consulting agencies or knowledge management centers.

Richard P. Hulser is chief librarian at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County (http://www.nhm.org). The NHM Research Library has been an integral part of the Museum since its founding in 1913, and its holdings reflect the breadth of its collections in anthropology, ethology, zoology, mineralogy, paleontology, and history – especially as they relate to Southern California history, geography and industry. As a solo librarian in a public institution, Richard feels the limitations of budget and personnel acutely. He used his library as a practical case study, but emphasized the areas of common interest among all information professionals.

One of the most important points Richard raised was the value of developing a 3-5 year strategic plan that aligns with the mission and values of one’s parent organization or client. If you have an aligned plan you can justify expenditures, make alliances and define success that is meaningful to those who run the enterprise.

One important thing Richard did, and I think one of the most helpful that he did, was the development of a 3-5 year strategic plan that aligns with the mission and values of one’s parent organization or client. He was able to run with these goals to create a plan that included physical resources, personnel needs, policies and procedures and technology development.

Richard is a champ at networking. Being able to collaborate with partners has huge benefits, not just for negotiating the buying of things, but also to accomplish things. He enjoys collaborating externally with other librarians in his area, “because you never know” what resources they might be willing, even eager to share or exchange. He attends SLA and ALA conferences for professional development and also so that he can browse the exhibit halls for vendors and trends in tech for his needs.

He has also found allies internally in his organization with talents, equipment and even furniture they could donate to the library. One internal group it is essential to befriend is your enterprise IT, “because your stuff runs on their stuff.”

When an event matches up with a success goal, Richard makes sure he documents it to share with higher ups. He showed us a couple of his photos of a happy, engaged family in the library poring over a collection of original, noteworthy scientific illustrations that their great grandfather had drawn that are now preserved at NHM. Here was a perfect example that the library is being used by scientists, museum members and potential or actual donors.

Whether or not these tips were new to us, Richard’s enthusiasm and generosity of ideas were inspiring. His blog is http://cybrarianviews.com/

-Chris Orr

Share this:
Intersect Alert November 24, 2013


Take Action:

Oppose bill language that would hamper public access!

Today there is bill language making the rounds in Congress that would delay public access to federally-funded research. The Frontiers in Innovation, Research, Science and Technology Act of 2013 (FIRST) would restrict public access to articles reporting on federally-funded research for up to three years after initial publication. This delay is two years longer than what is stated in the White House’s Office of Science Technology Policy memo Increasing Access to the Results of Federally Funded Scientific Research and two and a half years longer than what is proposed in the bicameral, bipartisan Fair Access to Science and Technology Research Act (FASTR).

Contact your representatives; remind them that “Section 302 of the FIRST Act would turn back the clock on the substantial progress already made towards meaningful public access by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), undermine the widely-supported White House Office of Science and Technology Policy Directive on Public Access to the Results of Federally Funded Research, and put the U.S. at a severe disadvantage with the rest of the world in terms of policies that promote innovation and competitiveness.”

Please take a moment and use the Legislative Action Center to ask your representative to:

- Oppose Section 302 of FIRST, and
- Support FASTR!


Free Expression, Surveillance, and the Fight Against Impunity

Journalists, bloggers and others who speak out against the powerful risk terrible repercussions for their work. Around the world, they face physical intimidation, violent attacks, and even murder for speaking out. When such crimes are committed against those who exercise their right to free speech, the perpetrators all too often go unpunished. Those who are meant to enforce the law turn a blind eye. The oppressors can act with absolute impunity. Every November 23rd, free speech organizations around the world draw attention to these travesties of justice in a Day To End Impunity. The number of uninvestigated crimes and unsolved murders of journalists makes for depressing reading—as does the slow but inexorable increase in victims who are targeted for their online work. Crimes against privacy are a small but growing part of the selective lawlessness that is deployed against writers and creators in order to silence them. Surveillance is a more shadowy form of lawlessness than, for instance, the vicious and unresolved mass murder of 32 journalists in Sri Lanka in 2009, which the Day against Impunity memorializes. To find out how you can help in the fight against impunity, see the Day Against Impunity website.


Freedom of Information:

League of Conservation Voters becoming ‘dark money’ heavyweight

The liberal League of Conservation Voters is fast becoming one of the nation’s strongest “dark money” forces — a realm conservative groups have typically dominated. New documents filed with the Internal Revenue Service and obtained by the Center for Public Integrity show the nonprofit League of Conservation Voters spent a record $36 million in 2012, of which more than 40 percent — nearly $15 million — came in the form of “direct and indirect political campaign activities.” Little is known about the sources of the League of Conservation Voters’ cash … a Center for Public Integrity review of IRS records show the League received substantial financial support last year from a nonprofit started by two of President Barack Obama’s former aides, as well as nonprofits dedicated to advocating for “progressive” legislation and “clean energy.”


Judge Rejects Chiquita’s Effort to Block Release of Documents on Terror Payments

U.S. District Judge Richard J. Leon yesterday rejected legal action by Chiquita Brands International to prevent the release under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) of records relating to the company’s illegal payments to a Colombian terrorist group.

The ruling clears the way for the SEC to finish processing FOIA requests submitted five years ago by the National Security Archive relating to illegal payments to the United Self-Defense Forces of Colombia (AUC), a right-wing “paramilitary” organization responsible for the majority of murders, disappearances and forced displacements in Colombia’s internal conflict. The documents at issue are primarily legal and financial records pertaining to more than a decade of “sensitive payments” made by the company and its subsidiaries to the AUC and to leftist guerrilla groups like the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) and the National Liberation Army (ELN).


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Domestic Drones are Coming; Will Privacy be Factored In?
Drones will be deployed in domestic airspace within the next two years, but the regulations that will govern the use of drones within the United States continue to be drafted and implemented. There are obvious benefits to the introduction of drones in domestic airspace, especially in encouraging stronger government accountability and the creation of new business models, but the federal government has recognized that the rollout must be handled carefully in order to ensure public safety and protect individual rights.

The Federal Aviation Administration recently released its final privacy requirements for the test sites where drones (or “unmanned aircraft systems,” in the FAA’s parlance) will be tested. Senator Ed Markey of Massachusetts has also recently introduced a bill that would create privacy and transparency requirements for those test sites, building on a bill he introduced earlier in 2013 when he was a member of the House.


Public Policy:

Delaware Flaunts “Shell Company” Policy with New Website
The state of Delaware has launched a new website (corplaw.delaware.gov) to promote Delaware’s business-friendly incorporation laws abroad. An individual may – in any of 10 languages– register a corporation without providing information on the entities’ “beneficial owners” - or the real people behind the corporation. Delaware is known for its policies, which allow for the creation of anonymous shell companies. In fact, Delaware is one of the easiest places in the world to obtain an untraceable shell company.


Toxic Arsenic May Be in Your Thanksgiving Turkey
The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) had finally withdrawn their approval for the use of three arsenic-based drugs used in feed for chickens, turkeys, and pigs to prevent disease, increase animal weight, and improve meat color. The FDA was finally responding to a 2009 petition from the Center for Food Safety and the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy requesting the immediate suspension of the use of arsenic-containing feed additives used in food animals. [However,] the FDA continued their approval for the arsenic-containing drug nitarsone (sold as Histostat 50®) used to prevent blackhead disease in turkeys and chickens. Given the chemical structure similarities between nitarsone and the now-banned roxarsone, there is a strong likelihood that the FDA studies will find inorganic arsenic in meat from turkeys fed nitarsone-containing feed.


Libraries:

Sacramento Library Gets Restitution Check from Embezzlement Case
The Sacramento Public Library will be getting a check for nearly a half million dollars – not in donations, but in restitution. It all stems from two years ago, when two former employees embezzled close to $800,000 from the library. Dennis Nilsson, once the facilities supervisor, and James Mayle, the former head of security for the library, along with his wife Janie created a fictional shell company to oversee maintenance service for the library, the DA says. With the money, trips were purchased and so were cars. The judge threw the book at them in 2011 and they were sent to prison. During that time, their assets were frozen. In all, about $480,000 will be recouped by the library.


Open Access:

UA Libraries Join HathiTrust
The University of Alabama has become one of the newest partners of HathiTrust, a partnership of major academic and research libraries collaborating in a digital library initiative to preserve and provide access to the published record in digital form. HathiTrust serves a dual role: First, as a trusted repository it guarantees the long-term preservation of the materials it holds, providing the expert curation and consistent access long associated with research libraries. Second, as a service for partners and a public good, HathiTrust offers persistent access to the digital collections. Specialized features are also available which facilitate access by persons with print disabilities.

http://uanews.ua.edu/2013/11/ua-libraries-join-hathitrust/.

International Outlook:

Mexican Legislators Call for Investigation of U.S. Intelligence Center
Three top Mexican lawmakers have called on the country’s Attorney General to investigate disclosures about a secret, U.S.-only intelligence facility in Mexico City published last week by Migration Declassified in partnership with MVS Noticias. On Friday, Ricardo Anaya Cortés of the National Action Party (PAN), chair of the Permanent Council of the Chamber of Deputies, said “it would be very grave if it is confirmed that an espionage center, operated by a foreign government, exists on our territory.”

http://nsarchive.wordpress.com/2013/11/19/mexican-

Privacy:
Digital History:

INTERNET [Great Introductory Essay About The Internet From 1993]
Some thirty years ago, the RAND Corporation, America’s foremost Cold War think-tank, faced a strange strategic problem. How could the US authorities successfully communicate after a nuclear war? Postnuclear America would need a command-and-control network, linked from city to city, state to state, base to base. But no matter how thoroughly that network was armored or protected, its switches and wiring would always be vulnerable to the impact of atomic bombs. A nuclear attack would reduce any conceivable network to tatters. RAND mulled over this grim puzzle in deep military secrecy, and arrived at a daring solution. The RAND proposal (the brainchild of RAND staffer Paul Baran) was made public in 1964. In the first place, the network would have no central authority. Furthermore, it would be designed from the beginning to operate while in tatters.

The headless, anarchic, million-limbed Internet is spreading like bread-mold. Any computer of sufficient power is a potential spore for the Internet, and today such computers sell for less than $2,000 and are in the hands of people all over the world. ARPA’s network, designed to assure control of a ravaged society after a nuclear holocaust, has been superseded by its mutant child the Internet, which is thoroughly out of control, and spreading exponentially through the post-Cold War electronic global village.

Freedom of Information:

Freedom to Read Foundation and ALA file brief in lawsuit challenging Arizona ethnic studies ban
The Freedom to Read Foundation yesterday joined with the American Library Association and several other library, education and free speech organizations in filing an amicus brief with the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in Arce v. Huppenthal, a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of Arizona Revised Statute § 15-112(A). The brief argues that the statute, which led to the disbanding of Tucson’s Mexican American Studies (MAS) program, violates Arizona students’ First Amendment rights to receive information and is unconstitutionally overbroad.

“In submitting this brief, the Freedom to Read Foundation is standing up for the right of all Arizona students to a curriculum based on educational merit, not political motivation,” said Executive Director Barbara M. Jones. “Students in the MAS program improved their educational performance. And there is no evidence that those students learned ‘racial resentment’ or discovered an interest in ‘overthrowing the U.S. government,’ as the proponents of Arizona HB 2281 contended.”

Prioritizing Topics for Declassification
The Public Interest Declassification Board, which advises the President on classification and declassification policy, is proposing to recommend that certain historically significant topics and events be prioritized for expedited declassification. The Board has invited public input into the formulation of its recommendations for prioritization. The working list of potential declassification topics that are less than 25 years old includes many worthy subjects including, for example, 9/11 Commission records and “Guantanamo / Detainee issues.” On the other hand, it does not yet include many other high priority items for declassification, such as the Senate Intelligence Committee’s massive report on CIA interrogation practices.

Public Policy:

Announcing the Docket Wrench API
In January of this year, Sunlight announced the release of our Docket Wrench tool, which exposes vast amounts of data about the federal regulatory process, with a particular focus on uncovering patterns in the text of regulatory comments. Users can search the full text of over three million documents, examine the regulatory influence activity of the same prominent corporate actors we track in Influence Explorer, and make sense of very large collections of comments by automatically grouping together form-letter submissions.

We’re now pleased to announce the first release of Docket
Wrench’s API to the public. This API will allow developers to leverage the same analytical infrastructure that powers Docket Wrench to build innovative new services and tools. The data in the API goes beyond what is supplied by Regulations.gov, the underlying data provider behind Docket Wrench, and includes metadata about rulemaking documents (such as notices, rules, and proposed rules), full-text search across all document, with results returned either as listings of individual documents, or aggregated to find dockets that contain significant numbers of occurrences of the search phrase, and more. 

Open Access:

Adding musical scores to Wikimedia
Sound and musical content have long trailed behind other subjects on Wikipedia, but that is beginning to change with a new musical scores extension for MediaWiki, the software running Wikipedia and thousands of other wikis. The Score extension was added to a MediaWiki deployment earlier this year and allows users to render musical scores as PNG images and transform them into audio and MIDI files. Over time, the hope is to expand on this extension and grow it into a viable resource, encouraging music teachers, music historians and the musicology community to use Score to share their knowledge. 

Privacy:

Do Not Track Kids Bill Revives Minors’ Online Privacy Debate
The Do Not Track Kids Act (DNTK) has resurfaced, bringing the debate over minors’ online privacy back to the federal level. Sponsored by now-Senator Markey and Representatives Barton and Rush, this year’s bill is largely the same as the Markey-Barton bill of 2011. As we noted in 2011, the DNTK bill’s use of the Fair Information Practice Principles framework is a good approach to protecting the privacy of users’ information – but extending those protections only to users in a certain age bracket raises significant complications for users and operators alike.
The 2013 bill also brings back the “Eraser Button” concept (though it’s now simply called “Removal of Content”). Online eraser buttons, or the European counterpart the “right to be forgotten,” inherently raise critical questions about the interaction between one user’s privacy interest in data she’s shared and another’s free expression right to quote or comment on public information. 

How To Defend Yourself Against Hacking On Any Device
Wherever you’re sitting right now, take a moment to note the connected devices around you. In your pocket or handbag, you probably have an electronic key fob and perhaps a rechargeable subway card embedded with RFID. You likely have a smartphone, which is connected to a Wi-Fi network and also has voice-mail service. You might be wearing a Nike FuelBand, or a Fitbit, or possibly even a new pair of Google Glass. Maybe you can spot a traffic light or an orange highway sign out of your window. A power strip is likely not too far away.
All of these devices share one thing in common: They can be hacked. The proliferation of all this technology creates a constant need to keep devices updated and secure. 

Busting Eight Common Excuses for NSA Mass Surveillance
We’ve heard from lots of folks who are passionately concerned about the NSA’s mass spying, but are struggling to get their friends and family to understand the problem. You need to be prepared to respond to the common refrains of folks confused, nonplussed, or simply exhausted from the headlines. So here’s a cheat sheet to help you talk about the NSA spying when you’re with family and friends. There’s lots you can do to fight NSA surveillance. But one of the most important things you can do is explain why this issue is important to friends and family. [The guide then discusses each of the following:] 
– I have nothing to hide from the government, so why should I worry?
– Isn’t the NSA using the mass spying to stop terrorists?
– The government will not abuse its power.
– Allowing mass spying is patriotic.
– Kids today (or my friends) post everything they do on Facebook or Twitter, why should we care if the government can see too?
– Google and Facebook have my information, so why shouldn’t the NSA?
– It’s just metadata, so why should I care?
– This sucks, but there’s nothing I can do!

Intersect Alert December 8, 2013
Freedom of Information

Obama Administration Tackles Important Open Government Issues in Broad, Ambitious Plan
“Today, the Obama administration released the Second National Action Plan as part of its ongoing participation in the international Open Government Partnership (OGP). The goals of the plan are organized into three major areas: increase public integrity, manage resources more effectively, and improve public services. The plan contained 23 commitments to strengthen transparency and public participation in government, many with greater detail than was included in the first National Action Plan in 2011.”
http://www.foreffectivegov.org/obama-administration-tackles-important-open-government-issues-broad-ambitious-plan

Defense Department Takes Narrower Approach to Controlled Unclassified Information
“A new Department of Defense (DOD) rule requires defense contractors to protect “unclassified controlled technical information” from unauthorized access and disclosure. The rule, issued Nov. 18, is much narrower than DOD’s proposed rule, which had raised concerns that it could result in the inappropriate withholding of public information. However, questions remain about how the rule will interact with the new system of controlled unclassified information (CUI) being set up government-wide.”
http://www.foreffectivegov.org/blog/defense-department-takes-narrower-approach-controlled-unclassified-information

Open Data Executive Order Compliance: The Bad and The Good.
“The first major deadline for agency compliance with President Obama’s open data Executive Order arrived this past Saturday. Agencies were required to, among other things, provide the Office of Management and Budget with an “Enterprise Data Inventory” and release a list of all their public data via a /data page on their websites. We had hopes that some agencies might choose to publicly release their entire Enterprise Data Inventories, providing a full picture of their data holdings. Unfortunately, so far, that does not seem to have happened. Until the full inventories are available, the public will still be stuck in the dark, not knowing what we don’t know about government data holdings. Nonetheless, most cabinet level agencies, as well as a number of independent agencies that were not required to comply, have taken steps to publicly fulfill the other aspects of the Executive Order. Levels of compliance have been varied, but we will try to highlight some of the worst and best examples below.”

International Outlook

Spanish Transparency Law approved by Senate without significant changes
“The Spanish Law on Transparency, Access to Information and Good Governance was approved by the Senate last Wednesday with no improvements to the right of access to information, despite the rejection of the text from the majority of parliamentary groups.”

Torontoians Receive $5.63 of value for every dollar invested in Toronto Public Library
“Toronto Public Library recently commissioned the Martin Prosperity Institute, part of the Rotman School of Management at the University of Toronto, to conduct the first Canadian study to measure the library’s economic impact on Toronto. Results clearly demonstrate that Toronto Public Library delivers a strong return on investment through the delivery of library services that enhance Toronto’s competitiveness and prosperity and contribute to a better quality of life for all.”

Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety.

The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.
Intersect Alert December 15, 2013

freedom of information, government, international outlook, open data, public policy

Freedom of Information

San Francisco approves new law to standardize open data
“The San Francisco Board of Supervisors on Tuesday approved Supervisor Mark Farrell’s open data law intended to standardize the city’s data format and release timeline. . . Farrell’s open data law will require that San Francisco releases its open data in machine-readable formats, sets timelines for departments to release the data set, helps citizens and private companies prioritize data sets and creates a strategy to give residents access to the data.”
http://techwire.net/san-francisco-approves-open-data-law/

“Ameri...
citizens keep a check on governance and promote transparency. The application will provide users with information about the state government’s resolutions and cabinet decisions.”


Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety.

SLA chapter honors four Bay Area members for service in information profession


Contact: Heather Gamberg, SLA SF Bay Region PR Chair, 415-438-6437 or hgamberg@foley.com

San Francisco, 17 December 2013 — The San Francisco Bay Region Chapter of the Special Libraries Association presented awards to Monica Ertel, George Plosker, Lisa Ngo, and Lauren Reid on Dec. 5 in recognition of their contributions to and achievements in the association and the information profession. Three awardees earned their master’s degrees in San Jose State University’s long-running School of Library and Information Science, and one expects to graduate from the program in 2014.

Mimi Calter, past-president of the chapter, managed the nominations process this year. “The awards committee is pleased to recognize four very deserving individuals this year,” she said. “We’re very excited to present the Lifetime Achievement Award to George Plosker this year, in recognition of more than 25 years of dedicated service to the chapter. This award is given only occasionally, but it was important to us to recognize George’s consistent, and ongoing, efforts in support of the chapter.

“Similarly, Monica Ertel, our Professional Achievement Award winner, has been a dedicated supporter of the chapter throughout her remarkable career. On the other end of the spectrum, we’re pleased to recognize Lisa Ngo and Lauren Reid with our Horizon and Student awards. They both show great promise, and we’re confident they’ll be strong champions for the chapter and the profession in the future.”

Professional Achievement Award recipient Ertel is Director of Global Information Services for Bain & Company, where she oversees strategic information services coordination and planning for a network of 25 centers around the world. Ertel has also been Director of Worldwide Customer Service for Innovative Interfaces, Inc.; Director of Global Knowledge Management and North America Research at Korn/Ferry International; and Director of Knowledge Systems for Apple Computer, where she started and oversaw the Apple Library and the Apple Library Users Group, which at one point had 20,000 members from all over the world. She holds a Master of Library Science degree from San Jose State and an MBA from Santa Clara University. She has been active in SLA and many other library and information associations for nearly 40 years and was appointed Fellow of the Special Libraries Association in 1996.

Plosker received the Lifetime Achievement Award for his sustained service to SLA in all spheres of its activities. He is a Client Services Manager for the IEEE, where he works with its clients and prospects to increase usage of IEEE’s online products by creating and renewing awareness of its published content and subscription products to audiences worldwide. A veteran of the content industry, he has held senior positions with 365 Media; infoUSA, Inc.; DIALOG; and Thomson Gale. Plosker is a recognized industry leader and expert in the areas of knowledge management and the use of peer-reviewed content to provide a positive impact on scholarly advancement, innovation, technical development and business results. In 2007, San Jose State’s School of Library and Information Science named Plosker one of its “40 most influential alumni” for his “profound impact in both the public and private sectors.”

Plosker is well-known in the chapter for being supportive to new members. Chapter President Anne Barker remembers how he greeted her when she was new to SLA. “He was welcoming, taking a real interest in engaging me in conversation and introducing me to other members at the event. I have watched him do the same with other students and new members at numerous SLA events over the years,” she said. “George has been a tremendous benefit to both our chapter and to SLA through his continued support of new members and mentoring efforts.”

The chapter’s Horizon Award, which recognizes a member of five years or fewer who has shown promise of becoming an outstanding member of the profession, was given to Lisa Ngo. She is the Instruction & Electronic Services Librarian at the Kresge Engineering Library at the University of California,
Berkeley. Ngo, who has a Master of Library and Information Science from San Jose State, helped the chapter begin offering webinars for its professional development program. Chris Orr, the chapter’s professional Development Chair, praises Ngo as “a team player with a future in our chapter’s Advisory Council and even the Executive Board.”

Currently doing digital asset management in the tech industry, Lauren Reid won this year’s Student Award. While working toward a master’s degree at San Jose State, she revived the chapter’s long-dormant Networking Committee and brought it into the social media age by creating a chapter Twitter account, re-launching the chapter Facebook account, and making frequent posts to the chapter’s LinkedIn account. The number of followers and group members in each continues to increase, and participation is growing. Reid’s work has completely revitalized the role of the Networking Committee, bringing new benefits to our members and greater visibility of our chapter to potential members.

About the San Francisco Bay Region Chapter of SLA (http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/about/):

Established in 1924, the chapter has been supporting the professional interests of librarians and information professionals for nearly 90 years. There are currently more than 300 members who are employed by law firms, corporations, universities, nonprofits, and other organizations or are interested in the information field, for instance students of library or information science.

About SLA

The Special Libraries Association (SLA) is a nonprofit international organization for innovative information professionals and their strategic partners. SLA serves 9,000 members in 75 countries in the information profession, including corporate, academic and government information specialists. SLA promotes and strengthens its members through learning, advocacy and networking initiatives. For more information, visit www.sla.org.

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Freedom of Information

DoD Reports to Congress to be Posted Online

“In a slight but welcome incremental reform, reports to Congress from the Department of Defense are to be posted online, according to a provision in the pending FY 2014 defense authorization act. Up to now, such reports were to be made available to the public “upon request” (10 USC 122a). But under section 181 of the FY 2014 defense authorization bill, as agreed to by House and Senate conference, the reports would have to be posted on a “publicly accessible Internet website” whether they were requested or not. The online publication requirement would not apply to DoD reports that contained classified or proprietary information, or that are otherwise exempt from disclosure under FOIA.””

http://blogs.fas.org/secrecy/2013/12/dod-online/

Judge Rules Against “Secret Law” in Center for Effective Government Lawsuit

“A federal judge ruled yesterday in favor of the Center for Effective Government, ordering the federal government to release documents we requested under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Specifically, the court ordered the government to disclose the Presidential Policy Directive on Global Development, a 2010 document also known as PPD-6. Judge Ellen Segal Huvelle of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia rejected government arguments that the document was exempt from FOIA under the presidential communications privilege. The decision is the first of its kind to consider whether a presidential policy directive can be withheld from the public under that privilege, which is part of FOIA’s Exemption 5.”

http://www.foreffectivegov.org/blog/judge-rules-against-secret-law-center-effective-government-lawsuit

The FEC’s Christmas wish? To join the 21st century

“Tuesday’s open meeting was the Federal Election Commission’s last of the year. Fittingly, the FEC unveiled its wish list for the new year — in the form of legislative recommendations to Congress. So what does the electoral watchdog want from Congress? Mostly, it wants campaign finance to enter the digital age. This year’s list featured four goals carried over from last year, including an item that’s long been on the Sunlight Foundation’s agenda, mandatory Senate e-filing. Outgoing Chair Ellen Weintraub, a Democrat, was not overly optimistic for the legislative agenda’s chances, though she noted, “hope springs eternal.””

http://sunlightfoundation.com/blog/2013/12/17/the-fecs-christmas-wish-to-join-the-21st-century/

FOIA Santa Comes Early to Sunlight!

“Recently, Sunlight filed our first FOIA lawsuit against the GSA to get 14 years of data from FedBizOpps. The lawsuit
came after months of unresponsiveness from the agency. Just one day after we filed suit, GSA hand delivered the fulfilled request to our office. . .”
http://sunlightfoundation.com/blog/2013/12/19/foia-santa-comes-early-to-sunlight/

Citizen Access to Information: A Rollercoaster in 2013
“What a rollercoaster of a year it was for citizen access to public information. Early in the year, a flurry of activity around improving freedom of information requests took place but then slowed down. Likewise, we are being teased with the possibility of serious improvements in the accuracy of federal spending datasets. We thought we were going to get better disclosure of fracking chemicals on federal lands, but good rules failed to materialize. After 38 years, legislation to reform the Toxic Substances Control Act has been introduced, but with preemption clauses, it could actually end up reducing protections. The information leaked by Edward Snowden has led to tough questions and pressure for better oversight of our national surveillance agencies, but to date no action has occurred. And the government shutdown shut down federal agency websites, leaving citizens in the dark. Here is our take on the biggest ups and downs in open government for 2013.”
http://www.foreffectivegov.org/citizen-access-information-rollercoaster-2013

Supporting Best Practices for Open Government Data
“Public data that has been generated or commissioned by government bodies should always be available to the public without restrictions on its use by copyright or other laws. That’s the spirit behind excluding works authored by the federal government from copyright restrictions, and the strong legal precedent that the law itself cannot be copyrighted. EFF has now joined a growing list of organizations and individuals supporting a set of best practices for federal government agencies that wish to give a clear green light to the reuse of their data.”
https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2013/12/supporting-best-practices-open-government-data

Open Data

Is open data a priority in California?
“Saying California has failed to make open data a priority, Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom said he has drafted an executive order he could issue should Gov. Jerry Brown leave the state. Newsom made his remarks at the #Innovate Technology Conference in early December where he was among many of California’s civic tech leaders. As mayor of San Francisco, Newsom in 2009 mandated that machine readable city data be open for developers, and he has been critical of state government for not being progressive enough. As an example, Newsom pointed to the state’s data portal (data.ca.gov) that appears to have been updated just three times in the last two years.”
http://techwire.net/open-data-priority-california/

Sacramento Launches Open Data Portal
“Joining the national push for open data, the city of Sacramento has launched an open data portal that provides access to building permit activity, crime reports, budget information, land-use data and more.”
http://www.govtech.com/data/Sacramento-Launches-One-Stop-Shop-Open-Data-Portal-for-Residents.html

12 Days of Open Data to Get You Through the New Year
“In the weeks since Nov. 30, when federal agencies were supposed to comply with President Barack Obama’s open data executive order by providing a list of all the data they are holding, it has already become clear that the executive order is unearthing treasure troves of information that previously haven’t been available or accessible. This despite the fact that agencies are still making their lists and checking them twice, and so far results have been mixed — so mixed that it’s giving our lawyers itchy trigger fingers.”
http://sunlightfoundation.com/blog/2013/12/20/12-days-of-data-to-get-you-through-the-new-year/

White paper urges new approaches to assure access to scientific data
“A newly released white paper calls for new approaches for preserving scientific data and sustainable funding of domain repositories—data archives with ties to specific scientific communities. “Sustaining Domain Repositories for Digital Data: A White Paper” is the result of a meeting last summer that brought together representatives of 22 data repositories serving the social, natural and physical sciences. The meeting at the University of Michigan was organized by the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research, part of the U-M Institute for Social Research.”
http://ns.umich.edu/new/releases/21881-white-paper-urges-new-approaches-to-assure-access-to-scientific-data

Intellectual Property Issues

UK web archive goes live but not online
“A major archive of British websites has gone live – but not on the web. Instead, the project can only be accessed in person from a terminal in one of the British Isles’ six biggest libraries. It follows a decade of legal wrangling between the British Library and publishers. Restrictions imposed by the Legal Deposit Libraries Act 2003 mean the archive can only be accessed in library reading rooms.”
http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-25446913

Broadcasting Treaty Moving At WIPO; Library Copyright Exceptions Slower
“After a week of work on the three current subjects of the World Intellectual Property Organization copyright committee, member states mostly made progress on a potential treaty to protect broadcasting organisations, while exceptions and limitations to copyright for libraries, archives, education and research remain in the stage of determining broad concepts.”

Privacy Concerns
Review Group Report Calls for Limits on NSA Surveillance

“On Wednesday, the White House released the report on the Review Group Report Calls for Limits on NSA Surveillance. The 300+ page report includes 46 recommendations to reform government surveillance of online and telephone communications for the purposes of national security and suggests new limits on the NSA programs. The report comes after D.C. District Court judge Richard Leon ruled on Monday that the NSA’s program to collect bulk telephone metadata “almost certainly” violates the Fourth Amendment. Here are the highlights.”
http://aallwash.wordpress.com/2013/12/20/review-group-report-calls-for-limits-on-nsa-surveillance/

Intelligence Review Group Urges Reduced Secrecy

“The report of a White House advisory group on intelligence surveillance said that reducing undue secrecy was one of its main objectives. “A central goal of our recommendations is to increase transparency and to decrease unnecessary secrecy, in order to enhance both accountability and public trust,” the report of the President’s Review Group on Intelligence and Communications Technologies stated (p. 80). “Excessive surveillance and unjustified secrecy can threaten civil liberties, public trust, and the core processes of democratic self-government (p. 12)”
http://blogs.fas.org/secrecy/2013/12/review-group-secrecy/

One Small Step for Privacy, One Giant Leap Against Surveillance

“Today, the 193 members of the United Nations General Assembly unanimously approved a UN privacy resolution entitled “The right to privacy in the digital age.” The resolution, which was introduced by Brazil and Germany and sponsored by more than 50 member states, is aimed at upholding the right to privacy for everyone at a time when the United States and the United Kingdom have been conducting sweeping mass surveillance on billions of innocent individuals around the world from domestic soil.”
https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2013/12/one-small-step-privacy-one-giant-leap-against-surveillance

Leading Civil Society Organisations Call for Government Transparency on Mass Surveillance

“Access Info Europe, over 110 civil society organisations across the world, together with individual leaders and thinkers including Aruna Roy and Sir Tim Berners-Lee, have expressed concern that secret mass surveillance and the persecution of whistleblowers contradict the ideals of “open government”. The statement has been sent just as a White House Review Panel recommended that the US National Security Agency should be stripped of its power to collect telephone records in bulk.”

54 Civil Liberties and Public Interest Organizations Oppose the FISA Improvements Act

“Fifty-four civil liberties and public interest groups sent a letter to Congressional leadership today opposing S. 1631, the FISA Improvements Act. The bill, promoted by Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), seeks to legalize and extend NSA mass surveillance programs, including the classified phone records surveillance program confirmed by documents released by former NSA contractor Edward Snowden this summer.”
https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2013/12/54-civil-liberties-and-public-interest-organizations-oppose-fisa-improvements-act

Open Access

Argentina Passes Open Access Act For Publicly Funded Research

“The Congress of Argentina recently passed a landmark law making publicly funded science and technology research publications free and open access. On 13 November, the Argentinian Congress passed a law (No. 26.899, Creating Institutional Open Access Digital Repositories, Owned or Shared) establishing that all institutions belonging to the National Science and Technology System (SNCYT, according to its acronym in Spanish) that receive public funds (partly or entirely) shall create free and open access institutional digital repositories where all the scientific and technological publications (which includes journal articles, technical and scientific papers, theses, etc.) and research data must be available. The free and open access institutional digital repositories shall be compatible with international interoperability standards, and ensure free open access to the documents and research data (Article 4).”
http://www.ip-watch.org/2013/12/16/argentina-passes-open-access-act-making-publicly-funded-research-available/

International Outlook

EU fails to produce clear recommendations on lobbying transparency

“After months of deliberation, the EU working group responsible for fixing the EU’s somewhat dysfunctional lobbying transparency register has concluded its review process without producing clear recommendations.”
http://sunlightfoundation.com/blog/2013/12/19/eu-fails-to-produce-clear-recommendations-on-lobbying-transparency/

Somalia to rebuild national library

“A project has been launched in the Somali capital, Mogadishu, to rebuild the country’s national library. Dozens of displaced families had been sheltering inside the building which has been badly damaged by decades of conflict. The project director, Zainab Hassan, told the BBC that thousands of students currently had no access to books. Work on the new complex is expected to be finished in six months’ time at a cost of $1m (£600,000).”
http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-25456228

Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety.
Joint Meeting with BayNet: Building the Research Library at Web Scale


Categories: Bayline, Chapter Programs & Events
Tags: digital preservation, events, libraries

Building the Research Library at Web Scale: Perspectives from the Front Line

Thursday, January 23, 2014, 5:30-8:00pm

Please join us at our annual joint meeting with BayNet featuring Heather Christenson of the California Digital Library!

In 2005, the Open Content Alliance (OCA) was launched by a group of organizations including the Internet Archive and Yahoo with the intent of developing a permanent, publicly accessible archive of digitized texts. The Google Books Library Project also began in 2005, with the goal of digitizing the books in the world’s libraries on a grand scale—ideally, every book ever printed.

The University of California was a founding partner of the OCA, and the sixth major partner in the Google project (the original “Google Five” included Michigan, Stanford, Harvard, Oxford and the New York Public Library). UC was also a partner in Microsoft’s 2006-2008 Live Search Books project. Since the launch of these initiatives, millions of books from the UC Libraries have been scanned.

In 2008, the HathiTrust Digital Library was launched as a collaboration between the thirteen universities of the Committee on Institutional Cooperation and the University of California to establish a repository to archive and share their digitized collections. HathiTrust has now grown to over 90 partners and close to 11 million digital volumes.

Through the course of these events, Heather Christenson has coordinated and overseen UC contributions. Come hear her tales from the “center of the Venn diagram” as she describes what it has taken to get to this point, and the significance and future of these collaborative endeavors.

Where:
Grand Cafe at the Hotel Monaco
501 Geary St, San Francisco, CA 94102

When:
Thursday, January 23rd, 2014
5:30 – 6:30 Registration, networking and appetizers
6:30 – 7:00 SLA-SF and BayNet announcements
7:00 – 8:00 Program with Q&A following

Cost:
$30 for BayNet/SLA members
$50 for non-members
$25 for students, retired, or unemployed members

Registration:
Registration is now closed.

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Intersect Alert December 30, 2013


Categories: Intersect Alert
Tags: freedom of information, government, intellectual property, open data

Freedom of Information

A History of History: The Story of the FRUS Series

“The Foreign Relations of the United States (FRUS) series is the official documentary record of U.S. foreign policy published by the U.S. Department of State. The origins, development and continuing evolution of the FRUS series are explored in a massive new history prepared by the State Department Office of the Historian. See “Toward ‘Thorough, Accurate and Reliable’: A History of the Foreign Relations of the United States Series” by William B. McAllister, Joshua Botts, Peter Cozzens, and Aaron W. Marrs, Department of State, December 19, 2013.”


Open Data
The Vast Majority of Raw Data From Old Scientific Studies May Now Be Missing

“One of the foundations of the scientific method is the reproducibility of results. In a lab anywhere around the world, a researcher should be able to study the same subject as another scientist and reproduce the same data, or analyze the same data and notice the same patterns. This is why the findings of a study published today in Current Biology are so concerning. When a group of researchers tried to email the authors of 516 biological studies published between 1991 and 2011 and ask for the raw data, they were dismayed to find that more than 90 percent of the oldest data (from papers written more than 20 years ago) were inaccessible. In total, even including papers published as recently as 2011, they were only able to track down the data for 23 percent.”


Intellectual Property Issues

Authors Guild Appeals Google Decision

“In a filing with the district court, the Authors Guild gave notice that it is appealing Judge Denny Chin’s to dismiss its copyright suit over Google’s library scanning program. There was no brief filed at this time, only a basic notice of appeal to the Second Circuit. But the filing makes good on the Authors Guild’s vow to file an appeal. In a statement following the decision, Authors Guild executive director Paul Aiken told PW that Chin’s decision represented “a fundamental challenge to copyright that merits review by a higher court.” Aiken claims that Google’s unauthorized mass digitization and exploitation far exceeds the bounds of the fair use defense.”


Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety.

The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.

Digital History:

The very first “Intersect Alert”
Once I post this, some of you may come up with an older Alert, but the oldest one found (thank you, Anne Barker) is one from July 21, 2004. It was called Public Policy News then, and the posts were by the then Government Relations Chair, Michele McGinnis. Here are the posts from that issue:

US Patriot Act Survey – deadline today for survey!
A group of alternative papers will investigate attempts by the US government to spy on citizens in libraries using provisions of the Patriot Act. This investigative report will appear in as many as 150 papers this summer.

Freedom to Read Protection Act of 2003 was not passed
Rep. Bernie Sanders has recently been engaged in an attempt to amend the Patriot Act to remove those portions that allow federal authorities to search library and bookstore records.

Schwarzenegger names new state librarian
Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger on Thursday named a

new state librarian to replace Kevin Starr, who stepped down April 1 to become state librarian emeritus after 10 years.

Over $14.7 Million to Recruit New Librarians for 21st Century
The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), the federal agency that supports the nation’s museums and libraries, has awarded $14,790,543 to library schools and library service organizations to recruit and educate new librarians to help offset a looming national shortage.

Fugitive documents published on the Web are not being preserved
The Federal Depository Library Program has fallen behind in cataloging and preserving access to government documents published only on the Web.

GAO Changes its name
Effective July 7, 2004, the GAO’s legal name became the Government Accountability Office.


Intellectual Property:
Confused about copyright? Tweet us your questions on Jan. 7th
Can you legally photocopy pages from that textbook? Can students legally remix music for school assignments? What does fair use mean, and how can it be applied in the school library or classroom? If you are a school librarian or educator who is confused by copyright law, you’re not alone. School principals, superintendents, educators and librarians have specific questions about copyright law but often find themselves without guidance on the subject.
On January 7, 2014, from 6:00-7:00p.m. EST, school leaders will have the opportunity to have their questions answered during an interactive tweetchat with copyright expert and bestselling author Carrie Russell. Participants can submit questions and take part in the free tweetchat by using the #k12copylaw hashtag.
http://www.districtdispatch.org/2013/12/tweet-us-copyright-questions-jan-7th/.

Freedom of Information:

ACLU urges NY judge to force release of documents
The American Civil Liberties Union has urged a federal judge to force the U.S. government to quickly turn over documents it needs to help reform a system in which thousands of immigrants are detained for months or years. The ACLU told U.S. District Judge Richard M. Berman in a letter on Thursday that the government should be forced to follow his orders so the public can see if immigrants are subject to “prolonged” detention as their immigration statuses are reviewed. The judge had asked for the ACLU’s opinion a day after government lawyers insisted they needed 15 months to deliver 385 out of 22,000 files.

Internet founder hails Snowden
Edward Snowden did the world a favour by revealing the scale of surveillance by governments, according to the inventor of the internet. Tim Berners-Lee said he believed the former CIA agent had behaved responsibly in leaking material about web and phone monitoring. Guest editing BBC Radio 4’s Today programme, Mr Berners-Lee was asked if he thought Mr Snowden had “done us all a favour”. “In a word, yes,” he replied. “Was there anything else he could have done? Was there any other channel he could have gone through? I think it has been established that there was not.”

‘Tintin’ comics to remain in Amherst library children’s room despite parents’ objections
A graphic novel series containing racial stereotypes that some parents argue is inappropriate for pre-teens will not be removed from the children’s area at the Jones Library as a group has requested. But library officials are pledging to be part of a community dialogue focused on racial issues and to better inform the public about the children’s room policies and how books are chosen. The Jones Board of Trustees Thursday took no action on a request from five parents asking that ‘Tintin’ books be moved from a shelf at the entrance to the children’s area to either the young adult or the adult section of the library.

Privacy Issues:

New Decision Shows How Businesses Can Challenge Warrantless Records Collection, Even if You Can’t
Much of the debate over modern surveillance—including the NSA mass spying controversy—has centered around whether people can reasonably expect that records about their telephone and Internet activity can remain private when those records belong to someone else: the service providers. But a decision released on December 24th by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals looks at the issue from the point of view of businesses, providing a glimpse into how service providers and technology companies could challenge the government’s unconstitutional surveillance.
In Patel v. City of Los Angeles, the Ninth Circuit found a city ordinance that required hotels and motels to turn over guest records without any judicial process violated the Fourth Amendment. The ordinance mandated hotels and motels keep a record for 90 days containing things like a guest’s name and address, the make, model and license plate number of the guest’s car, and the room number assigned and rate charged. The court found that the hotels and motels had an expectation of privacy in their business records, even if those records didn’t contain anything of great personal value to the hotel.

International Outlook:

A permanent hacker space in the Brazilian Congress
On December 17, the presidency of the Brazilian Chamber of Deputies passed a resolution that creates a permanent Laboratório Ráquer or “Hacker Lab” inside the Chamber – a global first. The resolution mandates the creation of a physical space at the Chamber that is “open for access and use by any citizen, especially programmers and software developers, members of parliament and other public workers, where they can utilize public data in a collaborative fashion for actions that enhance citizenship.” The idea was born out of a week-long, hackathon (or “hacker marathon”) event hosted by the Chamber of Deputies in November, with the goal of using technology to enhance the transparency of legislative work and increase citizen understanding of the legislative process.
http://blog.openingparliament.org/post/72099651071/a-
Open Access:

Meet the Stats Master Making Sense of Wikipedia’s Massive Data Trove

There are websites, and then there’s Wikipedia. The internet behemoth boasts 30 million articles written in more than 285 languages, tweaked by 70,000 active editors and viewed by 530 million visitors worldwide each month. As mountains of information go, it’s Everest. Teasing out trends from the open source encyclopedia’s archives is a task few would even attempt. Yet Erik Zachte did just that. Zachte used his statistical intuition to create “Wikistats,” an online statistics package that’s more than a trove of charts and graphs for data geeks. It’s the most direct measure yet of Wikipedia’s success in achieving its central objective: making the sum of all human knowledge available to everyone everywhere.


Privacy Issues:

Insurers Using Patient Data From Health Kiosks To Target Customers

Health insurers are partnering with organizations that operate health-screening kiosks to obtain data that could help them target individuals for health plans, KQED’s “The California Report” reports. As insurers seek to enroll more individuals in health plans under the Affordable Care Act, some firms are turning to health-screening kiosk companies to assist in their marketing and outreach efforts. For example, California’s Anthem Blue Cross has partnered with SoloHealth to be the sole insurance company featured in SoloHealth’s kiosks in California. In addition, SoloHealth has agreed to sell Anthem consumer information obtained through the kiosks, including names; email addresses; and phone numbers.


Intellectual Property:

Infringement Risk in Copyright-Intensive Industries

Notwithstanding the challenges of quantifying the impact of copyright infringement on particular companies or industry sectors, there is a useful neutral source of qualitative information on the likely impact of infringement: the reports prepared by investment advisors concerning publicly traded companies. These equity research reports make investment recommendations (e.g., buy, hold, or sell) based on the companies’ performance and the risks they face. We have reviewed the equity research reports issued over the past 90 days for eight leading companies in copyright-intensive industries: two software firms (Microsoft and Adobe); two publishers (Pearson and Reed Elsevier); the owners of two major motion picture studios (Disney and Viacom, owner of Paramount); and the owners of two major record labels (Sony, owner of Sony Music Entertainment, and Vivendi, owner of Universal Music Group). In addition to Sony Music Entertainment, Sony owns Sony Pictures Entertainment (which in turn owns Columbia Pictures), while Vivendi also owns the Canal+ motion picture and television production and distribution company. We found that the overwhelming majority of the equity research reports did not mention copyright infringement as a possible risk factor.


Freedom of Information:

CIA Cuts Off Public Access to Its Translated News Reports

Beginning in 1974, the U.S. intelligence community provided the public with a broad selection of foreign news reports, updated daily. These were collected and translated by the Central Intelligence Agency’s Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS), which was reconstituted in 2004 as the Open Source Center (OSC). But the CIA has now terminated public access to those news reports, as of December 31. Instead of adapting and expanding its open source product line in response to the needs and wants of the interested public, this
material on his or her website, but that is precisely the argument at the core of recent legal squabbles between Elsevier—a publisher of scientific and medical literature based in Amsterdam—and the authors of Elsevier’s content. In early December 2013, Elsevier began issuing massive numbers of takedown requests. Elsevier is using the Digital Millennium Copyright Act to claim that the academics who authored the articles in its journals do not have the right to repurpose the articles on their personal websites.

Conan Doyle Estate Says Sherlock Not Free Yet

Is Sherlock Holmes truly a free man? Not so fast say attorneys for the estate of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. In a December 23 decision, an Illinois federal court held that Holmes and other characters and story elements in more than 50 Sherlock Holmes stories are in the public domain. But attorneys for the estate of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle this week insisted that the complete characters of Holmes and Watson won’t be freed until the final 10 stories published after 1922 enter the public domain, in 2022.

In the case, the Conan Doyle Estate presented what Judge Ruben Castillo called a “novel argument,” essentially that the Holmes and Watson characters were not completed until the last of Conan Doyle’s stories was published in 1922.

Public Policy:

GAO Oversight of NSA: A Neglected Option

Years ago, the Government Accountability Office, the investigative arm of Congress, conducted routine audits and investigations of the National Security Agency, such that the two agencies were in “nearly continuous contact” with one another. In the post-Snowden era, GAO could perform that oversight function once again. Today, the justification for restoring the type of on-site, investigative oversight of NSA that GAO could provide may be newly apparent—though no one seems to have noticed that GAO could actually provide it.

Powerful National Security Letters Continue to Go Largely Unchecked

The intelligence review group President Obama created to address surveillance concerns recently submitted 46 recommendations for improving the federal government’s surveillance programs. FBI director James B. Comey spoke out against one in particular, which proposed requiring judicial approval for issuing national security letters (NSL). Insufficient judicial oversight has been a long-standing concern with NSLs, which demand business records from a wide array of organizations for national security investigations. The 2004 case Doe v. Ashcroft challenged the constitutionality of the letters, specifically their non-disclosure provisions, and the resulting ruling issued by Judge Victor Marrero found they NSLs violate the Fourth Amendment. This led to revisions of the USA Patriot Act, allowing for greater judicial review and clarifications to the non-disclosure clauses. However, there are still no requirements to seek approval or judicial review when sending an NSL, and the non-disclosure provisions prevent the full extent of the NSL program from becoming known.

International Outlook:

Secret Memo Casts Doubt on Feds’ Claims for Science Library Closures

A federal document marked “secret” obtained by Postmedia News indicates the closure or destruction of more than half a dozen world famous science libraries has little if anything to do with digitizing books as claimed by the Harper [Canada] government. In fact, the document, a compendium of cuts to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans mentions only the “culling of materials” as the “main activities” involved as the science libraries are reduced from nine to two.

Library closures took place in such a chaotic fashion that individuals who had books out on loan from Winnipeg’s Freshwater Institute library, for instance, were not even contacted or asked to return the books.

Open Access:

Smithsonian Libraries Releases Courses on iTunes U

The Smithsonian Libraries today launched three courses of selected content on iTunes U that focus on topics in early aviation and space history. This release increases exposure of Libraries material and is an innovative way to reach new audiences. iTunes U is a dedicated area within iTunes that gives users public access to hundreds of thousands of free lectures, videos books, podcasts and courses from learning institutions all over the world. With the iTunes U app, users can download content directly onto their iPad, iPhone and iPod touch.

For students, the courses include vocabulary and guided questions to help process more difficult materials. For teachers, the courses include learning goals, common core standards for grades 6–12, national history standards and a guided-inquiry section that suggests how the courses and materials can be effectively used in the classroom or school library. They are designed to be self-paced experiences, and it is up to the teacher or student to decide which parts of the course they use.

Historians clash over open access movement
If the open access movement can’t replace the traditional publishing model of scholarly journals, what problem is the effort trying to solve? Participants during a session titled “Open Access and Publishing in History and the Social Sciences: Opportunities and Challenges” at the American Historical Association’s annual meeting clashed over that question Friday afternoon as they debated the role of open access journals in promoting scholarly research.


Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety.

The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.

Share this:

Intersect Alert January 19, 2014


Internet Access:

Court Strikes Blow to FCC’s Open Internet Rules
Today, the DC Circuit Court of Appeals struck down the Federal Communication Commission’s Open Internet rules in its Verizon v. FCC ruling. The Center for Democracy & Technology (CDT), which filed an amicus brief in the case on behalf of First Amendment scholars, issued the following statement in response to the ruling: “The court’s ruling is disappointing because it strikes down the key provisions that provided reasonable and basic protections for a vibrant, open Internet,” said David Sohn, CDT’s General Counsel.

ALA troubled by court’s net neutrality decision
The American Library Association is extremely disappointed with today’s decision by the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals to strike down the FCC’s “Net Neutrality” decision. ALA has been a long-time supporter of the free flow of information for all people. Now that the Internet has become the primary mechanism for delivering information, services and applications to the general public, it is especially important that commercial Internet Service Providers are not able to control or manipulate the content of these communications.

The court’s decision gives commercial companies the astounding legal authority to block Internet traffic, give preferential treatment to certain Internet services or applications, and steer users to or away from certain web sites based on their own commercial interests. This ruling, if it stands, will adversely affect the daily lives of Americans and fundamentally change the open nature of the Internet, where uncensored access to information has been a hallmark of the communication medium since its inception.


Open Access:

In the Open Access Fight, Big Publishers Are the Biggest Hurdle
Sometime it’s hard to believe that we are still arguing about open access to publicly funded research. The issue is as clear as it gets: we paid for the research; most researchers are devoted, by nature and profession, to sharing their work; and the public benefits of open access can be tremendous. So perhaps the right question is, why in the world don’t we already have free and open access to publicly funded research, including the ability to not just read but reuse such works?

The answer is equally obvious: the lack of open access is a result of strident opposition by giant academic publishers who treat this issue as struggle for survival.

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2014/01/open-access-fight-big-publishers-are-biggest-hurdle.

Privacy:

The “Top 10” Surveillance Lies Edward Snowden’s Leaks Shed “Heat and Light” Upon
Today President Obama delivered a speech announcing the reforms he will make to the operations of the National Security Agency (NSA). The reforms, drawing from some of the 43 recommendations made by an outside Review Group on Intelligence and Communications Technologies established by the president, include curtailing some spying of foreign leaders, modest limits on the powerful National Security Letters surveillance tool, and – as yet not completely specified – modifications to telephone metadata collection and reporting. Despite stating he was “not going to dwell on Mr. Snowden’s actions or motivations,” the President did criticize Snowden’s “sensational” disclosures for “shedding more heat than light.”
What the President did not say was that these surveillance reforms would never even have been contemplated without the Snowden revelations. In fact, these leaks did not just “shed heat and light” on the NSA’s surveillance practices and metadata collection. They disproved a series of lies that the administration and its Intelligence Community repeatedly told the American public in an attempt to keep this surveillance in the dark. [https://nsarchive.wordpress.com/2014/01/17/the-top-10-surveillance-lies-edward-snowdens-leaks-shed-heat-and-light-on/]

Freedom of Information:

Judge Wants to Examine Censored Book
For more than three years, author Anthony Shaffer has been challenging the government’s contention that hundreds of passages in his Afghanistan memoir “Operation Dark Heart” are classified and should not be publicly disclosed. Now a judge has ordered the full text of the book to be delivered to her in “complete and unredacted” form. DC District Judge Rosemary M. Collyer told the Defense Intelligence Agency and its co-defendants DOD and CIA to file under seal “a complete and unredacted copy of the published book, “Operation Dark Heart: Spycraft and Special Ops on the Frontline of Afghanistan and the Path to Victory” no later than January 24. [http://blogs.fas.org/secrecy/2014/01/judge-unredacted/]

Medicare Spending Data May Be Publicly Available Under New Policy
On Jan. 14, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced a new policy that could bring greater transparency to Medicare, one of the largest programs in the federal government. CMS revoked its long-standing policy not to release publicly any information about Medicare’s payments to doctors. Under the new policy, the agency will evaluate requests for such information on a case-by-case basis. Although the impact of the change is not yet clear, it creates an opportunity for a welcome step forward for data transparency and open government. Medicare’s tremendous size and impact – expending an estimated $551 billion and covering roughly 50 million beneficiaries in 2012 – mean that increased transparency in the program could have big effects. Better access to Medicare spending data could permit consumers to evaluate doctor quality, allow journalists to identify waste or fraud, and encourage providers to improve health care delivery. [http://www.foreffectivegov.org/blog/medicare-spending-data-may-be-publicly-available-under-new-policy/]

Bosnia opens library to house ancient manuscripts
During Bosnia’s war and the siege of Sarajevo, residents moved a collection of ancient books and manuscripts to eight different locations to save them from destruction. On Wednesday, thanks to a $9 million donation from Qatar, Bosnia’s president and a Qatar minister opened a new library in the heart of the Ottoman-era Old Town section of Sarajevo to house those books and more than 100,000 manuscripts. The oldest is a handwritten Islamic encyclopedia that was written in Arabic in 1105. The reopening of the library was “a message to those who destroy and burn books and libraries that evil and hatred will never win,” Bosnian President Bakir Izetbegovic said. [http://www.boston.com/news/world/europe/2014/01/15/bosnia-opens-library-house-ancient-manuscripts/I7f2tUx2FweC3L7tqeBuNO/story.html]

Digital History:

A Half Century of Library Computing
Fifty years ago, the Library [of Congress] installed its first computer and began charting a course to bibliographic control and global shared access. Provided for in the Legislative Branch Appropriation Act of 1964 (P.L. 88-248), the IBM 1401 was intended for use in payroll, budget control, card distribution billing, accounting for book and periodical purchases and to produce various statistical and management reports. A week later, the Library announced the results of a multiyear study on the feasibility of automating its bibliographic functions. The report titled “Automation and the Library of Congress” concluded that automation in bibliographic processing, catalog searching and document retrieval was technically and economically feasible. [http://blogs.loc.gov/loc/2014/01/a-half-century-of-library-computing/]

Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety. The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations
Intersect Alert January 26, 2014


Take Action!

One Planet, One Internet: A Call To the International Community to Fight Against Mass Surveillance
The Snowden revelations have confirmed our worst fears about online spying. They show that the NSA and its allies have been building a global surveillance infrastructure to spy on the world’s communications. These shady groups have undermined basic encryption standards, and riddled the Internet’s backbone with surveillance equipment. They have collected the phone records of hundreds of millions of people none of whom are suspected of any crime. They have swept up the electronic communications of millions of people at home and overseas indiscriminately, exploiting the digital technologies we use to connect and inform. They spy on the population of allies, and share that data with other organizations, all outside the rule of law.
We aren’t going to let the NSA and its allies ruin the Internet. Inspired by the memory of Aaron Swartz, fueled by our victory against SOPA and ACTA, the global digital rights community are uniting to fight back.
Here’s how you can join the effort …
https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2014/01/february-11-day-we-fight-back-calling-international-community.

Open Access:

Wellcome Library Releases 100,000 Images From The History Of Medicine
If you fancy your very own piece of the often barbaric and macabre history of medicine, then a new collection of over a hundred thousand ancient images could be for you. Wellcome Images, one of the world-renowned Wellcome Library’s major collections, has released thousands of pictures, paintings, etchings and engravings on a new website, freely available for high resolution download. The collection includes early photography, advertisements and paintings from names as famous as Vincent Van Gogh and Michaelangelo.

Research
With passage of the 2014 Omnibus Appropriations Act, Congress has advanced a 2013 Presidential directive requiring public access to taxpayer funded research. The bill mandates that federal agencies with annual research budgets of $100 million or more under the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Departments offer online public access to articles resulting from federally funded research no later than 12 months after publication in a peer-reviewed journal. Specifically, the Omnibus bill makes public access to taxpayer-funded research a legal requirement for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, the Centers for Disease Control, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, and Education, plus other smaller agencies. In addition, public access advocates note, “the bill directs other federal agencies to keep moving on the Directive policies,” including the Departments of Agriculture, the Interior, Commerce, and the National Science Foundation.

National Archives puts diaries online to mark centenary 1st World War
As part of its First World War 100 project to mark the centenary of the beginning of the conflict, The National Archives has launched two initiatives designed to help everyone to better understand the war and the people involved. The first batch of digitised unit war diaries is now accessible online, and The National Archives is also running Operation War Diary, a crowdsourcing project aimed at tagging the data from the diaries. Written by officers in the front line, the diaries give unprecedented access to daily movements and action in the trenches and beyond. Once complete the archive will have more than 1.5 million pages.

Libraries:

U Montreal Cancels Subscriptions to 76% of Serials in Wiley Online Library
On January 14, the Université de Montréal (UdeM) libraries
announced that they are cancelling their subscriptions to 1,142 of 1,510 periodicals in the Wiley Online Library at the end of the month. In a news release, the libraries note that the cancellations are the result of several factors, including budget cuts imposed by the Québec government and annual subscription price increases between 3% and 6%.


Intellectual Property:

Books go online for free in Norway
More than 135,000 books still in copyright are going online for free in Norway after an innovative scheme by the National Library ensured that publishers and authors are paid for the project. National Library of Norway chief Vigdis Moe Skarstein said the project is the first of its kind to offer free online access to books still under copyright, which in Norway expires 70 years after the author’s death. Books by Stephen King, Ken Follett, John Steinbeck, Jo Nesbo, Karin Fossum and Nobel Laureate Knut Hamsun are among those in the scheme.


Privacy:

Privacy Board Joins Growing Consensus: NSA Bulk Phone Records Dragnet Must End
The Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board report released today is the latest condemnation of the National Security Agency’s bulk metadata collection program. A majority of PCLOB members found that the program, which the NSA says is authorized under Section 215 of the PATRIOT Act, was not supported by the statute and violated the Electronic Communications Privacy Act. The Board also found no evidence that the program was necessary to protect national security. The Board recommended ending the program and recommended against substituting for the existing program a requirement that phone companies or another party hold the phone records.


List of Large Health Data Breaches on HHS Website Reaches 800
As of Jan. 22, HHS has listed more than 800 data breaches on its “wall of shame,” a website reporting health information breaches affecting more than 500 individuals. HHS has been tracking data breaches since September 2009, when the HIPAA breach notification rule went into effect. According to Healthcare Info Security, the website currently lists 804 breaches that have affected 29.3 million U.S. residents since September 2009.


Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety.

The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.
Public Policy:

Do senators fear the Internet?
Despite millions in potential cost savings to taxpayers, the U.S. Senate has still yet to pass a requirement that it file campaign finance reports electronically. By Friday, presidential candidates, House candidates, political action committees and super PACs must file their fourth-quarter financial reports with the Federal Election Commission electronically.

Senate campaigns, however, must submit their reports on paper to the secretary of the Senate, where they are scanned and sent to the FEC. The agency then prints the documents, collates them and delivers them to a private contractor to type into an electronic database. The process costs taxpayers roughly $500,000 a year, according to the Congressional Budget Office.

And as a result, it can take weeks or even months for the public to know who is bankrolling senators’ campaigns. A requirement that senators e-file their campaign finance reports was included in the Senate version of a financial services bill that was folded into the larger budget bill passed earlier this month. However, the e-filing measure didn’t appear in the final budget.


Corporate subsidy deals don’t always deliver
The 50 states and the District of Columbia award $12 billion a year in subsidies to businesses each year, but fewer than a quarter of 246 incentive programs disclose how many jobs were created or how many workers were trained, according to a new study.

Critics of tax breaks, low-interest loans, grants and other corporate subsidies say government officials should do more to prove the subsidies are needed and ensure promises about jobs and other taxpayer benefits are delivered. Subsidies are popular with politicians because they can help them get elected in two ways: by scoring points with companies that bankroll campaigns and with voters for promises of jobs.


Intellectual Property:

Experts Say Academics Are Timid About Fair Use Laws
Visual arts professionals, including art historians, let real and perceived fears about copyright law get in the way of their work, finds a new report from the College Art Association. And while the fundamentally visual nature of their discipline raises particular concerns among scholars of art, artists, editors and museum curators, experts say their fears are shared across academe. “The visual arts communities of practice share a common problem in their confusion about and misunderstanding of the nature of copyright law and the availability of fair use,” reads the report (PDF), called “Copyright, Permissions, and Fair Use Among Visual Artists and the Academic and Museum Visual Arts Communities.”

“Their work is constrained and censored, most powerfully by themselves, because of the confusion and the resulting fear and anxiety.” In addition to a lack of clarity of about what is fair use — the section of copyright law allowing for non-licensed use of copyrighted material for commentary and other “transformative” purposes — arts professionals fear the costs, in time and dollars, of seeking out permission for licensed use, the report says.


Freedom of Information:

The Declassified Record on the Tlatelolco Massacre that Preceded the ’68 Olympic Games
The US has joined the international community in expressing security concerns for the upcoming Sochi Olympics. Threats of
violence at the international event are not new, as evidenced by
the kidnapping of the Israeli Olympic team at the 1972
Olympics in Munich, and the bombing of the Centennial
Olympic Park during the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta, Georgia.
However, the 1968 Olympics in Mexico City stand out from
other tragedies because the ruling Mexican Institutional
Revolutionary Party (PRI) used the international attention of
the Olympic games to justify intimidating student opposition
groups, and – as declassified evidence proves likely – framing
them for attacking police officers to initiate the crackdown.
Declassified documents indicate the day of the massacre “that
snipers posted by the military fired on fellow troops, provoking
them to open fire on the students.”
http://nsarchive.wordpress.com/2014/01/28/the-declassified-
record-on-the-tlatelolco-massacre-that-preceded-the-68-
olympic-games/.

Libraries:

ALA Council approves new Lemony Snicket Prize for
Noble Librarians Faced with Adversity
The American Library Association (ALA) Council, at a
Tuesday session during the ALA Midwinter Meeting &
Exhibits, approved the new Lemony Snicket Prize for Noble
Librarians Faced with Adversity. The award, which ALA
intends to present at its Annual Conference in Las Vegas,
recognizes a librarian who “has faced adversity with integrity
and dignity intact.” It will be given annually to a deserving
librarian. The $3,000 prize will be given from Snicket’s
“disreputable gains, along with an odd, symbolic object from
his private stash, as well as a certificate, which may or may not
be suitable for framing.”
http://www.ala.org/news/press-releases/2014/01/ala-council-

Privacy:

Calif. bill restricts government use of drones
California would establish what supporters say are some of the
nation’s strictest standards for the use of drone aircraft by
government entities, under a bill approved Wednesday by the
state Assembly.

AB1327 would require law enforcement agencies to obtain
warrants except in certain emergencies. It also would require
that government agencies notify the public when they intend to
use drones and that data collected by unmanned aircraft be
destroyed within six months. It also allows local governments
to adopt even stricter rules.
government-use-of-drones-5186257.php.

Government Information:

E-Gov Spotlight: Informing the Public about Air Quality
During the week of Jan. 20, the air quality in Utah’s Salt Lake
City region and parts of California hit red-alert status –
meaning that the air was unhealthy for everyone and was
especially harmful to sensitive groups like children, the elderly,
and those with chronic respiratory conditions like asthma. The
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) forecasts and
posts air quality levels in an easy, color-coded format on a
website called AIRNow (airnow.gov). The site offers users a
means to explore air quality levels in their area and ways to
protect their health against the impacts of air pollution. The
AIRNow website uses the Air Quality Index (AQI) to provide
local and regional air quality information in the United States
and southern portions of Canada. The AQI compiles real-time
data on five major air pollutants (ground-level ozone, carbon
monoxide, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, and particulate
matter) into a simple indicator of overall air quality. The index
has six color-coded categories indicating increasing levels of
health concern, ranging from green for “good” to brown for
“hazardous.”
http://www.foreffectivegov.org/e-gov-spotlight-informing-
public-about-air-quality.

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Libraries Association.

Heather Christenson at the SLA-SF/BayNet joint meeting: Building the Research
Library at Web Scale
http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2014/02/heather-christenson-at-the-sla-sfbaynet-joint-meeting-building-the-research-library-at-web-
scale/ February 8, 2014 Categories: Bayline, Chapter Programs & Events Tags: events, librarians, libraries
SLA SF Bay Chapter President Cindy Hill introduces Heather Christenson

On January 23rd, 2014, the San Francisco Bay Region Chapter of the Special Libraries Association held a joint meeting with BayNet. The featured speaker was Heather Christenson, Manager of Digital Content Development and Strategy at the California Digital Library (CDL). Christenson’s presentation, titled “Building the Research Library at Web Scale: Perspectives from the Front Line,” mainly focused on CDL’s digital projects and its involvement with HathiTrust, a partnership of over 90 research libraries across the United States. HathiTrust is primarily involved with preserving and providing access to digital books, journals, and manuscripts.

According to Christenson, CDL, which she referred to as the “11th University of California library,” has a public service mission that it fulfills by making materials more accessible to the public online. Indeed, two of CDL’s better-known services, Online Archive of California (OAC) and Calisphere, offer mostly unrestricted navigation of archival finding aids and primary sources. Christenson herself is involved with many aspects of what she termed ‘mass digitization.’ According to CDL’s website, Christenson is part of a Mass Digitization Team that stays involved with projects that “expand the UC Libraries’ ability to give faculty, students and the public access to information and support our exploration of new service models.”

In her presentation, Christenson offered a CDL digitization timeline. In 2006, CDL entered an agreement with the Internet Archive to be part of the Open Content Alliance, a partnership involving numerous international organizations that contribute text and multimedia to a stable digital archive. Also in 2006, CDL came on board for the Google Books Library Project. In cooperation with 6 of UC’s 10 campuses, CDL has worked with Google to scan approximately 3.6 million books. Rounding out the timeline, Christenson noted that CDL began participating in HathiTrust in 2008.

Heather Christenson describes digital content development and strategy at the California Digital Library

HathiTrust currently contains roughly 11,000,000 total volumes, with about 33% of these in the public domain. Key HathiTrust services include bibliographic and full-text search, public and private collection building tools, and a mobile interface. Hundreds of languages are represented in the materials contributed thus far. And to illustrate how many subjects are included, Christenson showed a slide featuring a circular chart with a staggering array of colors representing Library of Congress call numbers.

Christenson addressed how members of the partner libraries and the public are utilizing HathiTrust. Examples she provided included building collections of full-text works, incorporating HathiTrust sources into Library Guides, downloading desired pages, and accessing volumes on mobile devices. Additionally, Christenson laid out CDL’s technical contributions to HathiTrust. These contributions have included the development of standards and processes for transferring digitized volumes from Google and the Internet Archive into the HathiTrust Digital Library; providing links from items described in UC’s Melvyl catalog; and Zephir, HathiTrust’s bibliographic metadata management system.

What does the future hold for HathiTrust? Christenson noted that its Executive Director has recently stepped down, and that a new one is being sought. Also, HathiTrust has entered a partnership with the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA), and metadata associated with HathiTrust’s public domain materials are becoming searchable on the DPLA website. In addition, HathiTrust wants to significantly add to its collection of federal documents. Lastly, Christenson shared that mass digitization will indeed continue.

Photos by Greg Borman and Kim Ewart
The Role of Data in Today’s Hiring Practice

By Jan Keiser

I knew there was something I didn’t trust about Big Data.

“ATS software is very efficient and can eliminate hundreds of applications on hundreds of posted job positions with little or no human interaction. Once the parameters (must haves) of a position are set, your résumé has little or no chance making it through the initial, automated screening process if you lack the predetermined keywords…” Source: The Job Search Checklist, Birkel, D.

For those of us actively job hunting, the automatic hiring trend is a huge barrier. If you sought employment years ago, companies never acknowledged receiving your résumé, let alone send a rejection notice. In today’s employment process, applicant tracking system (ATS) software is programmed to shoot a rejection notice back at you in less than 30 minutes. It all depends on how your résumé meets the company specifications. Let me explain how the process begins.

The application process can bar candidates from submitting unsolicited résumés to a company of interest. In 2014, the way to reach most companies is to either work through an intermediary (job board, recruiter) or through the company website – although even at the website candidates will often be directed to an application process with a third party. The candidate will begin by uploading a résumé according to the website’s instructions. Soon, an application will appear with the résumé information plugged in. This is rarely done properly. Usually, nearly every field needs to be adjusted because the résumé details are deposited in the wrong field. Some systems will ask what I call “essay questions.” These are the sort of questions that were formerly asked during the first interview; “What are you most proud of, “What will your former employers say about you,” etc. If it’s been several years since you graduated from college, pull out your transcripts. Companies often ask for GPAs and even ask about extracurricular activities. When the application process is complete there is an opportunity to upload any other documents such as a cover letter.

“Thank You For Your Interest…”

Nearly half of my résumés have been rejected without any explanation. Recently, Blue Shield had a position available with a job description I could have written myself. The position required some of my best skills and I was careful to incorporate Blue Shield’s language into my résumé/cover letter. Within three hours there was an email rejection notice in my inbox. “Thank you for your interest…blah, blah…” A few days later, another cover letter and customized résumé was sent to Marsh/McLennan Insurance Company and I received a rejection email within 15 minutes! What is happening here?

“We Can Now Automate Hiring. Is that Good?”

I became curious about this strange submission process and began conducting research. Wharton professor, Peter Cappelli, has written an article, “We Can Now Automate Hiring. Is that Good?” published on the Harvard Business Review Blog at: http://blogs.hbr.org/2013/12/we-can-now-automate-hiring-is-that-good/. Cappelli describes how the use of the system (ATS) began. It was not because there were too many applicants; companies were attempting to outsource human resources and recruiters were being laid off. Less-seasoned HR recruiters have now replaced the more experienced recruiters. Only during this recession has the software system been used to weed résumés according to employer-determined parameters.

According to Cappelli and other experts, a well-qualified candidate’s résumé may never be reviewed. Gone are the days of “She/he interviewed well.” Before the use of ATS a seemingly unqualified, yet strong, candidate could sway a recruiter with their intelligence, experience and wit. Some experts believe recruiters, and therefore the hiring managers, never see 8 out of 10 résumés. In response, Cappelli has published a book titled Why Good People Can’t Get Jobs.

Beware of Young Recruiters?

The San Francisco Public Library recently sponsored a seminar led by a former recruiter who has worked in most industries, with all levels of management, both inside and outside the corporation. She provided insight into the recruiting profession, describing a new wave of recruiters. The career coach believes these younger and less experienced recruiters aren’t seasoned enough to understand the hiring process without a strict formula to guide decisions. She also said the less experienced recruiter was more likely to read a cover letter, while the experienced recruiter could tell from a quick résumé scan if there was a match. We heard stories of managers who never see a candidate they like because the manager only sees résumés selected by the screening software, and the inexperienced recruiter. The oft-heard advice to use LinkedIn and approach managers via email is based on the belief that managers don’t see résumés they necessarily like. Apparently, managers will be so relieved to see an interesting résumé, the candidate may be invited for an interview.

Talking with a Recruiter

Armed with some background, I decided to speak to one of my contacts; a senior recruiter with a major, nation-wide company. This recruiter explained how the systems are set up to sync with only the relevant applications. I was surprised to hear about barriers I hadn’t considered: Employers are attempting to recruit expertise at lower salaries (big surprise). In order to produce the right candidate, a parameter may be set for experience or the length of time in a position. For example, a
candidate noting more than ten years, the résumé may be rejected. This will eliminate candidates with too much experience, including supervisory experience. This may or may not be about age. My contact reports that it’s about screening out seasoned candidates who expect higher salaries. An inexperienced candidate with a good education and basic skills can be hired for a lower salary, and in time, do as well. In responding to this barrier, some candidates only list the last ten years of their experience and say they entered the work force later in life. The advertisement for a position may state a general business degree requirement even though the system may only accept an MBA and reject a Business Administration degree. A school parameter can be also be specified, for example, to eliminate all but Ivy League schools. It’s easy to see how the résumé details may knock a candidate out of contention.

Does Understanding the System Help?
When I consider the rejections I’ve received, it’s impossible to understand the rationale behind it. As a corporate librarian my experience is not that of a traditional librarian. I am applying for positions I qualify for based on the business research, report writing, presentation work and leadership skills I developed while collaborating with other business units. It could be that my MLIS disqualifies me.

My previous salary is an issue and I also have too much management experience. I learned that many companies set the salary parameters at $50K-70K, $70-$90K and 90K+. I imagine selecting the salary band of $50-$70K would help keep candidates in the running. During the auto hiring process, the candidate cannot leave any field, such as previous salary, or salary required, blank. The salary information is forced, as the system doesn’t allow the user to progress until every box is completed.

I have yet to see an advertised position with salary information included, so I asked my contact whether I should misrepresent my salary and apologize later. I was told that “everyone does it,” that is, misrepresents his or her previous salary. When there is a job offer, usually the time a company will check references, the candidate needs to confess – before the previous employer reveals their salary was actually much higher.

References
Here is more interesting material on this topic and that of BIG DATA that we hear so much about.

KQED has done special reports on automatic hiring that are posted on their website.  www.kqed.org

‘We Can Now Automate Hiring. Is that Good?’ Peter Cappelli 12/12/13
http://blogs.hbr.org/2013/12/we-can-now-automate-hiring-is-that-good/

“When HR Needs to Stop Passing Over the Long-Term Unemployed” Peter Cappelli

Why Good People Can’t Get Jobs Peter Cappelli
http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/792880690 (available as an e-book at the San Francisco Public Library)

“Big Data And Hiring: How Software Helps Firms Hire Workers More Efficiently” The Economist, 4/6/12

“Hiring and Big Data: Those Who Could Be Left Behind” Herminia Ibarra, 12/3/13

Share this:
three things:

Keep everything patched and updated.
Never trust anything.
Use good passwords.

Copyright

The ALA Office for Information Policy is Seeking Nominations for Two Copyright Awards

The first is the L. Ray Patterson Award: In Support of Users’ Rights. The Patterson Copyright Award recognizes contributions of an individual or group that pursues and supports the Constitutional purpose of the U.S. Copyright Law, fair use and the public domain. Professor Patterson was a copyright scholar and historian. He argued that the statutory copyright monopoly had grown well out of proportion, to the extent that the purpose of the copyright law – to advance learning – was hindered. Patterson was co-author (with Stanley W. Lindberg) of The Nature of Copyright: A Law of Users’ Rights and was particularly interested in libraries and their role in advancing users rights. He served as expert counsel to Representative Bob Kastenmaier throughout the drafting of the Copyright Law of 1976. Previous winners of the Patterson Award include Kenneth D. Crews, Peter Jaszi, and Fred von Lohmann. The Patterson Award is a crystal vase trophy. http://www.districtdispatch.org/2014/02/ala-office-information-policy-seeking-nominations-two-copyright-awards/.

Government Information

CDC Announces 2014 Adult Immunization Schedule

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)’s Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices has announced its recommended adult immunization schedule for 2014. Among the key changes to the schedule for 2014 include revised notes on administering vaccines for flu; tetanus, diphtheria, and acellular pertussis; human papillomavirus (HPV); zoster virus; pneumococcal disease and meningococcal disease.

CDC’s easy-to-read immunization schedules are available for health care professionals and the public. Schedules are available for infants and children (birth through 6 years old), preteens and teens (7 through 18 years old), and adults (19 years and older). CDC Immunization Schedules: http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/index.html

The Employment Situation in January

Today’s report is another reminder of both the progress that has been made and the challenges that remain. Businesses have now added 8.5 million jobs over the last 47 months and the unemployment rate ticked down to its lowest level in more than five years. But the economy is still healing from the Great Recession and steps are still needed to expand economic opportunity. Given the elevated long-term unemployment rate, extending emergency unemployment benefits for the 1.7 million workers who lost them is critical. At the same time, the President will continue to focus on action, both pushing forward on priorities with Congress and using his pen and his phone to expand opportunity and growth. http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2014/02/07/employment-situation-january

Continuing Education

Confused About E-Government Services? Participate in Free Lib2Gov webinars

The American Library Association (ALA) and the Information Policy & Access Center (iPAC) at the University of Maryland at College Park are pleased to announce the re-launch of Lib2Gov, an online e-government resource for librarians. Over the past few months, both organizations have worked to transition LibEGov—a project supported by the Institute of Museum and Library Services through a National Leadership Grant—into Lib2Gov.

Lib2Gov now provides a dedicated space where librarians can share materials, lesson plans, tutorials, stories, and other e-government content. The redesigned website Lib2Gov allows libraries and government agencies to come together and collaborate and build a community of practice. The website offers a variety of resources from government agencies and organizations, including information on immigration, taxation, social security and healthcare.

In addition, both organizations will host a new monthly webinar series, “E-government @ Your Library.” The webinars will explore a variety of e-government topics that will be of interest to librarians, including mobile government and emergency preparedness, response and recovery. All webinars are free and will be archived on the Lib2Gov site. The webinar schedule for Winter/Spring 2014: http://lib2gov.org/webinars

Libraries

Yale University Library Begins Loans of Google Glass to Student and Faculty Groups

From Yale University Library News:

In cooperation with the Instructional Technology Group (ITG)
and the Student Technology Collaborative (STC), the Yale University Library has added the futuristic eyewear, Google Glass— unofficially dubbed “Yale Bass Glass” – to its collection of media devices at the Bass Library. The device will be loaned to faculty and student groups during the spring semester who can use it to explore the potential of Google Glass in enhancing classroom instruction and the research experience.

http://www.library.yale.edu/librarynews/2014/01/google_glass_available_for_fac.html

Who Says Libraries Are Going Extinct?

America’s network of public libraries is older than America itself. You can make a strong case that the precursor to our modern book-lending system was developed in Boston in 1636, in Charleston in 1698, by Benjamin Franklin and his Philadelphia cohort in 1731, or in the Massachusetts town that named itself after Franklin in 1790. But what is indisputable is that this “amazing decentralized mutual aid” creation, as one librarian described it, was founded on a radical belief that all citizens have a right to information, art, and literature. That these things are not a luxury, but a necessity, is an idea that turned the old elite concept of private libraries and ivory towers on its head.


Publishing:

Amazon’s Latest Page-Turner: Book Publishing

After forever changing book-selling, Amazon is now embarked on a wide-ranging venture that seeks to alter the book-publishing end of the business. Company officials see it as an experiment where they can tinker with new ways to connect authors and readers.


Library Alerts February 16, 2014


Libraries:

Bidding Starts Early For Site Of Obama’s Future Library

President Obama doesn’t leave office until January of 2017, but already the competition has begun for the right to host his presidential library and museum.

A new foundation has been set up to raise money and to begin the site selection process, and there are already bids in the works from Chicago, Honolulu and elsewhere.

http://www.npr.org/2014/02/07/273056702/bidding-starts-early-for-site-of-obamas-future-library

ALA Joins WifiForward Initiative

Ten years ago, only about 18 percent of public libraries offered free public access to Wi-Fi. Now it’s nearly ubiquitous in communities of all sizes. Wireless access not only enables our library patrons to bring their own devices to access the internet and digital content (sometimes from our sidewalks and parking lots), but it also enables libraries to improve and expand our technology services through mobile laptop labs, self-checkout, and even new pilots experimenting with using TV white space to extend our reach further into our communities.

http://www.districtdispatch.org/2014/02/ala-joins-wififorward-initiative/

Librarians:

Kyle Cassidy Photographs Librarians at the American Library Association Midwinter Meeting

When you think of a librarian, what image comes to mind? Photographer Kyle Cassidy ventured to the American Library Association’s Midwinter Meeting in Philadelphia in January to explore that question. In between networking, educational events, and panels, librarians from across the country stopped by Cassidy’s makeshift studio to sit for a portrait. The result is a celebration of the diversity in the librarian community. “I realized I had a stereotype in my mind of what a librarian looked like, which is one of the reasons I wanted to do this project. Whenever I think something is true, I’m often wrong,” Cassidy said. “I tend to think of librarians as the ones I know from my public library and from school. But there are librarians who are researchers and archivists doing extraordinarily technical work. There are librarians who work in specialized fields who have to know about archaeology, for example, or medicine or research science. The field was broader than I had gone in there thinking.”

http://www.slate.com/blogs/behold/2014/02/11/kyle_cassidy_photographs_librarians_at_the_american_libra
Privacy:

Academics and Researchers Against Mass Surveillance

Academics have joined the fight against mass surveillance. Two open letters were published last month from the academic and research communities. One is signed by U.S. information security and cryptography researchers, and the other is signed by over one thousand scholars from a wide range of disciplines who work in universities all over the world.

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2014/02/academics-and-researchers-against-mass-surveillance

International Outlook:

Walk-In Access To High Quality Academic Research Available In UK Public Libraries

A collaboration between librarians and publishers is giving students, independent researchers and small businesses access to academic papers through their local libraries.

The Access to Research initiative, currently being rolled out as a two year pilot, will provide licensed online access to over 1.5 million journal articles and conference proceedings through library terminals.

http://www.iwr.co.uk/social-media/3011742/Access-to-Research-initiative-begins-two-year-pilot

Ukraine Protest Library a Break From the Tensions

KIEV, Ukraine (AP) — When the fervor flags for the protesters in Ukraine’s capital and they want to get away from the barricades, many head to an improvised library in one of the buildings seized by demonstrators.

Shelves with a couple thousand books have been crammed into a hallway of Ukrainian House, an exhibition center and former Lenin museum that protesters took over two weeks ago after attacking it with rocks and firebombs to drive out police who were sheltering there.

http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/E/EU_UKRAINE_PROTEST_LIBRARY?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT

Open Access:

EDP Sciences Launches Open Access Imprint

EDP Sciences has almost a century’s experience of publishing high quality, international journals, magazines, books and websites.

EDP Open provides access to more than 70,000 Open Access scientific articles from across all EDP Sciences’ journals and also hundreds of conference proceedings. EDP Open has also launched two new Gold Open Access journals: Manufacturing Review – a forum for presenting the latest advances, developments and applications of manufacturing engineering, technology and applied sciences; and also EPJ Applied Metamaterials – a platform for multidisciplinary researchers to exchange information on metamaterials with a focus on high impact engineering applications.


Copyright:

DRM, Phone Unlocking, and Making Copyright Law Make Sense

Last week, Cory Doctorow wrote this lengthy, thoughtful piece about DRM and the laws, like the anticircumvention provisions in section 1201 of the DMCA, that make it illegal for people to circumvent DRM. He gives a concise history of the lobbying and laws leading up to the current situation, and follows that up with an analysis of how this whole system perverts the relationships between publishers and consumers, and between all of us and the computers we like to call our own.

http://www.publicknowledge.org/blog/drm-phone-unlocking-and-making-copyright-law-

Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety. The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.
International Outlook:

Fair Use Gaining Popularity: Australian Law Reform Commission Proposes Fair Use, Prohibition Against Contracting Out of Specific Copyright Exceptions for Libraries

On February 13, 2014, the Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC) issued a 478 page report on “Copyright and the Digital Economy” which made a number of positive recommendations for copyright reform in Australia. A significant portion of the report focused on limitations and exceptions including a recommendation that Australia adopt fair use (or, failing that, to revise its current fair dealing provision), noting the benefits of a flexible standard. In addition to its numerous other recommendations, the ALRC report also examined the practice of using contracts to prohibit or hinder the use of particular limitations and exceptions and recommended an express prohibition against contractual provisions that would restrict specific libraries and archives exceptions.


Downloading Decision: Federal Court Establishes New Safeguards on Disclosures in File Sharing Suits

The federal court has released its much anticipated decision in Voltage Pictures v. Does, a case involving demands that TekSavvy, a leading independent ISP, disclose the identities of roughly 2,000 subscribers alleged to have downloaded movies without authorization. The case attracted significant attention for several reasons: it is the first major “copyright troll” case in Canada involving Internet downloading (the recording industry previously tried unsuccessfully to sue 29 alleged file sharers), the government sought to discourage these file sharing lawsuits against individuals by creating a $5,000 liability cap for non-commercial infringement, TekSavvy ensured that affected subscribers were made aware of the case and CIPPIC intervened to ensure the privacy issues were considered by the court.

http://www.michaelgeist.ca/content/view/7076/125/

After Winding Odyssey, Tibetan Texts Find Home in China

CHENGDU, China — Decades ago, the thousands of Tibetan-language books now ensconced in a lavishly decorated library in southwest China might have ended up in a raging bonfire. During the tumultuous decade of the Cultural Revolution, which ended in 1976, Red Guard zealots destroyed anything deemed “feudal.” But an American scholar, galvanized in part by those rampages, embarked on a mission to collect and preserve the remnants of Tibetan culture.

The resulting trove of 12,000 works, many gathered from Tibetan refugees, recently ended a decades-long odyssey that brought them to a new library on the campus of the Southwest University for Nationalities here in Chengdu.

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/02/16/world/asia/after-winding-odyssey-tibetan-texts-find-home-in-china.html?_r=0

Government Information

CDC Reports Flu Hit Younger People Particularly Hard This Season

This influenza season was particularly hard on younger- and middle-age adults, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported in today’s Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report. People age 18-64 represented 61 percent of all hospitalizations from influenza—up from the previous three seasons when this age group represented only about 35 percent of all such hospitalizations. Influenza deaths followed the same pattern; more deaths than usual occurred in this younger age group.

A second report in this week’s MMWR showed that influenza vaccination offered substantial protection against the flu this season, reducing a vaccinated person’s risk of having to go to the doctor for flu illness by about 60 percent across all ages.

http://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2014/p0220-flu-report.html

We the Geeks: Celebrating Black History Month

We at the White House couldn’t be more excited to celebrate Black History Month by highlighting some of our nation’s most prominent and promising African American science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) achievers and shining a light on the importance of ensuring the Nation’s next generation of inventors, discoverers, and innovators fully reflects the diversity of America.

Members of racial and ethnic minority groups are projected to become the majority of America’s population in the next 30 years. Today, however, they account for just 28 percent of America’s STEM workers. We know that for America to remain competitive in a global economy, we need to do all we can to draw upon the nation’s diverse talent pool, which includes historically underrepresented groups in STEM, such as women and minorities.

http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2014/02/21/we-geeks-celebrating-black-history-month-0

Freedom of Information

In Court Today: Challenging DOJ Secrecy on Use of
Warrantless Cell Phone Location Tracking

Way back in 2007, we filed a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request seeking information about how and when the government obtains cell phone location data without a warrant. Since then, we have learned that the practice of using cell phones as tracking devices is widespread, growing and conducted under various, conflicting legal standards, but the specifics of cell phone use in criminal investigations have largely stayed hidden (exceptions exist). This lack of transparency has stifled public debate on the practice, prevented it from being properly evaluated in the courts, and kept individuals who have been tracked from ever knowing about the surveillance.


Setting the Record Straight on DHS and License Plate Tracking

There has been a lot of press coverage in the past couple of weeks about the Department of Homeland Security posting a solicitation for contract proposals regarding access to a national license plate reader database—and DHS’s decision, once mainstream news outlets began covering the story, to withdraw the solicitation. That has led to a lot of triumphant talk about how the agency shelved the plans in the face of widespread public outcry and bad press.

There’s just one problem with this narrative: it’s completely wrong, beginning to end.

https://www.aclu.org/blog/technology-and-liberty-national-security-immigrants-rights/setting-record-straight-dhs-and

Libraries

Obama’s Presidential Library Belongs in the Cloud

Today’s patriotic controversy, appropriately enough given the holiday, concerns presidential libraries. Specifically, the location for the one that will be built for Barack Obama once he leaves office.

Late last month, a foundation was created to oversee the whole enterprise; the hope is to select a home for the library by early 2015. “Our mission is to build a library that tells President Obama’s remarkable story in an interactive way that will inspire future generations to become involved in public service,” says Marty Nesbitt, an Obama pal and one of the appointed site diviners.


Radio Station’s Music Collection Brings Big Challenges to U. of Texas at Austin

Some of us remember the days when CD organizers were a thing. Whether you had CD towers in your living room or binders with plastic sleeves for the discs, it always seemed as if there never was enough space.

For most of us, those days are history—albums nowadays are easily stored in our computers, phones, or tablets. But the University of Texas at Austin is facing a CD-storage dilemma as big as the Texas prairie.

Thanks to its purchase of the entire physical library of the university’s public-radio station, KUT, the university’s Fine Arts Library has 60,000 CDs and 4,000 LPs to process and store—400 boxes’ worth. The archive comprises music of all genres, including albums by little-known bands that were at one time or another part of Austin’s long-thriving music scene.


Volunteers Bring Lincoln Papers into Online Age

On the third floor of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, a half-dozen regular volunteers spend hour after hour in cubicles typing away on aged computers, history buffs on a mission to make researching the nation’s 16th president a lot easier.

While there’s no shortage of books and grad school dissertations on Lincoln — treatises on him have become an industry in Springfield — doing the work presents a challenge. The source documents are handwritten letters more than 150 years old. Not exactly word search-friendly.


Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety. The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.
The SLA-San Francisco Bay Region Chapter is pleased to host a FREE online webinar: The Accidental Learner

The SLA-San Francisco Bay Region Chapter is pleased to host a FREE online webinar:
The Accidental Learner: 40 sources (or more!) in 60 minutes
Presented by Chapter President Cindy Hill

Date: Wednesday, March 12, 2014
Time: 5:30-6:30 Pacific
Cost: FREE!

We are continually reminded that we need to be lifelong learners in this fast-paced world. We are asked to stay relevant and be on the cutting edge of new and emerging trends. But after formal education, where can we go for high quality, targeted learning opportunities that don’t cost an arm and a leg? What does self-education look like? How can it be obtained at a reasonable price, both in terms of money and time?

Join Cindy Hill, an “accidental learner,” in investing in your own self-learning by exploring online and in-person learning opportunities that are free or low-cost and available in the Bay Area and around the world.

Cindy is the manager of the Research Library and Bank Archives at the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco. She has worked as an information professional in a variety of industries including environmental, engineering consulting,

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Essential Bloomberg for Researchers and Librarians

The SLA Business & Finance Division is excited to announce the fourth and final offering in its continuing education webinars series. The webinar is free and open to all SLA members.

**Essential Bloomberg for Researchers and Librarians**

Join us for this webinar on March 14, 2014, from 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM EST

Reserve your Webinar Seat Now at: [https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/358098585](https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/358098585)

While the Bloomberg service can be a puzzling beast to use, it is an immense and ever changing source of data, calculations, and applications. As a user for over 25 years, I plan to prioritize the areas of most use to a broad range of research needs and demonstrate how to find and access datasets, navigate using the new Bloomberg categories, and find newer features of great utility.

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Enable sharing

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Enable sharing
Export Regulations on Communication and Educational Technologies Loosen for Some Sanctioned Countries and Not Others—What Gives?

With Coursera lifting restrictions for users of its online educational courses in Syria, but upholding restrictions for users in the sanctioned countries of Cuba, Iran, and Sudan, the need for streamlined communication technology policies for countries sanctioned by the U.S. is more necessary than ever.

Cuba, Syria, Sudan, North Korea, and Iran are all currently under heavy U.S. sanctions, which have a negative impact on what communications technologies individuals in these countries can access and use. EFF believes that all individuals should have the right to access technologies that facilitate communications. And the U.S. government recognizes the need to modify outdated sanctions that restrict vital communications and educational technologies from citizens living in U.S.-sanctioned countries. So what’s the problem?

http://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2014/02/export-regulations-communication-and-educational-technologies-loosen-some

Change the Future of Copyright in Europe—Submit Your Comments to the European Commission

The European Commission’s open consultation on copyright ends in less than a week on Mar. 5. It’s a rare and important opportunity for anyone who uses the Internet—whether you are a student or artists, librarian or entrepreneur—to influence the future of innovation policy in the region.

The 80 question “Public Consultation on the Review of the EU Copyright Rules” can be dizzying to tackle on its own, but there are several easy-to-use platforms that can help anyone with navigating the survey.

http://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2014/02/change-future-copyright-europe-submit-your-comments-european-commission

Privacy

If You Think You’re Anonymous Online, Think Again

Investigative reporter Julia Angwin was curious what Google knew about her, so she asked the company for her search data. “It turns out I had been doing about 26,000 Google searches a month … and I was amazed at how revealing they were,” she tells Fresh Air’s Dave Davies.

From NSA sweeps to commercial services scraping our Web browsing habits, to all kinds of people tracking us through our smartphones, Angwin says we’ve become a society where indiscriminate data-gathering has become the norm. Angwin has covered online privacy issues for years, and in her new book she describes what she did to try to escape the clutches of data scrapers, even to the point of creating a fake identity.

http://www.npr.org/blogs/alltechconsidered/2014/02/24/282061990/if-you-think-youre-anonymous-online-think-again

Congress Must Update Email Privacy Law

It’s time for Congress to follow the Sixth Circuit’s lead and update one of the main online privacy laws—the Electronic Privacy Communications Act (ECPA). In the past, the Department of Justice has used the archaic law to obtain private online communications without obtaining a probable cause warrant as the Fourth Amendment requires. A bill co-sponsored by Reps. Kevin Yoder, Tom Graves, and Jared Polis—HR 1852, The Email Privacy Act—seeks to update ECPA by requiring a probable cause warrant whenever the government wants to access your online private messages.

The bill is slowly making its way through Congress, but we can speed it up. Tell your representative right now to cosponsor the bill. The bill ensures the government can’t try to (ab)use ECPA in order to obtain our private online messages.

http://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2014/02/congress-must-update-email-privacy-law

Publishers Withdraw More Than 120 Gibberish Papers

The publishers Springer and IEEE are removing more than 120 papers from their subscription services after a French researcher discovered that the works were computer-generated nonsense.

Over the past two years, computer scientist Cyril Labbé of Joseph Fourier University in Grenoble, France, has catalogued computer-generated papers that made it into more than 30 published conference proceedings between 2008 and 2013. Sixteen appeared in publications by Springer, which is headquartered in Heidelberg, Germany, and more than 100 were published by the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE), based in New York. Both publishers, which were privately informed by Labbé, say that they are now
removing the papers.

http://www.nature.com/news/publishers-withdraw-more-than-120-gibberish-papers-1.14763

How Academia and Publishing are Destroying Scientific Innovation: A Conversation with Sydney Brenner

I recently had the privilege of speaking with Professor Sydney Brenner, a professor of Genetic medicine at the University of Cambridge and Nobel Laureate in Physiology or Medicine in 2002. I had originally intended to ask him about Professor Frederick Sanger, the two-time Nobel Prize winner famous for his discovery of the structure of proteins and his development of DNA sequencing methods, who passed away in November. I wanted to do the classic tribute by exploring his scientific contributions and getting a first hand account of what it was like to work with him at Cambridge’s Medical Research Council’s (MRC) Laboratory for Molecular Biology (LMB) and at King’s College where they were both fellows. What transpired instead was a fascinating account of the LMB’s quest to unlock the genetic code and a critical commentary on why our current scientific research environment makes this kind of breakthrough unlikely today.

http://kingsreview.co.uk/magazine/blog/2014/02/24/how-academia-and-publishing-are-destroying-scientific-innovation-a-conversation-with-sydney-brenner/

Libraries

ASU Students Aim To Turn Used Food Trucks Into Mobile School Libraries

A group of students at Arizona State University (ASU) has proposed a revamp of the traditional bookmobile—one that aims to provide the services of a school library to schools that may not have access to that resource any longer. The design, dubbed Bibliotrucka, aims to take advantage of the proliferation of food trucks in the Phoenix area, recycling out of commission trucks into modular moving libraries that can be customized on a day-to-day basis for students of different learning levels and cultural backgrounds.

http://lj.libraryjournal.com/2014/02/youth-services/asu-students-aim-to-turn-used-food-trucks-into-mobile-school-libraries/#

Queens Library Officials Say CEO is Worth His Pay

Queens Library President and CEO Tom Galante, under fire from some city officials and at least one state lawmaker for making nearly $400,000 a year, told members of the borough’s press corps that he probably works close to 100 hours a week. Galante makes $392,000 a year as head of the library, a private, nonprofit group that contracts with the city to provide services. His salary was revealed earlier this month by the Daily News, prompting the City Council to hold a hearing and the city comptroller to launch an audit of the library.


Intersect Alert March 9, 2014


Public Policy

Edward Snowden Broadcast Monday March 10

In his first conversation in front of an audience since his disclosures began making global headlines last year, Edward Snowden will appear via live video next Monday at SXSW Interactive, the festival that brings together tens of thousands of technology professionals and enthusiasts every year in Austin. He’ll be talking to the ACLU’s Ben Wizner and Christopher Soghoian.

Librarians
Celebrate Women’s History Month

Throughout the month of March the Feminist Task Force is hosting a blog with daily postings of historic women in librarianship. An index of the 2013 selections is available at the site.

http://womenoflibraryhistory.tumblr.com/

International Outlook, Publishing

Controversy Continues over Religion Scholar’s Books

Recent controversy in India regarding books by religion scholar Wendy Doniger has led to the pulping of a book on Hinduism. Warehouse copies of Donziger’s book The Hindu: An Alternative History were destroyed by the publisher. The American Academy of Religion (AAR) issued a statement asserting, “If governments block the free exchange of ideas or restrict what can be said about religion, all of us are impoverished.” As noted by AAR, Publishers’ Weekly described a second book On Hinduism which will be published in the U.S. this month. Donziger published an op-ed piece in the New York Times on March 6. She pointed out that because of e-books, “You cannot ban a book in the age of the Internet.”

https://www.aarweb.org/about/updated-academic-freedom-and-the-work-of-professor-wendy-doniger

Privacy

Student Online Privacy Concerns

According to a February 20 article in the New York Times (“Scrutiny in California for Software in Schools”) Darrell Steinberg’s recent proposal is intended to prevent businesses from exploiting information such as students’ names, ages, locations, family financial activities, medical information or even lunch preferences. Those items are accessible to private contractors who provide online services to public schools. As the Los Angeles Times stated on March 5, “private contractors play an enhanced role in teaching, through online math and language training, games, and other Web-based programs. To be effective they often need to track performance by individual students.”


http://www.latimes.com/opinion/editorials/la-ed-school-

Two Decisions Strengthen Cell Phone Privacy in Texas and Washington

In the Texas case a high-school student was arrested. While he was in custody a police officer examined, without a warrant, the student’s cell phone for evidence of an unrelated crime. The court said a citizen has a reasonable expectation of privacy in the contents of his cell phone. In Washington State there was a pair of decisions finding that police violated state law when after seizing a cell phone from a suspect, the police then monitored and responded to incoming text messages from the defendants. The state had argued both defendants had assumed the risk that the person they thought they were communicating with was really somebody else.

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2014/02/two-new-decisions-strengthen-cell-phone-privacy-texas-and-washington

Domain Awareness Center in Oakland Trimmed

This matter alarmed numerous residents of Oakland. “After a grueling meeting where dozens of speakers expressed concerns about privacy, racial profiling, and political repression, the Oakland City Council voted to move forward with a reduced Domain Awareness Center. The motion that was approved will remove city cameras and ShotSpotter from the DAC components.”

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2014/03/eff-fights-back-against-oaklands-disturbing-domain-awareness-center

The Future of Privacy Forum (FPF)

In conjunction with Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, FPF presented their fourth annual “Privacy Papers for Policy Makers” on Wednesday, March 5th. There were ten papers featuring matters such as Privacy in the Cloud, A Primer on Metadata: Separating Fact from Fiction, and Facing Real-Time Identification in Mobile Apps & Wearable Computers.”

http://www.futureofprivacy.org/privacy-papers-2013
Libraries

Libraries and Museums FY2015 Budget

Some background information is presented by IMLS Director Susan Hildreth

http://www.infodocket.com/2014/03/04/presidents-fy2015-budget-request-includes-226448000-for-imls/

Emily Sheketoff, Executive Director of the American Library Association’s Washington Office points out “The proposed budget for the Library Services and Technology Act falls $2 million short from the $180.9 million enacted by the U.S. Congress for the 2014 fiscal year.”

http://www.districtdispatch.org/2014/03/federal-library-funding-cut-proposed-budget/

Government Information

Library of Congress Legislative Data Challenge Winners Announced

“First place in the Legislative XML Data Mapping Challenge and a $10,000 prize was awarded to Jim Mangiafico. Mr. Mangiafico’s submission, Akoma Ntoso Converte, impressed the judges the most. The tools Mr. Mangiafico developed (including a Chrome extension) were so refined one judge remarked, “It is a starting point for something and not just a proof of concept.” His mapping eked out only a very narrow win because of his mastery of temporal metadata and his ability to maintain the end of line (<eol/>) designations in UK document mapping.

Second place in the challenge and a $5,000 prize was awarded to Garrett Schure for his submission Translate of U.K. and U.S legislative documents to Akoma Ntoso. The thorough written analysis included in Mr. Schure’s submission as well as his comprehensive use of the organization element within the mapped XML files were unparalleled in the other submissions.”

What is Akoma Ntoso you may wonder. Akoma Ntoso (“linked hearts” in Akan language of West Africa) defines a “machine readable” set of simple technology-neutral electronic representations (in XML format) of parliamentary,legislative and judiciary documents.

http://www.akomantoso.org/

Intersect Alert March 16, 2014


Libraries

Ithaka study Released

As reported in Library Journal, “On March 12 academic research nonprofit Ithaka S+R released its latest survey of academic library leaders. Gathering input from 499 library deans and directors from institutions large and small, the new Library Survey—the first of its kind since 2010—paints a picture of the shifting priorities of modern academic libraries, the challenges they face, and the resources and leadership techniques they’re using to meet those challenges. According to study author Roger Schonfeld, Ithaka’s program director for Libraries, Users, and Scholarly Practices, the latest survey found many university libraries shifting their priorities from research assistance for faculty to information literacy training for students.”

http://lj.libraryjournal.com/2014/03/academic-libraries/ithaka-study-shows-shifting-priorities-among-academic-librarians/

Video of James Billington’s testimony to Congress

On Wednesday March 5 the Librarian of Congress, James Billington, the Deputy Librarian of Congress, Robert Dizard, and the Register of Copyrights, Maria Pallante spoke to the Legislative Branch Subcommittee of the House Committee on Appropriations. You can find the 63 minutes of LC-related
Among the insights from Dr. Billington were “Politics is all about personal relationships.”

Librarians

Public Library Association Conference

The Public Library Association (PLA) Conference was held this past week in Indianapolis. Although PLA and SLA serve distinct constituencies, there are items of interest in the conference program and related material. In Thursday’s PLA Daily News there were recaps of keynote speeches:

http://www.pageturnpro.com/Publications/201403/1740/56949/pdf/130391397589982066_PLA%20ISSUE%20%20LR.pdf

On page 10 of Wednesday’s edition of the Daily News for the conference there is some advice about how to get advance copies of books. Edelweiss is one book discovery tool. Some advice about using Edelweiss can be found here:


NetGalley is similar https://www.netgalley.com/

Movers & Shakers 2014

The 2014 Movers and Shakers announcement appeared in Library Journal this week. There are some from the San Francisco Bay Area: Tasha Bergson-Michelson of Castilleja School, Palo Alto, Cen Campbell of bookboard.com in Mountain View, Alicia Virtue of Santa Rosa Junior College and Madeline Walton-Hadlock of San Jose Public Library. There is an interactive map that leads to lists, by state of all the Movers and Shakers in the 2002-2014 time range.


Publishing

The New Yorker looks at Amazon and the Publishing Industry

The ever-attentive blog http://libraryjuicepress.com/blog/ has a pointer to this New Yorker article.

“Just very quickly noting a great article in the New Yorker recently, by George Packer: Cheap Words: Amazon is good for customers. But is it good for books? The article covers the history of Amazon as a firm and the complexities of their relations with the publishing industry. Good reading if you’re interested in what is happening in the book world.”

http://www.newyorker.com/reporting/2014/02/17/140217fa_fact_packer

Copyright

Library Copyright Alliance’s Response to EU Survey

As noted by Association of Research Libraries, “On March 3, 2014, the Library Copyright Alliance (LCA) submitted a response to the EU consultation on the review of copyright rules. The EU website provided a list of 80 questions for stakeholders to answer; the LCA response focuses on those questions most relevant to the library community. The categories of questions to which LCA responded cover digital transmissions, term of protection, limitations and exceptions, preservation and archiving, e-lending, mass digitization, teaching, research, and access for persons with disabilities. The full LCA response can be found here:

http://www.librarycopyrightalliance.org/bm~doc/response-
Public Policy

Roadblocks to Federally Funded Research

ALA’s Washington Office reported these concerns about Section 303 of HR Bill 4189:

“Among other things, Section 303 would:

- Establish a minimum allowed embargo period of 24 months, and allow its further extension to 36 months. No provisions to reduce embargo periods are included in this legislation.
- Sanction simply linking to full text of articles on publishers’ websites, without ensuring that federal agencies retain a copy of the text of the articles reporting on their funded research.
- Require federal agencies to repeat the work that they have already done in drafting plans for policies as required by the White House Directive on public access, and introduce an additional 18 month minimum delay while this work is duplicated.”

http://www.districtdispatch.org/2014/03/road-blocks-federally-funded-research/

Intersect Alert March 23, 2014


Privacy

The Nine Things You Should Know About the NSA Recommendations From the President’s Review Group

“The President’s Review Group on Intelligence and Communications Technologies just issued a report that unequivocally rejected the notion that privacy and civil liberties must be sacrificed in order to achieve a balance with national security. Liberty and Security in a Changing World includes 46 recommendations for how to reform Intelligence Community programs and practices, several of which would go a long way toward protecting Americans’ rights. Here are the most important things you need to know about those recommendations.”

https://www.aclu.org/blog/national-security-technology-and-liberty/10-things-you-should-know-about-nsa-recommendations

Libraries

Slide Presentation: The Current State of Reference, Results From the SAGE Global Survey

On Thursday SLA held a webinar that featured Elisabeth Leonard, Market Research Analyst at SAGE. Leonard presented findings from a survey of libraries about the current state of reference. This specific presentation focused on reference budgets and perceptions of reference services by various user groups. Library Journal has published slides from this presentation as well as a June 2013 presentation by Leonard with more findings. Both slide decks include info
about the survey itself (numbers of invites sent/number completed, demographics of libraries surveyed, etc.)

Public Policy

ICANN

Searching on Obama and ICANN will bring up numerous stories about the pending changes to the governance of the internet. Press releases from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) shed a bit of light on the intricacies of the relationships. For a more personal view consider this article in the Guardian about the quarterly gathering of keyholders: Meet the seven people who hold the keys to worldwide internet security

Silver Anniversary for Web

“Experts have been contributing their vision of the future of the internet in a series of events and surveys sponsored by Elon University’s School of Communications. Why not share your prediction? If you’d like to get in on the 25th anniversary celebrations, post your best wishes (and read those sent by others) at webat25.org.”

Government Information

Transparency Tip: Scouring Public Records with Scout

“You’re probably already familiar with the concept of a metasearch engine—a search engine that searches other search engines. When you’re looking for airline tickets or a used copy of The King in Yellow, you might use a metasearch engine to find out which online retailer is offering the best price. There is also a metasearch for public records: Scout. Created and lovingly maintained by the Sunlight Foundation, Scout will take a search query and run it through six different continually updated databases of documents. The site also allows you to create email and RSS alerts and track search terms and legislation through a user account.”

International Outlook

Vatican Library to digitize archives with Japanese support

“The manuscripts that will be digitized extend from pre-Columbian America to China and Japan in the Far East, passing through all the languages and cultures that have marked the culture of Europe,’ said Vatican’s librarian Monsignor Jean-Louis Brugues. The 3,000 documents to be scanned digitally over the next four years include copies of works of classical Greek and Latin literature and medieval and Renaissance illuminated manuscripts. The library, founded by a 15th Century Pope, also contains important works of mathematics and science, law and medicine from earliest times up to the present day.”

American Community Survey Data Users Group

“In partnership with the U.S. Census Bureau, the Population Reference Bureau and Sabre Systems have formed a new American Community Survey (ACS) Data Users Group. Membership in the group is free and open to all interested ACS data users. The American Community Survey is an ongoing survey that provides data every year. Information from the survey generates data that help determine how more than $450 billion in federal and state funds are distributed each year.” The first-ever conference of this users group will have presentations on Geographic Information System and Data Visualization applications, as one would expect. A surprising item in the program pertains to an application promoting bicycle commuting which is in the Employment and Commuting
Applications Track. Other tracks give an indication of the disparate uses of the ACS information: Health Insurance & Disability, Housing, and Migration Patterns.

Two Surveys of Journalists

“On the eve of Sunshine Week 2014, Society of Professional Journalists released the results from two surveys about journalists’ experience with obtaining public information. The surveys were conducted by Dr. Carolyn S. Carlson, an assistant professor of communication at Kennesaw State University in Kennesaw, Ga., on behalf of the Society of Professional Journalists Freedom of Information Committee, of which she is a member. The first survey was of political and general assignment reporters working at the state and local level. The vast majority of reporters who took this survey said the amount of control has been increasing over the past several years and they see it only getting worse over the next few years. They agreed the current level of media control by Public Information Officers is an impediment to providing information to the public. For the second survey, the Society of Professional Journalists joined with the Education Writers Association to focus on the nation’s education reporters. Education writers overwhelmingly agreed with the statement that ‘the public was not getting all the information it needs because of barriers agencies are imposing on journalists’ reporting practices.’ Each of the two reports has a dozen-plus pages of respondents’ replies to open-ended questions. Those candid responses convey some stories that did not reach the newspapers.

PUBLISHING

Data Detectives: Investigating What Is, and What Is Not, Measured

Thanks to: http://oclc.org/research/publications/newsletters/abovethefold/2014-03-19.html for this cite: “Digital information strategist Michael Clarke’s essay focuses on the inherent weaknesses in data collection and interpretation, using the Nielsen rating system and recent e-book sales estimates as examples. There are huge gaps in data gathering that skew how those industries are reported.”

CENSORSHIP

Intersect Alert March 30, 2014

W3C Workshop on Annotations on Web Scheduled to Take Place April 2 in San Francisco

“Annotation is a ubiquitous activity online in many guises: comments on articles, footnotes, sticky notes, “hot spots” on images, timestamped notes on video or audio tracks, highlighted text passages in ebook readers, evocative pictures attached to song lyrics, quotes and links on social media, geotagged pinpoints on maps, and even tagged bookmarks, are all forms of annotation. Annotation currently lacks a structured approach. We want to identify the biggest challenges, most compelling use cases, and most promising solutions for standardization.”
**404 Day: A Day of Action Against Censorship in Libraries**

April 4

“The Electronic Frontier Foundation is calling on librarians, students, and concerned library patrons across the country to take action on 404 Day to raise awareness and call attention to banned websites and Internet censorship in libraries. Please join us at 12:00pm PST/ 3:00pm EST for a digital teach-in featuring Deborah Caldwell-Stone, Director of Intellectual Freedom at the American Library Association, Chris Peterson from MIT’s Center for Civic Media and the National Coalition Against Censorship, and Sarah Houghton, blogger and Director of the San Rafael Public Library in Northern California for an in-depth discussion about banned websites in public schools and libraries.”

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2014/03/404-day-day-action-against-censorship-libraries-and-schools

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**Libraries**

**Best Practices**

“The 2013 Best Practices for Government Libraries: Managing Evolving Resources: Strategies, Capabilities, and Alternatives is now available in PDF. Best Practices is a collaborative document that is put out annually on a specific topic of interest to government libraries and includes content submitted by government librarians and community leaders with an interest in government libraries. The 2013 edition includes over 75 articles and other submissions provided by more than 60 contributors including librarians in government agencies, courts, and the military, as well as from professional association leaders, LexisNexis Consultants, and more.” Consider having an Open House, as described on pages 28-33. Lisa Leyser writes, “The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Library’s most important marketing effort is our annual open house.” SLA is well-represented among the contributors.


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**International Outlook**

**Libraries Without Borders Unveils a Library in a Box for Refugees**

“More accurately, it’s a library in multiple boxes—lightweight, durable and waterproof—designed to be packed onto shipping pallets and sent to refugee camps. The idea is that food, water and shelter aren’t enough. People who have lost everything need books, films, games and Internet access to feed their minds, connect with loved ones, pursue education and rebuild their lives.”

http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702303725404579459770368396100

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**Intellectual Freedom**

**FBI labels FOIA superhero Ryan Shapiro’s dissertation a threat to national security**

“Over the past decade, Ryan Shapiro has become a leading freedom of information activist, unearthing tens of thousands of once-secret documents. His work focuses on how the government infiltrates and monitors political movements, in particular those for animal and environmental rights.”

http://freegovinfo.info/node/8482
Publishing

Winners of the 2014 Wellcome Image Awards Announced

“The awards, which celebrate the very best in science photography and imaging, were hosted by BBC Medical Correspondent – and member of the judging panel – Fergus Walsh. There were a total of 18 winning images this year, created by a diverse range of scientists, artists and photographers.”

http://blog.wellcomelibrary.org/2014/03/the-2014-wellcome-image-awards/

And in case you missed this item:

Wellcome Library Releases 100,000 Images From The History Of Medicine

“If you fancy your very own piece of the often barbaric and macabre history of medicine, then a new collection of over a hundred thousand ancient images could be for you. Wellcome Images, one of the world-renowned Wellcome Library’s major collections, has released thousands of pictures, paintings, etchings and engravings on a new website, freely available for

Beautiful Images From Rare Books of Science and Astronomy

“If you’re a big fan of old-timey science illustrations you’re in for a big treat. Swann Auction Galleries will host an auction of rare astronomy and science books from The Library of Martin C. Gutzwiller on April 3, 2014. Martin C. Gutzwiller of Yale University was a Swiss-American physicist best known for his work on chaotic systems in classical and quantum mechanics. The set of rare books for auction include books on Ptolemaic and Copernican astronomy in the early modern era, as well as the historical development of celestial mechanics and related advances in both physics and math.”

http://www.neatorama.com/spotlight/2014/03/19/Beautiful-Images-From-Rare-Books-of-Science-and-Astronomy

Intersect Alert April 6, 2014


Copyright

Before The House Committee On The Judiciary Subcommittee On Courts, Intellectual Property And The Internet

On 4/2/14, Jim Neal the Columbia University librarian and vice-president of information represented librarians on a panel that discussed fair use in the context of library preservation and of fair use and library exceptions (§108 of the Copyright Act) and orphan works. “The U.S. House Judiciary Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property and the Internet held a hearing entitled, “Preservation and Reuse of Copyrighted Works.” The hearing convened a panel of witnesses representing both the content and user communities to discuss a variety of copyright issues, including orphan works, mass digitization and specific provisions of the Copyright Act that concern preservation and deteriorating works.” Neal’s statement was endorsed by the Library Copyright Alliance. (LCA). You can visit this website for the statement:

http://www.librarycopyrightalliance.org/bm-doc/512-hearing-

Conference: The Next Great Copyright Act Held on April 3-4, 2014

“In March of 2013 Maria Pallante, the Register of the U.S. Copyright Office, expressed her interest in working toward a comprehensive revision of U.S. copyright law, which she has optimistically called “the next great copyright act.” Congressman Goodlatte, chair of the Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property and the Internet of the House Judiciary Committee, has decided to explore this idea by holding a series of hearings about copyright reform issues. The Department of Commerce has recently published a Green Paper about the need for some updates to U.S. copyright law. Although the drafters of the Copyright Act of 1976 hoped that this legislation would prove to be flexible and forward-looking enough to serve the country well over time, consensus has been building in recent years that the current law needs an overhaul so that it is more comprehensible and provides a better framework for
enabling copyright law to adapt to the challenges posed by emergent technologies. This conference will bring together scholars, policymakers, and representatives of various stakeholder groups to consider what changes would make for a next great copyright act. There is a great resource list of papers regarding all aspects of the copyright confusion. UC Berkeley School of Law http://www.law.berkeley.edu/16296.htm

Washington E-Bulletin provides a preview on what we can expect in “Copyright Heats Up.”


Freedom of Information

The Most Transparent Administration in History? Not So Much

Two new surveys authored by Carolyn S. Carlson & Megan Roy, are Local Reporters’ Perceptions of Public Information Officers’ Media Control Efforts (http://www.spj.org/pdf/sunshineweek/local-reporters-survey-report-2014.pdf) and Education Writers’ Perceptions of Public Information Officers’ Media Control Efforts (http://www.spj.org/pdf/sunshineweek/ewa-survey-report-2014.pdf) 75-80 percent of journalists responding describe the high level of bureaucracy preventing or at the least seriously delaying their efforts to obtain information. Read further: http://www.pogo.org/blog/2014/04/20140403-the-most-transparent-administration-in-history-not-so-much.html

Internet Security

Websites Must Use HSTS in Order to Be Secure

“You would think that by now the Internet would have grown up enough that things like online banking, email, or government websites would rely on thoroughly engineered security to make sure your data isn’t intercepted by attackers. Unfortunately when it comes to the vast majority of websites on the Internet, that assumption would be dead wrong. That’s because most websites (with a few notable exceptions) don’t yet support a standard called HSTS—HTTPS Strict Transport Security. Why is lack of HSTS even an issue? To see what could go wrong, imagine the following common scenario. You’re in a coffee shop and you want to check your bank account. You pop open your laptop, connect to the free wifi, load up your web browser, and type in your bank’s URL. No security alerts pop up when you load the page, and there’s even a padlock icon next to the address, so you go ahead and login. Unfortunately, you could very well have just sent your login information to a potential attacker.” Read more – https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2014/02/websites-hsts

HHS Website Lists 931 Data Breaches Affecting More Than 30.6M

In total 30.6M residents have been affected by breaches. Go to the wall of sham to see the penalty placed on companies and hospitals that breach their health data. “wall of shame” website is where offenders are listed.

Introducing the ACLU’s NSA Documents Database


International News

History With New Unchecked Surveillance Revelations, Colombian Government Ignores Both and Human Rights

“The Colombian operation, named Andromeda, sheds light on an unchecked intelligence surveillance apparatus, highlighting how the country has failed again to put human rights at the center of their surveillance activities. This new disclosure recollects previous instances of illegal surveillance, known as “Las Chuzadas.” The Colombian secret service (DAS) used to spy on political opponents, journalists, labor organizers, and even NGOs seeking to alleviate human rights abuses. It also sought to neutralize the work of the European Parliament Human Rights Commission by using smear campaigns, as well as silence and manipulate critical voices in the media. The DAS was stopped in 2011 and a new secret service is now in operation."Read further: https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2014/04/new-unchecked-surveillance-revelations-colombian-government-ignores-both-history

The (Futile) Ban On Twitter Has Been Lifted

Prime Minister said that freedom of expression was stifled by the ban on Twitter and it has been restored. Read More: https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2014/04/futile-ban-twitter-has-been-lifted

Librarians

Interview with a Librarian for Incarcerated Youth

This interview with Cheney is incredibly inspiring – read it to become reacquainted with why we do what we do. “Amy Cheney is a librarian and advocate who currently runs the Write to Read Juvenile Hall Literacy Program in Alameda County, CA. She has over 20 years experience with outreach, program design, and creation to serve the underserved,
including middle school non-readers, adult literacy students, adult inmates in county and federal facilities, students in juvenile halls, non-traditional library users and people of color. Cheney was named a Mover and Shaker by Library Journal, has won two National awards for her work, the I Love My Librarian award from the Carnegie Institution and New York Times, and was honored at the White House with a National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award. Her six word memoir: Navigator of insanity, instigator of enlightenment. Her theme song is Short Skirt, Long Jacket by Cake.” –lisnews

Library Tools

ScienceDirect Content Now Available to MyScienceWork Users

“Elsevier… announced its collaboration with scientific social network MyScienceWork on a pilot initiative to enable researchers to easily share and discover over 11 million articles through MyScienceWork. The pilot will allow MyScienceWork users to read, annotate and share articles from ScienceDirect within the MyScienceWork interface among each other…."

http://blog.leeandlow.com/2014/04/04/interview-with-a-librarian-for-incarcerated-youth/

Thomson Reuters Rolls Out WestlawNext Updates

Thomas Reuters added two new features…Custom Pages and eLibraries. Custom Pages helps WestlawNext subscribers create as many personalized pages as they need from specific content sets. They can build pages around practice areas, jurisdictions, content libraries, and other content sets by selecting resources from search results or from a list of matching databases. Users can share their Custom Pages with colleagues who are either inside or outside their organization… eLibraries, which focuses on large accounts with multiple users, streamlines the research experience by switching between billable and nonbillable research during sessions so research can be charged to specific accounts…” All updates from InfoToday, April 3, 2014

Intersect Alert April 13, 2014


Copyright

EFF Urges Appeals Court to Reconsider Dangerous Copyright Ruling

The Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF) is urging a federal appeals court to reconsider its decision to order Google to take down the controversial “Innocence of Muslims” video while a copyright lawsuit—based on a claim that the Copyright Office itself has rejected—is pending. As EFF explains, the decision sets a dangerous precedent that could have disastrous consequences for free speech. “Innocence of Muslims” sparked protests worldwide in the fall of 2012. For a time, its anti-Islamic content was even linked to the violent attack on an American diplomatic compound in Benghazi, Libya, although that was later refuted. An actress named Cindy Lee Garcia, after being tricked into appearing in the film for just five seconds, claimed she held a copyright in that performance. She sued Google for copyright infringement and asked the court to order Google to take the video offline. The district court refused, noting that it could not restrain speech massed on nothing more than a highly debatable copyright claim. On appeal, a three-judge panel of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit agreed that the copyright claim was not strong, but nonetheless ordered Google to take down all copies of the video. It even issued a gag order, preventing Google from talking about the controversial decision for a full week.

https://www.eff.org/press/releases/eff-urges-appeals-court-reconsider-dangerous-copyright-ruling

Freedom of Information

Report: Some Agencies Struggling with FOIA Requests

“A report published by the nonprofit Center for Effective Government (formerly OMB Watch), has ranked 15 agencies on how well they are implementing the Freedom of Information Act, and it gave seven of them failing grades. The report rated agencies on: how quickly they responded to requests, how quickly it granted requests, and how well their appeals process worked; the effectiveness of agency policy in terms of communication, the review process, and level of disclosure of records; and, website design in terms of facilitating information flow, online services and availability of maintained reading rooms. The National Archives and Records Administration was among those receiving an F – perhaps not surprising considering its relatively heavy FOIA burden. Also
receiving F’s: the EEOC, and the Departments of Labor, Veterans Affairs, Defense, Homeland Security, and State. Top performers were the Social Security Administration, Department of Justice, the EPA and the Department of Agriculture.”

http://www.foreffectivegov.org/access-to-information-scorecard-2014

Internet Security

NSA Denied Knowledge of Heartbleed

Bloomberg alleges NSA was aware of Heartbleed encryption hack for two years and exploited the bug to gather data…“Allegations the National Security Agency knew about the bug for two years are “wrong.” The security agency’s statement comes just days after a report by Bloomberg was published…Bloomberg, also accused NSA of using the Heartbleed bug to “obtain passwords and other basic data that are the building blocks of the sophisticated hacking operations at the core of its mission,” citing “two people familiar with the matter…NSA claims they weren’t aware of the OpenSSL vulnerability until it was made public.” A spokesperson from the Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF) said “I wouldn’t put it past them,” regarding the idea of the NSA using internet vulnerabilities to access private data.


Transparency

Federal Agencies Fail to Safeguard “Big Data,” Breaches Doubled in Just a Few Years

The Government Accountability Office has issued a report, warning that federal agencies “have not been consistent or fully effective in responding to data breaches.” The GAO found that “the number of reported information security incidents involving personally identifiable information has more than doubled over the last several years…” EPIC recently warned the White House about the enormous risks to Americans of current “big data” practices. EPIC and more than 20 organizations have urged the Administrations to establish strong privacy safeguards and improve accountability across the government and private sector. For report,


Senate Unanimously Passes DATA Act

“The US Senate on Thursday passed by unanimous consent an amended version of the bipartisan Digital Accountability and Transparency Act (S. 994)…The DATA Act’s transparency objectives are sweeping and far reaching. For example, the legislation would give taxpayers and policymakers a complete accounting of an agency’s spending by appropriation, federal agency, program activity, and object class in a searchable and downloadable format.”


International News

How To Preserve The Web’s Past For The Future

This article is an account of Crimea’s request for help in protecting their archives. A statement from Brewster Kahle, who participates in making history by documenting world events, “It is a golden age for librarians, historians and scholars and it is the sweep of digital tools in the humanities that make it so,” he says. “In the past, if you wanted to study the evolution of language for a PhD or the roles of women in different eras, you had to do all the grunt work with references and citations all done by hand. Now it can be done by machine at an astonishing rate.” When a group of investigative reporters were raided last month in Crimea by masked gunmen, they made an unlikely call: to a group of archivists 6,000 miles away in San Francisco. After years of working to expose corruption in Ukraine, the Crimean Center for Investigative Journalism was concerned its reports could be taken off the Internet in a moment. The place they turned to was the Internet Archive, a not-for-profit digital library dedicated to preserving the Internet’s past for the use of future historians.”

http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/2/d87a33d8-c0a0-11e3-8578-00144feabdc0.html#axzz2yck49WiY

Legislation

There’s A ‘Let Me Google That For You’ Bill

I expected a satirical story, but no…”Sen. Tom Coburn (R-OK) and Sen. Claire McCaskill (D-MO) introduced a new bill this week called the Let Me Google That For You Act of 2014…The bill is meant to cut down on “the collection and distribution of government information” by prioritizing using Google over spending money to obtain information from the National Technical Information Service (NTIS). The bill would abolish the NTIS and move essential functions of the agency to other agencies like the National Archives. The bill’s name is a play on a snarky website that links to Google’s search engine. “No Federal agency should use taxpayer dollars to purchase a report from the National Technical Information Service that is available through the Internet for free,” the bill reads. The idea behind the bill is to stop federal agencies from spending, say, more than $100 to get government documents if the documents are available online for free.

http://talkingpointsmemo.com/livewire/let-me-google-that-for-you-act-coburn-mccaskill
Library Practice

Worth the Effort?

“The Lever Initiative, http://leverinitiative.wordpress.com/ was founded last summer. Their first project was launched “to reflect the ambition of a group of top-ranked liberal arts colleges in the U.S. to accelerate the adoption of more open and innovative approaches to publishing scholarship.” The group reviewed the market, surveyed faculty and published a report on these findings last month. After a review of the market and a survey of faculty attitudes, the task force published a report titled Project Lever: Investigating the Feasibility of Launching a New Open Access Publishing Venture for the Liberal Arts, available on their blog…” In the months ahead, the libraries still need to convince faculty members the effort would be worth the time and money.


National Library Week

Intersect Alert April 20, 2014


Computers in Libraries

For those of us not lucky enough to attend Computers in Libraries, here’s a link to several presentations.

http://oedb.org/librarian/10-awesome-presentations-computers-libraries-2014/

Freedom of Information

EPIC Has Obtained Documents About FTC’s Facebook Investigation

“…EPIC has received several pages of documents related to the Federal Trade Commission’s investigation of Facebook business practices. The documents include assessments by the FTC of Facebook’s privacy changes and communications with the company. EPIC has repeatedly pressed the Commission to enforce the 2012 Consent Order which barred the company from future changes to privacy settings without user consent and committed Facebook to develop a “comprehensive privacy program.” EPIC also recently filed a complaint with the FTC about Facebook’s acquisition of Whatsapp, an instant messaging service. The EPIC complaint resulted in a stern warning from the FTC not to violate Whatsapp user privacy.”

State of American Libraries

The State of American Libraries

“More than 90% of the respondents in an independent national survey by the Pew Research Center’s Internet and American Life Project said that libraries are important to the community. 96% of Americans agree that public libraries are important because they provide tech resources and access to materials, and the same number find libraries valuable because they promote literacy and a love of reading. More than 90% of traditional public schools have a school library, but public schools continue to struggle with the impact of funding cuts and reductions in professional staffing.”

Copyright

Of Bundles, Bindings, and the Next Great Copyright Law | Peer to Peer Review

This is a “review” of the “The Next Great Copyright Act,” the Berkeley conference mentioned in last week’s Intersect.
Smith discusses different problems that may not be considered by non-librarians one is copyright exception that we all have experienced. “…the exception intended to allow the performance and display of copyrighted works in a face-to-face classroom. The exception—found in section 110(1) of the copyright law—is of course only to the performance and display rights. That was fine when a VHS tape was inserted into a player and the output shown on an attached TV screen in the classroom; only the exclusive right over performance and display was implicated in that situation, and the exception protected schools and teachers just fine. But in the digital age, classroom performances virtually always require that a copy be made; that is simply how digital technologies work. Unfortunately, the exception for such performances does not make an allowance for those temporary copies…”


U.S. House Judiciary Committee Chairman Bob Goodlatte Announces Comprehensive Review

Today House Judiciary Committee “Chairman Bob Goodlatte (R-Va.) announced that the Judiciary Committee will conduct a comprehensive review of U.S. copyright law over the coming months. The announcement was made at the World Intellectual Property Day celebration at the Library of Congress. From Rep. Goodlatte’s Prepared Remarks: Just as Register Solberg recognized the need to update of our nation’s copyright laws in the early 1900’s to accommodate new technologies, our current Register, Maria Pallante, has also perceived a need to do so. Last month, she testified before my Committee about her desire for the “next great copyright act.” Much of her testimony was about policy issues that have arisen due to the advance of technology.”


Technology

San Francisco’s Migration of 29,000 Employees to the Cloud is Under Way

“…..San Francisco is the first major American municipality to upgrade to a consolidated…cloud solution that, when complete, will have its 29,000 employees on a single network.” The system recognizes the FBIs criminal justice regulatory requirements — “the full cycle.” This means policy for creation, viewing, modification, transmission, dissemination, storage and destruction…While having emergency services departments such as police and fire operating in the same cloud allows employees to be more efficient. “It was well-known that the SFPD in the 2011 time frame did not have email,” said Stuart McKee, chief technology officer of State and Local Government with Microsoft. “Now the police department will have a robust email infrastructure that they can trust and meets all compliance issues. While the transition to Office 365 has gone well, Toutou said there is always calculated risk involved in choosing to undertake a project in a jurisdiction as large as San Francisco. “There is no such thing as zero risk; had we failed, we could have rolled back to enterprise,” he said. “While I would have had a bruised ego, there would have been no disruption of service….Having all city employees on Office 365 will create greater efficiencies…”


Digital Public Library of America Celebrates Its First Birthday with the Arrival of Six New Partners, Over 7 Million Items, and a Growing Community

“This week marks the one-year anniversary of the launch of the Digital Public Library of America (http://dp.la), a groundbreaking all-digital library that brings together millions of items from America’s libraries, archives, and museums, and makes them freely available to the world. In celebration, DPLA is proud to announce the addition of six major new partners and other significant milestones that attest to the collections through its partnership with DPLA, a major increase over its initial contribution of 14,000 records at DPLA’s launch. As DPLA moves into its second year of operation, we are delighted to announce that six major new partners — California Digital Library, Connecticut Digital Archive, U.S. Government Printing.


Archives

Preserving and Restoring Our Nation’s Monuments

“When vandals splattered green paint on the Lincoln Memorial last summer, it was Catherine Dewey’s job to determine how to carefully repair one of our nation’s most beloved monuments.Catherine Dewey is the”…architectural conservator for the National Park Service, Dewey oversees the care of all of the statues, memorials and monuments on the National Mall, as well as dozens of historic sites and Civil War battlefields located in Washington D.C., Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia. “I enjoy being the caretaker and preserver of these national monuments and memorials. They have great meaning and speak to our identity as a nation,” said Dewey. “I like knowing that I am saving them for the American people now and for the future.” An example of the process: “In the case of the Lincoln Memorial, Dewey led the two-week process of removing the paint splatter from the statue of the president and the marble floor around it. This required her to carefully test a multitude of different paint strippers to determine which would be the safest and the most
environmentally friendly. Restoration ranged from cleaning, painting and waxing the statue to researching and identifying how to replicate the missing shield that was around the base of the memorial.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/federal_government/preserving-and-restoring-our-nations-monuments/2014/04/14/0a1e0984-c41e-11e3-b574-f8748871856a_story.html

Intellectual Property

Patent Office Preps For Surge In Applications

“The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is lining up sources of IT services to meet the storage, engineering and virtualization demands from a huge upsurge in the number of patent applications it anticipates will be filed in the next three years. USPTO projects that it will be on the receiving end of more than 692,000 patent applications and 517,000 trademark applications annually by 2017, according to procurement documents…That marks a sharp increase from the 445,613 patent applications and 354,775 trademark applications the agency catalogued in 2006. Amid a rising tide of applications, the agency plans to hire 1,200 additional patent examiners each year over the next five years to reduce the time it takes to review an application. The new hires will place USPTO’s systems and networks under additional stress, according to the agency.”


Heartbleed Issue

Heartbleed

“Federal officials are telling Obamacare website account holders to reset their passwords, following revelations of a bug that could allow hackers to steal data.” This contradicts earlier direction when experts believed the site was safe.


Heartbleed Highlights a Contradiction in the Web

“…Heartbleed originated in this community, in which these volunteers, connected over the Internet, work together to build free software, to maintain and improve it and to look for bugs…But since the Heartbleed flaw got through, causing fears — as yet unproved — of widespread damage, members of that world are questioning whether the system is working the way it should. Mandiant, a cyberattack response firm, said on Friday that it had found evidence that attackers used Heartbleed to breach a major corporation’s computer system, although it was still assessing whether damage was done. Unlike proprietary software, which is built and maintained by only a few employees, open-source code like OpenSSL can be vetted by programmers the world over, advocates say. Although any programmer may work on OpenSSL code, only a few regularly do, said Ben Laurie, a Google engineer based in Britain who donates time to OpenSSL on nights and weekends. This is a problem, he said, adding that the companies and government agencies that use OpenSSL code have benefited from it but give back little in return.”


The San Francisco Bay Region SLA Chapter is now seeking nominations for Chapter officers for 2015.


The Nominating Committee will soon be meeting to select a President, Secretary and Assistant Programs Chair for 2015. At this time we’d like to ask all of our Chapter members for any suggestions you might have for Chapter officers for 2015. Please submit the name of anyone you would like the Nominating Committee to consider as well as any supporting documentation or information on why that person should be considered for a Chapter officer position. Please send all nominations to Nominating Committee Chair, David Grossman, at dgrossman@cityofmillvalley.org.

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Intersect Alert April 27, 2014


Personal Archiving

PIM 101: Personal Information Management

“…in a survey of the personal archiving practices of 110 writers, most admitted to practicing “benign neglect” as a records management strategy, and 80% said they would welcome instruction on digital preservation as they felt they lacked the technical ability and knowledge to back up and preserve their own files…researchers identified four main challenges: 1) people find it difficult to evaluate the future worth of their files; 2) personal storage is distributed both online and offline, so they have a hard time remembering where it all is; 3) people are having trouble managing large groups of files, creating metadata, and migrating them to new formats; and 4) desktop search makes it difficult to find what they’re looking for, particularly when it’s not a known (or remembered) object. The Library of Congress (LC) has taken the lead by holding a Personal Digital Archiving Day during the American Library Association’s (ALA) Preservation Week.” The author points out that teaching PIM is an added service we can provide to our users.  http://www.infotoday.com/cilmag/mar14/Zastrow–PIM-101–Personal-Information-Management.html

Open Access

Open Access: Progress, Possibilities, and the Changing Scholarly Communications Ecosystem

This is a very long, but informative paper. It provides a status on the OA issue and describes the different efforts being made by prestigious groups to promote OA. “Increasing numbers of research funding organizations and national governments are pushing for public access, open access, and open data. misconceptions about open access still abound… the DOAJ is refining its criteria to reflect the gradations and permutations in OA publishing…

- DOAJ criteria also codifies some best practices from what had been de facto standards within the wild west of OA publishing.
- Payment methods: article processing charges (APCs) or the “author-pays” mode
- University of California (UC) landmark OA policy
- Recently announced White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) directive
- San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA)
- CGIAR Consortium, a group of 15 globally dispersed agricultural research centers working together for an environmentally sustainable, food-secure future, actively invest time, money, and resources in open access.

- Joint Task Force on Librarians’ Competencies in Support of E-Research and Scholarly Communication


Net Neutrality

FCC’s New Rules Could Threaten Net Neutrality

“Federal Communications Commission Chairman Tom Wheeler is circulating a proposal for new FCC rules on the issue of network neutrality…The new rules were prompted by last January’s federal court ruling rejecting the bulk of the FCC’s 2010 Open Internet Order on the grounds that they exceeded the FCC’s authority, sending the FCC back to the drawing board…According to reports, Chairman Wheeler’s new proposal embraces a “commercially reasonable” standard for network management. That standard could allow ISPs to charge companies for preferential treatment, such as charging web-based companies like Netflix or Amazon to reach consumers at faster speeds…The FCC issued a statement that claims that the new network neutrality proposal will not allow ISPs to, “act in a commercially unreasonable manner to harm the Internet, including favoring the traffic from an affiliated entity.” But we have no idea as to how “commercially reasonable” will actually be interpreted. The devil will be in the details…the public should be poised to act. In an FCC rulemaking process, the commission issues what’s called a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM). After the NPRM is issued, the public is invited to comment to the FCC about how their proposal will affect the interest of the public…” The FCC statement:  https://www.fcc.gov/blog/setting-record-straight-fcc-s-open-internet-rules Electronic Frontier Foundation article:  https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2014/04/fccs-new-rules-could-threaten-net-neutrality

So Long and Thanks for All the Freedom

“The concept of net neutrality is that everyone has an equal crack at Internet bandwidth. Spending money can’t buy you preferential treatment. Some big companies like Netflix are in favor of net neutrality for selfish reasons. They don’t want to pay more to deliver streaming video to customers. By some accounts, YouTube and Netflix traffic accounts for around half of all Internet traffic. Yikes! Maybe they should pay extra. But there’s a catch. If ISPs (which are increasingly dominated by our friends, the cable guys) can charge extra for preferential treatment, they will be able to influence what we get access to on the Internet, and small and independent contributors to Internet content may get squeezed out.”
Choose Privacy Week is held annually May 1 – 7.

http://chooseprivacyweek.org/

**Transparency**

**Washington’s Revolving Door: Cellular Lobby and FCC Have Traded Leaders**

See if you can follow this cast of characters: “Regulators being led by former executives from the industries they’re supposed to regulate and industry groups being led by their former regulators sounds like it should be the stuff of fiction. But the FCC has once again proven that this phenomenon is quite real. AT&T calls the new chairman an “inspired pick,” seeks end to “outdated” regulations. The CTIA Wireless Association today announced that Meredith Attwell Baker—a former FCC Commissioner and former Comcast employee—will become its president and CEO on June 2, replacing Steve Largent, a former member of Congress (and former NFL player). Largent himself became the cellular lobby’s leader when he replaced Tom Wheeler—who is now the chairman of the FCC. Wheeler is also the former president and CEO of the NCTA (National Cable & Telecommunications Association), which… wait for it… is now led by former FCC Chairman Michael Powell.”


**Copyright**

**Impact of Public Domain Resources on Public Libraries in the United States**

“Ownership and rights issues relating to electronic resources can be a source of angst, confusion and litigation…there are options available for relaxing these rights. One of these options is Creative Commons Zero. Essentially, Creative Commons Zero permits originators of materials of varying sorts to opt to put their creations into the public domain – waiving all copyright and intellectual rights…this document researches the awareness, complexity and effects of Creative Commons Zero and related licenses on libraries as perceived by library directors and managers across the United States. In order to accomplish this, a quantitative survey was administered in an anonymous web-based format.”

Gary Price was able to arrange a link for the full text of this not-yet published paper. http://www.infodocket.com/2014/04/24/new-full-text-article-impact-of-public-domain-resources-on-public-libraries-in-the-united-states/

**Privacy**

**ACLU Argues Against Warrantless Cell Phone Tracking Before Federal Appeals Court**

“…the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) argued before the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals in a case about whether police need a warrant to track an individual’s location using data created by their cell phone service provider. A panel of judges heard arguments today in a case, United States v. Davis, which involves warrantless police requests for cell phone location records. For one of the individuals involved, Quartavious Davis, police received 11,606 location records over the course of 67 days. The ACLU, along with the ACLU of Florida, Center for Democracy & Technology, Electronic Frontier Foundation and National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, filed an amicus brief in the case arguing that the government violated the Fourth Amendment when it obtained these location requests from wireless carriers without first obtaining a warrant.” See more at: http://www.noodls.com/viewNoodl/22889371/aclu—american-civil-liberties-union/aclu-argues-against-warrantless-cell-phone-tracking-before-#sthash.X0ArBzoo.dpuf

**Is Google Too Big to Trust?**

This Schneie piece references an illuminating Infoworld article about Google from two weeks ago. http://www.infoworld.com/print/239815. Schneie provides a rationale view, though we may not like it.

“The reality is that Google’s business is and has always been about mining as much data as possible… After all, it can’t display what it doesn’t know. Google Search has always been an ad-supported service, so it needs a way to sell those users to advertisers — that’s how the industry works. Its Google Now voice-based service is simply a form of Google Search, so it too serves advertisers’ needs…Once you understand that, you understand why Google does what it does. That’s simply its business. Nothing is free, so if you won’t pay cash, you’ll have to pay with personal information. That business model has been around for decades; Google didn’t invent that business model… I don’t blame Google for doing that, but I blame it for being nontransparent. (Yes, Bing’s results are similarly tainted. But Microsoft never promised to do no evil, and most people use Google.)”

https://www.schneier.com/blog/archives/2014/04/is_google_too_big.html

**International Cloud Security**

**Society Publishes Cloud Guidance for Law Firms**

“…the Law Society has published a practice note on the use of cloud computing services in law firms…The guidance follows the Solicitors Regulation Authority’s (SRA’s) ‘Silver Linings’ report, published in November 2013, which also addressed some of the concerns surrounding cloud computing…the Law
Society guidance points out potential data security risks...when engaging a third party to handle client information...ensure their prospective cloud service provider has been subjected to a full risk and compliance analysis before proceeding. Other issues covered by the practice note include: lawful access to data by foreign law enforcement or intelligence agencies; service levels and the right to sue the cloud provider for damages or terminate the contract; and inadvertent breaches of the cloud provider’s “acceptable use policy” where defamatory material needs to be held on the cloud where a law firm is acting for a client defending a defamation claim.”


Intellectual Property

Without Intellectual Property Day

“...April 26, is the day marked each year since 2000 as “Intellectual Property Day” by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). There are many areas where EFF has not historically agreed with WIPO...but we agree that celebrating creativity is a good thing...In the spirit of adding to the conversation, we’d like to honor all the creativity and industry that is happening without a dependence on a system intellectual property. There’s an important reason to encourage creativity outside the bounds of increasingly restrictive laws, too. As Ninth Circuit Chief Justice Alex Kozinski eloquently explained in a powerful dissent some 20 years ago, pushing only for more IP restrictions tips a delicate balance against creativity:Overprotecting intellectual property is as harmful as underprotecting it. Creativity is impossible without a rich public domain. Nothing today, likely nothing since we tamed fire, is genuinely new: Culture, like science and technology, grows by accretion, each new creator building on the works of those who came before. Overprotection stifles the very creative forces it’s supposed to nurture. It’s incumbent on all of us who want to encourage creativity to continue to explore structures that reward creators without also restricting speech...”

The article goes on to describe ways in which 21st century digital ideas have developed into a “free culture movement.”

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2014/04/without-intellectual-property-day

Information Resources

News About State Level Research Resources

‘CSG is pleased to announce that the entire archive of The Book of the States dating back to 1935 is now available online in its entirety. As the introduction to the 1937 volume explains, “The Council of State Governments hopes that you will enjoy it; the Council knows that it can be useful to you.”

http://knowledgecenter.csg.org/kc/category/content-type/bos-archive Volumes from 2010 to the present can be found at www.csg.org/bookofthestates https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2014/04/without-intellectual-property-day

SLA-SF Members Report Good Times at Neighborhood Dinners

**Berkeley Neighborhood Dinner**

*By Monica Singh*

5 of us (Claudia Chester, who was recently running JFK University Library and is now working on records and archives projects, David Grossman, who has been digitizing records and working in the history room Mill Valley Public Library AND has recently published a book with Deb Hunt on competencies for librarians, Erika Lindensmith, who repairs books in the Conservation Department of UC Berkeley Library, Debbie Jan, who heads UC Berkeley’s Public Health Library, and Monica Singh, who is a part-time librarian at the Business Library at UC Berkeley as well as at the public library in San Rafael) got together at Cha-Ya for a delicious vegan Japanese meal of vegetables, tempura, soups, sauces, pot stickers, sushi and sake brewed locally in Berkeley. Our chef trained in a Buddhist monastery for many years, and so the food was well balanced and tasty, a difficult feat for most vegetarian and vegan cooks. Our intimate setting lent itself to thoughtful conversation for everyone. Beginning with general talk of the various types of libraries and types of work in libraries that we had all done at various times in our lives, we ventured into discussions of potential careers that spanned art, money, crime, couriers, blue jeans, log cabins in Wyoming, and more. We came back to discuss our current jobs, our institutions, our expectations of change, and how networks facilitate finding jobs especially for more experienced and mature librarians. It was a boisterous evening, and we agreed that the neighborhood dinners are a lot of fun and we will be back next year!

**San Leandro Neighborhood Dinner**

*By Sandy Malloy*

San Leandro’s Neighborhood dinner at Sylantro featured the “old” (hosts Sandy Malloy and Deb Hunt, and long-time SLA member Lee Pharis); the “new” (MLIS students Nissa Nack and Tiffany deLeuze) and the in-between (recent graduate Lori Austin.) Unfortunately, illness prevented co-host Marlene Vogelsang from attending, and we all missed her. Conversation ranged from “who is going to Conference?” to employment opportunities (up, according to Deb Hunt), kids (Tiffany is taking care of twins AND taking classes – yikes!), grandkids (Deb again, very close to becoming a first-time grandmother), and SLA chapters (Lee and Sandy comparing notes about the SF Bay Region and Silicon Valley chapters and their differences.) As these dinners always seem to do, this one gave some of us a chance to catch up with people we hadn’t seen in a while and all of us an opportunity to meet new members and encourage networking and SLA involvement.

**Daly City Neighborhood Dinner**

*By Jaye Lapachet*

“Can I talk you out of it?”

We met at Boulevard Café as we have for a few years running now and this year’s conversation started off with a bang. Our unexpected attendee is a 2d year student at San Jose State.
When we commended her about joining SLA and attending events she described the last event she attended where an experienced librarian asked our lovely student if she could be talked out of becoming a librarian. Understandably, our student was depressed and discouraged. We, Craig Cruz, Cynthia Berglez, and Cathy Hardy took the opportunity to discuss our profession.

Yes, the profession is in transition.

Yes, the opportunities are changing.

Yes, curiosity and the willingness to take risks is becoming more important.

Yes, opportunities for those who are only interested in books will be limited.

Yes, technology skills and curiosity is a must regardless of your specialty, if for no other reason than to be able to talk intelligently about technology in order to solve a problem.

Colleagues are critical as the questions, even in specialized collections, are becoming more challenging and are not always within our scope of practice.

However, knowing about technology, being curious about technology, being willing to engage with patrons and vendors, providing excellent customer service are all the types of things that we told our student would help her be successful at librarianship.

Our conversations covered a wide array of topics including the amount librarians drink at conferences, the parties vendors hold at conferences, job searching and how the Neighborhood dinners fit into the scheme of SLA-SF events. Craig mentioned his resume night where he and a friend get together every week to work on their resumes, update their Linkedin profiles and do other job search related tasks. We all thought this was a great idea.

We also talked about content management systems, including Drupal. It was interesting to hear that some high level computer people think Drupal is old school-old style while many of us have never had the opportunity to learn it and are eager to try it out.

Books written by our patrons came up.

Library management was not left out. Someone mentioned wishing a certain library had more materials rather than the narrow type of materials available. It was mentioned that many libraries have something like a collection development policy, part of which might be not collecting materials that are easily available at other local libraries. We thought this would be common in San Francisco since there are such a wide variety of collections in a small geographic area.

Housing, real estate values, Google busses and the effect on libraries inevitably came up. All views were represented from Google busses get individuals out of their cars to the effect of real estate costs on the ability of libraries to keep large collections of print materials.

Craig and Jaye, the organizers, were pleased with the turnout and thought it was another successful event. Thanks to our attendees! See you next year!

**Intellectual Property:**

**Can This Web Be Saved? Mozilla Accepts DRM, and We All Lose**

It’s official: the last holdout for the open web has fallen. Flanked on all sides by Google, Microsoft, Opera, and (it appears) Safari’s support and promotion of the EME DRM-in-HTML standard, Mozilla is giving in to pressure from Hollywood, Netflix, et al, and will be implementing its own third-party version of DRM. It will be rolled out in Desktop Firefox later this year. Mozilla’s CTO, Andreas Gal, says that Mozilla “has little choice.” Mozilla’s Chair, Mitchell Baker adds, “Mozilla cannot change the industry on DRM at this point.”

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2014/05/mozilla-and-drm.

**Digital History:**

**The Library of Congress Wants to Destroy Your Old CDs (For Science)**

If you’ve tried listening to any of your old CDs lately, if you even own them anymore, you may have noticed they won’t play. That’s what happened to mine, anyway.

CD players have long since given up on most of the burned mixes I made in college. (In some cases, this is for the best.)
And while most of the studio-manufactured albums I bought still play, there’s really no telling how much longer they will. My once-treasured CD collection—so carefully assembled over the course of about a decade beginning in 1994—isn’t just aging; it’s dying. And so is yours. “All of the modern formats weren’t really made to last a long period of time,” said Fenella France, chief of preservation research and testing at the Library of Congress. France and her colleagues are trying to figure out how CDs age so that we can better understand how to save them.

http://www.theatlantic.com/technology/archive/2014/05/the-library-of-congress-wants-to-destroy-your-old-cds-for-science/370804/

Privacy Issues:

Which Tech Companies Help Protect You From Government Data Demands?

Technology companies are privy to our most sensitive information: our conversations, photos, location data, and more. But which companies fight the hardest to protect your privacy from government data requests? Today, the Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF) releases its fourth annual “Who Has Your Back” report, with comprehensive information on 26 companies’ commitments to fighting unfair demands for customer data. The report examines the privacy policies, terms of service, public statements, and courtroom track records of major technology companies, including Internet service providers, email providers, social networking sites, and mobile services. EFF’s report awards up to six gold stars for best practices in categories like “require a warrant for content” and “publish transparency reports.” Last year, just two companies we surveyed earned a full six stars – Sonic, a California ISP, and Twitter. Read the post to see which companies have joined the 6-star rank! https://www.eff.org/press/releases/which-tech-companies-help-protect-you-government-data-demands.

Freedom of Information:

San Jose revisits library computer filtering

Five years after San Jose officials rejected calls to block pornographic imagery from the city libraries’ computers citing the slippery slope of censorship, the city’s new chief librarian has quietly been revisiting the idea. Advocates for filtering say periodic problems of men accessing pornography on library computers in plain view of children haven’t gone away. And they note that plenty of other places already screen out porn in children’s reading rooms without violating the Constitution, including the Santa Clara County library system.


Brewster Kahle, the Librarian of 404 Billion Websites

Brewster Kahle, founder of the Internet Archive, is a digital librarian who has been working towards the universal access of knowledge since founding the site in 1996, and even before that. An engineer who once studied artificial intelligence and co-founded web ranker Alexa, Kahle, 53, is armed with an obsession to collect everything. I recently had the chance to speak with Kahle about the open source and non-profit web, the Internet Archive, and Open Library, which seeks to build a web page for every book ever published and loan those books out through the web. …


International Outlook:

U of Saskatchewan Dean Fired Over Opposition to Plan That Cuts Libraries

As part of an overhaul of its budgets and strategic priorities, the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon, Canada plans to trim its campus library system from seven branches to three, resulting in much of its collection being moved to offsite storage. Library officials spoke of the plan as in line with their vision for the future of the campus libraries. But some faculty members have publicly questioned the moves, leading one dean to be fired in the wake of a letter he penned criticizing the university’s plans. The closures are part of the college’s larger TransformUS plan, which has raised controversy in recent days. Yesterday, Robert Buckingham, dean of the US School of Public Health released a letter – entitled “The Silence of the Deans (PDF)” – in which he claimed that US faculty had been threatened with dismissal by university president Illene Busch-Vishniac if they spoke out against the plan.


Internet Access:

These companies spend the most money to kill net neutrality

With the Federal Communications Commission’s (FCC) decision to move forward with a controversial proposal that threatens net neutrality and the open Internet, lobbying activity looks like it has reached a fevered pitch. But for the companies involved—especially the telecom companies that are eager to be allowed to charge more for a “fast lane” of Internet service—lobbying has been at a fevered pitch for almost a decade. Going back to 2005, the principle’s biggest opponents (Verizon, AT&T, Comcast and their allies) have lobbied against net neutrality about three times as hard as the biggest proponents of neutrality (Level 3, Google, Microsoft and their allies). While the dispute over network neutrality is often thought of as a battle between giant corporations, it’s clear from the data that over the lifespan of this issue, the pressure
Two Bay Area Students Awarded Stipends to Attend Library Conference In June


San Francisco, 21 May 2014 — The San Francisco Bay Region Chapter of the Special Libraries Association has presented awards for two students to attend SLA’s annual conference next month in Vancouver, British Columbia. Both recipients of the San Francisco Bay Region Chapter’s Conference Travel Stipend Award are enrolled in master’s degree programs in library and information science.

Henry Mensch, who lives and works in San Francisco, attends Syracuse University’s School of Information Studies distance education program and expects to graduate in May 2015. With a BS from Rochester Institute of Technology, he has many years’ professional experience in IT and currently serves as newsletter editor for SLA’s IT Division and is a member of the American Library Association Office for Information Technology Policy’s Advisory Committee. At the conference, Mensch wants to meet up with fellow SLA IT Division members, who are located all over the world, as well as San Francisco region members, whom he has trouble connecting with due to his work schedule. He also knows the value of networking face to face as a newly minted librarian looking to put that education to work.

Rory Dougan attends San Jose State University, where he earned his BA degree in 2008 and now focuses on archival studies in the School of Library and Information Science. He plans to supplement those studies with sessions at the conference on developing classification schemes for managing records, creating and applying metadata to promote findability and using social media to promote special collections. Dougan currently serves as Chair of the SF Bay Region and Silicon Valley chapters’ joint Jobline employment posting service. He lives in San Jose, interns as a library assistant for the city’s public library and plans to graduate in December 2016.

Four members of SLA’s San Francisco Bay Region Chapter evaluated applications for the student stipend award and found Mensch’s and Dougan’s compelling because of their demonstrated service to SLA through their volunteerism; evaluation of the conference and identification of sessions applicable to their interests and passions; and interest in networking and understanding of how their attendance could add value to our Chapter.

The San Francisco Bay Region Chapter Conference Travel Stipend Award covers up to $750 of costs associated with attending the SLA Annual Conference for a student member of the chapter who demonstrates interest in and involvement with the SLA organization and particularly the SF Bay Region chapter. The SF Bay Region Chapter planned to offer one stipend award this year, but was able to offer two thanks to a generous sponsorship offer by Annual Reviews.

The Special Libraries Association’s 2014 Annual Conference & INFO-EXPO takes place June 8-10 at the Vancouver Convention Centre in Canada. With more than 200 events, including educational programs, networking events, receptions and tours, the conference will attract thousands of information professionals interested in collections, research/intelligence, information centers, knowledge management, web development, analytics, content management and more.

About the San Francisco Bay Region Chapter of SLA (http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/about/):

Established in 1924, the chapter has been supporting the professional interests of librarians and information professionals for nearly 90 years. There are currently more than 300 members who are employed by law firms, corporations, universities, nonprofits, and other organizations or are interested in the information field, for instance students of library or information science.

About Annual Reviews

Annual Reviews is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide the worldwide scientific community with a useful and intelligent synthesis of the primary research literature for a broad spectrum of scientific disciplines. Each year, leading scientists critically review the most significant primary research literature to guide researchers to the principal contributions of their field and help them keep up to date in their area of research. Annual Reviews volumes are published each year for 46 focused disciplines within the Biomedical, Life, Physical, and Social Sciences including Economics.
About SLA

The Special Libraries Association (SLA) is a nonprofit international organization for innovative information professionals and their strategic partners. SLA serves 9,000 members in 75 countries in the information profession, including corporate, academic and government information specialists. SLA promotes and strengthens its members through learning, advocacy and networking initiatives. For more information, visit www.sla.org.

Contact: Heather Gamberg, SLA SF Bay Region PR Chair, 415-438-6437 or hgamberg@foley.com

Share this:

Intersect Alert May 26, 2014

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2014/05/intersect-alert-may-26-2014/

May 26, 2014 Categories: Intersect Alert Tags: freedom of information, intellectual property, international outlook, internet access, open access, privacy

Under current copyright law, we’ll have to wait until 2053. http://web.law.duke.edu/cspd/publicdomainday/2014/pre-1976.

Intellectual Property:

Stephen Colbert Takes On Amazon’s Ridiculous Photography Patent

It’s always a pleasure when anything patent-related enters the mainstream. Recently, Stephen Colbert took on the absurd inventions that companies attempt to patent. In this case, the host of Comedy Central’s The Colbert Report lampoons Amazon’s new patent on a method of photography in front of a white background. The patent, like many patents issued today, uses seemingly complex language to describe a fairly simple idea. Even if Amazon’s claims are narrow, the studio set-up it describes is mundane. Will we have patents now on every arrangement of lights and ISO value? Just last year, we puzzled over the fact that the Patent Office gave YogaGlo a patent on, well, a technique for filming a yoga class. How did these patents pass the system’s obviousness or novelty standards? Colbert then brilliantly attempts to file a patent on filing patents.

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2014/05/stephen-colbert-takes-amazons-ridiculous-photography-patent


Law Profs Revolt after Aspen Casebook Tries to Get Around First Sale Doctrine

On May 5, a number of law professors around the country received an email from publisher Wolters Kluwer regarding the 11 books in the Aspen Casebook series they assign to their students. The email informed the educators that the casebook, which combines lessons about the legal system with documents from cases in which those principles were applied or set, would now be sold as a physical copy bundled with an ebook edition. There was just one catch: once the course was over, students would be required to ship their physical copies back to the publisher, rather than hanging onto them for reference or reselling them on the used book market.

The policy didn’t sit well with many of the professors who use the Aspen Casebook in their courses. The idea violates the first sale doctrine, long applied to books and other physical media, which prohibits publishers or other rights holders from placing restrictions on the transfer of legally obtained, copyrighted objects after those works have been sold to a consumer.


What Could Have Entered the Public Domain on January 1, 2014?

The books On the Road, Atlas Shrugged, and The Cat in the Hat, the films The Bridge on the River Kwai, Funny Face, and The Prince and the Showgirl, the play Endgame (“Fin de Partie”), and more. . . Congress Shrugged:

Current US law extends copyright for 70 years after the date of the author’s death, and corporate "works-for-hire" are copyrighted for 95 years after publication. But prior to the 1976 Copyright Act (which became effective in 1978), the maximum copyright term was 56 years – an initial term of 28 years, renewable for another 28 years. Under those laws, works published in 1957 would enter the public domain on January 1, 2014, where they would be “free as the air to common use.”

Open Access:

Sustaining Open Access: New open access publishing model praised for audacity, but sustainability concerns remain

A recently proposed model on open-access publishing has drawn praise for rethinking the roles institutions, libraries and professional organizations play in promoting scholarly communication, but can its collaborative structure be sustained?

The proposal envisions stakeholders forming partnerships, each handling one or more of the duties of funding, distributing and preserving open-access scholarly research — specifically in the humanities and social sciences. To fund the new structure of scholarly communication, institutions would pay into a
centralized fund that awards grants to promote research through a competitive application process. Bryn Geffert, librarian of the college at Amherst College, suggested that stakeholder buy-in — especially among institutions — could be the model’s greatest challenge. "I think this proposal will succeed or fail largely based on whether universities and colleges pony up the kinds of funds that the professional organizations can then tap into," he said. 


Privacy:

NSA reform falters as House passes gutted USA Freedom Act
The House passed legislation Thursday – ironically called the USA Freedom Act – that continues to allow the National Security Agency the ability to sift through the phone metadata of every phone call made to and from the United States. The so-called "reform" measure comes a year after the Guardian revealed the snooping program with documents supplied by NSA whistleblower Edward Snowden. Civil rights advocates withdrew their support for the package, H.R.3361, after the Obama administration pressured the Republican leadership to water it down. "The ban on bulk collection was deliberately watered down to be ambiguous and exploitable," said Harley Geiger, an attorney with the Center for Democracy & Technology. "We withdrew support for USA Freedom when the bill morphed into a codification of large-scale, untargeted collection of data about Americans with no connection to a crime or terrorism."


Internet Access:

Web Accessibility Toolkit for Research Libraries Launched by ARL
On the third annual Global Accessibility Awareness Day (#GAAD), May 15, 2014, the Association of Research Libraries launched a new resource for the library community – a Web Accessibility Toolkit for research libraries. ARL’s toolkit shares the fundamental goal of GAAD which is to "raise the profile" of digital accessibility and provide resources for improving access to information to "the broadest audience possible." The toolkit aims to:
- Promote the principles of accessibility, universal design, and digital inclusion.
- Help research libraries achieve digital accessibility.
- Connect research libraries with the tools, people, and examples they need to provide accessible digital content.


Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety.

The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.

Share this:
Take Action!

Bring Reading Rainbow Back for Every Child, Everywhere
(Kickstarter campaign)
Right now, 1 out of every 4 children in America will grow up illiterate. And: numerous studies reveal that children who can’t read at grade level by the 4th grade are 400% more likely to drop out of high school. And: as of 2011, America was the only free-market country where the current generation was less well educated than the previous.

“Hi. LeVar Burton here. You may know me as Kunta Kinte, from ROOTS, or Geordi La Forge, from Star Trek: The Next Generation. You also may have grown up with me on Reading Rainbow. It was my mother who taught me that, by picking up a book, I could “go anywhere” and “be anything.” Ever since Reading Rainbow began in 1983, I have dedicated myself to fostering a love of reading in children, just as my mother did for me.

Over the past year, I have watched Kickstarter bring communities together to support artists and inventors. Again and again, I have been inspired by watching like-minded people team up to accomplish impossible dreams, and to change the world. Now, I am hoping you will join me on my mission: to bring Reading Rainbow back for every child, everywhere.”


____________________

Public Policy:

Big guns, big money and California
Since the nation’s latest eruption of gun violence in a beach town near the University of California’s Santa Barbara campus, little has been said about the influence of the gun rights lobby in the Golden State, an omission that at first blush seems to stand to reason. After all, the Golden State is reputed to have some of the toughest gun regulations in the nation, and its leading politicians include some of the nation’s most outspoken proponents of gun control.

So if there is any place that the gun lobby’s formidable influence machine would be likely to grind to a halt, you’d guess it would be California, right?

Guess again: At least $4.1 million in contributions from organizations and individuals opposed to gun control have found their way into political campaigns in the state since 1989; most of that money comes from the National Rifle Association, which, since 1989, has contributed more money to federal and state politicians in California than any other state.


Judge who stopped Wisconsin campaign finance probe tied to Koch-funded junkets
The federal judge who ordered an end to an investigation into possible illegal campaign coordination between Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker and conservative groups during two recent recall elections regularly attended expenses-paid judicial conferences sponsored by conservative organizations including the Charles G. Koch Charitable Foundation and the Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation – groups that have funded efforts against campaign finance reform, as well as by large corporations like ExxonMobil, Dow Chemical and Pfizer.

On May 6, Judge Rudolph Randa of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin ordered prosecutors to immediately halt its long-running investigation into the campaign spending and fundraising activities of Walker, the Wisconsin Club for Growth and other conservative groups. Prosecutors were trying to determine whether the Walker campaign and the conservative groups were illegally coordinating campaign strategies at the time of the 2011 and 2012 recall elections in Wisconsin. Randa wrote in his decision
that the Wisconsin Club for Growth had found a way to get around campaign finance laws. “That circumstance should not and cannot be condemned or restricted,” the decision said. “Instead, it should be recognized as promoting political speech.”


Getting secrecy out of science
The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) is responsible for developing scientific measurements and standards for the government. Because of that immense responsibility, its recommendations are adopted across the world. This includes cutting-edge development of cryptography, otherwise known as the magic that keeps the Internet and your computer safe.

This is why it was so brutally disappointing when the Snowden leaks revealed that the NSA had subverted NIST’s rule-promulgation process, secretly weakening the math that individuals, companies and governments around the world rely on for informational security. That secrecy is unacceptable.

Last night, the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology adopted an amendment authored by Rep. Alan Grayson, D-Fla. that limits the NSA’s influence on NIST. Grayson’s amendment removes the requirement that NIST consult with NSA, which has been mandatory under the Frontiers in Innovation, Research, Science and Technology Act since 1987. This is one of the first successful legislative steps toward limiting the NSA since it came into existence.

http://sunlightfoundation.com/blog/2014/05/22/getting-secrecy-out-of-science/.

Open Access:

FIRST Act Amended to Make Open Access Provision Actually Pretty Good
Patent and surveillance reform may be suffering setbacks, but open access may be recovering thanks to a new provision passed yesterday that mandates a solid public access policy for NASA, NSF, NIST, the National Weather Service, and the Office of Science of the Department of Energy.

The House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology marked up H.R. 4186, the Frontiers in Innovation, Research, Science and Technology (FIRST) Act. This science funding bill was controversial for a number of reasons, but we have been focused on one part: Section 303, dealing with public access to scientific research. Calling this a “public access” section is a charitable reading: it extended embargo periods to up to three years, it allowed for simple linking to articles rather than the creation of an archive, and it delayed implementation unnecessarily long. But a glimmer of hope appeared at yesterday’s markup. It sets the embargo period at 12 months (like the NIH’s current policy), though it allows stakeholders to extend this by 6 months if they can show a “substantial and unique harm.”

http://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2014/05/first-act-amended-make-open-access-provisionactually-pretty-good.

International Outlook:

Civil society in Ukraine seizing the momentum for real reform
It looks like this is the week of elections amidst political unrest. Two of the world’s most fragile democracies, Egypt and Ukraine will elect their new presidents this Sunday and their situation bears a striking resemblance: Revolution in both countries started with a protest against acute corruption, perceived as very high in both societies, and each of these protests were fueled by the Internet. Besides the many similarities though, there is at least one significant difference: While transparency is far from becoming a reality in Egypt, civil society in Ukraine might be winning an important battle – though certainly not the entire war – for more accountable politics.

In the past few weeks, the Chesno movement, a larger coalition of Ukrainian civil society organizations working towards fair elections, have been campaigning hard to reveal the size and sources of the [campaign] funding, as well as the scope of spending in the presidential elections – before voters go to the polls. With the election only two days away, five presidential candidates — including Petro Poroshenko and former prime minister, Yulia Tymoshenko — have already agreed to disclose some information on their finances, thanks in part to public pressure and a potential hope to look more transparent than their predecessors.


Publishing:

Wikipedia Is NOT A Doctor — And A Study Confirms It
The online encyclopedia that can be edited by experts and idiots alike is an easy source of information when trying to learn about a new topic. But a new study confirms what we all (hopefully) already know: Many entries — especially medical entries — contain false information, so don’t use Wikipedia in place of a doctor.

Dr. Robert Hasty of Campbell University in North Carolina, along with a team of researchers, published the study in this month’s issue of the Journal of the American Osteopathic Association. For the study, researchers identified the “10 costliest conditions in terms of public and private expenditure” — which included diabetes, back pain, lung cancer and major depressive disorder — and compared the content of Wikipedia articles about those conditions to peer-reviewed medical literature. Two randomly assigned investigators found that 90 percent of the [Wikipedia] articles contained false information, which could affect the diagnosis and treatment of diseases.

Now for those of you who are saying that it’s not the doctors
themselves checking Wikipedia, you’d be wrong. According to a pair of studies from 2009 and 2010, “70% of junior physicians use Wikipedia in a given week, while nearly 50% to 70% of practicing physicians use it as an information source in providing medical care.”


**HighWire Press Becoming Standalone Biz: Private Equity Firm Accel-KKR Will Own Majority Interest, Stanford Will Have Minority Position**

Stanford U./Stanford University Libraries will no longer be in control of the HighWire Press business. HighWire Press, Inc. will be the formal name of the new standalone company and Accel-KKR will have a majority interest in it. Michael A. Keller, university librarian at Stanford, will serve as the Stanford representative on the HighWire Press, Incorporated board of directors.

HighWire was founded in 1995 under the leadership of Keller, to ensure its partners – academic societies and independent publishers – would remain strong and able to lead the transition toward use of new technologies for scholarly communication. Known for combining cutting-edge technology with long-term organizational stability in support of its community-oriented mission and model, HighWire facilitates the development, dissemination and discovery of nearly four thousand prominent journals, books, and other scholarly works online, as well as a manuscript submission, tracking, and peer review system for journal editors. “The HighWire team has built an outstanding business,” said Ben Bisconti, Managing Director at Accel-KKR. “The team, their customers and the technology platform are world class. We are excited about partnering with Stanford to continue supporting Tom and the rest of the HighWire team as they focus on delivering market leading solutions to their customers.”


**Privacy Issues:**

**Warrant? Who Needs a Warrant??!!??**

Remember Mad Cow Disease, Chernobyl and the Iran-Contra Affair? They were big news in 1986, the last time that Congress passed a law intended to protect the privacy of our electronic communications. Problem is, that was five years before almost anyone had even heard of e-mail let alone owned a computer. As a result, the Electronic Communications Privacy Act (ECPA) has been behind the times for decades . . . along with the privacy rights of every American. While law enforcement agencies need a court order and a warrant to search your physical mail and paper files, amazingly in 2014 they still don’t need one to access communications like your saved email, Dropbox documents, or a host of electronic messages older than six months including texts, tweets, chats, Facebook posts and Instagram photos! Fortunately, legislation is finally working its way through both chambers of Congress to update ECPA and, unlike prior efforts at reform, these bills actually could become law IF the public demands action.

http://www.districtdispatch.org/2014/05/warrant-needs-warrant/.

Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety.

_The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association._

**Intersect Alert June 9, 2014**


**Copyright**

**Greg Cram of The New York Public Library Represents Library Perspective on the First Sale Doctrine at House Judiciary Subcommittee Hearing**

“On Monday, June 2, 2014, the U.S. House Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property and the Internet continued with its copyright review with a [field hearing held in New York, NY](Greg Cram of The New York Public Library to Represent Library Perspective on the First Sale Doctrine at House Judiciary Subcommittee Hearing). This hearing focused on the first sale doctrine, a principle that provides that after the first sale of a lawfully made copy of a copyrighted work, the copyright holder’s distribution rights in that particular copy terminate.”

“The panel included nine witnesses: Stephen M. Smith, President and CEO of John Wiley & Sons, Inc.; John Ossenmacher, CEO of ReDigi; Ed Shems of edfredned illustration & graphic design; Jonathan Band representing the Owner’s Rights Initiative, Matthew B. Glotzer, Greg Cram, Associate Director of Copyright and Information Policy at The New York Public Library; Sherwin Siy, Vice President of Legal Affairs at Public Knowledge; John Villasenor, Professor of Electrical Engineering and Public Policy at UCLA Luskin...
Privacy

Few Consumers Trust Companies to Keep Online Info Safe

“WASHINGTON, D.C. — Recent incidents such as Target’s security breach, the Heartbleed bug, and eBay’s systems hack have called attention to how much consumers trust the businesses they patronize to keep their personal information safe. That trust currently appears to be hard to come by. Just 21% of Americans have “a lot of trust” in the businesses or companies they regularly interact with to keep their personal information secure.”

Email Encryption in Transit

“Many email providers don’t encrypt messages while they’re in transit. When you send or receive emails with one of these providers, these messages are as open to snoopers as a postcard in the mail.”

“A growing number of email providers are working to change that, by encrypting messages sent to and from our services using Transport Layer Security (TLS). When an email is encrypted in transit with TLS, it makes it harder for others to read what you’re sending. The data below explains the current state of email encryption in transit.”

Email Self-Defense

“Bulk surveillance violates our fundamental rights and makes free speech risky. This guide will teach you a basic surveillance self-defense skill: email encryption. Once you’ve finished, you’ll be able to send and receive emails that are coded to make sure that a surveillance agent or thief can’t intercept your email and read it.”

“Even if you have nothing to hide, using encryption helps protect the privacy of people you communicate with, and makes life difficult for bulk surveillance systems. If you do have something important to hide, you’re in good company; these are the same tools that Edward Snowden used to share his famous secrets about the NSA.”

International Outlook

Literary Treasures go Online to Engage Youngsters

“As the British Library posts great literary treasures from the Romantic and Victorian period online, research reveals that young people could be struggling to engage with the classics. Over 1,000 titles from authors such as Blake, Dickens, Hardy, Jane Austen, the Brontë sisters, Wordsworth, Shelley and Keats, have been uploaded to the Discovering Literature website, together with other artefacts which shed new light on their life and works.”

“A core aim of the site is to get young people inspired by the UK’s literary heritage, and to mark the launch the British Library commissioned a survey of over 500 secondary school English teachers to explore how they think English literature is perceived by young people. Most think their students find it
hard to identify with classic authors and 86% said that classic literature risks being underappreciated by today’s students unless more is done to inspire them.”

http://www.iwr.co.uk/professional-and-library/3011814/Literary-treasures-go-online-to-engage-youngsters.

Digital Preservation

Harvard Library to Help Preserve Tibetan Literary Heritage

“Beginning in July, Harvard Library will upload onto its digital storage system 10 million pages of Tibetan literature that survived China’s convulsive Cultural Revolution, the movement between 1966 and 1976 that led to the destruction of countless Chinese and Tibetan literary texts. The project is the result of a partnership between Harvard Library and the Tibetan Buddhist Resource Center (TBRC), a nonprofit organization based in Harvard Square that has been acquiring, scanning, and digitally preserving Tibetan volumes since its founding in 1999.”


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Intersect Alert June 16, 2014


Freedom of Information

FOIA Advisory Committee to Convene June 24

“The National Records and Archives Administration (NARA) will convene the first meeting of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Advisory Committee on June 24. The committee will be comprised of twenty members—10 appointed from within government and 10 from outside of government—and Office of Government Information Services director Miriam Nisbet will chair.”

http://aallwash.wordpress.com/2014/06/10/foia-advisory-committee-to-convene-june-24/

Overclassification: Is There a Limit?

“Is there any act of overclassification that is so egregious that the classifier would be held accountable for abusing his classification authority?”

“The answer is unknown, since no one has ever been held accountable in such a case.”

“As far as can be determined, no classifier has ever been found to have willfully or culpably defied the rules set forth in the President’s executive order on national security classification.”

“In a complaint filed last year with the Information Security Oversight Office (ISOO), a Marine Corps officer argued that private video recordings and related “trophy images” including one depicting Marines urinating on human remains in Afghanistan had been classified in violation of the executive order.”

http://fas.org/blogs/secrecy/2014/06/isoo-complaint/

Over-Filtering in Schools and Libraries Harms Education, New ALA Report Finds

“WASHINGTON, D.C.—Schools and libraries nationwide are routinely filtering internet content far more than what the Children’s Internet Protection Act (CIPA) requires, according to “Fencing Out Knowledge: Impacts of the Children’s Internet Protection Act 10 Years Later (pdf),” a report released today by the American Library Association (ALA). CIPA requires public libraries and K-12 schools to employ internet filtering software to receive certain federal funding.”


Copyright

Second Circuit Affirms Fair Use in Authors Guild v. HathiTrust

“On June 10, 2014, the Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit affirmed the lower court decision in Authors Guild v. HathiTrust in favor of HathiTrust Digital Library’s (HDL) motions for summary judgment, finding that two of the three uses by HDL (creating a full-text search database and
providing access to the print disabled) constituted fair use and remanding the issue of the third use (preservation) back to the district court to determine the standing of the plaintiffs to bring the claim.”

“The Second Circuit began its fair use analysis by noting that while the Copyright Act certain exclusive rights, “there are important limits to an author’s rights to control original and derivative works. One such limit is the doctrine of ‘fair use,’ which allows the public to draw upon copyrighted materials without the permission of the copyright holder in certain circumstances.” The court then detailed numerous examples of fair use that have been upheld by various courts, including district courts, appellate courts and the Supreme Court of the United States before going through the three HDL uses at issue.”

http://policynotes.arl.org/post/88390908147/second-circuit-affirms-fair-use-in-authors-guild-v

Libraries Can Digitize Books Without Consent, Says Top EU Court Advisor

“European libraries are allowed to digitize books without the consent of the rights holder, the senior advisor to Europe’s top court said Thursday.”

“The European Copyright Directive does not prevent the digitization of books in a library’s collection if those books are made accessible to the public on dedicated terminals, wrote Advocate General Niilo Jääskinen in a formal opinion to the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU).”


Publishing

Digital Revolution Threatens American Literature, Says Best-Selling Author James Patterson

“If you’ve been to a bookstore or airport kiosk in the past 20 years, you’ve likely seen one or more James Patterson novels out front, their covers emblazoned with bold lettering and edgy illustration suggesting intrigue, sex and danger.”

“Despite having dozens of best-selling titles to his name, including crime and mystery novels and even children’s books, Patterson is very worried about the present and future of books in America, as the publishing world continues to grapple with the tectonic shifts brought about by the advent of ebooks and their major distributor, Amazon.”

http://www.pbs.org/newshour/art/author-james-patterson-american-literature-risk/

Librarians

New Orleans Librarian, Laurence Copel, Wins $3,000 Prize

“NEW YORK (AP) — A New Orleans-based librarian known as “the book lady” for her dedication to her community has won the inaugural Lemony Snicket Prize for Noble Librarians Faced With Adversity.”


Former Librarian Bequeaths $2.2 Million to University at Albany Libraries

“ALBANY, N.Y., June 12, 2014 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ — The University at Albany has received a $2.2 million gift from the late Alice Hastings Murphy ’40 estate to benefit its libraries. The bequest is one of the largest gifts from an individual in the University’s history, and the largest in support of the University Libraries.”

“Hastings Murphy was with the University during its transformation from the College for Teachers to the State University of New York at Albany, and was the first person to hold the title of Director of University Libraries. During her tenure, she played an integral role in the massive growth of the library in the 1960s. She retired in 1970 as head librarian at the University but remained involved with a group UAlbany’s Friends of the Libraries, of which she was a founding member.”


Education

Opinion: Rethinking How We Rate and Rank MLIS Programs

“Throughout the United States and Canada, there are more than 63 ALA-accredited programs offering advanced degrees in library and information science. While the number of programs has grown over the years, the field has yet to develop any significant, rigorous measures of evaluation to assess them. Even as interest in LIS education grows, the tools for determining which programs will match a student’s goals or establishing a hierarchy of quality remain stuck in neutral.”

“Historically, many LIS students chose to attend a particular program because it was geographically close, so, for most, the decision was relatively easy. Today, however, thanks to online education, many programs are national, providing ease of access and in some cases ease of affordability as well. San José State, CA; Emporia, KS; Clarion, PA; and Texas Woman’s University, Denton, all have quite large distance education programs.”
How To Choose Your Library School

"With 63 accredited programs to choose from, assessing which is best is far from clear cut. To would-be librarians, the field offers a challenge in information gathering, assessment, and data-driven decision-making right off the bat: finding the facts about the different master’s degrees in library and information science and choosing the one that best fits their needs. For employers of prospective graduates, the perspective is different, but the dilemma is the same. Below, LJ offers an actionable checklist for today’s applicants. For an ambitious proposal for tomorrow’s accreditors, read the related LIS Education article: “Rethinking How We Rate and Rank MLIS Programs.”

Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety.

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Intersect Alert June 24, 2014

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2014/06/intersect-alert-june-24-2014/

June 24, 2014 Categories: Intersect Alert Tags: archives, digital preservation, libraries

Archives

The First Lady Welcomes 50 New Americans at the National Archives

“This morning, First Lady Michelle Obama welcomed 50 new Americans in a naturalization ceremony at the National Archives in Washington, D.C.”

“Only a few feet from where she spoke was the Declaration of Independence — and as she noted, none of the 56 Founders who signed the Declaration were born American, they became American.”

http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2014/06/18/first-lady-welcomes-50-new-americans-national-archives

Wellcome Library Changes Access Policy for Digital Archives

“Today we’ve made two changes to our access procedures that will open the door even wider to our online archives and website features.”

“You no longer need to register to access the majority of our digitised archives – approximately 30,000 items. Archives and manuscripts under 100 years old, along with older archives now simply require you to accept our terms and conditions.”

http://blog.wellcomelibrary.org/2014/06/opening-doors-to-easy-access/

National Archives Marks Civil Rights Act’s 50th Anniversary with Display and Programs

“Wellington, DC…In honor of the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the National Archives today begins a special display of the original Civil Rights Act, and will host special programs July 1 and July 29. The display and events are free and open to the public, and take place at the National Archives Museum, located on the National Mall at Constitution and 9th St., NW.”


Digital Preservation

Library of Congress Partnering with Portico for Digital Preservation Services

“The Library of Congress (LOC) has joined Portico’s e-journal and e-book digital preservation services. LOC joins hundreds of libraries and publishers around the world who support Portico’s work.”

“Portico and the Library of Congress have been working together on digital preservation issues for several years; first through a start-up grant from the Library’s National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program for Portico in the early days, and then further through the Library’s National Digital Stewardship Alliance (NDSA) working group programs.”

Mobile Search

Pinterest Introduces Guided Search for the Web

“Search engines are great for answering specific questions—the weather in San Francisco or the capital of Peru—but Pinterest can help with the questions that have more than one right answer. Where’s your next vacation or what’s for dinner tonight? With so many possibilities, you might not know the best one till you see it.”


Libraries

A History of Awesome in One Room

“THE MORGAN LIBRARY & MUSEUM does not usually put trash on the wall, but there are exceptions. Among the nearly 60 rare books, manuscripts and objects on exhibit in “Marks of Genius: Treasures From the Bodleian Library” is a constellation of khaki-colored papyrus scraps retrieved about a century ago from an ancient dump outside the vanished Egyptian city of Oxyrhynchus. Over the years, excavations at the site have yielded census forms, invoices, bureaucratic correspondence and the occasional literary find — in this instance, a fragment of verse by Sappho, inscribed in Greek in the second century A.D., from the first of the nine books of poems she is known to have written.”

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/06/13/arts/design/marks-of-genius-works-from-the-bodleian-at-the-morgan.html?module=Search&mabReward=relbias%3Ar&_r=1

Museums and Libraries in the Middle of the Maker Movement

“Washington, DC—Among the guests at the first White House Maker Faire today is IMLS Director Susan H. Hildreth, who is representing the many libraries and museums around the country engaged in the Maker movement. Nationwide, libraries and museums are opening their doors to making, supported by new programming and investments from the Institute for Museum and Library Services and its partners. IMLS, the lead federal agency that supports the vitality of America’s libraries and museums, invests in making at the institutional and national levels with funding for research and projects that place museums and libraries at the center of this participatory, hands-on learning movement.”

http://www.imls.gov/museums_and_libraries_in_the_middle_of_the_maker_movement

The University Library as Incubator for Digital Scholarship

“With origins in the digital humanities, digital scholarship in recent years has seen investigators from other disciplines—including the sciences and social sciences—embrace its tools and possibilities. New hybrid communities of inquiry are increasingly visual, collaborative, and spatial, or simply seek to make new connections possible in a digital world. Much of this is owed to advances and convergences in data visualization, mapping applications, and web development. Outstanding projects from the University of Richmond’s Digital Scholarship Lab are forging new connections with history, geography, political science, sociology, and other fields through their Atlas of the Historical Geography of the United States and Voting America portals. In public health, the Dartmouth Atlas of Health Care is visualizing variations in how medical resources are distributed and used in the United States today. In biology and ecology, digital initiatives—such as the Center for Conservation Biology Project Portal from the College of William and Mary and the Virginia Commonwealth University—are tracking regional concerns involving land use and bird species populations.”

“In the hands of talented scholars, teachers, and technologists, this form of scholarship can be liberating for both creator and user. Melanie Schlosser, Digital Publishing Librarian at Ohio State University Libraries, has defined digital scholarship as “research and teaching that is made possible by digital technologies, or that takes advantage of them to ask and answer questions in new ways.”1 Edward Ayers uses the term generative in his definition to describe digital scholarship’s function and effect. As generative scholarship, digital scholarship marks a move away from the passive, one-way form of communication from scholar to student or peer or novice. It is a new form of inquiry and practice that “generates new questions, new evidence, new conclusions, and new audiences as it is used.” Digital scholars do not simply do this work and hand it to students to be quizzed upon. Rather, they say, “help us figure this out, help us make this better, help us make this richer” by working together.2 Because digital technologies are assumed in all that we will do in our increasingly visual and connected future, perhaps the most basic definition of digital scholarship is that it is and will be the scholarship of the 21st century.”

http://www.educause.edu/ero/article/university-library-incubator-digital-scholarship

Publishing
Toronto Reference Library’s New ‘book machine’ Allowing Authors to Quickly Self-Publish

“The Toronto Reference Library has long been a popular destination for those looking to enjoy the magic of books. As of Monday, June 9, it became a place where people can print their own.”

“The Reference Library is now home to an Espresso Book Machine, which allows people to print bound, professional-looking, out-of-print public domain materials or books of their own.


Intersect Alert June 29, 2014

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2014/06/intersect-alert-june-29-2014/

June 29, 2014 Categories: Intersect Alert Tags: books and reading, libraries, open data, professional development

Open Data

The Impact of Open: Keeping you Healthy

“Next month we’re going to be at the Center for Data Innovation talking with an excellent group about the social impacts of open data. The event will provide a forum for open data advocates to answer a question we hear quite frequently, especially from people outside the developer community: Open data sounds nice, but what do we do with it? What kinds of effects does open data have on the world?”

“There are many ways to respond to these questions. At Sunlight, we’ve developed a brief list of some of our favorite examples that demonstrate open data helping people and institutions achieve a wide variety of benefits. However, one of the things I’m most looking forward to in next month’s event is the opportunity to have a conversation about impact beyond the individual example: to discuss the systemic impact of open data. And also to discuss the specific pathways by which open data can produce the kind of broad impacts we want to see.”

http://sunlightfoundation.com/blog/2014/06/25/the-impact-of-open-keeping-you-healthy/

OpenGov Voices: Exploring the Transparency and Open Data Landscape

“After this year’s TransparencyCamp, I’m convinced the transparency and open data community has moved to a new stage of its development. As recently as three years ago, we were excited by the first civic organizations popping up in various countries and by governments opening large datasets for the first time.”

“Since then, the community has grown considerably larger and stronger. The discussion very much shifted from how to get the data to what to do with it and how to connect better internationally. Cross-country cooperation, advocacy campaigns and data standards are becoming the hot topics at conferences and on high-profile mailing lists.”


Search

Bing Enhances Twitter-Related Search Results

“As you well know, people are generating millions of tweets every minute on every conceivable topic. Through our exclusive partnership with Twitter, we are rolling out a fast and intuitive way to discover tweets directly in our search results. Whether you are interested in looking up trending hashtag, specific Twitter profiles or the latest tweets about your favorite celebrities, we have you covered.”

“The central idea behind the approach is that the most interesting content on Twitter can be determined by a combination of a tweet’s popularity, its freshness and the authority of the user tweeting it. We look at a number of signals including tweet quality, retweet count, freshness of tweet, user profile info and verified status, among others. Placing these signals in our model, we serve what we hope are top quality tweets.”

http://blogs.bing.com/search/2014/06/26/exploretweetsonbing/

New Features Added to Congress.gov

The new features include:
User Accounts & Saved Searches: Users have the option of creating a private account that lets them save their personal searches. The feature gives users a quick and easy index from which to re-run their searches for new and updated information.
Congressional Record Search-by-Speaker: New metadata has been added to the Congressional Record that enables searching
the daily transcript of congressional floor action by member name from 2009 – present. The member profile pages now also feature a link that returns a list of all Congressional Record articles in which that member was speaking. Nominations: Users can track presidential nominees from appointment to hearing to floor votes with the new nominations function. The data goes back to 1981 and features faceted search, like the rest of Congress.gov, so users can narrow their searches by congressional session, type of nomination and status.


Libraries

Library of Congress Launches Pinterest Account

“Continuing its effort to make its digital educational, historical and cultural resources available to web users across many platforms, the Library of Congress today launched an account on Pinterest, accessible at www.pinterest.com/LibraryCongress.”

“The Library’s collections are so rich with visual content, from maps and posters to photographs and sheet music,” said the Library’s Director of Communications Gayle Osterberg. “We are excited to share these treasures with Pinterest users.”

http://www.loc.gov/today/pr/2014/14-108.html

Two Major Public Library Systems Are About to Start Lending Wi-Fi Hotspots

“The New York and Chicago public libraries are both planning to experiment with new ways to bridge the digital divide.”

“With about half-a-million dollars each in grant money, the New York and Chicago public library systems will soon begin a major expansion to how they serve up Internet access to local residents in their communities.”


Ebooks

Simon and Schuster Expands Library Ebook Lending Program to Universal Access

“NEW YORK, June 26—Simon & Schuster announced today that, following a successful pilot program in more than twenty library systems, it was moving to expand access to its catalog of ebooks to libraries nationwide. Effective immediately, public libraries across the United States can acquire for their collections ebook editions of such beloved classic favorites and current bestsellers as The Great Gatsby, Steve Jobs, Doctor Sleep, Hard Choices, The Flamethrowers, The Light Between Oceans, The Perks of Being a Wallflower and the Mortal Instruments and Dork Diaries series.”


3M Unveils Personalized Library Experience with Next Generation eLending App

“ST. PAUL, Minn.–(BUSINESS WIRE)–June 23, 2014–3M Library Systems will introduce a new standard for eBook and eAudiobook lending with the newest version of its popular 3M Cloud Library patron app. The new app includes innovative features allowing users to personalize how they browse for content, along with an elegant new look and feel and the most intuitive interface on the market. The 3M Cloud Library app will be showcased at the American Library Association (ALA) Annual Conference, June 26-July 1 in Las Vegas, NV.”

“The new 3M Cloud Library app includes innovative features allowing users to personalize how they browse for content, along with an elegant new look and feel and the most intuitive interface on the market.”

http://online.wsj.com/article/PR-CO-20140623-907634.html

ProQuest Enriches Ebook Value with New Content and Features in ebrary Academic Complete

“Mountain View, CA, June 16, 2014 – ProQuest has added more than 1,650 ebook titles from renowned publishers Wiley and Wolters Kluwer Health to Academic Complete®, the flagship ebook database from ebrary®. The new content will improve research outcomes, while a new enhancement for the database – the popular LibraryThing for Libraries™ Book Display Widget – will enable libraries to easily display the titles visually for better discoverability and usage.”


Career

Make It a Place They Want to Work

“We look to our leaders to enable us to get things done. We look to them for vision and inspiration, but we also want leaders who make progress and get our organization to the place where the vision becomes reality. What sometimes gets overlooked is the need to create a workplace where people want to be while all the work is getting done.”
“When you woke up this morning, how eager were you to get to your library? Could you hardly wait to arrive at your workspace and get going on your latest project, to stand before a class seeking your wisdom or to team up with co-workers to accomplish an assigned task? I hope so, but if academic librarians are typical of American workers, then arriving at work with excitement and thirst for a day of challenge is more fantasy than reality. That’s because in almost every survey of both American and global workers, the majority of respondents indicate they dread going to work. For example, in a survey of over 12,000 workers, only 33 percent said they had opportunities to do what they most enjoyed at work. According to a 2013 Gallup survey of employees across 142 countries, only 30 percent reported feeling engaged at work. This data should cause some alarm for leaders, but also force them to ask some hard questions about their workplace, whether their employees find their work fulfilling and what can be done to improve the conditions that would lead to greater worker fulfillment. One of the problems is that those leaders, too often, are suffering from some of the same issues as their followers.”


In the Moment | Office Hours

“Librarians, are you present in your work? Are you listening when someone asks a question at the desk? LIS students, are you there in the classroom or online with an open mind and a thirst for learning? Are you in the moment?”

“My thoughts turn to mindfulness as I find many distractions pulling me away from grading, working on research, or reading student work. I want to be in the moment for all of these things. You’ve heard the advice: turn everything off to concentrate and get things done. But when so much of our personal and professional lives carries an online component, that can be hard to do. When writing this column, I usually shut down email, IM, and my browser, but then I hear the distant ding of the iPad in the other room. Some folks advocate for having a technology-free zone in a certain room at home, but that’s also a tough call when Wi-Fi pervades and devices move with us.”

http://lj.libraryjournal.com/2014/06/opinion/michael-stephens/in-the-moment-office-hours/

Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety.

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Museum of Performance + Dance

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2014/07/6506/ July 3, 2014 Categories: Bayline, Chapter Programs & Events Tags: events

The Museum of Performance + Dance

Online Registration

**SF Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association**

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Please join us for a special tour:

The Museum of Performance + Design (MP+D)

Thursday, July 24th, 4:30 – 6:30 PM

Museum of Performance and Design

http://www.mpdsf.org

The Museum of Performance + Design (MP+D) is the only independent, non-profit art organization in the United States devoted to the history of performing arts and theatrical design. Founded in 1947 by Russell Hartley, a dancer and designer with the San Francisco Ballet, MP+D has served the arts community for over sixty years as a cultural resource and an archive and maintaining a comprehensive Research Library, and hosts a variety of engaging public events onsite and online. MP+D is located in a creative loft space in SOMA in the Yerba Buena Gardens neighborhood.

Museum Head Librarian/Archivist Kirsten Tanaka, will be our guide to important and unique performance related materials and a rare collection of 3.5M items on the history of performances in San Francisco and the Bay Area.

SLA Tour Cost: $10 per person for everyone

Location: The Museum of Performance and Design Library is at 893B Folsom St. San Francisco, CA Folsom St, is between 5th & 4th St. at the Yerba Buena Gardens.

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**Agenda**

4:30-5:00 p.m. Reception at @Elite Coffee & Audio (next door)

5:00-6:30 p.m. Library Tour

**DEADLINE:** This tour is limited to the first 25 registrants. Please register online or ensure your mail-in registration form and check are received no later than July 21 2014.

**NOTE:** You do NOT need a PayPal account to register online; you may use any credit card.

**Optional Donation to Support Student Conference Travel Stipends:** $5

*Note: Special Libraries Association, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization; all donations are tax-deductible (please check with your tax advisor for details). No goods or services will be given to you in exchange for this donation.*

Please make your donation by using the “Donate” button.

**Registration by Mail**

Library Tour: Museum of Performance + Dance

Thursday, July 26, 2014

Register by mail by sending this portion with your check to:
Heather Heen

Name: ________________________________________ Telephone: ______________________

E-mail: ________________________________________

Employer/Affiliation (what you want on your badge in addition to your name):

________________________________________________

Cost:

$10 for everyone

___ Optional donation to support Student Conference Travel Stipends (Note: Special Libraries Association, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization; all donations are tax-deductible (please check with your tax advisor for details). No goods or services will be given to you in exchange for this donation.)

Check enclosed for $____________

*The tour is limited to the first 25 members to register. We will start a stand-by list should the tour become sold-out.*

Ensure your mail-in registration form and check are received no later than Friday, July 21 2014

**Intersect Alert July 6, 2014**


**Competitive Intelligence**

*Five questions to ask before embarking on a Big Data analysis*

You may be trying to figure out what expanded data collection means to you and your customers. Five questions are presented as a summary of a recent panel discussion at Dell Women Entrepreneurs Network in Austin. 1) What is the edge case? Edge case is explained as the circumstance when a new use for
data crosses the boundaries (edges) of propriety. The example widely mentioned in coverage of the panel discussion was Target sending targeted promotions to customers the company had deduced were pregnant, much to the surprise of the recipients’ families. 2) Are you prepared for bad news? Uncovering and analyzing data is less likely to show things that are working well and more likely to disclose problems. 3) How are you treated online and how do you treat others? 4) What is the cost of sitting on the fence? 5) What will you say when the government comes calling? www.inc.com/kimberly-weisul/five-big-overlooked-questions-about-big-data.html

Privacy

Controversial research by Facebook
Much has been published regarding Facebook’s efforts to alter the emotions of nearly 700,000 unwitting participants in a study conducted in 2012. The study could be considered an edge case:
The researchers write: “We show, via a massive (N = 689,003) experiment on Facebook, that emotional states can be transferred to others via emotional contagion, leading people to experience the same emotions without their awareness. We provide experimental evidence that emotional contagion occurs without direct interaction between people (exposure to a friend expressing an emotion is sufficient), and in the complete absence of nonverbal cues.”
You can find the study at the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences site: www.pnas.org/content/111/24/8788.full.pdf
Note the “Editorial Expression of Concern” from PNAS’ editor-in-chief which concludes: “the collection of the data by Facebook may have involved practices that were not fully consistent with the principles of obtaining informed consent and allowing participants to opt out.”
Sebastian Deterding writes: “In sum, the Cornell IRB thought the study exempt from IRB approval and, presumably, informed consent because its researchers never “engaged” in research, only working with “existing data” by Facebook.”
codingconduct.tumblr.com/post/90242838320/frame-clashes-or-why-the-facebook-emotion-experiment
For a lively video discussion consider the 16-minute clip at: live.huffingtonpost.com/r/segment/facebook-manipulation-study/53b1ba8002a760e4b7000803

Salary Surveys
Library Journal’s inaugural salary survey for U.S. librarians and paralibrarians will help readers “get closer to understanding how their salary compares with those of their peers.”
lj.libraryjournal.com/2014/07/careers/payday-lj-salary-survey-2014/
Not long ago a study appeared in the IFLA journal comparing SLA salaries to the Consumer Price Index:

Emerging Ethical Quandaries regarding Makerspaces
What to do about edgy 3-D printer projects? Some librarians ardently support inclusion of rules in behavior policies. Other librarians consider it outside their purview. A sampling of opinions is offered in this article.

Photos of Unusual Libraries
A sampling of photos from the book “Public Libraries: A photographic essay” by Robert Dawson is offered. The author and his son spent eight weeks driving more than 11,000 miles to 26 states, photographing 189 libraries. The book has accompanying text by several contemporary authors.
www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/07/01/library-photos_n_5545321.html?utm_hp_ref=books

Career

Pew releases canvassing report about Net Threats
“As Internet experts look to the future of the Web, they have a number of concerns. This is not to say they are pessimistic: The majority of respondents to this 2014 Future of the Internet canvassing say they hope that by 2025 there will not be significant changes for the worse and hindrances to the ways in which people get and share content online today. And they said they expect that technology innovation will continue to afford more new opportunities for people to connect. Still, some express wide levels of concern that this yearning for an open Internet will be challenged by trends that could sharply disrupt the way the Internet works for many users today as a source of largely unfettered content flows.”
www.pewinternet.org/2014/07/03/net-threats/

Benefits

Library Journal’s inaugural salary survey for U.S. librarians and paralibrarians will help readers “get closer to understanding how their salary compares with those of their peers.”
lj.libraryjournal.com/2014/07/careers/payday-lj-salary-survey-2014/
Not long ago a study appeared in the IFLA journal comparing SLA salaries to the Consumer Price Index:

Libraries

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www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/07/01/library-photos_n_5545321.html?utm_hp_ref=books

Share this:

Intersect Alert July 13, 2014

Copyright

What does the Hathitrust decision mean for libraries?
Jonathan Band, of policybandwidth.com, writes for the Library Copyright Alliance about the implications of the Hathitrust decision. “The HathiTrust decision provides libraries with much greater certainty concerning their mass digitization projects. The decision indicates that the act of digitization, and the storage of digital files, is a fair use if the libraries provide full-text search functionality and full-text access to disabled individuals. With respect to full-text access to the non-disabled outside of the library premises, the court ruled that a use could be transformative if the function or purpose of the use is different from that of the original work.”

Privacy

Three things you should know about the Google Spain case
In contrast to some of the news coverage, this site makes these three assertions:
1. Search engines will neither be deleting nor de-indexing information
2. This ruling isn’t actually about the “right to be forgotten”
3. Google de-indexes and alters search results for other purposes
https://www.accessnow.org/blog/2014/07/10/three-things-you-should-know-about-the-google-spain-case

Internet Access

Background: The FCC opened a new proceeding on “net neutrality” in May 2014 (Docket No. 14-28). This proceeding is in response to a January 2014 ruling by the U.S. Court of Appeals –D.C. Circuit that overturned two of the FCC’s key “net neutrality” rules but affirmed the FCC’s authority under Section 706 of the Telecommunications Act to regulate broadband access to the Internet. The new FCC proceeding will explore what “net neutrality” policies it can and should adopt in the wake of the court’s ruling. The proposed principles from eleven organizations call upon the FCC to ban blocking, degradation, and “paid prioritization”; ensure that the same rules apply to fixed and mobile broadband providers; promote greater transparency of broadband services; and prevent providers from treating similar customers in significantly different ways.
AALL, AAHSL, MLA, and SLA presented this testimony to the FCC:

Intellectual Property

Calls Grow to Loosen Federal Circuit’s Monopoly on Patent Appeals
“When Congress created the Federal Circuit in Washington in 1982, it hoped that granting a single court the power to hear nearly all the nation’s patent appeals would bring more uniformity to an arcane area of law. But now, amid a boom in high-stakes patent lawsuits, calls are growing to loosen the Federal Circuit’s hold on patent law.”

Government Information

Possible Elimination of Federal Register and Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) indexes
HR 4195 Federal Register Modernization Act is scheduled to be voted on the week of July 14, 2014. The bill eliminates the statutory requirement that the CFR be printed and bound, and eliminates the requirement to produce an index to the Federal Register and CFR. This could have the deleterious effect of making government information less accessible.
http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-113hr4195rh/pdf/BILLS-113hr4195rh.pdf
In a posting awhile back Emily Feltren of AALL pointed out “Interestingly, the Office of the Federal Register itself touted the usefulness of its index when it announced the retooled index last year:”
https://www.federalregister.gov/blog/2013/03/new-federal-register-index

Libraries

Wimbledon museum library a trove of tennis history
This library is distinctly offline. Staff members clip and archive newspaper clippings pertaining to the Wimbledon tennis competition, a scrapbooking activity done by this facility since 1927. The magazine section and the book section are arranged alphabetically by country and then within each country arranged chronologically. “Among the earliest books are thin pamphlets from the 1870s explaining the rules of lawn tennis. The most prized, perhaps, are the thin books by Walter Wingfield that were originally included inside an all-in-one tennis box, filled with rackets, balls and a net. Wingfield’s kit helped popularize the game.”

Teddy Roosevelt Library seeking support for its digital collection
The Theodore Roosevelt Library a project of www.theodorerooseveltcenter.org will tentatively open by the end of the decade on a bedrock of a digital collection scholars hope will eventually include every Roosevelt-related they can find.

Results of photo contest depicting law libraries
These are some whimsical entries from this year’s AALL photo contest.


Intersect Alert July 20, 2014


July 20, 2014 Categories: Intersect Alert Tags: books and reading, international outlook, libraries, research, technology

Health Information

National Library of Medicine Community Health Maps
Community Health Maps Blog is an initiative designed to share information about low cost and easy-to-use Geographic Information Systems (GIS) mapping tools. The goal is to help small organizations collect and visualize information about their communities in order to use these techniques to support planning and decision-making about community health. The target audience consists of groups with mapping needs but without the resources to have high-end software and a GIS specialist on staff. The first blog posting mentioned three pilot projects. One study looked at noise pollution. Another project pertained to creating a resource guide of health care facilities. The third evaluated the use of tablets in collecting medicinal plant data.
A list of resources including material pertaining to the pilot projects is offered:
http://communityhealthmaps.nlm.nih.gov/resources/

WHO joins PubMed Central
Back in January, the global health authority, the World Health Organization (WHO), announced the launch of a new open access policy to ensure the widespread dissemination of scientific research. The policy, which applies to all WHO-authored or WHO-funded research published in external journals and books, kicked into action on 1st July 2014.

Internet

Eleven Associations submit more testimony to FCC
A coalition of eleven library and higher education organizations testified to the FCC on July 18, 2014. The joint comments provide greater detail for the network neutrality principles released July 10 and suggest ways to strengthen the FCC’s rules regarding the Internet. For instance, the FCC is advised to explicitly apply open Internet rules to public broadband Internet access service provided to libraries, institutions of higher education and other public interest organizations; prohibit “paid prioritization;” and adopt rules that are technology-neutral and apply equally to fixed and mobile services. The testimony promotes an “Internet reasonable” standard in place of a “commercially reasonable” standard.
http://www.ala.org/offices/sites/ala.org/offices/files/content/oitp/publications/officialfilings/library-highered_nn_comments_july_2014.pdf

ebooks

Amazon’s Netflix for Books is examined by Gary Price
Price has been writing about other such services recently. In regard to Amazon he points out: I think it’s worth noting that Amazon has a great deal of data about how people borrow, read, interact, and return ebooks borrowed from a library. This is valuable information they can use to make their service very appealing to current library users. Where do they obtain this data? The answer is simple. If you have ever borrowed (or assisted someone borrowing) a book on OverDrive and placed it on a Kindle, you and/or your library shared the data with Amazon.

Excerpts from recent study of academic libraries
Primary Research Group has published The Survey of Academic Libraries 2014-15 Edition which looks at trends in staffing, salaries, budgets, materials purchasing, and technology use in academic libraries. One item highlighted in the press release pertained to the purchase of iPads or other such devices for their patrons to read e-books. “This practice is most common among the four-year BA- or MA-granting colleges, as half of them made such purchases, compared to 27 percent of community colleges and 28 percent of PhD-granting colleges and research universities in the sample.”
Press release:
Excerpt:
http://primaryresearch.com/uploaded/admin_reports
An earlier study, of corporate libraries, had this item in the press release:
Just 22 percent of all libraries in the sample have purchased an iPad for use by library patrons or information consumers in the organization, while 40 percent of those libraries with budgets of $2 million or more have made such purchases.

Digital library initiatives at BRAC University
Over seven years, BRAC University in Bangladesh
http://www.bracu.ac.bd/ carried out a number of projects focused on making significant improvements to its university library. These improvements included: developing an institutional repository; an integrated library system and a library resource portal. Hasina Afroz, University Librarian at BRAC University outlines the changes that were made and the software they used.
http://inasp.info/publications/details/130/

Travel Library in Seoul
The Hyundai Card Travel Library, which opened in Cheongdam-dong in May as part of the company’s long-term project to promote design, offers its customers a classy cultural experience, reports The Korean Herald. This new library is currently the world’s largest travel-specific library, with some 14,700 books.
[Note: Although Google Translate may say the page cannot be translated, try again]

Digital Libraries

Providing metadata for the Digital Public Library of America
The first article in the July-August issue of D-Lib describes the technological side of being a service hub for the DPLA, from choosing metadata requirements and reviewing software, to the workflow used each month when providing hundreds of metadata feeds for DPLA harvest. Among the illustrations is a table listing a crosswalk from Dublin Core to MODS.
http://www.dlib.org/dlib/july14/07contents.html

Digital humanists will catalog notes scrawled in books
The Archaeology of Reading project will transcribe and catalog marginal notes in sixteenth- and seventeenth-century books held in various libraries with the goal of producing a fully searchable data set available on a publicly accessible website.

Archives

Metadata for image collections
A contributor to American Libraries asserts that depending upon crowdsourcing to provide meaningful metadata is problematic. The tags on a service such as Flickr often don’t help with searching. Since general descriptions populate a database fast, a sense of urgency prevails over the desire to create effective finding aids. One commenter on the article asserts that this adds drama and excitement to an archival career.
http://www.americanlibrariesmagazine.org/article/metadata-image-collections

Libraries

Digital Inclusion study report announced by ALA
The lead for this announcement is “Nearly 100 percent of libraries offer tech training and Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) programs.” The previous technical library technology study was done in 2012. Most libraries have had progress since then, but advances are uneven across the spectrum of urban-suburban-rural settings. Observers pointed out that “Access to broadband is the critical
success factor across society,” and “Creating is becoming a new digital competency.” To make a point about the value of makerspaces, the press release mentions a Kansas library patron who loaded blueprints into a library computer and printed out a 3-D prosthetic hand.

http://www.districtdispatch.org/2014/07/nearly-100-percent-libraries-offer-tech-training-stem-programs-study-finds/

Panel discussion at LIBER 2014
Among the recent travels of Elliott Shore, executive director of the Association of Research Libraries was attendance at the Association of European Research Libraries (LIBER) 2014 conference “Research Libraries in the 2020 Landscape” where he was on a panel including representatives of the Consortium of European Research Libraries, the European Bureau of Library, Information, and Documentation Associations, the Digital Library Federation and the Coalition for Networked Information. The video is just under an hour. One panelist’s observation was that “OCR cannot replace cataloging.” Elliott Shore travelled to several other gatherings to discuss the topic “ARL Strategic Thinking and Design.” In the video he mentions that ARL examined the strategic plans of all member libraries along with the strategic plan of the respective universities to consider how well aligned each pair of plans was.


Glimpses of Tokyo libraries
Street view imagery of the Tokyo Main Library and the International Library of Children’s Literature is now available on Google. This might be handy to know about if your travels include Tokyo and you like to know in advance which building you should be looking for.


SLA Readout Roundtable: Recap

by Jan Keiser
On July 17 at the Mechanics Institute several SLA members met to discuss the recent conference in Vancouver. Deb Hunt, the Library Director at the Mechanics Institute offered the SLA San Francisco Bay Region Chapter the library as a meeting place. She opened the gathering with some background on Mechanics as the oldest library on the West Coast (http://www.milibrary.org/), and the building houses one of the oldest chess clubs in the country. Mechanics Institute is an impressive venue to visit (take a tour); as a member for many years, I can vouch for the value of a membership.

As this was an informal group of attendees on a lunch break, we dove right in, touching on some of the most interesting sessions at the conference.

Cynthia Berglez attended a session called, “Social Media for Investigative Professionals or How to Find People Who Don’t Want to Be Found!” presented by Julie Clegg, a former UK police officer both in uniform and undercover. Cynthia reported that she not only learned a great deal but also used the information almost immediately for a project when she returned. Here’s a link to the presentation: http://librarybuzz.blogspot.com/2014/06/social-media-for-investigative.html. A quick check of #SLAtalk indicates many attendees were “amazed” by this session.

Jaye Lapachet enjoyed a Taxonomy session, learning how a skill many of us have, is applied in other industries. For example, Instagram uses taxonomy for their tagging operations. Information Professionals don’t always think about taxonomy being used in online business, but what other method could be as effective? “Taxonomies: Everything You Need to Know to Start A Taxonomy From Scratch,” was presented by San Francisco’s SLA member Heather Heen. You can access her material here: http://www.hedden-information.com/Taxonomies_from_Scratch.pdf. Heather is also the author of The Accidental Taxonomist.

Both John Chu and Kathy Drewke enjoyed seeing how data is presented in an attractive, non-linear format. Data visualization has become a key skill in today’s quest to understand and present data in an accessible, pleasing way in a combination of graphic design and data knowledge. Marcy Phelps presented two impressive sessions and a pre-conference class. The presentations aren’t available but an earlier Phelps Visualization presentation is available on her website: http://www.phelpsresearch.com/Writing/Selectedarticles

Discussing data visualization segued into the topic of big data itself. Every industry is touched by this practice and we need to understand its application in our workplace. One of four data mining or big data sessions, “The Accidental Data Scientist: A New Role for Librarians and Information Professionals” presented by Amy Affelt can be found here: http://hurstassociates.blogspot.com/2014/06/amy-affelt-accidental-data-scientist.html.

When I attend this conference, I never miss the famous “60 Sites in 60 Minutes.” You’ll nearly always discover several
A new concept introduced at SLA ‘14 was “Quick Takes,” not to be confused with Poster Sessions or SLA Hot Topics. Quick Takes is a 15-minute quickie introducing one specific topic including the “how to” component. One of the Quick Take session was “Quick Take – Networking Naturally,” see the write-up at: http://el399.wordpress.com/2014/07/15/networking-naturally/#more-999.

As each conference winds down, an SLA committee reviews all the papers contributed and announces a winner. This year the winner was “Organizing and Embedding a Library Hackfest into a First-Year Course” by Sarah Shujah. She will receive an award of free conference registration next year in Boston. Read her paper in the collection of Contributed Papers 2014 that are accessible. http://www.sla.org/read-2014-contributed-papers/

Consensus declared the conference content of real value, and as word of the rewarding SLA sessions spreads, attendance at SLA Conference will increase.

Did you have a favorite session? Share it in the comments and if you can provide a link that would be wonderful! –ed

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**Intersect Alert August 3, 2014**

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2014/08/intersect-alert-august-3-2014/  
August 3, 2014 Categories: Intersect Alert Tags: books and reading, intellectual property, international outlook, libraries, privacy, technology

**Privacy**

**Surveillance reform bill advances in U.S. Senate**
A lot has been written about reforming the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court. A Senate bill has been considered by many to be an improvement over the House version. ARL http://policynotes.arl.org/post/93238016237/senator-leahy-introduces-new-version-of-usa-freedom points out that the revised version of the USA FREEDOM Act improves some transparency provisions. For example the government would be required to report on the number of U.S. persons whose information was collected and the number of searches conducted under Section 215. The time a company must wait after receiving a FISA order before reporting on it would be reduced from two years to one year. At the end of the ARL post there is a link to a point-by-point comparison of the House bill and the Senate bill compiled by the Center for Democracy and Technology. Human Rights Watch points out that the Senate bill is an improvement because it tightens the scope of call data and other records that can be collected and the Senate bill. However neither version does much to safeguard the privacy of people outside the United States. http://www.hrw.org/news/2014/07/29/us-surveillance-reform-advances-senate

**Federal District Court rules that U.S. Warrants cover email content stored abroad**
The battle over transborder law enforcement access to communications content is not over. This is a vivid account of a court case in which Microsoft was defeated in its claim that a search warrant issued to get data from its servers in Ireland was an extraterritorial application of the Stored Communications Act. Microsoft pointed out in court that an adverse decision could lead to foreign governments compelling providers to divulge content of U.S. citizens’ email stored on servers in the U.S. The judge agreed that was “pretty scary.” https://cdt.org/blog/federal-district-court-rules-that-u-s-warrants-cover-email-content-stored-abroad/

**Technology**

**Unlocking cellphones is legal again**
A very short article with brief answers to these questions: What is cellphone unlocking; Why did unlocking cellphones become illegal? http://www.latimes.com/business/technology/la-fi-tn-obama-cell-phone-unlocking-bill-20140728-story.html

**Government Information**

**OECD Recommendation of the Council on Digital Government Strategies**
Although most of this is in the form of a resolution, the narrative introduction puts forth a thoughtful comparison: there is a shift from governments anticipating citizens’ and business’s needs (citizen-centric approaches) to citizens and businesses determining their own needs and addressing them in partnership with governments (citizen-driven approaches). http://www.oecd.org/gov/public-innovation/recommendation-on-digital-government-strategies.htm

**E-Books**

**A review of e-lending around the world**
IFLA has released an updated version of its e-lending background paper. It is a region-by-region detailed examination of the state of e-lending in numerous countries. Toward the end there is a recap of the ALA’s protracted engagement with...
multinational publishers and some discussion of the emerging legal frameworks.

International Outlook

Global trends in publishing 2014
This 15-page report by Rudiger Wischenbart is an overview of current developments and driving forces in the transformation of the international publishing industry. Along with examination of regions such as Europe, North America, and the BRIC collection, matters such as the effects of the consolidation in international publishing are discussed. A cheery note in this report is that today’s world offers many opportunities to fix some of the shortcomings of the past, when access to books—and as such to knowledge and entertainment—was characterized by an appallingly wide “digital divide.” You may find the report in multiple places, by searching on the author’s name; at this site one has to submit one’s email address to the Frankfurt Book Fair organization to retrieve the publication:

Chinese mobile news app sued by news publishers
Recently a Chinese internet giant sued Toutiao (which reportedly means “headline”) for copyright infringement and unfair competition. Toutiao offers customized content aggregation based on users’ personal input or their social network activities. Unlike the similar service, Flipboard, Toutiao crawls content and reformats it into its own application. The Chinese Internet giant Sohu, on behalf of aggrieved traditional and Internet news publishers claims that this reformatting diverts traffic and ad revenues. To keep up with the developments, examine this site at the Center for Internet and Society at Stanford:

Australian proposal to have ISPs to monitor copyright infringement
Another item from the Center for Internet and Society is about a recently leaked proposal to amend Australian copyright law and force ISPs to monitor copyright information and prevent infringement by blocking peer-to-peer traffic, slowing down Internet connections, passing on warnings and handing over subscriber details to copyright owners. An indication of the perspective of the authors of this proposal can be found in the introduction “The Government believes that workable approaches to tackling online copyright infringement are most likely to come from the market.” The proposal does present eleven very thoughtful questions.

Patents

Electronic Frontier Foundation Introduces Stupid Patent of the Month
Even though vague and overbroad patents may be laughable, the patent trolls inflict much harm. The first patent in this EFF series, pertaining to patient-doctor communication, is described as:

a. take a telephone call from patient
b. record patient info in a patient file
c. send patient information to a doctor, ask the doctor if she wants to talk to the patient
d. call the patient back and transfer the call to the doctor
e. record the call
f. add the recorded call to the patient file and send to doctor
g. do steps a. through f. with a computer

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2014/07/inaugural-stupid-patent-month

Libraries

Ft. Vancouver Regional Library District facility has signage built into design
The most playful and eye-catching aspect of the signage is superscale letterforms painted onto the concrete stair landings to identify the collection locations.
http://lj.libraryjournal.com/2014/07/opinion/design4impact/the-way-upward-design4impact/

Intersect News 8/10/14

Whistleblowers

Whistleblowers Silenced by Non-Disclosure Agreements
Max Johnson
POGO, 8/14
The Project On Government Oversight (POGO) on 7/25/14 sent a letter to the SEC describing how several corporations have instituted mandatory signatures of the Non-Disclosure Form (NDF) from their employees, eliminating the ability of some employees to report on “waste, fraud and abuse in federally funded programs.” The letter to the SEC “summarizes a key finding of the report, saying, ‘While there is a low incidence of whistleblower retaliation in companies with strong ethical program [sic], the ERC survey found that these organizations also represent the greatest uptick in reports of retaliation. In other words, even strong ethics programs alone are an inadequate deterrent.’ In this letter, POGO has asked that the SEC development a statement to underscore the rights of employees of SEC-regulated companies. Additionally, the article discusses the findings of the Washington Post investigations and the recent report made by Senator Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) advocate of the Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act (WPEA) “reveal[ing] that most of the fifteen executive branch departments’ NDAs violate provisions of the WPEA.”


International

Russia requires ID to log into Wi-Fi

Elizabeth Wise
USA Today, 8/8/14

“Show an ID to log into Wi-Fi? That’s the new rule in Russia, Russian media reports. A decree signed by Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev and published Friday requires that users of public Wi-Fi hotspots identify themselves by their full name, backed up by identification. Exactly how that would work is left unclear and various Russian officials have given different explanations.

Russia’s news industry has (sic) struggling under increasingly heavy state censorship, which has intensified since the country became involved in the unrest in the Ukraine. Earlier this month, Russia required that any website read by more than 3,000 people be published under the writer’s real name. If asked, the writer must also register with the authorities. Critics say Russia is increasingly undermining freedom of expression.”


E-books

Google and Barnes & Noble Unite to Take On Amazon

Alexandra Alter

New York Times, 8/7/14

“…book buyers in Manhattan, West Los Angeles and the San Francisco Bay Area will be able to get same-day deliveries from local Barnes & Noble stores through Google Shopping Express, Google’s fledgling online shopping and delivery service, “ via Google Shopping, Michael P. Huseby, Barnes & Noble’s chief executive, sees this partnership as a “test.” B&N has shuttered the majority of the retail stores and has not done well enough with the sales of Nook to crack Kindle’s ebook sales. Behind the scenes the fulfillment process is different. A shopper orders the book on Google Shopper, Google accepts the order, handing it off to a courier to fulfill. No mention of what happens if the B&N store doesn’t carry the title (backorder?) Delivery charges are a bit lower than Amazon, $4.99 for Google Shopping members and more for non-members.

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/08/07/business/media/google-and-barnes-noble-unite-to-take-on-amazon.html?_r=1

Latest Salvo Fired in Amazon and Hachette’s Dispute

George H. Pike

Information Today, 8/5/14

The battle between Amazon and Hachette continues as they basically battle for control over ebook pricing. Amazon argues the ebook pricing should be lower than print books. This article, written by George Pike the director of the Pritzker Legal Research Center at Northwestern provides a succinct overview of the entire Amazon-ebook publisher affair. Amazon’s present market share in books isn’t surprising. The Los Angeles Times reports, “ Amazon accounts for 41% of new book sales, giving it unprecedented clout in the book sales industry. With Amazon’s Kindle ebook reader estimated at having 55% of the market share, Amazon clearly also dominates the ebook marketplace.”


Research

Learning to Do Research the Hard Way

Barbara Fister

Center for Higher Ed, 8/6/14

In this brief article based on a discussion of tenure in academic libraries, Fister described the “DIY” way that librarians conduct research. We don’t receive a lot of analytical training in library school. Those of us with a second Master’s degree don’t necessarily have to take statistics. Accessing a librarian’s contribution to the success of a student is “a hot topic” in academia. Fister describes how it can violate our privacy standards. From the ACRL Conference: Library Assessment
Conference: Building Effective, Sustainable, Practical Assessment, August 2012. The comments that follow this post are interesting too.


Copyright

My Conversation with a Copyright Troller

Carrie Russell
District Dispatch, 8/7/14

As a corporate Librarian I often had to explain to colleagues that there were actually Web Trollers. This short article describes how the author (representing a public library where there is more lee-way than a corporation has), “fought back” against a cease and desist letter. Russell wants to maintain public access to as much material as possible. She refers to the Fencing Out Knowledge Impacts of the Children’s Internet Protection Act 10 Years Later by Kristen R. Batch, Policy Brief No. 5, June 2014, accessible from the page. The report discusses how the Children’s Internet Protection Act (CIPA) (47 U.S.C. 254) has “overreached” and managed to restrict worthwhile (e.g. National Geographic) material from children that’s are worthwhile.


Government Secrecy

Black Holes in the Predecisional Universe: Agencies Gain a New Justification for Secrecy

Nate Jones
UNREDACTED, (National Archives) 8/6/14

In May of 2014, the D.C. Appellate Court handed down a decision in favor of the CIA’s non-release of information from the 1960’s Bay of Pigs incident. The withholding of this and other CIA records are referred to as “predecision.” The rationale is that the public might be “confused” by the contents, or use “the mosaic principle” method to patch together information from different reports to deduce incorrectly. The CIA in their argument convinced the judges two-to-one that records they believe to be “predecisional” can be kept secret from the public.


Open Data

Open Data: FCC Makes More Than 1.4 GB of Open Internet Comments More Accessible to Public

Gary Price
InfoDoc, 8/5/14

“From the Federal Communications Commission: It goes without saying that there has been tremendous interest in the FCC’s Open Internet rulemaking. As of yesterday, over 1.1 million comments were filed in the docket, both through our Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) and our special openinternet@fcc.gov email address. “

Products

Guide to Reference in business and economics

ALA Press Release
Rob Christoper, 8/5/14

“The Guide to Reference in Business and Economics focusing on print and electronic sources that are key to business and economics reference, edited by Steven W. Sowards and Elisabeth Leonard, is a must-have for every reference desk. The guide offers sources of information on such topics as:

- business law;
- e-commerce;
- international business;
- management of information systems;
- occupations and careers;
- market research.

Available from the ALA Store


Librarianship and Products

Library Linguistics

Ian Chant
Library Journal, 8/4/14

We all strive to provide both relevant and current services for our clients. Public libraries have zeroed in on language learning and enhancement. Apparently some libraries don’t believe this is anything to get excited about while others consider the addition the backbone of their services. Library Journal conducted a survey 337 public libraries about their language services. “Online language learning programs are also among the most common library offerings, according to the survey. More than 80 percent of libraries surveyed offer their patrons access to online language courses like Mango, Pronunciator, Rosetta Stone, and others, making them the
third most popular method of teaching library patrons new languages. “The article contains some good infographics.

http://lj.libraryjournal.com/2014/08/digital-resources/library-linguistics/

A New Member Happy Hour!

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2014/08/a-new-member-happy-hour-2/ August 12, 2014 Categories: Bayline, Chapter Programs & Events Tags: events

Thursday, August 28, 2014. 5:30-7:30 PM

The Holding Company

2 Embarcadero Center, San Francisco

The event will be free for new and prospective members, students, and for current members who bring along one or more prospective member. The fee for all others is $10.

Come and join us for an evening of new friends and find out just what SLA in the Bay Area is all about. We’ll do a little chattin’, a little drinkin’ (we’re buying the first drink for ya!), and a little chowin’ down (we’ll even spring for some apps!) so this is one of those can’t lose kinda evenings. We hope to see you there.

To register as a FREE attendee, please email Shelli Owens (that’s me) shellio@outlook.com with your name, current SLA membership status, who you’re going to bring, and what color the flower in your top hat will be (that last bit is obviously optional. But I do love a top hat…)

If you’ll be paying $10 for this night of drinks and frivolity, you can send a check made out to SLA Bay Area Chapter to:

Shelli Owens
1157 Shotwell St
San Francisco, CA 94110

Or you can pay, cash or check ‘cuz we are SO easy, the night of the event. Either way, please email me to let me know you’re coming.

Please RSVP by August 25.

Intersect August 17, 2014


Cable

Comcast’s Cohen pleads merger case to FCC officials

Jim Barthold

FierceCable, 8/15/14

“…an electronic filing from Comcast to FCC secretary Marlene Dortch said Cohen argued that those claiming Comcast would control 50 percent or more of the broadband market had it all wrong. The company will only own about 35.5 percent of “the fixed-only universe of broadband connections and a 15.5 percent share when mobile broadband connections are included,” the Comcast letter said.”

Digital Expansion

Los Angeles Launches Wi-Fi in Six Parks

Government Technology, News Staff, 8/14/14

“Los Angeles is getting a head start on its plans for citywide broadband. City officials will launch free Wi-Fi service in six parks on Aug. 14, along with a new mobile website to handle parks-related service requests and provide information like an events calendar and a facilities directory. Sponsored by Toyota, the service is called “Oh, Ranger! Wi-Fi.” Wi-Fi will be
available at designated hotspots at Cabrillo Beach, Echo Park Lake, Griffith Observatory, Pershing Square, Reseda Park and Venice Beach.” Full text.

Digital History


Barbie E. Keiser

InfoToday Newsbreaks, 8.12.14

A review of the conference “…the overarching theme of Digital Preservation 2014 was that cooperation and collaboration are the keys to success for libraries working on aspects of a single project together, as well as among libraries, scholars in other disciplines, and technologists.” One presentation introduced a new service called Memento that allows users to find archived websites by inserting the date. It’s not clear how this collection differs from the Wayback Machine that’s been so useful for competitive intelligence on different companies.


Freedom of Information

Edward Snowden Is Worried People Will Forget About Edward Snowden

Dustin Volz

National Journal, 8.13.14

It has been 14 months since Edward Snowden entered our lives and the public demanded to know what we were not being told. Many still believe Snowden to be a traitor, others just care about what Snowden knows. The following group of articles describes how Snowden has begun to allow interviews, public appearances (well, Skype appearances) in order to keep himself and his information in the news. At each event he seems to drop or hint at new information. In “May of this year that the House passed a watered-down version of the USA Freedom Act, which tech companies and privacy advocates derided as an insufficient and loophole-laden answer to NSA spying.” This was followed by a stronger version and endorsed by the President.


The House Just Passed a Bill to End Mass NSA Spying. But Will It Really Change Anything?


Here’s How the Senate Plans to End NSA Mass Surveillance

http://www.nationaljournal.com/tech/here-s-how-the-senate-plans-to-end-nsa-mass-surveillance-20140729

WIRED article of Edward Snowden

http://www.wired.com/2014/08/edward-snowden/

Libraries

What Is This State Ag Department’s Beef With a Tiny Seed Library?

Steve Holt

Takeapart.com, 8.14.14

A couple of rural libraries, in North Carolina and Pennsylvania, are providing seeds for circulation. There are laws against this practice, apparently. “It seems the library’s seed-exchange program is in violation of the state’s 2004 Seed Act, according to state agriculture officials who require all seed distributors to purchase a license, conduct germination tests on each seed distributed, and maintain copious records of each transaction. Their reasoning is that they want to prevent agroterrorism and the spread of invasive weeds.” The Clif Bar Company has a group called “Seed Matters,” is willing to help the libraries take legal action, but there is no response from Simpson Public Library in PA.


Metadata

On Being a Hub: Some Details behind Providing Metadata for the Digital Public Library of America

Lisa Gregory and Stephanie Williams

D-Lib Magazine 7-8/14

“After years of planning, the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA) launched in 2013. Institutions from around the United States contribute to the DPLA through regional “service hubs,” entities that aggregate digital collections metadata for harvest by the DPLA. The North Carolina Digital Heritage Center has been one of these service hubs since the end of 2013. This article describes the technological side of being a service hub for the DPLA, from choosing metadata requirements and reviewing software, to the workflow used each month when providing hundreds of metadata feeds for DPLA harvest. The
authors hope it will be of interest to those pursuing metadata aggregation, whether for the DPLA or for other purposes.

http://www.dlib.org/dlib/july14/gregory/07gregory.html

Libraries

Custom Library Book Bikes Roll Out Across US

Christ Francis

American Library Magazine, 8.13.14

Libraries from Cleveland to Seattle have adopted special bike programs to carry books and services around town with old-fashioned pedal power Cleveland Heights–University Heights Public Library (CHUHPL). Their Book Bike program is modeled after a similar one started by Pima County (Ariz.) Public Library (PCPL) in 2012. “We just kind of jumped into it,” says Karen Greene, adult services librarian and Bookbike coordinator at PCPL, who says the library did not have a trial run or pilot program before launching. Simplicity has meant great success. With donations arriving from individuals and a local bookstore, Bookbike gave away more than 12,000 books. PCPL’s Greene provides this piece of advice: “Do it. It’s totally fun, people love it, you will interact with people who have not been in the library for years and get them interested in the library again. It’s great publicity, because everyone falls in love with it.”


Open Data

How San Francisco Plans to Reinvigorate Its Open Data Program

“A new strategic plan aims to institutionalize open data in San Francisco.”

Matt Williams

Government Technology 8.15.14

http://www.techwire.net/san-francisco-plans-reinvigorate-open-data-program/

Publishing

Amazon Expands Campus Bookstore Program, Launches at Purdue

Digital Book World Daily, 8.13.14

Amazon has opened its second college online bookstore at Purdue. The first is at UC Davis. Amazon is offering its “branded online experience” to provide savings for students up to 30%. Purdue will be serviced by a warehouse in West Lafayette, Indiana.

Three Bay Area professionals receive top honors at international library conference


San Francisco, 18 August 2014 — Three professionals who are members of both the San Francisco Bay Region Chapter and the Silicon Valley Chapter of the Special Libraries Association were honored at the association’s conference in June. Held in Vancouver, British Columbia, the 2014 Annual Conference & INFO-EXPO attracted 1,652 information professionals and 150 exhibiting companies. Current San Francisco Bay Region Chapter President Cindy Hill received the John Cotton Dana Award, Libby Trudell received the Rose L. Vormelker Award and Tony Landolt was named an SLA Fellow.

Cindy Hill is the manager of the Research Library and Bank Archives at the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco. She received the John Cotton Dana Award, SLA’s most prestigious honor, in recognition of her successful leadership during her term as president of the international library association in 2003-2004, her innovative contributions throughout her involvement in SLA and her leadership of information professionals. The award, named after SLA’s founder, recognizes a lifetime of achievement as well as exceptional leadership of SLA and the information profession.

As SLA’s president, Hill helped the association make a true stride toward internationalization by assisting in establishing the Australia and New Zealand Chapter. More recently, she chaired the 2012 Annual Conference Advisory Council and played a leading role in contributing to a successful conference in Chicago that year. She is currently the Chair of the SLA Competencies Revision Task Force. She was named an SLA Fellow in 2001.

At the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, Hill has helped transform the library into a 21st century information center. She joined SLA in 1978, her first year as a corporate librarian. During her career, Hill convinced Sun Microsystems to in-source a library, which she managed, ran her own information-consulting firm and continuously took on leadership positions at the chapter, division and association levels of SLA.

Hill is currently president of the San Francisco Bay Region Chapter of SLA and has also presided over the Silicon Valley Chapter during her tenure with SLA. When the School of Library and Information Science at San José State University celebrated its 40th year of accreditation in 2007 with an award ceremony recognizing 40 distinguished alumni, Hill was selected as an outstanding alumna of 1979.

The Rose L. Vormelker Award honors a mid-career member in good standing who actively teaches and/or mentors students or working professionals. Award winner Libby Trudell’s career spans more than 30 years in the information industry, during which she has assisted and inspired many aspiring librarians and information professionals.

Now a consultant specializing in strategic planning and marketing, Trudell was a longtime member of the executive team for Dialog. She served as VP Strategic Initiatives, VP Information Professional Market, Sr. Director Product Management and Director of Marketing and Customer Services and oversaw such Dialog customer programs as the Advisory Board, the Quantum2 leadership development program and the Graduate Education Program for MLIS students. Earlier in her career, Trudell worked in library networks and consortia, handling marketing and training for OCLC, RLIN and other library automation services.

Trudell is currently Chair of the SLA Information Technology Division and has served on SLA’s Board of Directors, Nominating Committee and Public Relations Advisory Council and as president of the Silicon Valley Chapter. She was also a member of the Marketing Leadership Council of the Silicon Valley Chapter of the American Marketing Association from 2011 to 2013. She has a Master of Library Science from Simmons and a BA from Tufts University.

Fellowship in SLA is bestowed on active, mid-career SLA members in recognition of past, present and future service to the association and the profession. Fellows are called upon and expected to advise SLA’s Board of Directors and alert the SLA membership to issues and trends warranting action.

2014 SLA Fellow Tony Landolt has been an active member of SLA for more than 20 years at both the local and association levels, including service as Program and Hospitality Chairs for the San Francisco Bay Region Chapter. He is currently Convener of the SLA Baseball Caucus, which has grown in membership and established an international following. He also helps host popular webinars about, and held before and after, the annual SLA conference.

Landolt is a senior sales representative at Reprints Desk and has worked in the document-delivery business for more than 25 years. He started and ran Pinpoint Documents until he sold it to Reprints Desk in 2007. He contributes to Giants Magazine, a new publication for fans of San Francisco’s two-time World Series Champion team.

About the San Francisco Bay Region Chapter of SLA (http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/about/):

Established in 1924, the chapter has been supporting the professional interests of librarians and information professionals for nearly 90 years. There are currently more than 300 members who are employed by law firms, corporations,
universities, nonprofits, and other organizations or are interested in the information field, for instance students of library or information science.

**About the Silicon Valley Chapter of SLA**
(http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/about/):

The Silicon Valley chapter comprises the greater Silicon Valley area, including the counties of Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, San Mateo, Monterey and San Benito. Founded in 1980 as the San Andreas Chapter of SLA, the name was changed in 2010 to the Silicon Valley Chapter of SLA, or SLA Silicon Valley.

**About SLA**

The Special Libraries Association (SLA) is a nonprofit international organization for innovative information professionals and their strategic partners. SLA serves information professionals in 68 countries in the information profession, including corporate, academic and government information specialists. SLA promotes and strengthens its members through learning, advocacy and networking initiatives. For more information, visit www.sla.org.

**Contact:** Heather Gamberg, SLA SF Bay Region PR Chair, 415-438-6437 or hgamberg@foley.com

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**Intersect, August 25, 2014**


**Books, Privacy, Whistleblowing**

**Books That Matter: POGO’s 2014 Summer Reading List**

Beach Reading? While you may not think so, POGO has published a list of interesting books to read this summer. All have 2014 publication dates. The list includes:

- Flash Boys: A Wall Street Revolt by Michael Lewis
- Duty: Memoirs of a Secretary at War by Robert M. Gates
- Don’t Kill the Messenger!: How America’s Valiant Whistleblowers Risk Everything in Order to Speak Out Against Waste, Fraud and Abuse in Business and Government by Donald Ray Soeken

http://www.pogo.org/about/books/2014-summer.html

**E-learning, Digital Talent Management**

**Talent Management Systems Help Governments Manage Their Workforce**

Merrill Douglas
Government IT, August 18, 2014

Most of us are aware of the application software used by corporate human resource departments to “screen” applicants. Hiring by computer allows “help in “quickly” determining which candidates are qualified…there is also a need “to accomplish more within the constraints of tight budgets; another is the need to comply with an array of government policies focused on HR.” The state of Pennsylvania uses SAP’s Learning Solution LMS for employee training in addition to application software. Pennsylvania is enthusiastic, saying these systems have “shortened the hiring cycle” and saved the state a great deal of money. Also, “Thanks to the centralized service center and talent management technology, Pennsylvania has eliminated 70 HR positions.” Other software is being utilized to deliver e-learning at the Denver Public Library, to better track librarian skills and direct staff to appropriate training. The Henderson, NV police department is using Halogen’s cloud-based eAppraisal software to handle performance evaluations. The software allows the departments “to document comments from supervisors throughout the year…automatically shared with the employee, and the employee can rebut it…and that’s pulled into the appraisal at the end of the year.”


**Internet**

**Time for Twitter to pull from its (diverse) ranks**

Kimberly C. Ellis
Aljazeera America, August 23, 2014

Last week Twitter announced its employee diversity count (https://blog.twitter.com/2014/building-a-twitter-we-can-be-proud-of) and, like most digital services there is a preponderance of white male employees. Ellis describes the huge twitter population on black Twitter that many users are probably unaware of. An interesting trend has surfaced in the television industry. The industry sees the importance of mining Twitter for viewer reaction. “Recognizing Twitter’s effect on TV shows, Nielsen re-evaluated its long-used rating system, in which only selected people received boxes to measure television viewership. In October it began publishing Twitter TV Ratings which demonstrate the platform’s diversity and its viewing patterns, perhaps even encouraging the creation of entertainment more reflective of the general public http://www.nielsensocial.com/nielsentwittertvratings/weekly/.” Apparently this new product has been successful in uncovering
the true demographics in TV land and the data are influencing what is produced on TV. Ellis goes on to make the obvious connection that Twitter and the other digital companies need to understand better – the employees working at Twitter, et al, do not represent the users. How is a population that isn’t understood addressed successfully by a product or service?


Legal Software Solutions
Microsoft announces Matter Center for Office 365 for lawyers, early access program

Lisa Hoover McGreevy
Fierce ContentManagement, August 19, 2014
Microsoft has announced a new product aimed at lawyers. Apparently the “document management and collaboration product” was designed in house for the use of Microsoft’s own counsel and the company has decided to offer the product to the public. Companies can sign up here for the beta version:


“Microsoft has built a security-enhanced, cloud-based document management application that allows our professionals to quickly locate and collaborate on documents with our counsel from virtually anywhere. We’ve decided to make this solution more broadly available at the request of our outside counsel, who want to utilize it in their own environments,” explained John Frank, vice president and deputy general counsel at Microsoft in a statement.


Privacy
Security Experts: EPIC Correct About Body Scanners-Invasive and Ineffective

8.22.14
EPIC began warning the public about the Rapiscan Secure 1000 full-body scanners in 2005 (since removed from airports). EPIC brought suit against the DHS (EPIC v. DHS) and it was ruled that the DHS had to open comments for public rule making. EPIC reports on a fascinating study now available at https://radsec.org/secure1000-sec14.pdf. It’s the first independent study of the Body-Scanners used by the TSA. The report was authored by scientists from UC San Diego, University of Michigan and Johns Hopkins University and presented at Proceedings of the 23rdUSENIX Security Symposium, August 2014. http://epic.org/2014/08/security-experts-epic-correct-.htmlPrivacy Congress Investigates Airline Privacy Practices

8.21.14
“Senator John Rockefeller (D-WV) is currently seeking information from ten U.S. airlines concerning how airlines safeguard consumer traveler data. Senator Rockefeller has requested information regarding:
(1) the type of information airlines collect; (2) airlines’ data retention periods; (3) airline privacy and security safeguards governing consumer information; (4) whether consumers may access and amend their information; (5) whether airlines sell or disclose consumer information and if so, to whom do they disclose the consumer data; and (6) how airlines inform consumers about airline privacy policies governing consumer information.”


Whistleblowers
DynCorp Sued for Overcharging Anti-Terrorism Program

Neil Gordon Investigator
POGO, August 19, 2014
While POGO reported on this back in May, the public learned this week that “DynCorp International was named in a lawsuit accusing it of defrauding the U.S. Army on a contract to fight international drug-funded terrorism…unsealed last week after the federal government declined to intervene.” While the two DynCorp whistleblowers claim their jobs were eliminated they aren’t claiming whistleblower retaliation. DynCorp is accused inflated billing for “misclassified employees,” (employees who
aren't qualified for the job). An IG report went further, however, finding that both DynCorp and Northrup overbilled the U.S. government for hours the employees didn't work. IG found $123M in “improper costs.” The IG report doesn’t mention if there are next steps – as in who will be held responsible.

http://www.pogo.org/blog/2014/08/20140819-dyncorp-sued-for-overcharging-antiterrorism-program.html

Libraries Altmetrics: What Good are they to Academic Libraries?

Sarah W. Sutton, Emporia State University
(Gary Price, InfoDocket, 8/24/14)

Altmetrics are the calculations that publishers like PLoS use to track their circulated publications for usage – who reads their papers, where are they read, which publications re-print, etc. This could also be useful for Corporate Librarians who need to justify purchases. PLoS is Open Access, but other publishers like Elsevier are not; knowing who else found an Elsevier publication valuable could justify the purchase.

From the Abstract: “...Traditional means of measuring the quality of new knowledge like the impact factor and h-index are being made richer and more meaningful through the addition of new, social media based alternative metrics. Altmetrics also provide scholars communicating in non-traditional venues like the blogosphere and the Twitterverse with meaningful measures of the impact of their work...will introduce altmetrics, discuss their advantages and disadvantages relative to more traditional metrics, and propose some specific uses to which academic libraries may put altmetrics in support of the transitions now occurring in scholarly communication and thus in academic libraries…”

http://newprairiepress.org/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1041&context=culsproceedings

Intersect, August 31, 2014


Affordable Care Act

Report: Obamacare Limits Subsidies for Excessive CEO Pay, Saves $72 Million

Jessica Schieder, Center for Effective Government 8.27.14
The ACA places a cap on how much CEO salary a company may deduct for healthcare companies. This has so far provided an additional $72M to the government. “The 10 largest insurers paid their top 57 executives a combined total of $300M in 2013.”


Copyright

New MOOC Teaches Educators and Librarians About Copyright

Abby Clobridge
Weekly News Digest, August 26, 2014
Clobridge provides an overview of the class, Copyright for Educators & Librarians she was enrolled in via Coursera. The website doesn’t state when the next class will be offered, but there are other relevant courses being taught.

“Copyright for Educators & Librarians is one of a few new courses directly related to the work of librarians and information professionals. Metadata: Organizing and Discovering Information, taught by Jeffrey Pomerantz, director of undergraduate studies at the University of North Carolina–Chapel Hill’s School of Information and Library Science (SILS), is on its second run and covers the gamut of technical issues related to metadata such as ontologies, standards, interoperability, and linked data. Starting in September, an international team will lead a new MOOC hosted by Stanford University: Open Knowledge: Changing the Global Course of Knowledge. Open Knowledge will be a bilingual course in English and Spanish and will cover topics such as open source, open science, open data, open access (OA), and open education)”

https://www.coursera.org/course/cfel
Coursera website

International News
European Facebook Users Privacy Lawsuit Moves Forward

EPIC
A group of over 25,000 European Facebook users may proceed with their lawsuit against Facebook. The users, led by privacy activist Max Schrems, sued Facebook in a court in Vienna. The users charge Facebook with violating EU privacy law by improperly handling users’ data. Now that the court has approved the class action suit, Facebook must respond to the complaints. In 2011, Schrems brought a similar lawsuit against Facebook in an Irish court. In the same year, Facebook signed a consent order with the Federal Trade Commission, following a complaint filed by EPIC and a group of American consumer privacy organizations. EPIC has also filed an amicus brief in a federal class action lawsuit, opposing Facebook’s use of children’s images for advertising purposes. In 2013, EPIC gave the International Privacy Champion Award to Max Schrems, calling him “an innovative and effective spokesperson for the right to privacy.”

http://epic.org/2014/08/european-facebook-users-privac.html

Legal Research

PACER Removes Court Case Documents

On August 10, 2014, PACER removed many documents from the database, “unceremoniously,” and without any notice. For legal librarians and others who use PACER this was disconcerting. There are lots of complaints about the service, it’s clunky server, the fees PACER charges. This agency is one that is required to fund itself and must charge users $.10 a page for cases, which the Court Opinions are free (PACER is actually a project held between the GPO and Administrative Office of the United States Courts according to freegovinfo.) PACER claims these charges are their only means of support. There is a lot of press coverage for this topic but I included the freegovinfo article that offers lots of links and the article written by Andrea Peterson from the Washington Post. Below is the announcement made on August 11, 2014.

The Announcement:
Changes to information available on PACER, Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, PACER Service Center.
On August 11, a change was made to the PACER architecture in preparation for the implementation of the next generation of the judiciary’s Case Management/Electronic Case Files (CM/ECF) system. NextGen CM/ECF replaces the older CM/ECF system and provides improvements for users, including a single sign-on for PACER and NextGen CM/ECF. As a result of these architectural changes, the locally developed legacy case management systems in the five courts listed below are now incompatible with PACER, therefore, the judiciary is no longer able to provide electronic access to the closed cases on those systems. The docket and documents in these cases can be obtained directly from the relevant court. All open cases, as well as any new filings, will continue to be available on PACER.

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<td>U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit</td>
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<td>U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit</td>
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<td>U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Central District of California</td>
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Please contact the court directly to obtain copies of documents and dockets in the above cases. Contact information for each court is available on the Court Locator page.

http://freegovinfo.info/node/9083
ALSO:
The Switch: Why PACER removed access to case archives of five
Andrea Peterson
Washington Post, August 26, 2014

Open Government

McConnell: ‘Remember me? I am the guy that gets us out of shutdowns’

Dana Bash, CNN Chief Congressional Correspondent
CNN, August 28, 2014
While earlier reports said that McConnell would allow another government shutdown, this CNN report claims otherwise. “McConnell opposed the last shutdown, fueled by a strategy from his fellow Republican Ted Cruz, R-Texas, to only fund the government by defunding…Senate GOP leader Mitch McConnell, R-Kentucky, tried to quash talk that he would allow another government shutdown if he becomes Senate majority leader next year…He again underscored he has no intention of taking that strategy all the way to a government shutdown — noting he is often the veteran legislator who comes in at the last minute negotiate a way out with Democrats.”
Website of Interest

Switchboard Is Like Craigslist Without the Creeps and Flakes

Klint Finley
WIRED, August 29, 2014
A new site from Portland, Oregon that sounds interesting. So interesting, that the Silicon-Valley investment folks aren’t interested. The CEO has tried to establish a site that attracts “communities,” including woman, immigrants, disabled, etc. that have trouble attracting investors. “The larger Portland startup community uses it to post job listings, offer expertise, and announce hackathons…. In general, they’re looking for people who are already at the center of a formal or informal community and want to find a better way to help its members connect with each other... They’re not trying to “disrupt” anyone, just build sustainable businesses that help other people.”

http://www.wired.com/2014/08/switchboard/
https://switchboardhq.com Switchboard website

Intersect Alert September 7, 2014


Privacy Issues:

Two Privacy Bills Move as Congress Returns From Vacation
After all its hard work this year Congress is almost done with its summer recess. Lawmakers are due back Sept. 8 and have much to tackle. Two bills are of paramount importance to EFF: one—the USA FREEDOM Act-must be passed by Congress, while the other-the Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act (CISA)-must be killed.

The USA FREEDOM Act is a good first step to rein in the NSA’s “Business Records” program, which collects Americans’ calling records using Section 215 of the Patriot Act. Since July, we’ve urged people to contact their senators to cosponsor the bill. We’ve even created a scorecard to help you figure out where your member of Congress stands. On the other side is CISA, a privacy-invasive cybersecurity bill written by the Senate Intelligence Committee to facilitate the sharing of computer threats between companies and the government. The bill grants companies broad legal immunity to spy on users and share their information with government agencies like the NSA. This zombie bill-just like previous cybersecurity bills-must be killed.

Blocking Consumer Choice: Google’s Dangerous Ban of Privacy and Security App
As reported last week in the Wall Street Journal, Google has banned the privacy and security app Disconnect Mobile from the play store. By doing so, Google has shown once again that it cares more about allowing third-parties to monetize the tracking of its users than about allowing those users to ensure their own security and privacy. The banned app, Disconnect Mobile, is designed to stop non-consensual third party trackers on Android (much like EFF’s Privacy Badger does in Firefox or Chrome). Disconnect released their app in the Android Play Store and Apple’s App Store a little over a week ago. Google removed the app just five days after it was released, citing Section 4.4 of the Play Store developer distribution agreement. (The iOS version remains available in Apple’s App Store.) This section states that developers agree not to use the Play Store to distribute apps that interfere with or disrupt the services of any third party.

On its face this may seem like a reasonable rule, but on further inspection it’s obvious that this rule is overly vague, allowing Google to be selective in its enforcement. After all, any antivirus app or firewall could be considered to be violating these terms of service, since they would interfere with the services of a (malicious) third-party. Yet firewall and antivirus apps abound in the Play Store. Clearly enforcement of this clause is selective.

Secrecy Trumps Public Debate in New Ruling On LA's License Plate Readers
In a ruling that will harm the public’s ability to engage in an informed debate over the use of automated license plate readers (ALPR) in California, a judge late last week rejected EFF and the ACLU Foundation of Southern California’s argument that the Los Angeles Police Department and Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department should hand over a week’s worth of license plate data. But the ruling isn’t what you might think—the court didn’t decide that location information is too private and too sensitive to release to the public. Instead, the court held that the ALPR data qualifies as the kind of investigative record police can keep secret and that the harm to law enforcement investigations from disclosing data outweighs the value to the public of seeing what data police collect on them. If you think that sounds like a big, blank check to California police to build surveillance programs outside of public scrutiny, you’re right.

Libraries:

A Little Library Farce in the Golden State
I knew a few months ago that the governor of California had nominated an unqualified person to be the state librarian of California. Now it’s looking like the guy will be approved. A panel of five state senators has voted unanimously to send the nomination to the full senate. The story would make a potentially good movie, or at least a movie of the week. Supposedly the law requires the state librarian to be a “technically trained librarian,” which makes some sense. Being in charge of the state library might also require some experience in managing large organizations. So who better to be the state librarian than a reporter and blogger with no training as a librarian but great political connections?

Internet Access:

What can we learn from 800,000 public comments on the FCC’s net neutrality plan?
On Aug. 5, the Federal Communications Commission announced the bulk release of the comments from its largest-ever public comment collection. We’ve spent the last three weeks cleaning and preparing the data and leveraging our experience in machine learning and natural language processing to try and make sense of the hundreds-of-thousands of comments in the docket. Here is a high-level overview, as well as our cleaned version of the full corpus which is available for download in the hopes of making further research easier. Our first exploration uses natural language processing techniques to identify topical keywords within comments and use those keywords to group comments together. We analyzed a corpus of 809,859 comments. Some key findings:

- We estimate that less than 1 percent of comments were clearly opposed to net neutrality
- At least 60 percent of comments submitted were form letters written by organized campaigns (484,692 comments); while these make up the majority of comments, this is actually a lower percentage than is common for high-volume regulatory dockets
- At least 200 comments came from law firms, on behalf of themselves or their clients

In-depth exploration of the topical keywords revealed several prominent recurring themes, both in form letter and non-form letter submissions.

Freedom of Information:

Radio Television Digital News Association urges passage of FOIA Improvement Act
When the Senate reconvenes in September, RTDNA and dozens of other journalism and open government organizations are urging it to quickly act on a bipartisan bill that would strengthen the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). The bill, S. 2520, the FOIA Improvement Act, is sponsored by Senator Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.), chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, and Senator John Cornyn (R-Tex.). The two “Sunshine Senators” paired together to craft the 2007 amendments to FOIA and this new bill reflects their continued efforts to find bipartisan fixes to make FOIA work better. Specifically, S. 2520 would, among other changes, strengthen the FOIA ombudsman’s office, help curtail agencies’ rampant over-invocation of the “deliberative process” exemption (FOIA’s Exemption 5), encourage proactive disclosure of government information without the need for a FOIA request, and codify the current administration’s policy bolstering the presumption of disclosure at the heart of FOIA.

Digital History:
Internet Archive Launches Flickr Commons Collection
The Internet Archive is best known for its historical library of the web, preserving more than 400 billion web pages dating back to 1996. Yet, its 19 petabytes include more than 600 million pages of digitized texts dating back more than 500 years. What would it look like if those 600 million pages could be “read” completely differently? What if every illustration, drawing, chart, map, or photograph became an entry point, allowing one to navigate the world’s books not as paragraphs of text, but as a visual tapestry of our lives? How would we learn and explore knowledge differently? Those were the questions that launched a project to catalog the imagery of half a millennium of books.

The Internet Archive processed more than 2 million volumes from its digital archive, compiling more than 14 million high resolution images spanning nearly every topic imaginable. Each image includes detailed descriptions, including the subject tags of the book it came from and the text immediately surrounding it on the page. The latter is especially powerful, as it allows to keyword search 500 years of images, instantly accessing particular topics or themes.


This one defies categorization:

Joan Rivers – Honorary Librarian
“Can we talk?”
I only wish we had the chance, Joan.

Joan Rivers was known as many things. Relentless comedian. First woman to ever host a late night talk show. Reality star. Fashion critic. Lover of plastic surgery. QVC pitchwoman. Librarian?

As I graduated from USF in 2010 with a Masters in Library and Information Science, a comedian who decided to become a librarian, I watched Joan’s new documentary Joan Rivers: A Piece of Work and was reminded of the dreams I was giving up to pursue my love for literacy and what I hoped would be a more comfortable and normal life than the one I had for years as a struggling comedian in New York. People always compared me to Kathy Griffin and since it seemed only one redhead female comic was allowed in the industry at a time, I thought my big mouth could be better utilized as a librarian, sharing my love of reading and how important libraries were. But it was there on that documentary that I was reminded that Joan and I had more in common than a love of the stage and making people laugh. She too was an aspiring librarian! She had a card catalogue in her New York apartment where she organized all of her jokes. Thirty years of jokes stored in a gray card catalogue meticulously arranged by subject. I was so envious. First of her incredible talent, then for her bravery of never giving a shit what people thought, and now her card catalogue!


Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety.
The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.

SLA Conference Recap by Henry Mensch


I had big plans for this summer. Those plans included several activities at the The Special Libraries Association (SLA) Annual meeting in Vancouver BC. I had plans to meet to meet with folks in the IT division (where I volunteer as the editor for the newsletter) to discuss changes to the newsletter, attend some sessions, and (of course) meet engaged librarians (including, ideally, some from our area). Thanks to this opportunity and the sponsorship of the Student Travel Award by Annual Reviews I was able to achieve these plans.

Learning Opportunities in Unexpected Places

Even receptions presented learning opportunities alongside the networking opportunities. I learned that at least one other chapter had no applicants for their student travel award this year … and while this seems like a waste, I can also understand how this might happen. I made my own application for this award hoping (but not expecting) to be selected and was pleasantly surprised. I expected there might be a dozen applicants and that I had a snowflake’s chance at Burning Man of being selected for the award. Instead, the truth turns out to be that there are few applicants for these awards, so my first duty is to encourage all of you who will be eligible next year to apply. The SLA Annual Meeting in Boston is sure to be a useful time and you shouldn’t miss it.

Learning more about MOOCs … and a shout out!

There really was something for everyone at this year’s
meeting; gorgeous weather, interesting sessions of all lengths, the World Cup-themed IT division dance party, and more. The session that stood out most for me is the Spotlight Session on Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) called “Brave MOOC World: Challenges and Opportunities for Librarians.” Three different professors, including Dr. Michael Stephens of the SJSU iSchool and two professors from the University of British Columbia, gave presentations on how librarians can help with MOOCs. Each professor had a different tack on the issue, and I was surprised to get a shout-out from Dr. Stephens (I had taken his credit class, and later was a volunteer “Participatory Learning Guide” in his connected MOOC). This led to a number of future interactions with other conference-goers wanting to know more about how this worked, creating networking opportunities that wouldn’t have otherwise existed.

Quick Takes—a little time for a useful outcome!

There were sessions for many interests and attention spans … even for those of us who had a very short fifteen-minute focus. These sessions, called “Quick Takes,” are just the thing for when you want to take something in but don’t have the capacity for something very long or involved. I sat in on a few of these, including Nathan Rosen’s “Top 5 Tips for Developing Powerful LinkedIn Profiles.” You can see the slides for this Quick Take here: http://www.slideshare.net/nathanrosen/top-5-tips-for-developing-powerful-linked-in-profiles-sla-conference-june-2014-nathan-rosen. As a not-quite-yet librarian, I’m fascinated by the reality of having to be particularly agile and diligent when looking for new opportunities and am naturally interested in portraying what I’ve done and what I’ve learned in the best light. In this light, Rosen’s advice is particularly helpful. I hope there are more Quick Takes on a wider variety of topics next year in Boston!

I spent a fair bit of time in the INFO-EXPO, and the surprising part of this experience is that vendors were truly open to questions from people like me who don’t (yet) have the resources to buy anything. This always seems a bit counter-intuitive for me, but I’m glad the vendors are generous in this way. “I’m just a student so I’m not buying a solution yet, but can you take a moment to explain how this works?” generally worked wonders.

The Face-to-Face Element

As a distance student, I don’t ordinarily meet fellow students or my professors face-to-face, so conferences are often occasions to meet people I’ve known through my classes. Of course, I got to meet Dr. Stephens and at least two other professors, along with classmates I’ve met at prior conferences. While the distance-learning model is attractive to me for a few reasons, there is no substitute for meeting your colleagues face-to-face. I was also reminded that I have some A-B-C books for someone that I haven’t delivered in a year (!) … At the Western States reception I also met a few Bay Area people (it’s difficult for me to get to local events so I have to leave the Bay Area to meet you all!).

Plan to attend next year!

In summary, the meeting in Vancouver was a great opportunity to meet some of you, learn a bit, and network a bit, and I encourage students to take the time to apply for this award next year. IF you have questions, please feel free to drop me a line at henry+slasf@henare.org.
The social media seminars I attended were also very eye-opening with regard to the findability of information. While I’m a frequent user of Facebook, my usage of Twitter and other forms of social media has been sporadic. The seminars “Monitoring Social Media: Beyond Lurking—Data Mining and Putting the Pieces Together” and “Finding Those Who Don’t Want to be Found Using Social Media and Other Cyber Tools” were both excellent as introductions to how data can be followed via hashtags and discussion groups, but also found in through relationships that are either personal or professional. The conference’s networking events, such as meals and receptions were real treats. I found that beginning or end of each day when attendees had not begun or were through with speaking professionally, the networking events provided wonderful opportunities to gain additional feedback on just about any topic of conversation from how attendees came to their current positions to job-searching techniques. These events made the conference more fulfilling. I cannot wait for SLA 2015 in Boston!

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Intellectual Property:

Recovery.gov dumps DUNS, highlighting need for open entity IDs
Yesterday, the Washington Post reported that a treasure trove of data is about to disappear from the highly lauded website set up to track money spent via the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, Recovery.gov. The site is slated to sunset next year and The Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board, which oversees the website, can’t afford to renew its license – up to $1.4 million for one year – with Dun & Bradstreet, the only firm authorized to assign ID numbers to entities doing business with the federal government. Without this license, Recovery.gov will no longer be able to display data about the entities that ultimately received recovery money. http://sunlightfoundation.com/blog/2014/09/10/recovery-gov-dumps-duns-highlighting-need-for-open-entity-ids/.

NY judge: TV clip service not violating copyright
A media monitoring company distributing television clips and snippets of transcripts to customers including the White House and Congress hasn’t violated broadcasters’ copyrights by letting its customers search its database, but it’s unclear whether all facets of its business will get a judicial stamp of approval, a judge said Tuesday.

U.S. District Judge Alvin Hellerstein in Manhattan ruled in a copyright case filed by Fox News Network against TVEyes Inc. He wrote that the company’s database and its searchable function for television clips and snippets of transcript were fair uses of broadcast content and thus were protected from claims of copyright infringement. But he said he must see additional evidence before deciding whether features that allow searches by date and time and that allow clips to be archived, downloaded, emailed and shared via social media are protected.

Libraries May Be Permitted To Digitise Books Without Copyright Owner’s Consent, EU High Court Rules
European Union governments may allow libraries to digitise books in their collection without rights owners’ consent in order to make them available at electronic reading posts, the European Court of Justice (ECJ) said on 11 September. The ECJ held that even if a rights owner offers a library a licence agreement for use of the work on appropriate terms, the library may take advantage of the exception, since it otherwise could not fulfil its core mission of promoting research and private study. http://www.ip-watch.org/2014/09/11/libraries-may-be-permitted-to-digitise-books-without-copyright-owners-consent-eu-high-court-rules/.

Public Policy:

Homeowners steamrolled as Florida courts clear foreclosure backlog
Florida Circuit Court Judge Diana Lewis was in a hurry. She had 93 foreclosure cases before her in the next two hours and she made it clear that she wasn’t going to let anything slow them down. “This is a 2009 case. You’ve had years to negotiate,” she told one lawyer trying to delay a foreclosure judgment because his client and the lender were working out a deal.

Lewis’ manner may be brusque, but her actions aren’t unusual among foreclosure judges in Florida, who in the last year have been working under explicit directions from the state Legislature and Supreme Court to get rid of old cases and clear the court dockets, largely by awarding tens of thousands of
home to banks. “The state’s entire court system has been compromised,” says Matt Weidner, an outspoken foreclosure defense lawyer who practices in Tampa and St. Petersburg and blogs about the system. “They’re stripping away private property rights and transferring billions of dollars in assets from individuals to large entities.”


Freedom of Information:

Tracking Toxic Trains in California and Boosting Federal Safeguards
The oil boom in North Dakota’s Bakken region has led to more crude oil being transported by train throughout the country and, consequently, a rise in oil train accidents. On Aug. 29, California passed new legislation that would help emergency response officials prepare for potential disasters. The legislation would require rail companies to submit emergency response plans and inform officials about the movement of crude oil and other hazardous materials through the state. The bill dovetails with related federal efforts to boost rail safety. Each day, around 700,000 barrels of crude oil leave the Bakken region by rail, heading for refineries across the U.S. and Canada. In response to recent train accidents, the U.S. Department of Transportation released an emergency order last May requiring railroad companies to notify state emergency response officials when they plan to move oil train cars through a state. This applies only to trains carrying Bakken crude in excess of 1 million gallons. California’s legislation, if signed into law, would provide broader protections. The bill would apply to trains carrying more than 1 million gallons of any hazardous material.


Wanted: Astronomer with Top Secret Clearance
NASA’s orbiting James Webb Space Telescope will be “the premier observatory of the next decade, serving thousands of astronomers worldwide, and studying every phase in the history of our Universe, ranging from the first luminous glows after the Big Bang, to the formation of solar systems capable of supporting life on planets like Earth, to the evolution of our own Solar System.” So why does its Director need to have a Top Secret/SCI security clearance, as specified in the job description posted last month on USA Jobs? Clearly, the secrets of the universe do not lend themselves to, or require, national security classification controls, let alone non-disclosure agreements or polygraph testing.


Senator demands US courts recover 10 years of online public records
The head of the powerful Senate Judiciary Committee is urging the federal bureaucracy to restore a decade’s worth of electronic court documents that were deleted last month from online viewing because of an upgrade to a computer database known as PACER. Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Patrick Leahy (D-Vermont) said the removal of the thousands of cases from online review is essentially erasing history. “Wholesale removal of thousands of cases from PACER, particularly from four of our federal courts of appeals, will severely limit access to information not only for legal practitioners, but also for legal scholars, historians, journalists, and private litigants for whom PACER has become the go-to source for most court filings,” Leahy wrote Friday to US District Judge John D. Bates, the director of the Administrative Office of the Courts.


Libraries:

Taking A Long-Overdue Sledgehammer To The Public Library
The day after the Oakland Public Library reopens after a long weekend, branch manager Nick Raymond doesn’t have time to talk. “I could give you maybe five seconds,” he says good-naturedly before returning to the flocking patrons. It’s a scene more typical of a blockbuster opening at a movie theater than a dip in print material circulation–a tactile solution to digital disruption. But many see it as a natural extension of their core mission to serve communities through the collective buying power of tax dollars. And community needs have changed.

Some libraries have broadened their collections in response to a dip in print material circulation–a tactile solution to digital disruption. But many see it as a natural extension of their core mission to serve communities through the collective buying power of tax dollars. And community needs have changed.


Privacy Issues:

Health-Related Data Mining Growing; Lawmakers Consider Action
Data mining companies are using social media websites, health-related mobile applications and medical websites to collect health information on tens of millions of U.S. residents. According to Bloomberg, data aggregating firms are using consumers’ online activity to acquire information about their medical histories and pharmacy purchases. That information
then is used to create directories or lists categorized by diagnoses or symptoms. For example, some of these directories include:
A list of 2.3 million cancer patients;
A list of 14 million individuals who suffer from depression; and
A list of 600,000 homes in which a person has autism or attention deficit disorder.
Such directories generally sell for about $0.15 per name.

In February, Sens. Edward Markey (D-Mass.) and Jay Rockefeller (D-Va.) introduced a bill (S 2025) that would allow individuals to see what data companies have collected on them and make it easier for consumers to opt out of being included in such directories.


Internet Access:

From reddit to Pornhub, Websites Slow Down for Net Neutrality on September 10
You know the net neutrality conversation is breaking new ground when even the porn sites are weighing in. And that’s just what we’re seeing: Major adult platforms Pornhub and Redtube are joining an online protest on September 10, calling for stronger protections for net neutrality. They’re teaming up with dozens of digital rights organizations, including EFF, Demand Progress, and Fight for the Future, as well as other Internet companies like Etsy, reddit and Mozilla, in a digital day of action designed to bring the net neutrality debate to hundreds of thousands of Internet users worldwide.

Net neutrality—the idea that Internet service providers (ISPs) should treat all data that travels over their networks equally—got major attention this Spring when the FCC released proposed regulatory guidelines that left Internet users and companies alike deeply concerned. The proposal included new language giving ISPs leeway to create a “fast lane” for certain websites (i.e. websites with deep pockets that were willing to shell out more money for faster access to users). But you can’t have a fast lane without also having a slower lane. That’s why the protest on September 10 will showcase a slow-lane Internet, by putting graphics of “page loading” warnings on participating sites.


Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety.
The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.

Taxonomy of Pandora

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2014/09/6982/ September 18, 2014 Categories: Bayline, Chapter Programs & Events Tags: events

Eric Bieschke, Chief Scientist & VP of Music Operations at Pandora, joined the streaming media company in 2000, as the second employee, and developed the initial algorithms that deliver customized music selections to more than 250 million registered users. For the past 14 years he has lead teams of data scientists, music and comedy curators, playlist engineers and music analysts. These teams study the science of music characteristics, constantly working to improve recommendations for listeners based on data derived from numerous sources.

Please join us, September 25, 2014 at Ozumo in Oakland, as Eric Bieschke will present an overview of the classification of musical characteristics in the context of Pandora’s Music Genome Project and the science of playlist engineering.

When: Thursday, September 25th, 2014

Agenda:

5:30 – 6:30 Registration, networking and appetizers
SLA/SF Chapter Professional Development: Essentials of Project Management

SLA/SF Chapter Professional Development: Essentials of Project Management

In-person workshop with Dede Bruno, PMP

This half-day workshop will benefit your professional development and support your projects big or small.

You will learn:

- Best practices for running your projects smoothly
- How to recognize a competent project manager to ensure your project succeeds
- What it takes to get a credential in project management

Our presenter Jeanne (Dede) Bruno is an experienced, certified Project Management Professional (PMP) who has worked on major projects at the University of California, Visa and AT&T. You can see her profile at https://www.linkedin.com/in/jeannebrunopmp

Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2014

Time: 8:30am-noon (Pacific)

Location: Mechanics Institute, 57 Post Street, SF (near Montgomery BART)

Light refreshments will be served at the beginning of the session

SLA Program Costs:

- $50 for SLA, ALA, BayNet, NOCALL, & SIIA members; $75 for non-members/guests
- $15 for students/retirees/unemployed

Thank you to our generous sponsor!

This program has passed

(Note: You do not need a PayPal account to register through this PayPal-administered site.)

Registration deadline is Wednesday, October 15, 2014

Mail-In Payment Form – Professional Development: Essentials of Project Management


Please print this form to register by mail by sending this portion with your check to:

Chris Orr
Check enclosed for $__________ ($50 for SLA members, $75 for non-members and guests, and $15 for students, retired, and unemployed)

Event Refund Policy: After careful review, the Executive Board of the SF Bay Region Chapter of SLA has decided that we cannot accommodate refunds or “rain checks” for our events (this includes programs, tours, professional development workshops, etc.) Some reasons why:

- Our chapter does not make a profit on our events.
- We subsidize our events because it is important to us to be able to keep our attendance fees low.
- We are required to pay in advance for food and venues, and these costs are frequently based on head count. Therefore, we’ve already paid for your attendance.
- As a volunteer organization we are just not staffed to be able to keep track of refunds or attendance for future events.

If you’ve paid for an event you find you cannot attend, please consider the following:

- Post a notice on our discussion board inviting a member to take your place
- Think of it a tax-free donation to our organization

For more information, contact

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University of California Office of the President
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Intersect Alert September 21, 2014


Take Action!!

Support Diego Gomez, Join the Global Open Access Movement

 Colombian master’s student Diego Gomez faces up to eight years in prison and crippling monetary fines for sharing another academic’s master’s thesis with his colleagues online. He recently attended his first preliminary hearing for this case, where the paper’s author is pressing charges against Diego under Colombia’s stringent criminal copyright provisions. Academics and students send and post articles online like this every day – it is simply the norm in scholarly communication. And yet inflexible digital policies, paired with senseless and outdated practices, have led to such extreme cases like Diego’s. Sign your support for Diego and the ideal of open, unfettered access to knowledge that he stands for!

Intellectual Property:

Bill Introduced in Congress to Let You Actually Own Things, Even if They Contain Software

Time and again, people who want to modify their own property or sell it to others are told that they can’t, because their property comes saddled with copyrighted code they’re not allowed to modify or give away when they are done with the device. At last, someone in Congress has noticed how “intellectual property rights” are showing up in unexpected places and undermining our settled rights and expectation about the things we buy. Today, Representative Farenthold announced the introduction of the You Own Devices Act (YODA). If a computer program enables a device to operate, YODA would let you transfer ownership of a copy of that computer program along with the device. The law would override any agreement to the contrary (like the one-sided and
standards if and when compliance costs for polluters and other science shows to be unhealthy air quality. This requirement the benefits of affording healthy air to all Americans. The bills compel EPA to establish unhealthy smog health always has been the centerpiece of the Clean Air Act. Instead, Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) and others. Both Senator John Thune (R-SD) co-sponsored the Senate bill with Republicans introduced legislation this week bent on abolishing the 44-year-old health foundation for the Clean Air Act and eliminating Americans’ right to breathe safe air. The Treasury Department has extended a deal with Comerica Bank to distribute benefits to the elderly and disabled on payment cards despite vowing last year to seek a new vendor for the program, which exposed poor and elderly Americans to fraud. Treasury’s inspector general plans to review the selection process that led to another contract with Comerica, his counsel said in an email Monday. The Treasury paid Comerica an extra $32.5 million for work the bank had promised to do for free. Treasury hired Comerica to distribute benefits payments as part of a plan to push people into using electronic payments. The goal was to cut the cost to the government of printing and mailing paper checks. More than 5 million Americans now use the Direct Express card whose fees are lower than those charged by store-front check cashers. Thousands of poor people who never requested the cards received them anyway, likely causing them to pay more fees than necessary.

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An Extreme Congressional Attack on Americans’ Right to Breathe Healthy Air
Some conservative members of the Senate and House of Representatives introduced legislation this week bent on abolishing the 44-year-old health foundation for the Clean Air Act and eliminating Americans’ right to breathe safe air. Senator John Thune (R-SD) co-sponsored the Senate bill with Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) and others. Both bills would force the U.S. EPA to abandon the Clean Air Act’s 44-year-old requirement to set national health standards for smog pollution based solely on what health and medical science shows to be unhealthy air quality. This requirement always has been the centerpiece of the Clean Air Act. Instead, the bills compel EPA to establish unhealthy smog health standards if and when compliance costs for polluters and other non-economic considerations are deemed to outweigh the benefits of affording healthy air to all Americans. In trying to weaken the Clean Air Act so radically, the legislation must resort to overturning a unanimous Supreme Court decision (authored by conservative Justice Antonin Scalia, no less) that confirmed the Clean Air Act requires clean air health standards for Americans to be based exclusively on medical science.

Private Lawsuit Jeopardizes State Secrets, US Says
The U.S. Government asserted the state secrets privilege last week in a private lawsuit to which the government is not a party and moved for dismissal of the case. Greek businessman Victor Restis had filed a lawsuit last year against the private advocacy group United Against Nuclear Iran (UANI), alleging that the group had falsely and maliciously accused Restis of engaging in illicit commerce with Iran. UANI, whose advisory board includes numerous former government officials, said the Restis complaint was “meritless.” On Friday, an unidentified agency within the U.S. Government asserted the state secrets privilege in the case, for reasons that were not disclosed, and asked the court to dismiss the entire proceeding. “A formal claim of privilege has been asserted by the head of the concerned federal agency based upon his or her personal consideration of the matter,” according to an unclassified memorandum filed by the government. “The identity of the concerned federal agency, the particular information at issue, and the bases for the assertion of the state secrets privilege cannot be disclosed without revealing classified and privileged matters.”

Bible-pushing Christians open the door for Satanic activity books in Florida schools
The Satanic Temple has responded to an Orange County, Florida decision to disseminate religious materials in public school by creating complementary materials that espouse the philosophy and practice of Satanism. Last month, a Florida judge ruled that if the Orange County school district allowed Christian groups to disseminate Bibles and Christian-oriented religious materials in its schools, it would also have to allow atheist groups to do the same. David Williamson of the Central Florida Free Thought Community – who recently fought against Brevard County’s attempt to ban atheists from offering invocations at public meetings – sued the district over its initial unwillingness to allow atheist literature with titles like “Jesus Is Dead” and “Why I Am Not a Muslim” in the schools. A judge dismissed that case after the school board decided to allow the materials. The Satanic Temple took advantage of this decision, deciding to flood Orange County schools with a pamphlet entitled The Satanic Children’s Big Book of Activities that contains kid-friendly Satanic lessons.

http://www.foreffectivegov.org/blog/extreme-congressional-attack-americans-right-breathe-healthy-air.


http://www.foreffectivegov.org/blog/extreme-congressional-attack-americans-right-breathe-healthy-air.

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Libraries:

LAUSD’s students need better libraries, not iPads

Like Supt. John Deasy and others in the Los Angeles Unified School District, I am concerned about the educational civil rights of the district’s students. While the iPad-for-every-student controversy has gotten much media coverage lately, a long-term problem has gotten very little attention: the lack of equal access to a quality school library. A 19-month investigation by the U.S. Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights concluded in 2011 that thousands of LAUSD students were being denied equal educational opportunities, which included libraries with sufficient books and staffing. Although the research is inconclusive regarding the results of providing every child a laptop, it is overwhelming positive for providing students well-stocked, well-staffed school libraries.


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Publishing:

Publishers Gave Away 122,951,031 Books During World War II

In 1943, in the middle of the Second World War, America’s book publishers took an audacious gamble. They decided to sell the armed forces cheap paperbacks, shipped to units scattered around the globe. Instead of printing only the books soldiers and sailors actually wanted to read, though, publishers decided to send them the best they had to offer. Over the next four years, publishers gave away 122,951,031 copies of their most valuable titles.

“Some of the publishers think that their business is going to be ruined,” the prominent broadcaster H. V. Kaltenborn told his audience in 1944. “But I make this prediction. America’s publishers have cooperated in an experiment that will for the first time make us a nation of book readers.” He was absolutely right. From small Pacific islands to sprawling European depots, soldiers discovered the addictive delights of good books. By giving away the best it had to offer, the publishing industry created a vastly larger market for its wares. More importantly, it also democratized the pleasures of reading, making literature, poetry, and history available to all.


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Digital History:

Nearly 60,000 items from the Medical Heritage Library now available in DPLA

The Medical Heritage Library (MHL) and DPLA are pleased to announce that Medical Heritage Library (MHL) content can now be discovered through DPLA. The MHL, a specialized research collection stored in the Internet Archive, currently includes nearly 60,000 digital rare books, serials, audio and video recordings, and ephemera in the history of medicine, public health, biomedical sciences, and popular medicine from the medical special collections of 22 academic, special, and public libraries. MHL materials have been selected through a rigorous process of curation by subject specialist librarians and archivists and through consultation with an advisory committee of scholars in the history of medicine, public health, gender studies, digital humanities, and related fields. Items, selected for their educational and research value, extend from 1235 to 2014 with the bulk of the materials dating from the 19th century.


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International Outlook:

Court Lets Cisco Systems Off the Hook for Helping China Detain, Torture Religious Minorities

Chinese citizens who suffered forced detention, torture, and a panoply of brutal human rights abuses at the hands of the Chinese government have been engaged in a high profile court case against Silicon Valley mainstay Cisco Systems for many years. Those Chinese citizens suffered yet another indignity in a California court a couple of weeks ago: a district judge dismissed the case against Cisco without even giving them the chance to gather evidence on the key point where the court found them wanting. The court noted that even though Cisco may have designed and developed the Golden Shield system for the purpose of tracking, identifying and facilitating the capture of Chinese religious minorities, Cisco would not be held liable because it didn’t do enough in the U.S. to facilitate human rights abuses.

The case seems high tech – it’s about Cisco’s Golden Shield, a set of sophisticated technologies that include specific purpose-built parts for persecution of the Falun Gong. But it’s actually fairly simple: at what point does a company that intentionally builds tools that are specially designed for governmental human rights abuses become liable for the use of those tools for their intended (and known) purposes?


Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety.

The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.
Intersect Alert September 28, 2014


Privacy:

Medical Data Worth More on Black Market Than Credit Cards
Patients’ medical information is worth about 10 times more than credit card numbers on the black market, and medical identity theft often is harder to recognize, according to cybersecurity experts, Reuters reports. In interviews with Reuters, nearly a dozen health care executives, cybersecurity investigators and fraud experts explained the appeal of health care data for cyber criminals. Don Jackson — director of threat intelligence at PhishLabs, a cybercrime protection company — said that stolen health credentials can be sold on the black market for $10 each, or about 10 or 20 times more than the price of a U.S. credit card number. According to Reuters, medical data theft is not as easy to identify as credit card theft, meaning thieves have more time to reap benefits.


Freedom of Information:

Marine Corps settles dispute with whistleblower
A military scientific adviser whose pay and security clearances were suspended after he exposed the Marine Corps’ disinterest in building lifesaving, heavily-armored, troop carriers settled his employment dispute with the Corps on Sept. 25, after reaching an agreement that he and his attorney described as a victory. Under the terms of the settlement, Franz Gayl, whose complaints about the Corps attracted wide attention on Capitol Hill, will be appointed to a Marine Corps commission assigned to develop new policies for handling Marine whistleblowers. It is unprecedented for a whistleblower to be appointed to help a government agency develop policy for whistleblower rights. Gayl incurred the wrath of the Corps after he called attention in 2007 to the Corps’ failure to act on a request by U.S. officers in Iraq for a troop carrier that would afford better protection against roadside bombs. Had such vehicles been available to troops in 2005, when they were first requested, Gayl alleged, hundreds of soldiers’ lives could have been saved.


Libraries:

Four Universities Selected as Finalists to Host Obama Library
The Barack Obama Foundation (BOF) announced on September 15 that four academic institutions have qualified as potential sites for the Barack Obama Presidential Library. Columbia University, the University of Hawaii, the University of Chicago, and the University of Illinois at Chicago were selected from among a pool of 13 applicants who responded to the BOF’s Request for Qualifications issued March 2014. The four will now respond to a Request for Proposal detailing “the proposed management and organization of the project, site development plans, community partnerships, potential for academic collaboration, marketing and attraction strategy, and information about any financial and other commitments from the host or other partners.” Completed proposals will be due on December 11. The BOF will then evaluate the proposals, with the president and first lady making the final decision.

http://lj.libraryjournal.com/2014/09/industry-news/four-universities-selected-as-finalists-to-host-obama-library/#.

Digital History:

Washington University Libraries Builds Ferguson Digital Archives
The library at Washington University in St. Louis is building a digital repository called “Documenting Ferguson.” The collection will provide the community with a space to save the media they’ve captured since the death of Michael Brown. The online collection is open for anyone to contribute material. The archive will accept photos, audio, video, and written stories. Shannon Davis is the Digital Projects Librarian at Washington University. She says it’s important to capture this material now before it disappears. “Since all of these events are being captured on such temporal media you know cell phones and
Twitter and blogs and everything, we wanted to make sure that these images aren’t lost.”


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International Outlook:

Australian Government Scrambles to Authorize Mass Surveillance

This week, Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott used recent terrorist threats as the backdrop of a dire warning to Australians that “for some time to come, the delicate balance between freedom and security may have to shift. There may be more restrictions on some, so that there can be more protection for others.” This pronouncement came as two of a series of three bills effecting that erosion of freedoms made their way through Australia’s Federal Parliament. These were the second reading of a National Security Amendment Bill which grants new surveillance powers to Australia’s spy agency, ASIO, and the first reading of a Counter-Terrorism Legislation Amendment (Foreign Fighters) Bill that outlaws speech seen as “advocating terrorism.” A third bill on mandatory data retention is expected to be be introduced by the end of the year.


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Public Policy:

Research Institutions Will Have To Identify ‘Dual-Use’ Pathogens

Any research institution that receives federal funding will soon have to screen certain kinds of scientific experiments to see if the work could potentially be misused to endanger the public. The new policy will take effect next year, and it’s the latest effort by the U. S. government to come to grips with so called “dual-use” biological research—legitimate medical or public health studies that could reveal how to make already-worrisome germs or toxins even more destructive.

Only a small number of experiments are expected to raise this type of concern; one official said a recent review of already-funded research found only a handful of projects. But some of this research, including a lab-altered bird flu virus, has proven hugely contentious, with scientists sharply divided on whether it should even be done.


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U.S. Senate passes bill curtailing conflicts of interest in security clearance contracts

Private companies typically don’t fill out their own customer satisfaction surveys, and teachers are not generally allowed to pen their own evaluations. But the federal government sometimes pays contractors to perform quality checks on their own work, with predictably abusive consequences. On Sept. 19, however, half the Congress voted unanimously to prevent federal contractors that process security clearances from conducting quality reviews of their own work. The bill does not have a sponsor in the House of Representatives, but Sen. Jon Tester, D-Mont., the principal Senate author, said via a spokesperson that he is working to find one.


Poisoned Peanuts: Verdict Sends Strong Message to Food Company Executives

The guilty verdicts handed down on Sept. 19 in the unprecedented federal criminal case against senior officials of the Peanut Corporation of America (PCA) should send a strong message to food company executives – you can and will be held criminally responsible for deliberately risking the health and safety of the American public for the sake of profits. The case stems from the 2008 national outbreak of Salmonella poisoning from contaminated peanuts and peanut products that were traced to PCA. A subsequent inspection of PCA production plants in Georgia and Texas by Food and Drug Administration (FDA) inspectors found roaches, rats, mold, dirt, bird droppings, and accumulated grease in the plants, among other problems that contributed to the contamination.

At least nine people died and over 700 people were sickened, some critically, from eating contaminated food, which included Kellogg products. Based on previous studies of the number of unreported foodborne illnesses, the total number of unreported cases likely exceeded 22,000. PCA ultimately filed for bankruptcy in 2009, and a $12 million compensation fund was established to settle a class action lawsuit.


Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety.

The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.

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Meet the Board Nominees for the 2015 San Francisco Bay Region SLA Chapter
On behalf of the Nominating Committee for the San Francisco Bay Region Chapter of SLA, I would like to present our slate of Chapter officer candidates for 2015:

- Hilary Schiraldi for President-Elect
- Lori Austin for Secretary
- Craig Cruz Jr. for Assistant Director of Programs

Please join me in congratulating Hilary, Lori and Craig on their nominations. A ballot will be sent in October for the chapter Board election. A short bio of each candidate follows below:

**Hilary Schiraldi** is Head of UC Berkeley’s Thomas J. Long Business Library, where she has been working since 2008. Before coming to Berkeley she was an Information Research Associate at Credit Suisse in New York. She has also held research positions at Forbes Magazine and at an independent brokerage.

Hilary was a member of New York chapter from 2003-2007 and has been a member of San Francisco Chapter since 2008, serving as Tour Coordinator from 2010-2011 and Programs Chair from 2011-2012. She has been a member of SLA’s Business & Finance Division since 2003.

Hilary has an M.S. in L.I.S. from Pratt Institute and a B.A. from Columbia University.

**Lori Austin** has been a member of SLA since 2010 when she won a student stipend from the Division of Petroleum and Energy Resources (DPER) to attend the annual SLA conference. She got hooked on SLA and has been a member ever since. Lori has been the membership director of DPER since 2011.

Lori earned her MLIS from SJSU in December 2012 and is currently pursuing a Certificate in Digital Archives and Records Management from SJSU. She works at PG&E where she writes and manages contracts for telecommunication customers. Lori also works as a part-time librarian for Alameda County Public Library.

Lori is the president of the PG&E Legacy Employee Resource Group. Before her current position she served as secretary of the group for three years.

**Craig Cruz Jr.** is a corporate librarian with a background in health information. He worked as Library Manager for nearly 10 years at the patient education publisher Krames StayWell. Now, he’s using his cataloging and research experience to explore the worlds of taxonomy and data analysis.

He earned an MLIS from San Jose State University and served as BayNet President from 2007-2008. He’s been a member of SLA since 2003. His other interests include learning about music, playing the violin, and recently, coding in Python.

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**Intersect Alert October 6, 2014**

**Government Information**

**Legislative Research for Congressional Staff: How to Find**

“This report is one of a series of reports on legislative process and research; it is intended to serve as a finding aid to sources..."
of information, such as documents, news articles, analysis, contacts and services, used in legislative research. It does not define or describe the purpose of various government documents; that information can be found in companion CRS Report R41865, Legislative History Research: A Guide to Resources for Congressional Staff, and CRS Report RL33895, Researching Current Federal Legislation and Regulations: A Guide to Resources for Congressional Staff. This report is not intended to be a definitive list of all resources, but rather a guide to pertinent subscriptions available in the House and Senate in addition to select resources freely available to the public. This report is intended for use by Members and congressional office staff and will be updated annually.”

http://fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R43434.pdf?

Restoring Access to Information on Pacer

“The judiciary will restore full electronic access to identical documents, opinions, or filings have been lost or destroyed.”


Privacy

How to Remove ComputerCOP

“As EFF outlined in a special report, ComputerCOP is a piece of “Internet Safety” software of dubious value that law enforcement agencies around the country have distributed to families for free. One of the main components of the software is KeyAlert, a keystroke-capturing function that records everything a user types.”

“KeyAlert has two major functions. First, it logs keystrokes on the user’s hard drive. Second, it allows the person installing the software to set certain keywords. Whenever those keywords are typed, the computer sends an email with those keystrokes to the person who installed the software.”

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2014/09/computercop-howto

Facebook Increases its Tracking Reach with Atlas, and Users Have Little Choice About It

“Update (10/2/14): Facebook requested and we agreed to add that many of the problems we list in our post are industry-wide issues, from collection of users’ browsing habits, to the collection of consumer purchase information for “conversion tracking,” to offering an “opt out” that does not protect consumers against the collection and retention of data. We encourage Facebook to join companies like Pinterest, Twitter, and Medium in stopping collection of data from users’ browsing habits when Do Not Track is enabled.”

“Facebook expanded its ever-growing advertising and tracking reach this week with new integration between the giant social network and Atlas, an advertising platform it purchased from Microsoft. The company now lets advertisers target you across all of your devices and on participating websites, based on characteristics from your Facebook profile such as age, gender,
and location. It will also attempt to track the products you buy both online and off, in order to measure the ads’ effects on our purchases.”

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2014/10/facebook-increases-its-tracking-reach-atlas-and-users-have-little-choice-about-it

Libraries

The Comeback Kids: Library by Design

“When the Cedar River breached its banks in 2008 to flood downtown Cedar Rapids, IA, the entire first floor of the two-story Cedar Rapids Public Library (CRPL) Downtown Branch drowned in the deluge.”

“The natural disaster occurred at the start of the recession, causing the library’s Board of Trustees to question whether it could find the funds to relocate and replace the building, says Susan Corrigan, a library board member. “You kind of forget what the dark days looked like, but we had some really dark days,” says Corrigan. However, ultimately the board was successful. Corrigan headed up the Building Committee and served as board president while the new facility was constructed.”

“The new $45 million, 94,000 square foot Downtown Branch opened in August 2013, sitting 28 inches above the record-breaking high-water mark. The replacement building includes expanded space for children and teens and offers flexible meeting and gathering space, a café, a green roof, and an auditorium, along with views of the nearby park and cityscape. It’s certified U.S. Green Building Council Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) Platinum and has won at least five architecture awards, according to designers OPN Architects.”


Coming Soon to the Library: Humanoid Robots

“WESTPORT, Conn.—They have blinking eyes and an unnerving way of looking quizzically in the direction of whoever is speaking. They walk, dance and can talk in 19 different languages. About the height of a toddler, they look like bigger, better-dressed cousins of Buzz Lightyear.”

“And soon, “Vincent” and “Nancy” will be buzzing around the Westport Library, where officials next week will announce the recent acquisition of the pair of humanoid “NAO Evolution” robots. Their primary purpose: to teach the kind of coding and computer-programming skills required to animate such machines.”

http://online.wsj.com/articles/coming-soon-to-the-library-humanoid-robots-1412015687

E-Books

The Hidden Costs of E-books at University Libraries

“For the past few years, both the California State University and the University of California libraries have been experimenting with packages that replace paper books with e-books. The advantages are obvious. With e-books, you no longer have to schlep to a library to take out a book. You just log on from whatever device connects you to the web, at whatever time and in whatever state of dress, and voila! the book appears on your screen.”

“But the real attraction is price. Library budgets, along with university budgets, have been slashed, and such companies as Pearson and Elsevier offer e-book packages that make it possible to gain access (I’ll explain the awkward syntax in a moment) to lots of books at what seems like a minimal cost. The savings are multiplied when the package serves the entire system. So instead of each campus buying a paper book, all 23 CSU’s, for instance, share a single e-book. That’s the theory, at least. The reality is very different.”


Knowledge Should Not Be Trapped Behind A Paywall: Get Ready For Open Access Week

“Open Access Week is less than a month away! Now in its eighth year, Open Access Week is an international event that celebrates the wide-ranging benefits of enabling open access to information and research—as well as the dangerous costs of keeping knowledge locked behind publisher paywalls.”

“From October 20 to 26, academics, researchers, and curious minds everywhere will be encouraged to learn about the various hurdles to open knowledge and share stories of positive advancements in the effort to make open access the norm in scholarship and research.”

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2014/10/knowledge-should-not-be-trapped-behind-paywall-get-ready-open-access-week

Share this:
Yahoo Drama

SLA HDQ and the chapter have been experiencing ongoing problems with Yahoo email addresses.

We would like to advise you that if you subscribe to the SLA-SF chapter discussion list and use a Yahoo e-mail account, your messages to and from may not go through. HQ and the various divisions are aware of the problem, but since it is a Yahoo issue, there is nothing we can do.

In order that you not miss messages that are important to you, and so that you can successfully post messages to our discussion list, we recommend you use an alternate e-mail address other than Yahoo.

Here are the instructions for subscribing to the SLA-SF Discussion List:

**Subscribing to SLA-CSFO**

There are two ways to join SLA-CSFO, regular or digest. With a regular subscription, you receive every message that is sent to the discussion list, message by message, as each is sent to the discussion list. With a Digest subscription, you will receive a daily digest of all messages.

To subscribe to the regular SLA-CSFO list, send an e-mail to sla-csfo@sla.lyris.net. Leave the subject space blank. In the body of the message, type:

```
Subscribe SLA-CSFO [your email] [your first name] [your last name]
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To subscribe to the digest, send a message to digest-sla-csfo@lists.sla.net. Leave the subject space blank. In the body of the message, type:

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Subscribe SLA-CSFO [your email] [your first name] [your last name]
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You should receive an e-mail requesting confirmation of your subscription within a few minutes. Please save the welcome message you receive. It contains information that you may want later. If you do not receive such a message within 24 hours, please send an e-mail to sla-csfo-owner@lists.sla.net.

If you have questions, please contact Linda Yamamoto linda[yamamoto]gmail[dot]com

Best regards,

Jaye Lapachet, SLA-SF President Elect

Donna Purvis, SLA-SF Secretary

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Intersect Alert October 12, 2014

**Libraries**

**The Secret Stars of the San Francisco Public Library**

“We’re sure it’s a bit of a coincidence, but after years of visiting different branches of the San Francisco Public Library, we started to discover that there are some incredibly talented people who work behind the desks, shelve the books and keep order in the world of reference materials. We set out to meet just a few of the astonishing number of musicians, artists and other creative types who dutifully serve the public every day.”


**Clinton Library Details Upcoming Release**

“Long-secret files about the pardon of billionaire Marc Rich, the death of White House attorney Vince Foster and former first lady Hillary Clinton’s failed health care reform effort are set to emerge on Friday, the National Archives said Wednesday.”

“President Bill Clinton’s library in Little Rock, Arkansas, said it plans to release about 9,800 pages of previously withheld material online at 1 p.m. Eastern.”

“The list of topics made public on Wednesday confirmed much of a POLITICO story in August that detailed highlights of the forthcoming release. That article said the records include details of an early White House meeting that gave rise to the “don’t ask, don’t tell” policy on gays in the military, a
crackdown on militia groups that followed the bombing of the Oklahoma City federal building, and advice the Clintons received on handling the Whitewater controversy.”


Digital History

The Scan Plan: Our Strategy to Digitize the Vast Holdings of the National Archives

“The National Archives’ Strategic Plan includes a simple, but audacious initiative: to digitize our analog records and make them available for online public access. We have over 12 billion pages of records, so yes, this is our moon shot.”

“To achieve this goal, we know we need to think in radically new ways about our processes, and we have started by creating a new digitization strategy. From the time we published our 2008 digitization strategy through today, we have scanned over 230 million objects. This is a huge number, but we have a long road ahead. Our new strategy pushes us further.”

http://blogs.archives.gov/aotus/?p=5717

Privacy

Librarians Won’t Stay Quiet About Government Surveillance

“In September 2003, Attorney General John Ashcroft called out the librarians. The American Library Association and civil liberties groups, he said, were pushing “baseless hysteria” about the controversial Patriot Act. He suggested that they were worried that spy agencies wanted to know ‘how far you have gotten on the latest Tom Clancy novel.’ ”

“Ashcroft was 17 speeches into a national speaking tour defending the Patriot Act, a law expanding government surveillance powers that passed nearly unanimously in the wake of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. And all along the way, the librarians showed up to protest.”


Librarians, IT Experts Respond to Adobe Spying Accusations

“Adobe this week confirmed reports that it has been logging data on the reading activity of people who use the free Adobe Digital Editions service, and that the company has been transmitting those logs to its servers as unencrypted text files, raising privacy and security concerns. OverDrive, Baker & Taylor’s Axis 360 platform, and the 3M Cloud Library all use Adobe Digital Editions and Adobe digital rights management (DRM) to secure popular fiction and nonfiction ebook titles for downloadable lending.”

“Michael Bills, Baker & Taylor’s director of sales, digital products, acknowledged that many leading ebook platforms use Adobe DRM, and added that “privacy rights are of paramount concern to Baker & Taylor and its customers. Baker & Taylor is currently working with customers, and Adobe, on any questions or concerns.” OverDrive is also in contact with Adobe and monitoring the situation, according to David Burleigh, director of marketing and communication.”


Publishing

The Next Wave of Tech Change | Self-Publishing & Libraries

“Over the past 30 years or so, there have been several waves of technological change in the library world. First was the replacement of the card-based catalog and circulation system with the integrated library system (ILS). Second was the replacement of paper journals with electronic databases. Third was the adoption of the PC. Fourth was the rise of the World Wide Web. Fifth was a sort of echo of the first, in which automation reached a little deeper into our processes, replacing manual checkin and checkout with RFID-based self-check and automated materials handling.”

“The sixth is an expansion of the second: the rise of the ebook and the final culmination of the shift to digital publishing for media of all sorts. The focus of this column will be a consequence of this last wave: the game-changing growth of self-publishing and what that means for libraries.”


International Outlook

Israeli Library’s Manuscripts Tell Unique Stories

JERUSALEM (AP) — “These are treasures that Israel doesn’t allow anyone to check out of its national library.”

“Kafka’s Hebrew vocabulary notebook. The first written evidence of the Yiddish language. And the Crowns of Damascus, Bibles smuggled out of Syria 20 years ago in a Mossad spy operation so classified that their very existence in Israel was kept secret for years.”
“Many nations maintain official libraries of their countries’ most prized historical manuscripts. Israel’s is unique: It seeks manuscripts from every country in the world where Jews have ever lived.”


Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety. The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.

Share this:

Intersect Alert October 19, 2014


Open Access

On Electronic Records Day, Looking Forward to a More Digital, Open Future for Public Records

“Electronic Records Day is an initiative of the Council of State Archivists aimed at raising awareness around the importance of managing and preserving electronic records. It’s a topic that can use all the awareness it can receive. Despite living in an increasingly digital world, state and municipal governments are often caught ignoring or outright avoiding the importance of electronic records, even when those records are a key part of documenting the decision-making process. We see this in the continued stories from around the country about struggles over whether and how to preserve government emails and issues around using private email or text-messaging accounts for decision-making conversations to avoid public records laws.”

http://sunlightfoundation.com/blog/2014/10/10/on-electronic-records-day-looking-forward-to-a-more-digital-open-future-for-public-records/

All Five of the Largest U.S. Cities Now Have Open Data Policies

“Houston recently joined the rest of the top-five largest cities in the country in having an open data policy.”

“New York City, Los Angeles and Chicago — the three largest cities in the country — and Philadelphia — the fifth-largest city — all had open data policies by the end of 2013. Now, Houston — the fourth-largest city — has joined those ranks on Sept. 18 with an open data policy signed by the mayor.”

“Houston already has an open data portal with more than 160 datasets spanning a range of topics. The policy aims to help ensure that the city’s more than 2.1 million residents receive timely access to usable data being released online through that portal.”

“How does Houston’s policy stack up to best practices?”

http://sunlightfoundation.com/blog/2014/10/15/all-five-of-the-largest-u-s-cities-now-have-open-data-policies/

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Copyright

Public Knowledge Comments on Georgia State E-reserves Appeals Decision

“Today, the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals issued a decision on Georgia State’s copying of excerpts of scholarly works into its electronic reserve system. The 11th Circuit largely agreed that the copying of texts into the e-reserves system tended towards fair use, but found that the district court applied the fair use factors improperly.”


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Privacy

Comcast Customer Files Lawsuit, Claims Comcast Violated Federal Privacy Law

“On Thursday, a Comcast customer filed a lawsuit in federal court alleging that Comcast shared his personal information with a third party without his consent, in violation of the cable privacy provisions of the Communications Act.”

“The plaintiff, Conal O’Rourke, claims that after a series of calls with Comcast’s customer service department, Comcast complained to his employer about him and he was fired from his job. The lawsuit filed yesterday is based on the same alleged series of events. Mr. O’Rourke claims that he did not authorize Comcast to disclose his information to anyone else, but Comcast nevertheless disclosed personally identifying information about Mr. O’Rourke, including his name, to PricewaterhouseCoopers, where Mr. O’Rourke worked.”
Digital Locks Can Cost You Your Privacy

“On Monday, the Digital Reader revealed (confirmed in detail by Ars Technica here) that Adobe’s ebook reader, Adobe Digital Editions, was reporting the reading habits of its users, and the contents of their digital libraries, to Adobe.”

“All of this information was sent in plain text, unencrypted, over the Internet, making it trivial to intercept. Not only does the reader apparently report on all of the books and authors the user is reading, it also reports exactly what pages you’ve read, and when.”

A TSA Checkpoint for your Internet?

“You can read the brief filed by Public Knowledge and discussed in this blog post here. Special thanks to Shiva Stella, who co-wrote this blog post.”

“If you’ve traveled internationally, you’ve probably had the fun and enjoyable experience of going through customs. The long lines, the drug-sniffing dogs, the agents searching your bags for fruits. It’s not terribly hard to find horror stories of going through customs.”

“Now imagine that all your web page visits were subject to customs too.”

5 Reasons You Should Have a Library Card

“That might surprise you, but here are 5 reasons why you want a library card to be a great researcher.”

“1. Access to online paywall content. My local library gives paywall access to Ancestry.com, Morningstar, online journals, and more. It also provides Hoopla video (https://www.hoopladigital.com/ for downloads, and many free music downloads (lots of popular music, some of which really surprised me—this is free? Yes!). It also provides many different database services: a small listing includes, Academic Onefile (journals, magazines, books, audio – great subject browser), InfoTrac (news and periodical.Updated daily.) Can filter by type, sort by date. General One File and MasterFile Complete (EBSCO). Many libraries have all this, and more.”

2. eBooks. Yes, just like physical books, many libraries support borrowing ebooks and e-magazines, typically with time restrictions on how long you can keep them, and sometimes twitchy software, but free’s free—I’ve read many books that I knew I only wanted for a short time.”

Search

Google Makes Us All Dumber: The Neuroscience of Search Engines

“In 1964, Pablo Picasso was asked by an interviewer about the new electronic calculating machines, soon to become known as computers. He replied, ‘But they are useless. They can only give you answers.’”

“We live in the age of answers. The ancient library at Alexandria was believed to hold the world’s entire store of knowledge. Today, there is enough information in the world for every person alive to be given three times as much as was held in Alexandria’s entire collection—and nearly all of it is available to anyone with an internet connection.”

World Series: SF, KC libraries engage in Dewey Decimal Duel
“On the eve of World Series Game 1 between the Giants and Royals, the San Francisco Public Library and its Kansas City counterpart engaged in a war of words on Twitter. And it’s clear the thesaurus got a workout.”


Paperless patents? Linda Hall Library Thinks Not

“As a product of the digital age, I’ve been conditioned to believe that anything worth saving is worth saving to an external hard drive.”

“Paper can be ripped, lost, swept away, spilled on or destroyed in any number of ways. For me, digital has always been the way preserve information for the future.”

“Luckily, the folks at Linda Hall Library in Kansas City aren’t quite so naïve.”


Surprising Gadgets, Not Just Books, Are Ready for Checkout at College Libraries

“Justin Ellis’s official title at the Georgia Institute of Technology’s library is instructional-technology associate, but he thinks of himself as the gadget guy. He manages a program at the library that lets students and professors check out a growing catalog of computers, cameras, and other electronics—a selection more akin to a Best Buy store than a lending library. A colleague, Ameet Doshi, compares him to the character Q in the James Bond series because he not only has the latest device but is expert at giving ‘the two-minute drill on how to use it.’”


Copyright

Videos Show Value of Code of Best Practices in Fair Use

“Today, October 21, 2014, ARL released three videos on the Code of Best Practices in Fair Use for Academic and Research Libraries, a clear and easy-to-use statement of reasonable approaches to fair use of copyrighted material, developed by and for librarians who support academic inquiry and higher education. With generous support from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the new videos capture how the Code has assisted many communities by providing helpful guidance about the scope of best practice when fair use comes into play.”

“In one video, Greg Cram, associate director of copyright and information policy at the New York Public Library (NYPL), explains how NYPL utilizes the Code in support services and how, for example, the library used the Code in determining whether to digitize a large collection of materials from the 1939–1940 New York World’s Fair. An educational curriculum has been built around this collection and it is widely used in New York City schools. The materials have also been used in a free app, Biblion, that Apple named one of the best education apps of 2011.”


Google Alters Search Results for Takedown Recipients — Should Creators be Worried?

“Last Friday, Google released an updated report on how it combats copyright infringement on the Web. One of the issues that much of the press has focused on is the fact that Google tweaked its search algorithm to downrank search results from sites that have been the target of valid (as judged by Google) DMCA takedown notices.”

“As some have noted, this increases the amount of power that a DMCA takedown notice possesses. While a notice is supposed to create a quick way to take infringing material off of a hosted site, the law doesn’t give it any more weight than that. It’s not a finding or a suggestion that the material is infringing; it doesn’t create penalties in itself for the target, and so on.”

https://www.publicknowledge.org/news-blog/blogs/google-alters-search-results-for-takedown-recipients-should-creators-be-wor#When:20:05:00Z

Privacy

Mayor’s Office Proposes Letting Police Check Out Library Patron Information

“The Omaha Mayor’s Office would like law enforcement officials to be able to access personal information from Omahans’ library cards in emergencies, setting off a debate over patrons’ privacy.”

“Mayor Jean Stothert’s chief of staff, Marty Bilek, appeared before the Omaha Public Library’s board Thursday to ask for a change in the library’s policy.”


How Sacred Are Our Patrons’ Privacy Rights? Answer Carefully | Peer to Peer Review

“My last column addressed some of the tensions that underlie the idea of ‘not letting the perfect be the enemy of the good’ in library leadership, and at the end I promised that my next
would deal in a similar way with trying to balance the occasional tension between problems that are truly important and those that are merely ‘noisy.’”

“However, an issue has come up in the meantime that is more timely and urgent, so I’m putting off the “noisy vs. important” column until next time. This month I want to address the issue of patron privacy in the context of the recent revelations about privacy incursions in the latest version of Adobe Digital Editions (ADE)—specifically, the fact that version 4 of the e-reader software gathers highly specific data about individual users’ reading behavior and transmits it, unencrypted and with all identifying information included as well as other data culled from the user’s machine, back to Adobe. (A very useful running summary of the issue and details about how the situation is quickly evolving can be found at the Digital Reader blog.)”

http://lj.libraryjournal.com/2014/10/opinion/peer-to-peer-review/how-sacred-are-our-patrons-privacy-rights-answer-carefully-peer-to-peer-review/#

Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety. The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.

Intersect Alert November 2, 2014


Privacy

The False Promise of Anonymity

“In recent weeks, multiple apps promising “secret” messaging have had sensitive data exposed by breaches and the apps’ not-so-secret data-sharing practices. This news makes one thing clear: the term “anonymity,” as used by apps that ostensibly enable individuals to post updates anonymously, often promises too much. Many applications promising anonymity collect highly specific user data despite representations to the contrary. Often, this data is monetized through sharing with third-parties and it is almost always susceptible to unauthorized access.”

“The Whisper incident is an example of this misrepresentation of anonymity. After the Guardian reported that popular messaging app Whisper shares users’ IP addresses with government entities, Whisper conceded that this was true. However the app maintains that the service “does not collect nor store any personally identifiable information (PII) from users and is anonymous.” This position is puzzling for two reasons: first, Whisper’s exclusion of IP addresses from its definition of PII directly contradicts federal authorities’ interpretation of the term – NIST includes IP address in its definition of PII – and secondly, despite how “PII” is defined, simply refraining from collecting PII does not guarantee anonymity.”

https://cdt.org/blog/the-false-promise-of-anonymity/

Three Spooky Ways You’re Being Spied on This Halloween

“It’s that time of year when people don sinister masks, spray themselves with fake blood, and generally go all out for a good fright. But here at EFF, we think there are plenty of real-world ghouls to last all year-round. Fortunately, we won’t let them hide under your bed. Sometimes our work sounds like science fiction, but the surveillance techniques and technology we fight are all too real. Here are some of the beasts hiding in your backyard that we’ve been fighting to expose:”

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2014/10/three-spooky-ways- youre-being-spied-halloween

Open Access

Brill Open Law (BOL)
“Brill Open Law (BOL) is a principal outlet for scholarly articles in international law studies. BOL is a peer-reviewed full open access journal and provides a unique platform for academic debates and critical analysis. The journal offers a meeting space for scholars across international law, including: human rights and humanitarian law, private international law and public international law.”

http://www.brill.com/products/online-resources/brill-open-law

Wiley Open Access

“Wiley Open Access journals are supported by a network of authoritative journals and societies as well as internationally renowned editorial board members. All research articles published in Wiley Open Access journals are immediately freely available to read, download and share. Wiley Open Access publishes a number of online journals across biological, chemical, and health sciences.”

http://www.wileyopenaccess.com/view/journals.html

Open Access Issues and Potential Solutions Workshop

“This report provides a summary of the discussion and findings of the Open Access Issues and Potential Solutions workshop held as part of the End-to-End Project. The workshop was highly interactive and feedback received indicated it was extremely valuable, stimulating a useful exchange of ideas.”

http://eprints.gla.ac.uk/97690/1/97690.pdf

Librarians and Libraries

Academic Movers 2014: In Depth with Alicia Virtue

“In the latest of our In-Depth Interviews with Library Journal Movers & Shakers from academic libraries, sponsored by SAGE, we spoke with Alicia Virtue, electronic services librarian and department chair of learning resources at Santa Rosa (CA) Junior College. Virtue not only manages the website and ILS for both campus libraries and teaches a course in Introduction to Information Literacy, but in 2013 she and a colleague created Art Talk, an online multimedia gallery “enrichment zone” for the Doyle Library’s extensive art collection. She has also worked with EBSCO on its “Curriculum Builder” LMS plugin and developed a set of Guide on the Side tutorials for online search tools.”


Seattle Sorts Library Books Faster than New York? Fuhgeddaboudit

“New York has been taking some hard knocks from Seattle of late, books-wise. First came the epic and still-unresolved battle between Amazon and New York publishers. Then came reports — in a respectable New York newspaper, no less — that Seattle’s indie booksellers were thriving while Manhattan was turning into a ‘bookstore desert.’”

“But on Wednesday, New York reasserted its dominance in at least one corner of the literary universe: book sorting.”


What Book Should You Read Next? Putting Librarians And Algorithms To The Test

“More and more, computer-generated recommendations run our lives. But are they really the best way to expand your cultural horizons?”

“When I received the Brooklyn Public Library’s recent email newsletter promoting a new service called BookMatch, I was both delighted and dismayed.”

“On the other hand, it was a great idea. All I had to do was fill out a short web form letting the librarians know a bit about what I wanted to read and what I liked to read, and one promised to write back with five personalized recommendations tailored to my interests and tastes. On the other, the fact I was so delighted was exactly what was dismaying.”


Publishing

Nature Publishes Lists of the Top 100 Cited Articles of All Time (in Cooperation With Thomson Reuters and Google)

“A new article (over 3000 words) by Richard Van Noorden, Brendan Mahe & Reggie Nuzzo and published on Nature News takes a look at the Top 100 most cited articles of all time (specifically back to 1900). The complete lists are also available as XLS files.”


Two Important Publishing Facts Everyone Gets Wrong

“Almost everything being said about publishing today is predicated on two facts that are dead wrong. The first is that publishers are somehow being hurt by ebook sales. The second is that independent bookstores are being crushed. The opposite is true in both cases, and without understanding this, most of what everyone says about publishing is complete bollocks.”

http://www.hughhowey.com/two-important-publishing-facts-everyone-gets-wrong/#comments
SF Bay Region Chapter 2014 Holiday Party


SF Bay Region Chapter Holiday Party and Annual Awards Ceremony

Tuesday, December 9, 2014, 5:30 – 9:00 pm

Urban Tavern Restaurant
333 O’Farrell Street, SF
http://www.urbantavernsf.com/

Please join us as we celebrate the season, another year of terrific Chapter events, the contributions of some of our distinguished members and a word from our sponsors!

Agenda

5:30 – 6:30      Party!
6:30 – 7:00      Awards!
7:00 – 9:00      More Party!

Menu

A variety of hot & cold hors d’oeuvres, including vegetarian & gluten free options.

One drink ticket is included.

SLA Program Cost

$30 for everyone.

Location

Urban Tavern is located in San Francisco’s Union Square neighborhood. It is a 5 minute walk from Powell BART and MUNI. Parking is at the Hilton San Francisco Union Square Garage.

http://www.urbantavernsf.com/

DEADLINE:

Please register online or ensure your mail-in registration form and check are received no later than Wednesday, December 3, 2014.

Registration

2014 SF Bay Region Chapter Holiday Party

Tuesday, December 9, 2013 5:30 – 9:00 pm

Online registration: http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/?p=6852
(Note: You do NOT need a PayPal account to register through this PayPal-administered site.)

Easy to print mail-in registration form: sfsla_2014_holiday_party

Thank you to our generous sponsors!

http://www.urbantavernsf.com/

Share this:
Intersect Alert November 11, 2014

Libraries

Plans to close Imperial War Museums (IWM) Library spark petition drive

A family of five museums, IWM illustrates and records all aspects of modern war and of the individual’s experience of it.


Charleston Conference Trends and Takeaways webcast

From 11 am to noon Pacific Time on Thursday 11/13/14 Ex Libris and Library Journal will present a panel discussion pertaining to the Charleston Conference held November 5-8.


An innovative news library in the UK

According to an article in the October 2014 IFLA Journal, the British Library has implemented some innovative accessibility solutions for preservation of news reports. In addition to a newspaper storage facility that uses an intricate automated retrieval mechanism that delivers archival material through a system of airlocks, the British Library has made advances with its audio files from television and radio news reports. This is just one article in a collection of articles about innovative national libraries.


Government Information

ARL Fall Forum 2014 Proceedings available

Among the slide decks is one titled “The New Digital Landscape of Government Information” which has a timeline for a recent presidential memorandum relating to electronic records. Another item of interest in this particular presentation is a summary of the automated electronic records management plan recently released by the Chief Records Officer of NARA.


Internet

ALA’s network neutrality update

This complex and important issue may be scheduled for the December 11th FCC open meeting. On November 6 the ALA and ARL submitted more detail as to the “internet-reasonable” approach offered in contrast to the “commercially-reasonable” standard.


Intersect Alert, November 16, 2014

Privacy

Americans’ Cellphones Targeted in Secret U.S. Spy Program

This is the Wall Street Journal article you’ve heard about by now. An item that you may not have heard from reports of this article is that newer versions of the technology ”can be programmed to do more than suck in data. The devices can also jam signals and retrieve data from a target phone such as texts or photos.”

http://online.wsj.com/articles/americans-cellphones-targeted-in-secret-u-s-spy-program-1415917533

Americans’ Confidence in Privacy of Electronic Communications is Very Low

The survey results aren’t entirely surprising. The commentator pulled out several items from the Pew report, beginning with
this: “Fully 80% of adults say Americans should be concerned about the government’s monitoring of phone calls and internet communications. Just 18% disagree. Similarly, 80% say they are concerned about the use of data by social networking sites.”


In-depth interview with Edward Snowden
Lawrence Lessig interviewed Edward Snowden on October 20 via Google Hangout. The video is an hour long and worth watching. It touches on the matters of regulatory capture of the oversight process (by the intelligence industry contractors), the institutional momentum that has eroded liberties such as freedom of association, and the costliness of mass surveillance which has shifted resources away from more useful government activities.


Internet

Applied Altmetrics (Alternative Metrics)
In community notes for a session at the recent Digital Library Federation Forum, one can find a white paper which has a helpful list of various types of metrics. The descriptions of quantitative measures such as page views, visits, and downloads include brief explanations of how such measures can be skewed. Tools for collection such as Altmetric and Plumx are described on pages 11 through 13.

Session summary: http://www.diglib.org/forums/2014forum/program/01z/
White paper: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1uVn0BsY4RAZN7gNI3Jnpb9UiFkiQ5UDBAzceM-WoKi/edit#heading=h.m5qjteehad3e

Assessing Almetrics
Another resource describing why law librarians should care about almetrics is available in the November/December 2014 AALL Spectrum. Although the drive for almetrics originated in the journal impact factor concept in academia, the concepts seem pertinent to evaluating the value of any digital collection.

http://www.aallnet.org/mm/Publications/spectrum/Archives/Vol-19/No-2/altmetrics.pdf

Publishing

Amazon and Hachette settle
This development may or may not improve the plight of authors, but Amazon users will eventually see less delay when ordering imprints owned by Hatchette.


The Cachet of local bookstores
Amazon and Hachette may have buried the hatchet, but if you’d like to support bookstores this gift-giving season, here’s a list of local independent bookstores:


Library Tour: Book Club of California


Library Tour: The Book Club of California
with Henry Snyder, Librarian

The Book Club of California

Wednesday December 3rd from 4pm to 6pm

When did you fall in love with fine letterpress books? Maybe your family was in the trade, or did you turn to it out of a love of book lore, all the ins and outs of what makes a great book? Have you always collected fine books, or did you, as an art collector, find yourself drawn to the world of books, too?

Perhaps you grew up around printers—or maybe you’re part of the next generation of fine press printers. Or are you among those who just love the West, and enjoy learning more about its history?

Well then you will enjoy our SLA Library Tour of the Book Club of California, a non-profit organization of people who take pleasure in fine printing related to the history and literature of California and the western States. We will begin our tour at the Book Club of California Lounge located on the 5th floor. Then after some conversation and refreshment, our guide will take us through the collection as well as highlight special titles of interest.

Location: The Book Club of California
Address: 312 Sutter Street, Suite 500
Tour Guide: Henry Snyder, Librarian
Date: December 3rd
Time:
4:00pm to 4:30pm – Reception in Lounge
4:30 to 6:00pm – Library Tour
Cost: $10 for everyone

Registration Details
Limit: 20 individuals
Registration: December 01, 2014

Payment/RSVP Link: http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/tour-shopping-cart/

**If you would like to pay by check instead of paypal, please email heather.heen@thomsonreuters.com to rsvp and receive a mailing address.

We hope you can join us!

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**2015 Advisory Council Positions Available**


November 20, 2014 Categories: Bayline, Chapter Leadership Tags: President's message, volunteering

Hello fellow chapter members!!

Jaye Lapachet, President 2015

I am eagerly preparing for my year as President and am assembling a team of people to work with the chapter in 2015. There are many opportunities to work with the chapter, including the various committees on all levels from hours and hours to short, discreet tasks. Our current need is to fill specific Chair positions.

I am working on the Advisory Council level. The chairs that are open at the moment:

**Academic Relations** – Forges and maintains relationships with library and information resource students and schools. Organizes student reception in August.

**Archives** – Handling all of the chapter’s archival materials, interfacing with the Internet Archive and our cloud storage company. The ‘Born Digital’ materials are on my radar for 2015.

**Bayline** – The blog format of the Bayline provides a lot of opportunity for creativity in the types of articles presented. The job involves soliciting content to ensure at least two or three posts are generated a month (though more are welcome). You would have help since the Director and Assistant Director of Programs, along with the rest of the Board, are already writing their various columns and tidbits as well as soliciting write-ups of the various events throughout the year. However, we really need someone to solicit additional articles, set deadlines, edit the articles, gently nudge Board and Advisory Council members to write and get articles posted to the web site. The blog format is only a few years old, which means you will still have a lot of opportunity to shape the Bayline editor role for the future.

**Hospitality** – Work closely with Programs Directors, finds venues, coordinates with venue event coordinator, handles registration and nametags. (2-3 total needed)

**Networking** – Help our members connect with like-minded professionals! Keep current on local events sponsored by other groups of information professionals and make sure they know about our events, too! We are also looking at using this position to expand our social media efforts. Do you post questions or reply to other people’s posts on LinkedIn? Do you spend time engaging with groups on FaceBook? Are you active on Twitter? Spend a just a couple extra minutes on any or all of these platforms to develop the chapter’s presence.

**Nominating** – Heads the Nominating committee which is charged with preparing and presenting the slate.

**Public Relations** – Do the footwork that would get the chapter some additional coverage. Write and provide previous press releases and annual reports. We know how awesome we are, but we need you to help communicate the value of information professionals to the world outside our membership! Write or solicit articles for local business newspapers. Find out where the C-Level people go for their information and make sure we have a presence there, too! Work with the association’s Public Relations Advisory Council on their podcasting project to interview members’ bosses about the value and impact information professionals bring to the organization. This is a
more externally facing position that can really be what you want to make of it.

I am open to hearing your ideas about what you want to do with the positions above, so please contact me with your questions and ideas. There may be a few more positions later as some other issues about other positions get worked out. If you have an interest, please contact me.

Volunteering with the chapter pays back in dividends many times over, not the least of which is padding your resume with valuable experience. As with so many things in life, you get back out what you put in. Please get involved! Please contact me if you are interested in any of these positions, or in hearing about other volunteer opportunities that arise.

Thank you! I look forward to hearing from you and working with you.

Jaye Lapachet
President-Elect

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**Intersect Alert December 1, 2014**


**Government Information**

**Link rot among legal citations**
Georgetown University Law Library hosted a one-day symposium in October on the problem of broken links. The meeting, titled 404/File Not Found: Link Rot, Legal Citation and Projects to Preserve Precedent, presented a broad overview of why websites disappear, why this is particularly problematic in the legal citation context and the proposal of actual solutions and strategies to addressing the problem.


**Privacy**

**Guidelines on right to be forgotten**
On November 26, 2014, the European data protection authorities adopted guidelines on the implementation of the judgment of the European Court of Justice (ECJ) on the right to be forgotten. These guidelines contain the common interpretation of the ECJ’s ruling.


**Public Policy**

**New guidelines for training physicians to care for people who are LGBT**
“The AAMC (Association of American Medical Colleges) has released the first guidelines for training physicians to care for people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT), gender nonconforming, or born with differences of sex development (DSD). Until now, there have been no formal comprehensive standards to help medical schools and health care organizations train providers in the health care needs of these patients.”


Download the guidelines (free registration required):

**Libraries**

**Library Journal photo gallery of new libraries includes SF North Beach branch**
There are eight image galleries; the North Beach Library in San Francisco is featured in the image gallery called Elegant Eclecticism. The other galleries, with varying degrees of PUNishment are: Rising Expectations, Missions Possible, Above and Beyond, Know Much About History, East and West and Everything in Between, Open to the Elements, Beaming with Pride.


**Privacy amid the problems in Ferguson**
The media attention to the good work at the Ferguson library has resulted financial contributions to the library from across the country.


**Publishing**

**Independent bookstores in Northern California**
A freely accessible list of many independent bookstores can be found at the site of the Northern California Independent Booksellers Association (NCIBA). The November focus is on bookstores in the North Bay, but other areas are easily accessible.


A spreadsheet of suggested books listed in the NCIBA Holiday Catalog is accessible here:
Holiday Party & Awards Ceremony Registration Open Now

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2014/12/holiday-party-awards-ceremony-registration-open-now/

TIME IS RUNNING OUT! GET YOUR TICKETS NOW.

It’s that time of year again! A time to party!!!!

Please join us!

2014 SF Bay Region Chapter Holiday Party and Annual Awards Ceremony

Tuesday, December 9, 2014, 5:30 – 9:00 pm

Urban Tavern Restaurant

333 O’Farrell Street, SF

http://www.urbantavernsf.com/

Please join us as we celebrate the season, another year of terrific Chapter events, the contributions of some of our distinguished members and a word from our sponsors!

Agenda

5:30 – 6:30      Party!

6:30 – 7:00      Awards!

7:00 – 9:00      More Party!

Menu

A variety of hot & cold hors d’oeuvres, including vegetarian & gluten free options.

One drink ticket is included.

SLA Program Cost

$30 for everyone**

Location

Urban Tavern is located in San Francisco’s Union Square neighborhood. It is a 5 minute walk from Powell BART and MUNI. Parking is at the Hilton San Francisco Union Square Garage.

http://www.urbantavernsf.com/

DEADLINE:

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Online registration

(Note: You do NOT need a PayPal account to register through this PayPal-administered site.)

Easy to print Mail-in Registration Form

Thank you to our generous sponsors!

Special Counsel

San Francisco Business Times

IEEE

**with the rising costs of public transportation accessible venues, the chapter acquires sponsorships and further subsidizes the cost of events to try and keep them affordable

2015 Advisory Council Postions Available – UPDATED!


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I am open to hearing your ideas about what you want to do with the positions above, so please contact me with your questions and ideas. There may be a few more positions later as some other issues about other positions get worked out. If you have an interest, please contact me.

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President-Elect

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2015 Advisory Council Positions – Going Fast!

Did I say it loud enough? WE NEED YOU!!!

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Volunteering with the chapter pays back in dividends many times over, not the least of which is padding your resume with valuable experience. As with so many things in life, you get back out what you put in. *Please get involved!* Please contact me if you are interested in any of these positions, or in hearing about other volunteer opportunities that arise.

Thank you! I look forward to hearing from you and working with you.

Jaye Lapachet
President-Elect
IDC’s top 10 health IT predictions for 2015

Mike Miliard, Contributing Editor
12/01/14

“…“operational inefficiency will become critical at 25 percent of hospitals,” according to IDC Health Insights, leading to many of those hospitals drawing up new plans for their IT deployments – requiring budgetary increases.

Some of IDC’s nine predictions:

- By 2015, half healthcare organizations will have experienced between one and five cyber attacks in the previous 12 months – with a third of those attacks successful. This will necessitate investments in “a multi-prong security strategy to avoid disruptions to normal operations and incurring fines and notification costs.”
- Some 15 percent of hospitals will create comprehensive patient profiles by 2016, enabling them to deliver personalized treatment plans.
- By 2020, an impressive 80 percent of health data will pass through the cloud at some point in its lifetime, as providers increasingly leveraged hosted infrastructure for data collection, aggregation and analysis.
- With an eye toward improving the consumer experience, 65 percent of transactions with healthcare organizations will be mobile by 2018, “requiring healthcare organizations to develop omni-channel strategies to provide a consistent experience across the Web, mobile, and telephonic channels.”
- The need to manage cohorts of patients with chronic conditions, will lead 70 percent of healthcare organizations to invest in consumer-facing mobile apps, wearables, remote monitoring tools, and virtual care. This in turn will lead to more demand for big data and analytics capability to support population health management initiatives. . . .”

FAA Grounds Drone Privacy Safeguards

EPIC.org
12/1/14

“In a letter to EPIC, the Federal Aviation Administration denied a petition to initiate a public rulemaking to address privacy and civil liberties issues posed by domestic drones. The agency stated it was not required to solicit public comments on the privacy implications of drones because privacy was “not an immediate safety concern.” In March 2012, EPIC joined by over 100 other organizations, experts, and members of the public petitioned the FAA to “conduct a notice and comment rulemaking on the impact of privacy and civil liberties related to the use of drones in the United States.” The agency published a notice with proposed privacy requirements for drone operators at FAA designated drone test sites. EPIC submitted comments in response to the notice, urging the agency to mandate minimum privacy standards for drone operators. After considering numerous public comments on the privacy impact of aerial drones, the FAA proposed that test site operators develop privacy policies but did not require any specific baseline privacy standards for drone operators.”

Macmillan Science and Education Opens Up Treasure Chest Of Rich Scientific Knowledge To Researchers and Society At Large

Press Release
12/02/14

“Macmillan Science and Education, one of the leading publishing and technology companies in the world, today announces the launch of a groundbreaking publishing initiative that will make it easy for readers to share an unprecedented wealth of scientific knowledge instantly with researchers and scientists across the globe. Subscribers to 49 journals on nature.com can now legitimately and conveniently share the full-text of articles of interest with colleagues who do not have a subscription via a shareable web link on nature.com. In addition, Macmillan Science and Education will take a lead on opening up public engagement with scientific knowledge to society at large by giving access to the same content to readers of 100 global media outlets and blogs.”

Copyright Law as a Tool for State Censorship of the Internet

Maira Sutto
12/3/14

“When state officials seek to censor online speech, they’re going to use the quickest and easiest method available, the DMCA. The law carries provisions on intermediary liability, among many other strict copyright enforcement rules, which induce
websites, Internet service providers, and other such “intermediaries” to remove content that is alleged to be a copyright infringement… the DMCA has become a de facto legal norm…” The DMCA has become a global tool for censorship, precisely because it was designed to facilitate the removal of online media. This article provides examples of this from several different countries including the U.S.

BRAZIL: Videos critical of 2014 presidential candidate and former governor, Aécio Neves, have been targeted by copyright takedowns. Although the identity of the sender cannot be confirmed, there is much speculation that Neves himself is behind the takedowns. (October 2014)

UNITED STATES: The Department of Homeland Security reportedly issued copyright takedowns to YouTube over some conspiracy theory videos, when federal agencies themselves cannot own copyrights—unless it has been assigned to them, which seems unlikely in this case. (August 2012)

Cryptowar

Sifting Fact from Fiction with All Writs and Encryption: No Backdoors

12/3/14

“…there’s been new interest in the government’s use of a relatively obscure law, the All Writs Act. According to these reports, the government has invoked the All Writs Act in order to compel the assistance of smartphone manufacturers in unlocking devices pursuant to a search warrant. The reports are based on orders from federal magistrate judges in Oakland and New York City issued to Apple and another unnamed manufacturer (possibly also Apple) respectively, requiring them to bypass the lock screen on seized phones and enable law enforcement access… Amid this prospect of a second “Cryptowar” is the lurking fear that the government might force unwilling companies to include backdoors in their products, even if they’re not required by Congress to do so. We sometimes hear from jaded developers and others who think that all it would take to force a backdoor is one National Security Letter. While NSLs are unconstitutional, even the government admits that they can only be used to obtain limited information, which does not include forcing anyone to backdoor a product…”


http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/All_Writs_Act

Cybercrime

Justice Department to Create Dedicated Cyber Unit

Christopher M. Matthews, Associated Press

12/4/1

The Department of Justice is creating a dedicated cybersecurity unit within its Criminal Division, Assistant Attorney General Leslie R. Caldwell said Thursday. The unit is intended to ensure that law enforcement’s electronic surveillance tools are effectively used, while also protecting the privacy of Americans, she said. The unit will be housed within the department’s computer crime and intellectual property section and will coordinate with the private sector on information sharing about cyber threats and advise Congress on cybersecurity legislation, Caldwell said. The department will also increase broader public outreach on cybersecurity issues, according to Caldwell, in order to dispel public distrust of electronic surveillance by law enforcement.


Marketing

California: Driving New Toyota Priuses Fresno County Librarians Leave The Branch Behind, Hit The Road

InfoDocket, Price, G.,

12/6/14 (from the Fresno Bee)

Seven Fresno County librarians are fanning out in brand new Toyota Priuses to meet one-on-one with business owners or nonprofits, attend community events and inform the public about free services the library system offers. The Library Without Walls (WoW!) program has been under way for about nine months but reached full staffing in September. It grew out of an analysis of library services and users through which county library officials learned that only 35% of county residents use the system. Overall, the system has had a 46% drop in reference questions from 2005 to 2012…The work could be as basic as giving customers a phone number for getting information from the library, or going door-to-door to Fresno County businesses, or speaking with nonprofit organizations. The assignments also could be more complex, such as setting up computers outside a grocery store and making library cards, helping someone with an online business or setting up a makeshift library in socioeconomically challenged areas. The program costs about $800,000 annually, paid for with revenue from voter-approved Measure B and the library system’s annual taxpayer funding.”


Librarian Without Walls Website (LWW)

International, Data Retention

Defending Your Rights In The Digital World

Latitza Rodriguez

12/4/14

Paraguay understands the dangers of pervasive surveillance. Its ex-dictator, Alfredo Stroessner, maintained his grip on power with the help of “pyragues”, informers who monitored the civilian population on his behalf. That’s why so many in the country recognize the dangers in its new proposed data retention bill. The bill, currently being debated by its politicians, would compel local ISPs to retain communications
and location details of every user for a period of 12 months. No wonder it’s been described as creating a new gang of “pyrawebs”: online informers that the authorities can ask to pinpoint the movements, connections, and associations of any Paraguayan citizen.

“Terror Archive of the Stroessner dictatorship,” blogger David Bogado, says of the new bill. “This is the Archive of Terror 2.0.”

Electronic frontier foundation
https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2014/12/pyrawebs-paraguayans-rise-against-mandatory-data-retention

International, Censorship

Strategic, timely

12/6/14
Bibliofuture
“In September of last year, Chinese authorities announced an unorthodox standard to help them decide whether to punish people for posting online comments that are false, defamatory, or otherwise harmful: Was a message popular enough to attract five hundred reposts or five thousand views? It was a striking example of how sophisticated the Chinese government has become, in recent years, in restricting Internet communication — going well beyond crude measures like restricting access to particular Web sites or censoring online comments that use certain keywords. Madeline Earp, a research analyst at Freedom House, the Washington-based nongovernmental organization, suggested a phrase to describe the approach: “strategic, timely censorship,” It’s about allowing a surprising amount of open discussion, as long as you’re not the kind of person who can really use that discussion to organize people.”

Read the article in the New Yorker

Membership in SLA SF Bay Region


Dear fellow members,

It was great to see many of you at the Holiday Party last night and I was so pleased to see so many of you raise your hand when I asked who was involved with the chapter. There is always room for one more.

The Board would like to thank you for your participation and for your membership in the San Francisco Bay Region chapter.

SLA hosts our SLA-SF email list and it is open to all regardless of membership status in SLA or the San Francisco Bay Region chapter. We have all benefited from the discussions, resources and support the list community provides. If you have not chosen SLA-SF as one of your chapters, when you have the means, please become a member of SLA and the the San Francisco Bay Region chapter to help maintain this vital resource for Bay Area librarians and information professionals.

Here’s how:

To Join SLA as a new member, go to:
http://www.sla.org/access-membership/join-sla/

To Renew or Re-Join SLA, go to:
http://www.sla.org/access-membership/renew-your-membership/

To Add the San Francisco Bay Region Chapter to your membership, fill out this form:

Adding the San Francisco Bay Region Chapter will increase your membership dues by $20 but in return you’ll get:

– access to the members-only portion of the San Francisco Bay Region Chapter website,
– access to discounted dinner meetings,
– a multitude of networking opportunities, and
– tours.

Thank you for your support of the San Francisco Bay Region chapter. I look forward to seeing you soon, perhaps at the January 29 Joint Meeting with BayNet?

With Warm Regards,

Jaye Lapachet

Membership Chair, President-Elect, SLA San Francisco Bay Region Chapter
Computer Fraud
Password Sharing Isn’t a Crime, EFF Tells Ninth Circuit
Hanni Fakhoury and Jamie Lee Williams
12/11/14
As a Corporate Librarian I find this case extremely interesting for a couple of reasons. 1)There have been many times when I would have died to get into a database, but didn’t put another librarian in the position of having to tell me “no”, 2)The many times someone (former colleague or non-librarian friend) asked me for my password so they could access proprietary databases. How do you feel about this ruling? EFF believes, in part, that the CFAA law should be “focused on hacking: keeping unwanted and unauthorized people from intruding into computer space” and nothing else.

“EFF filed a “friend of the court” brief in United States v. Nosal this week urging the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals to overturn a troubling conviction under the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act (CFAA). The district court refused to dismiss the charges, ruling that the act of using someone else’s computer login credentials, even with their knowledge and permission, is a federal crime. Nosal was convicted by a jury, sentenced to one year in prison, and ordered to pay a $60,000 fine and nearly $830,000 to Korn/Ferry in restitution. Nosal appealed his conviction to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, and we’ve filed an amicus brief in support, explaining why the government’s CFAA theory here is dangerous.

First two amicus briefs filed by EFF
https://www.eff.org/node/58053
https://www.eff.org/node/58512
Article https://www.eff.org/password-sharing-is-not-a-crime

FOIA
Congress Fails To Revise Government Records Law
Matthew Daly, Associated Press
12/13/14
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/12/13/congress-foia-patrick-leahy_n_6319046.html

No luck on FOIA this Congress
Jazzy Wright, Government Information, Legislation, OGR
12/12/14
Congress failed to update the Freedom of Information Act despite bipartisan support in the House and Senate. The Senate approved a bill this week…The House passed a similar bill in February, but the two chambers could not agree on final language…Sen. Jay Rockefeller (D-WV) placed just such a hold on S. 2520, critical FOIA reform legislation by outgoing Judiciary Committee Chairman Patrick Leahy (D-VT). Rep. Darrell Issa, R-Calif., said he also was disappointed that the House “ran out of time to address concerns in the Senate bill.” Issa said the Senate could still send a bipartisan FOIA bill to the president’s desk if Leahy and other senators were willing to accept the House language, which open-government groups say is not as strong as the Senate version… Asked about the FOIA bill Thursday, Boehner said he had “no knowledge of what the plan is for that bill,” a statement Bennett called puzzling.

There were a number of articles describing the FOIA Bill over the last two weeks. For your reference here are a few:

–Freedom of Information Act Reform Prevails over Last-Minute Holds
by Sean Moulton, 12/8/2014 Center for Effective Government
http://www.foreffectivegov.org/blog/freedom-information-act-reform-prevails-over-last-minute-holds

–FOIA Reform Gets Key Senate Endorsement
by George H. Pike
12/9/14

–Who’s trying to kill FOIA reform now? Bankers!
By Sean Vitka, Sunlight Foundation
12/10/14
http://sunlightfoundation.com

Privacy
Congress quietly expands surveillance (again)
Richard Forno 12/11/14
“…is a provision quietly inserted by the US Senate (just prior to voting) that authorizes the “acquisition, retention, and dissemination” of all communications data from U.S. citizens without a court order and then transferred to law enforcement for criminal investigations. Once leaving the Senate, this proposed Act was passed in the House by a casual (and therefore intentionally unaccountable) 325-100 voice vote with no debate. It now heads to the White House for a likely presidential signature. In an impassioned ‘Dear Colleague’ letter this week, Rep. Justin Amash (R-MI) notes that “Section 309 [of the Act] provides the first statutory authority for the acquisition, retention, and dissemination of U.S. persons’ private communications obtained without legal process such as a court order or a subpoena. The administration currently may conduct such surveillance under a claim of executive authority, such as E.O. 12333. However, Congress never has approved of
using executive authority in that way to capture and use Americans’ private telephone records, electronic communications, or cloud data.” Despite the presence of some restrictions on executive branch use of Americans’ private communications, Amash observes that “In exchange for the data retention requirements that the executive already follows, Section 309 provides a novel statutory basis for the executive branch’s capture and use of Americans’ private communications.”

https://cyberlaw.stanford.edu/blog/2014/12/congress-quietly-expands-surveillance-again

International

Google News Shuttered in Spain Thanks to “Ancillary Copyright” Law
Jeremy Malcom, 12/11/14
EFF
“… Google has announced that it will be permanently shutting down the Spanish version of Google News, effective from December 16, 2014. The shutdown comes in direct response to amendments to the Spanish intellectual property law (Ley De Propiedad Intelectual) imposing a compulsory fee for the use of snippets of text to link to news articles, by online news aggregators that provide a search service.”

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2014/12/google-news-shuts-shop-spain-thanks-ancillary-copyright-law

Resource: Online Reports
16-page Tech Trends 2015 available free in exchange for your name and email.
https://admin.govexec.com/media/gbc/docs/ngebook_dec10_final.pdf

Resource: NGO websites
The Government Doc librarians consistently share addresses to helpful websites. Here is one that’s specific to CA. Search engine details: https://www.google.com/cse/home?cx=012681683249965267634:q4g16p05-ao

Search of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) websites. More background on the IGO/NGO search projects can be found at http://wikis.ala.org/godort/index.php/IGO_search including a growing spreadsheet of NGOs included in this search. Last updated: February 4, 2014.
Developed by: James Jacobs jrjacobs@stanford.edu and Krist Kasiyovitz krisk11@stanford.edu Government Information Librarians at Stanford (Green Library)

A full-text chapter of the forthcoming book:
Big Data: Everything Old is New Again
Amy Affelt
https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2014/12/google-news-shuts-shop-spain-thanks-ancillary-copyright-law
http://books.infotoday.com/books/Accidental-Data-Scientist/Big-Data–Everything-Old-is-New-Again.pdf

Wearables

Data From Our Wearables Is Now Courtroom Fodder
Christina Bonnington WIRED, 12.12.14
“Last month, data from a wearable was entered as courtroom evidence for the first time. The case involved a Calgary woman making a personal injury claim, following a car accident four years ago. Once a personal trainer, her lawyers have submitted Fitbit to show that her lifestyle has changed dramatically: Her activity levels have since fallen below average for women in a similar demographic. Some claim that this legal move may transform accident and personal injury claims. As it turns out, wearable data is on par with any another information when it comes to legal standing.”

http://www.wired.com/2014/12/wearables-in-court/

Intersect 12.21.14

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2014/12/intersect-12-21-14/ December 22, 2014 Categories: Intersect Alert Tags: freedom of information, open access, professional development, social media, transparency

FOIA reform dies while the press looked the other way
RIP Improvement Act of 2014
Kelly J. O’Brien, Columbia Journalism Review 12.16.14
“When US Sen. Jay Rockefeller (D-WV) almost killed the bill singlehandedly in the face of otherwise unanimous support earlier this week, it didn’t garner more than an eyebrow raise from the media. “They won’t spend a moment on this—I don’t get it,” Alex Howard, who blogs about transparency at E Pluribus Unum, told Margaret Sullivan earlier this week. She then summed up the irony, writing, “If the press won’t represent itself — and the people — by showing some interest in the free flow of government information, who will?” Had more members of the press looked into the details of the Improvement Act of 2014 before it was too late, they would have found an imperfect bill that is nonetheless much more ambitious than previous FOIA reforms.”

http://www.cjr.org/behind_the_news/foia_reform_dies_while_the_press.php

Business Practices

Taming the ticking mind: Economist outlines work on managing tasks and time
Maureen Brown, Harvard Correspondent 12.16.14
In this context, the more we focus on red-flag tasks, the more
our fluid intelligence, or “bandwidth,” is taxed, Mullainathan says, such that on our busiest days we in fact seem to be “dumber.” The study of scarcity “is based on the notion that you have all these unconscious processes for capturing your attention” — machinery, in a sense, that lies just below the surface (and which, incidentally, the practice of mindfulness can help us see and “get above”). Speaking in his office at the Littauer Center, Mullainathan, a 2002 MacArthur Fellow, described the curious equation that exists between scarcity and its opposite number, abundance, and how each can skew behavior…Help lies, Mullainathan says, in learning to manage not just our time but our bandwidth relative to the tasks at hand. For example, buying presents can be done mostly with low bandwidth…In sizing up our workload, it’s well to realize that busyness has two elements: hours of work, and the diversity of that work.

http://news.harvard.edu/gazette/section/national-n-world-affairs/economics/

Open Access

Open Access Is A Business Now
Joseph Esposito
12.17.14
Article Processing Charges (APCs) – the fees that publishers collect from authors for making their work available under “Open Access” rules – are expected to grow 80% from 2014 to 2017. Indeed, the report projects OA publishing revenues will rise at a pace far faster than traditional publishing. Clearly, OA is here to stay. And the disruption that Open Access has generated has publishers rethinking business models and turning to technology for solutions.”

View Transcript
http://beyondthebookcast.com/transcripts/open-access-is-a-business-now
http://beyondthebookcast.com/open-access-is-a-business-now/

Social Media

Millions of Fake Instagram Users Disappear in Purge
Vindu Goel; Credit Marcio Jose Sanchez/Associated Press
12.18.14
“Instagram is deleting all the accounts it had previously designated as “spammy.” Social media services like Facebook and Twitter are always battling against spam or fake accounts that hijack hashtags, artificially pump up follower counts for celebrities and brands and inflate costs for advertisers that want to reach real customers, not automated bots. This week, we got a look at just how many junk accounts there really are on Instagram, the four-year-old photo and video sharing service owned by Facebook. In what has been called the “Instagram Rapture,” the company is deleting all the accounts it had previously designated as “spammy” from the follower counts of its users…At stake isn’t just bragging rights, but real money.

Social media users with big fan bases can snag lucrative promotional deals from companies eager for them to send out an endorsement to their fans.”


EFF 2014 Holiday Wish List
12.18.14
Their wish list includes:
• President Obama should stand up for the privacy rights of people all over the world and amend Executive Order 12333 to prohibit mass surveillance. Most people have never heard of it, but Executive Order 12333 is “the primary authority under which the country’s intelligence agencies conduct the majority of their operations
• Websites should honor Do Not Track.
• All Internet sites should adopt cryptographic best practices for every connection, every time, including PFS, STARTTLS, HSTS, and encrypted traffic between data centers…”

https://www.eff.org/rss/updates.xml

Transparency

OpenGov Voices: How California’s putting big local government data online
Marc Joffe
12.19.14
“Recently, the California State Controller’s Office (SCO) has started to replace its traditional reports with big, open, machine-readable and visualizable data sets…https://bythenumbers.sco.ca.gov/. In early December, SCO added special district data and refreshed the city and county set with fiscal year 2014 statistics. This update is especially important because until fiscal year 2012 (which ended on June 30, 2012), city and county data were not published until at least 14 months after the end of the fiscal year. This delay has now been reduced to five months, most of which is accounted for by the time given local governments to submit their reports to SCO after year-end….Last week, SCO announced a “build-a-thon” – basically a month-long, off-site hackathon – in which participants are being asked to build apps on top of the newly released special district data set. Prospective hackers can find the rules here and the data set here (Excel 2007-13 workbook, 76.2mb). With the help of Socrata’s Open Data Portal, the state of California has taken an enormous step in the direction of making local government readily available to the general public.

http://sunlightfoundation.com/blog/2014/12/19/opengov-voices-how-californias-putting-big-local-government-data-online/
Welcome to the 2015 Chapter Year! Let’s work together to make this a fun and awesome year!

I look forward to working with you this year. Your Team for the year is:

- President: Jaye Lapachet
- President-Elect: Hilary Schiraldi
- Treasurer: Lori Guidry
- Secretary: Lori Austin
- Program Director: Sarah Cook
- Assistant Program Director: Craig Cruz
- Past President: Cindy Hill

Jaye Lapachet, President 2015

For those of you who don’t know me, my name is Jaye Lapachet and I have been a member of the chapter since about 1989. I have been Assistant Program Director, Director of Programs and Nominations Chair as well as a member of various committees. I was also on the BayNet Board and on the NOCALL Board in between serving with SLA.

I have a husband, Paul, who works at UCSF and is on the Board of Directors of the Native Sons of the Golden West, and a son, William, who is a senior in high school. My passion is quiltmaking. I am a member of three quilt guilds and take any spare moment I can to sew. I have three quilts, right now, in a show, Primal Green II, at the San Francisco Public Library. Please go see the show if you are in SF and let me know what you think. You can see various examples of my other work over at Artquiltmaker.com.

I have been a law librarian for most of my career and am currently consulting on workflow and systems analysis issues. I enjoy writing and have written a number of articles and presentations over the years. My most recent article, written with Monice Kaczorowski, Attitude, Creativity, Collaboration and Tech: the New Success Formula for Law Librarians was published in AALL Spectrum at the end of 2012.

Upcoming Events

The crossover meeting for the Board and Advisory Council will take place on January 15 at the Mechanics’ Institute, thanks to the generosity of Deb Hunt.

Soon after, Hilary and I will be heading off to the Leadership Summit in Baltimore. I will spend a few days with my SIL, who lives in Maryland and the family considers to be “stranded in the boondocks.” She has spent her entire career in the DC Metro area, so this attitude is a bit of hopefulness that she will come home. I am hoping that ‘lake effect’ experienced by Buffalo around Thanksgiving will not decide to descend on DC while I am there. I am not sure I have the clothes to deal with a regular winter in the area!

Following our return, the chapter will join with BayNet for our kickoff meeting of the year on January 29. It is BayNet’s turn to host so we are looking forward to some fun and learning without much work. Sign up and checkin with your friends. If you have not seen them since the New Year turned the joint meeting will be a great opportunity to do so.

This year we will be adding lunch time events to our schedule. We will try out these more informal events as a way of serving our members who may not be able to stay for dinner meetings or may have a topic that they want to discuss over the course of a few meetings. We are looking for volunteers to lead and host these meetings with the support of the Board and Advisory Council as these events will be a grass roots effort. Stay tuned for more on those and step up!

Volunteer

The chapter runs because of a team effort. The Board cannot do everything and we can’t think of everything. We also want to give YOU the opportunity to meet new people, network and find new opportunities, so please help out. Volunteer opportunities will be posted throughout the year.

Please contact me, or any Board member, if you have ideas and questions. Thank you!

Jaye
2015 Advisory Council Positions – A Few Left

Some of you may not have heard me. THE CHAPTER NEEDS YOU!!!

Hello fellow chapter members!!

Jaye Lapachet, President 2015

My Presidential year has started and I am still assembling my crack team of excellent volunteers to work to make the chapter better, more efficient and more fun in 2015. There are still opportunities to work with the chapter on the advisory council. Other volunteer and committee positions will be posted soon.

I am diligently working on the Advisory Council level. The chairs that are still open at the moment:

Academic Relations – Forges and maintains relationships with library and information resource students and schools. Organizes student reception in August. Great for people who are friendly and care about our students.

Archives – Handling all of the chapter’s archival materials, interfacing with the Internet Archive and our cloud storage company. The ‘Born Digital’ materials are on my radar for 2015.

Bayline – Are you a writer? Do you have great ideas for articles and interviews? The blog format of the Bayline provides a lot of opportunity for creativity in the types of articles presented. The job involves soliciting content to ensure at least two or three posts are generated a month (though more are welcome). You would have help since the Director and Assistant Director of Programs, along with the rest of the Board, are already writing their various columns and tidbits as well as soliciting write ups of the various events throughout the year. However, we really need someone to solicit additional articles, set deadlines, edit the articles, gently nudge Board and Advisory Council members to write and get articles posted to the web site. The blog format is only a few years old, which means you will still have a lot of opportunity to shape the Bayline editor role for the future. SOMEONE VOLUNTEERED. YAY!!!

Hospitality – Work closely with Programs Director, finds venues, coordinates with venue event coordinator, handles registration and nametags. (2-3 total needed) SOMEONE VOLUNTEERED. YAY!!!

Networking – Help our members connect with like-minded professionals! Keep current on local events sponsored by other groups of information professionals and make sure they know about our events, too! We are also looking at using this position to expand our social media efforts. Do you post questions or reply to other people’s posts on LinkedIn? Do you spend time engaging with groups on FaceBook? Are you active on Twitter? Spend a just a couple extra minutes on any or all of these platforms to develop the chapter’s presence.

Nominating – Heads the Nominating committee which is charged with preparing and presenting the slate. SOMEONE VOLUNTEERED. YAY!!!

Public Relations – Do the footwork that would get the chapter some additional coverage. Write and provide previous press releases and annual reports. We know how awesome we are, but we need you to help communicate the value of information professionals to the world outside our membership! Write or solicit articles for local business newspapers. Find out where the C-Level people go for their information and make sure we have a presence there, too! Work with the association’s Public Relations Advisory Council on their podcasting project to interview members’ bosses about the value and impact information professionals bring to the organization. This is a more externally facing position that can really be what you want to make of it.

Webmaster – this position involves posting content to the website, making changes to the site as requested, generating PayPal links for events, working with HQ to resolve problems that are not local. The Board is reviewing the job description in order to ensure that it meets the current needs of the chapter. SOMEONE VOLUNTEERED. YAY!!!

I want to hear your ideas for how the positions above can meet your personal and professional goals. Please contact me with your questions and ideas. There may be a few more positions later as some other issues about other positions get worked out. If you have an interest, even one that is not listed, please contact me. There are lots of exciting things happening with the chapter in 2015.

The events and activities usually coordinated by the open positions above will not happen in 2015 without a chair. I cannot burden current volunteers with more work and if the positions above are not valuable to the chapter, then your Board has to take that into consideration. Volunteering with the chapter pays back in dividends many times over, not the least of which is padding your resume with valuable experience. As
with so many things in life, you get back out what you put in. *Please get involved!* Please contact me if you are interested in any of these positions, or in hearing about other volunteer opportunities that arise.

Thank you! I look forward to hearing from you and working with you.

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**Intersect, 1/4/15**


**Cable**

TableTV Officially Launches in San Francisco, Starts Taking Orders

TableTV, a startup backed by Granite Broadcasting Corp. aimed at making broadcast TV signals available to mobile device users, has officially launched in the Bay Area and has begun taking orders from consumers...The TabletTV app is only compatible with Apple iOS mobile devices right now, but the company says Android compatibility will arrive in 2015. TabletTV also said the app will expand to include local channels nationwide next year.

–Frankel, D., FierceCable, 12/23/14

**Copyright**


**Internet Access**

Microsoft Is Rumored To Be Building A New Browser That Is Not Internet

ExplorerZDNet’s Mary Jo Foley’s recently released a report “that the software company is building a lightweight browser, codenamed “Spartan.”” [http://www.zdnet.com/article/microsoft-is-building-a-new-browser-as-part-of-its-windows-10-push/](http://www.zdnet.com/article/microsoft-is-building-a-new-browser-as-part-of-its-windows-10-push/) According to Foley, Spartan is “new” and “isn’t [Internet Explorer].” Her post notes that it could be set free inside of the Windows 10 release schedule. In short, Microsoft may be building a speedy, simpler browser that maintains use of Internet Explorer’s rendering engine… If Microsoft wants Windows 10 to function across all platforms and wants developers to be able to develop once and deploy everywhere, then creating a new browsing experience that is built to handle all sorts of inputs — without the baggage of a traditional desktop browsing experience — would be a decent idea.”

–Wilhelm A., TechCrunch.com, 12/29/14

**Net Neutrality**

The next big turning point in the net neutrality debate

“…momentum seems to have been building at the Federal Communications Commission for aggressive net neutrality rules similar to the kind endorsed by President Obama in November…large Internet providers such as Comcast still strongly oppose that idea, new filings to the FCC suggest a growing realization that aggressive rules may be coming, regardless…industry associations representing smaller telecom companies and start-ups asked the FCC to apply Title II of the Communications Act to Internet providers. Title II has become a key flash point in the net neutrality debate…”

–Fung, B., Washington Post, 12/31/14

**Open Access**

Open Access Movement Broadens, Moves Forward: 2014 in Review

A summary of Open Access issues in 2014, including links to the original stories.

–Kamdar, A., 1/2/15, EFF

**Resources**

New Economy Resources 2015

- Zillman, M., 12/31/14, LLRX.com
- Deep Web Research and Discovery Resources 2015
The Book Club of California Entrance Hall

On December 3rd, 2014 members of the SLA San Francisco Bay Region Chapter gathered at The Book Club of California located in downtown San Francisco. The Book Club of California is a non-profit organization that is dedicated to furthering the Book Arts, preserving the California fine press tradition, and providing opportunities to publish and promote significant contributions to the literature and history of California and the West.

Founded in 1912, the Book Club was the commitment of key individuals in the printing community to putting together a collection of rare books and locally produced fine printing for display at the forthcoming Panama-Pacific International Exposition. Charles C. Moore, the then President of the Exposition, suggested the collection would most likely succeed if presented to the committee as an organized group instead of a collection of individuals. A few hours later The Book Club of California was born.

This is the rich history we stepped into that evening. The foyer is dominated by a grand and spacious lounge area that allowed us to gather over coffee and pastries. We were greeted personally by Jennifer Sime, the Executive Director of the library, and welcomed personally to the Book Club. Our tour guide for the evening was the Book Club Librarian, Dr. Henry Snyder. Henry has a rich professional history and is a deep well of knowledge on fine printing and its history in California. He is also a senior scholar in the field of British history and highly recognized in his career including honorary officer (O.B.E.) of The Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, Emeritus Professor of the year at the University of California, Riverside, and recipient of a 2007 National Humanities Medals. Our group was in good hands for the evening.

We left the main foyer and entered the quiet and hallowed area of the library. The library itself was a much smaller room that was dominated by a long reading table and surrounded by filled floor to ceiling bookshelves covered with locked glass doors. Henry had taken the time to bring some of his treasures out to share with the group and invited all of us to take a look and feel of the workmanship of the select titles. One such example was a copy of Oscar Wilde’s “Two Tales” which showed the fantastic workmanship of F.-L Schmied. Other specimens were pulled to highlight the soft and painstaking craftsmanship of fine print on soft vellum paper. More modern examples were a copy of Henry Miller and Bezalel Schatz’s Into the Night Life. The book was a collaboration of the author and artist that is an entirely silk screened by the Palestinian artist with exception for the text which was writing in hand by Henry Miller and based on his work Black Spring. There were many other texts and titles that were shown (as seen in our photo gallery/slideshow), as well as rare titles that only existed in the Book Club library. The evening ended with a view of the backroom, an immense collection of pamphlets and ephemera that was cataloged and kept in the back workroom of Dr. Snyder. Each piece was a small building block in revealing our immense California history.

If you are interesting in visiting the book club and becoming a member, please visit them at 312 Sutter St. on the 5th floor, or visit their website at http://www.bccbooks.org. I send my highest recommendations and believe you, like our members that night, will find a treasure trove of print treasures to explore.
**BayNet – SLA Joint Meeting featuring Sarah Houghton, Librarian in Black**

*January 5, 2015*

**Categories:** Bayline, Chapter Programs & Events  
**Tags:** events, librarians

Please join BayNet’s annual joint meeting with the Special Libraries Association, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter for an evening with Sarah Houghton, Director of the San Rafael Public Library, a Library Journal Mover & Shaker as a Trendspotter in 2009 and the award winning author of the Librarian in Black blog.

Sarah will share her thoughts in a presentation “The Wrong Love: Why We Need to Stop Telling People to Love Libraries” discussing how much of library marketing across the world is focused on reminding people that they love libraries, or soliciting them to say outright that they love their libraries and their librarians. Sarah believes that we are having the wrong conversation. The conversation we should be having is how much “we in libraries love our communities.”

Bio: Sarah Houghton is best known as the author of the award-winning Librarian In Black blog. Since 2012 the Director for the San Rafael Public Library Sarah is a big technology nerd and believes in the power of libraries to change lives. Combined, they make a fearsome cocktail. Sarah is a frequent speaker for online and realspace worldwide events for libraries and other institutions. Sarah has been called an iconoclast, a contrarian, a future-pusher, and a general pain in the ass. She takes great pride in each.

Plus: Bring your business cards to enter the drawing for gift certificates from Buffalo Bill’s Brewery and a wine tasting at Concannon Winery.

**Where:**  
CSUEB Oakland Center  
1000 Broadway #109  
Oakland, CA 94607

**When:**  
Thursday, January 29, 2015 from 5:30 PM to 8:00 PM (PST)

This event has passed – Registration closed.

[Link to BayNet event page for more info.](http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2015/01/baynet-sla-joint-meeting-featuring-sarah-houghton-librarian-in-black/)

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**Intersect Alert January 11, 2015**

**January 11, 2015**  
**Categories:** Intersect Alert  
**Tags:** freedom of information, intellectual property, international outlook, internet access, libraries, privacy, public policy, publishing

**International Outlook:**

**Solidarity with Charlie Hebdo? Subscribe!**  
What can anyone do in response to the horrific murders of twelve persons associated with the French weekly Charlie Hebdo?

One way of expressing solidarity with the victims, and opposition to the killers, would be to purchase a subscription to the satirical (often deliberately offensive) publication, whether for yourself or for a local library. In the U.S., subscriptions to Charlie Hebdo are conveniently available through [Amazon.com](http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2015/01/intersect-alert-january-11-2015/). The surviving staff said that next week’s issue will be published on schedule.  

**Saudi Arabia: Free Speech Doesn’t Apply Here**  
Just two days after issuing a condemnation of the terror attack on the Charlie Hebdo office in Paris, the government of Saudi Arabia began carrying out a public flogging against blogger Raif Badawi, who in May was sentenced to ten years in prison and 1,000 lashes for insulting Islam. While Saudi Arabia is decrying terrorist attacks on the media in France, it’s using its own “anti-terror” laws to convict free speech advocates. And despite its close alliance with the United States, the Saudi...
government has ignored US urgings and carried out the
flogging.
https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2015/01/saudi-arabia-free-
speech-doesnt-apply-here.

Privacy Issues:

USPS Breach Could Have Compromised Health Data for 485K Workers
The U.S. Postal Service has reported that about 485,000 current
and former employees’ health information might have been
compromised in a breach the agency reported in November
2014. USPS reported an information systems breach that
affected about 800,000 employees and 2.9 million customers.
During the breach, hackers were able to access affected
individuals’ Addresses, Dates of birth, and Social Security
numbers. In a statement, USPS spokesperson David
Partenheimer said the agency has taken “steps to obtain current
addresses for as many affected employees as possible through
private contractors who used, among other sources, the Postal
Service’s own National Change of Address database.”
http://www.ihealthbeat.org/articles/2015/1/6/usps-breach-
could-have-compromised-health-data-for-485k-workers.

State Courts Strike Blows to Criminal DNA Collection
Laws in 2014 – What to Look for in 2015
2014 was a banner year for DNA cases. In the wake of
Maryland v. King-the 2013 U.S. Supreme Court case
upholding warrantless, suspicionless DNA collection from
arrestees under Maryland state law-the constitutionality of
DNA collection in the criminal context has continued to
present challenging issues for courts. Many of the courts that
addressed DNA collection in 2014 followed the Supreme
Court’s reasoning in King and held that DNA profiling upon
arrest is a means of “identification” because it might help law
enforcement to learn about a person’s past criminal behavior.
For example, in Haskell v. Harris, the Ninth Circuit Court of
Appeals reviewed a challenge to California’s DNA collection
law, which requires DNA collection from all individuals
arrested for a felony, and upheld the statute’s constitutionality
in light of King.
However, late in 2014, in People v. Buza, the California Court
of Appeal refused to follow this path. Instead, it held that
California’s DNA Act (the same statute the Ninth Circuit
addressed in Haskell), “unreasonably intrudes such arrestees’
expectation of privacy” and therefore violates the search and
seizure provision of the California Constitution, California’s
equivalent to the Fourth Amendment. Although the California
Court of Appeal’s opinion is thorough and welcome, several of
the facts the court focuses on may change as technology
advances, and this could undermine the applicability of the
court’s decision in future cases.

Writers Say They Feel Censored by Surveillance
A survey of writers around the world by the PEN American
Center has found that a significant majority said they were
deeply concerned with government surveillance, with many
reporting that they have avoided, or have considered avoiding,
controversial topics in their work or in personal
communications as a result.
A survey of writers around the world by the PEN American
Center has found that a significant majority said they were
deeply concerned with government surveillance, with many
reporting that they have avoided, or have considered avoiding,
controversial topics in their work or in personal
communications as a result. The findings show that writers
consider freedom of expression to be under significant threat
around the world in democratic and nondemocratic countries.
Some 75 percent of respondents in countries classified as
“free,” 84 percent in “partly free” countries, and 80 percent in
countries that were “not free” said that they were “very” or
“somewhat” worried about government surveillance in their
countries.
http://www.nytimes.com/2015/01/05/arts/writers-say-they-feel-
censored-by-surveillance.html.

Public Policy:

OITP releases report exploring policy implications of 3D
printing
3D printers can do incredible things – from creating food, to
rendering human organs, to building spare parts for the
International Space Station. A small but growing number of
libraries make 3D printers available as a library service.
Library users are building functioning prosthetic limbs,
creating product prototypes and making educational models for
use in classwork.
While 3D printing technology is advancing at a meteoric pace,
policymakers are just beginning to develop frameworks for its
use. This presents the library community with an exciting
opportunity—as providers of 3D printing services to the public,
we can begin to shape the policy that coalesces around this
technology in the years to come. To advance this work, ALA’s
Office for Information Technology Policy (OITP) today
released “Progress in the Making: 3D Printing Policy
Considerations through the Library Lens,” a report that
examines numerous policy implications of 3D printing,
including those related to intellectual property, intellectual
freedom and product liability.
http://www.districtdispatch.org/2015/01/oitp-releases-report-
exploring-policy-implications-3d-printing/.
**Downward Trend Continues in Enforcement of Environmental Standards**

Don’t be surprised if you missed hearing about the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) annual report on its compliance and enforcement efforts for fiscal year (FY) 2014. The report, released the week before Christmas with little public or media attention, highlights what has become a disturbing downward trend over the past several years. Reductions in enforcement can mean less compliance with pollution control requirements and more exposure to toxic chemicals, putting human health and natural resources at risk. The number of federal inspections carried out by EPA in FY 2014 was more than 25 percent below 2010 levels. The number of enforcement cases that EPA brought against polluters for failing to comply with federal standards has continued a four-year decline, with particularly steep drops over the past two fiscal years.


**Freedom of Information:**

**Google: The reluctant censor of the Internet**

When we think of online censorship, the first thing that comes to mind is totalitarian governments like China. But Google is one of the biggest unofficial Internet censors in the world. In order for Google to operate in the 219 countries and territories it does business in, the search giant has to obey local laws and rules — many of which require Google to remove certain content from its search results and other sites. So in Turkey, Google takes down links to sites that defame the country’s founder, Mustafa Kemal Ataturk — that’s illegal there. In Thailand, denigrating the Thai monarch is against the law, so Google blocks YouTube videos in Thailand that ridicule King Bhumibol Adulyadej. And in Germany, France and Poland, where it is illegal to publish pro-Nazi material or content that denies the Holocaust, Google does not display links to certain sites on its search results pages. Governments asked Google to remove 39,374 items from its search results, YouTube and other sites in 2013, according to the company’s most recent transparency report. On top of that, copyright holders asked Google to take down 36.5 million links, videos and other items. Google controls nearly two-thirds of the world’s search results, making it one of the biggest Internet gateways for more than a billion people around the world. That’s why Google attempts to be transparent about the content it removes from the Web.


**Internet Access:**

**UGA Media Archives improves access to rare Nixon interview footage**

The University of Georgia Libraries is using new technology to improve access to more than 30 hours of rare videotaped interviews with former President Richard M. Nixon. The videotapes had been largely unseen outside of the group that produced them in 1983. The interviews-with full transcription-have been made [available online](http://news.uga.edu/releases/article/uga-media-archives-rare-nixon-footage/).

**Intellectual Property Issues:**

**Sorry iPhone Users: Apple’s Dev Agreement Means No EFF Mobile App for iOS**

Today we [Electronic Frontier Foundation] launched a new app that will make it easier for people to take action on digital rights issues using their phone. The app allows folks to connect to our action center quickly and easily, using a variety of mobile devices. Sadly, though, we had to leave out Apple devices and the folks who use them. Why? Because we could not agree to the outrageous terms in Apple’s Developer Agreement and Apple’s DRM requirements. As we have been saying for years now, the Developer Agreement is bad for developers and users alike. Here are a few of the terms that we are worried about:

Ban on Public Statements: Section 10.4 prohibits developers from making any “public statements” about the terms of the Agreement. This is particularly strange, since the Agreement itself is not “Apple Confidential Information” as defined in Section 10.1. So the terms are not confidential, but developers are contractually forbidden from speaking “publicly” about them.

Ban on Reverse Engineering: Section 2.6 prohibits any reverse engineering (including the kinds of reverse engineering for interoperability that courts have recognized as a fair use under copyright law), as well as anything that would “enable others” to reverse engineer, the software development kit (SDK) or iPhone OS.


**Libraries:**
Siobhan A. Reardon: LJ’s 2015 Librarian of the Year
She engineered the creation of an ambitious, five-year strategic plan, underpinned by a powerful mission to advance literacy, guide learning, and inspire curiosity through the Free Library of Philadelphia (FLP). Siobhan A. Reardon had been in the director’s chair for less than a month when FLP was handed a 20 percent cut and branch hours were drastically reduced. Library state funding was slashed by 34 percent. In 2010, with funding trickling back into the budget, FLP launched a two-year process to formalize a new strategic plan. “We agreed that we had to stop trying to be all things to all people; we just didn’t have the money,” Reardon says. Instead, her plan refocused the role of the library, identifying five target populations (job seekers, entrepreneurs, new Americans, children under five, and people with disabilities). The plan outlines a cluster model to streamline and enhance neighborhood library services, share resources and staff among neighborhood libraries, and collaborate with community leaders to develop programs and services most needed by residents. “Siobhan Reardon models external focus and is never content to duplicate yesterday’s achievements,” says FLP Foundation board chair Dichter.


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Publishing:
Shorter, better, faster, free: Blogging changes the nature of academic research, not just how it is communicated
One of the recurring themes (from many different contributors) on the LSE Impact of Social Science blog is that a new paradigm of research communications has grown up—one that de-emphasizes the traditional journals route, and re-prioritizes faster, real-time academic communication. Blogs play a critical intermediate role. They link to research reports and articles on the one hand, and they are linked to from Twitter, Facebook, Pinterest, Tumblr and Google+ news-streams and communities. So in research terms blogging is quite simply, one of the most important things that an academic should be doing right now. But in addition, STEM scientists, social scientists and humanities scholars all have an obligation to society to contribute their observations to the wider world. Academic blogging gets your work and research out to a potentially massive audience at very, very low cost and relative amount of effort.

http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/impactofsocialsciences/2014/12/28/shorter-better-faster-free/.

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Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety.
The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.

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Volunteer for the SLA-SF Bay Region Chapter

YOUR CHAPTER NEEDS YOU!!!

Hello fellow chapter members!!

Jaye Lapachet,
President 2015

My Presidential year has started, I am preparing for the Crossover meeting and I am still assembling my crack team of excellent volunteers to work to make the chapter better, more efficient and more fun in 2015. I need you on my team. There are still opportunities to work with the chapter on the advisory council. Other volunteer and committee positions will be posted soon.

I am diligently working on the Advisory Council level. The chairs that are still open at the moment:

Academic Relations – Forges and maintains relationships with library and information resource students and schools. Organizes student reception in August. Great for people who are friendly and care about our students.

Archives – Handling all of the chapter’s archival materials, interfacing with the Internet Archive and our cloud storage company. The ‘Born Digital’ materials are on my radar for 2015.

Bayline—Are you a writer? Do you have great ideas for...
articles and interviews? The blog format of the Bayline provides a lot of opportunity for creativity in the types of articles presented. The job involves soliciting content to ensure at least two or three posts are generated a month (though more are welcome). You would have help since the Director and Assistant Director of Programs, along with the rest of the Board, are already writing their various columns and tidbits as well as soliciting write-ups of the various events throughout the year. However, we really need someone to solicit additional articles, set deadlines, edit the articles, gently nudge Board and Advisory Council members to write and get articles posted to the web site. The blog format is only a few years old, which means you will still have a lot of opportunity to shape the Bayline editor role for the future. **SOMEONE VOLUNTEERED. YAY!!!**

**Hospitality**—Work closely with Programs Director, finds venues, coordinates with venue event coordinator, handles registration and nametags. (2-3 total needed) **SOMEONE VOLUNTEERED. YAY!!!**

**Networking**—Help our members connect with like-minded professionals! Keep current on local events sponsored by other groups of information professionals and make sure they know about our events, too! We are also looking at using this position to expand our social media efforts. Do you post questions or reply to other people’s posts on LinkedIn? Do you spend time engaging with groups on FaceBook? Are you active on Twitter? Spend a just a couple extra minutes on any or all of these platforms to develop the chapter’s presence. **SOMEONE VOLUNTEERED. YAY!!!**

**Nominating**—Heads the Nominating committee which is charged with preparing and presenting the slate. **SOMEONE VOLUNTEERED. YAY!!!**

**Public Relations**—Do the footwork that would get the chapter some additional coverage. Write and provide previous press releases and annual reports. We know how awesome we are, but we need you to help communicate the value of information professionals to the world outside our membership! Write or solicit articles for local business newspapers. Find out where the C-Level people go for their information and make sure we have a presence there, too! Work with the association’s Public Relations Advisory Council on their podcasting project to interview members’ bosses about the value and impact information professionals bring to the organization. This is a more externally facing position that can really be what you want to make of it. **SOMEONE VOLUNTEERED. YAY!!!**

I want to hear your ideas for how the positions above can meet your personal and professional goals. Please contact me with your questions and ideas. There may be a few more positions later as some other issues about other positions get worked out. Also, there will be some discrete and one-off opportunities. **If you have an interest, even one that is not listed, please contact me.** There are lots of exciting things happening with the chapter in 2015.

The events and activities usually coordinated by the open positions above will not happen in 2015 without a chair. I cannot burden current volunteers with more work. If someone does not volunteer for the the positions above, then I will assume they are not valuable to the chapter, and your Board has to take that into consideration. Volunteering with the chapter pays back in dividends many times over, not the least of which is padding your resume with valuable experience. As with so many things in life, you get back out what you put in. **Please get involved!** Please contact me if you are interested in any of these positions, or in hearing about other volunteer opportunities that arise.

Thank you! I look forward to hearing from you and working with you.

Jaye Lapachet
President, 2015

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**Holiday Party 2014 Recap, by Anne Barker**

Deb Hunt receives her Quarter Century Award.

Early last December, many Chapter members gathered at the Urban Tavern in San Francisco for our annual holiday party. The company was superb and our Hospitality volunteers did a fantastic job planning the party, with lots of great food and drink enjoyed by all. We even have several photos of the event!

In addition to coming together with our friends and colleagues, the holiday party also serves annually as a chance to honor some of our fellow chapter members for their outstanding service to our Chapter, to the SLA, and to the profession. This year’s award winners were:

- Deb Hunt – Quarter Century Club/Lifetime Achievement Award
- Catherine Ghent – Professional Achievement Award
- Erin Megg yesy – Horizon Award
- Jessica Neaves – Student Award
- Jonathan Leff and Cathy Salomon – Special Project Award for Bayline digitization
- Annual Reviews – Business Partner Appreciation Award

The awards presentation was followed by continued celebration, with some of us eventually having to be asked to leave as the staff of the Urban Tavern cleaned up around us!

Many thanks as always to our wonderful sponsors who helped financially support this event: IEEE, Special Counsel, and the San Francisco Business Times.

The ever-increasing cost of hosting Chapter events makes these sponsors welcome and highly appreciated indeed! Even so, as we have for many years, the Chapter Board continues to approve budget subsidies that allow us to keep registration costs as low as we can, while making up the shortfall from our Chapter’s financial reserves.

Our next Chapter event will be our joint meeting with BayNet on January 29th, featuring the Librarian in Black, Sarah Houghton as our speaker. Registration will open soon. I look forward to seeing many of you there!

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Book Arts on the West Coast: a visit to The Book Club of California

Categories: Bayline, Chapter Programs & Events Tags: events, libraries
Book Arts on the West Coast: a visit to The Book Club of California

By Helen Sobolik

An antique press in the BCC Club Room

During a recent business trip I had the pleasure of joining the SLA San Francisco Bay Region Chapter – sanfrancisco.sla1.org – on a tour of the Book Club of California (BCC) – www.bccbooks.org. The BCC is a non-profit membership library founded in 1912 focusing on fine printing and letterpress in San Francisco, the Bay Area, the state of California, and the western states more broadly.

Henry Snyder, the BCC Librarian, led the group on a tour and lively discussion in the Albert Sperison Library where we had the pleasure of viewing and handling several of the magnificently bound, letterpressed, and illuminated volumes in the collection.

The Albert Sperison Library

The Albert Sperison Library at is comprised of several main collections:

- BCC Press – approximately 232 books published since 1913.
- Roxburghe Club of San Francisco – a bibliophile club founded in 1928.
- Miniature books including many from Carol Cunningham’s Sunflower Press
- Ward Ritchie, Lawrence Clark Powell, Gloria Stuart and related presses – a close social network of printers in the Bay Area.

We were also allowed a look into Mr. Snyder’s workroom, where we found archival boxes of Grabhorn Press ephemera awaiting cataloging. These included menus, invitations, and keepsakes printed by the Grabhorns for various clients such as the Bohemian Club, the Roxburghe Club, the Wine & Food Society, etc.
Meeting Materials from the Zamorano Club of Los Angeles & the Roxburghe Club of San Francisco

Attendees also strolled through the main room of the Book Club and browsed the current exhibition, *Food & Wine & Good Design: The California Fine Printers’ Legacy* including finely printed cookbooks, menus, and other food-related literature and ephemera.

Gallery Exhibition: *Food & Wine & Good Design*

My thanks to Henry Snyder and the San Francisco Bay Region Chapter and event organizer Heather Heen for a fascinating tour and a warm welcome for a New York visitor.

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**Intersect Alert January 18, 2015**


**Internet Access:**

**E-learning matches traditional training for doctors, nurses: review**

Millions more students worldwide could train as doctors and nurses using electronic learning, which is just as effective as traditional medical training, a review commissioned by the World Health Organization has found. Researchers at Imperial College London who conducted the review said on Monday that wider use of e-learning might help make up for a global shortfall of 7.2 million health workers identified in a recent WHO report (PDF).

www.reuters.com/article/2015/01/12/us-health-training-who-idUSKBN0KL0XZ20150112.

**Smithsonian Brings Historic Specimens to Life in Free “Skin and Bones” Mobile App**

The Smithsonian’s National Museum of Natural History released a new mobile app “Skin and Bones” Jan. 13. The free app is available for download in the App Store and reinvents how visitors to the museum can experience select specimens on view in its historic “Bone Hall,” an exhibit of almost 300 vertebrate skeletons. In the app, 13 different skeletons on display come to life through the advanced technologies of 3-D augmented reality and 3-D tracking. The app adds details to many of the specimens to show how they move or look in life or how their skeletons work. After installing the app on their mobile devices, users simply choose the animal they are interested in from a map of the hall. Each animal choice has a menu of immersive audiovisual experiences, including videos, animations and activities.
Public Policy:

More than a third of American workers don’t get sick leave, and they’re making the rest of us ill

Today, President Obama’s proposing legislation that would give American workers 7 days a year of paid sick leave. The U.S. remains the world’s only wealthy nation that does not mandate a minimum of paid sick leave, vacation leave or parental leave. Nationally, nearly 4-in-10 private sector workers — 39 percent — do not have access to any sick leave at all. Zero. Zilch. None. That amounts to 43.5 million workers who may be compelled by financial reasons to come into [work] when they’re sniffling, sneezing, barfing, and generally feeling under the weather, making the rest of us ill in the process.

Paid sick leave is also, frankly, a public health issue. According to the American Public Health Association, during the 2009 H1N1 pandemic “an estimated 7 million additional individuals were infected and 1,500 deaths occurred because contagious employees did not stay home from work to recover.” 1,500 deaths!

Freedom of Information:

Watchdog Group Appeals Government’s Definition of Media: FTC imposed heavy fees for record requests from group, because it wasn’t ‘news media’

After an initial round of arguments on Wednesday, a government watchdog group is hopeful that an appeals court will overturn a Federal Trade Commission decision that it does not qualify as a legitimate media outlet. Cause of Action, a non-profit organization, argued in a federal appeals court Wednesday that the Federal Trade Commission wrongly denied several of its Freedom of Information Act requests based on a narrow, biased interpretation of what qualifies as a media outlet. The Open Government Act of 2007 mandates that federal agencies recognize “alternative media,” but in practice agencies have had broad discretion to choose which organizations qualify for fee waivers that exempt groups from hefty costs for obtaining public records.

Privacy:

Zombie Cookie: The Tracking Cookie That You Can’t Kill

An online advertising clearinghouse relied on by Google, Yahoo and Facebook is using controversial cookies that come back from the dead to track the web surfing of Verizon customers. The company, called Turn, is taking advantage of a hidden undeletable number that Verizon uses to monitor customers’ habits on their smartphones and tablets. Turn uses the Verizon number to respawn tracking cookies that users have deleted. “We are trying to use the most persistent identifier that we can in order to do what we do,” Max Ochoa, Turn’s chief privacy officer, told ProPublica. Turn’s zombie cookie comes amid a controversy about a new form of tracking the telecom industry has deployed to shield mobile phone users. Last year, Verizon and AT&T users noticed their carriers were inserting a tracking number into all the Web traffic that transmits from a users’ phone – even if the user has tried to opt out.

Washington DC’s Public Library Will Teach People How to Avoid the NSA

Later this month, the Washington DC Public Library will teach residents how to use the internet anonymization tool Tor as part of a 10 day series designed to shed light on government surveillance, transparency, and personal privacy. A series called “Orwellian America,” held by a publicly funded entity mere minutes from a Congress and administration that allowed the NSA’s surveillance programs to spin wildly out of control certainly seems subversive. But the library says it wasn’t really intended that way. The series will open with a screening of The Internet’s Own Boy, a documentary about Aaron Swartz, the brains behind RSS, Creative Commons, and an influential partner at Reddit who committed suicide while under a widely criticized indictment for federal data theft. There will also be marathon readings of George Orwell’s 1984, a lecture about how to access government data online, a lecture about how to track campaign finances, internet safety classes for teens, and screenings of the Frontline documentary United States of Secrets, about the Edward Snowden leaks. Another lecture will teach people basic online security (such as two-step authentication) and will include live hacking demonstrations. A closing event at the Spy Museum will discuss the ongoing tension between transparency and national security.
Open Access:

**arXiv Hits 1 Million Submissions**

It all started with an electronic bulletin board – one computer on one scientist’s desk. Now, more than two decades later, arXiv is a driving force in scientific communication. It draws in thousands of researchers every day, operating with a permanent staff and a $1M budget. As an open-access service, it allows scientists – from diverse disciplines encompassing physics, mathematics, statistics, computer science and more – to share research before it’s formally published. A million papers have now been uploaded to the repository.

arXiv saw nearly 90 million downloads from all over the world and received more than 97,000 new submissions in 2013. Around the world, more than 150 subject experts evaluate and categorize every single article posted on arXiv.


Publishing:

**Introducing the CrossRef Labs DOI Chronograph**

At CrossRef we mint DOIs for publications and send them out into the world, but we like to hear how they’re getting on out there. Obviously, DOIs are used heavily within the formal scholarly literature and for citations, but they’re increasingly being used outside of formal publications in places we didn’t expect. With our DOI Event Tracking / ALM pilot project we’re collecting information about how DOIs are mentioned on the open web to try and build a picture about new methods of citation.

As part of the preparation for collaborating with Wikipedia, we looked at our statistics about when DOIs are clicked and discovered that Wikipedia was, over a two year period from 2012, the eighth largest referrer of DOIs. This means that not only does Wikipedia have a lot of DOIs, but people click them too. We talked to some Wikipedians and bibliometricians and realised that we were sitting on a really interesting data-set and that it would be churlish not to share it. At the hackathon (read the report here) we started work on a service to gather information about how DOIs are mentioned on the open web and build a picture about new methods of citation.

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Goats:

**Map: Literally every goat in the United States**

[editor’s note: I couldn’t resist; see original story for map.]

There were 2,621,514 goats in the United States as of 2012, the year of the most recent USDA Agricultural Census. If America’s goats were their own state, its population would be larger than that of Wyoming, Vermont, D.C. and North Dakota — combined. You’ll find commercial goat farms operating in 2,996 of the country’s 3,143 counties. America’s goat population is heavily concentrated in the Southwest, Texas in particular. Nearly 80 percent of America’s goats are raised for meat. Sixteen percent are raised for milk, with the remaining 6 percent is comprised of Angora goats raised for mohair. There are also currently 3.2 million YouTube videos relating to goats.


Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety.
The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.

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Security is Not a Crime—Unless You’re an Anarchist

Riseup, a tech collective that provides security-minded communications to activists worldwide, sounded the alarm last month when a judge in Spain stated that the use of their email service is a practice, he believes, associated with terrorism. Javier Gómez Bermúdez is a judge of Audiencia Nacional, a special high court in Spain that deals with serious crimes such as terrorism and genocide. According to press reports, he ordered arrest warrants that were carried out on December 16th against alleged members of an anarchist group. The arrests were part of Operation Pandora, a coordinated campaign against “anarchist activity” that has been called an attempt “to criminalize anarchist social movements.” The police seized books, cell phones, and computers, and arrested 11 activists. Few details are known about the situation, since the judge has declared the case secret. Four of the detainees have been released, but seven have been jailed pending trial. The reasons given by the judge for their continued detention include the possession of certain books, “the production of publications and forms of communication,” and the fact that the defendants “used emails with extreme security measures.” It’s unclear exactly what the judge means by “extreme security measures.” As Riseup points out, “many of the ‘extreme security measures’ used by Riseup are common best practices for online security.”

A New Year, A New Committee, & A New Take On Diversity

Hi there! I’m Bacilio, but enough about me; this is really about you.

The executive and advisory board of the SLA SF Bay Region Chapter, seeing a need for such issues to be explored by the chapter, have entrusted me to chair a committee on diversity matters and programming for the chapter and in service to all of its members.

But what exactly does that mean?

First and foremost, to me diversity begins with our leadership and programming reflecting the face of the membership; which, I believe, it currently does. But beyond optics and equal representation, a more nuanced approach to “diversity”, to me, at least, involves a shift in thinking to one of inclusion and an anti-oppression framework.

Now, that may sound a bit more radical than we as librarian members of this specific professional organization may be used to, but I think that it is a necessary and lofty goal to constantly and consistently be working toward.

What that specifically looks like in practice is a promise from me and the members of the committee to provide no-to-very-low-cost and completely accessible diversity events, outings, and resources to the membership that can be related to your work as a special librarian.

The Committee will be bringing to your various screens at least two articles a month that will either bring to your attention figures of our global society or a diverse cross-section of our chapter’s membership. We also plan on providing skill-sharing and social events (most of which will not take place at watering holes [though a few may]) that will bring together different generations and subspecies of special librarians that we would normally not expect to commingle, but for at the annual holiday party.

As I am much more in the business of showing, rather than telling, I will end my introduction of the Diversity Committee there, but if you’d like more information on how to get involved with the committee, have an idea for a post that you would like to suggest (or guest author), or would like to flood me with your thoughts on possible events, please do not hesitate to reach out to me via diversity@sanfrancisco.sla1.org or by tweeting @LibDiversity or @bacilio on Twitter. I’ll be standing by!

Advisory Council Bio: Ginny Woodis

Hello, I’m Ginny Woodis, current Mailing Chair of the San Francisco chapter, of which I’ve been a member since about 1998, when I was attending San Jose State getting my MLIS.

My role, now that most communications are electronic,
Intersect Alert January 25, 2015


Categories: Intersect Alert
Tags: freedom of information, intellectual property, internet access, privacy, public policy, publishing

Publishing:

Which Has More Bias? Wikipedia or the Encyclopaedia Britannica

For more than a century, the long, stately rows of Encyclopædia Britannica have been a fixture on the shelves of many an educated person’s home—the smooshed-together diphthong in the first word a symbol of old-world erudition and gravitas. So it was a shock to many when, in 2012, the venerable institution announced it would no longer publish a print version of its multivolume compendium of knowledge. Though the Britannica would still be available online, the writing on the virtual wall was clear: It had been supplanted by the Internet. And more specifically, by an upstart phenomenon Wikipedia, the free, crowd-sourced encyclopedia that since its inception in 2001 had rapidly become the new go-to source for knowledge.

“There has been lots of research on the accuracy of Wikipedia, and the results are mixed—some studies show it is just as good as the experts, others show [that] Wikipedia is not accurate at all,” says Feng Zhu, an assistant professor in the Technology and Operations Management unit at Harvard Business School. Perhaps the most interesting finding … is that the more times an article is revised on Wikipedia, the less bias it is likely to show—directly contradicting the theory that ideological groups might self-select over time into increasingly biased camps.

http://hbswk.hbs.edu/item/7689.html.

Privacy Issues:

HealthCare.gov Sends Personal Data to Dozens of Tracking Websites

The Associated Press reports that healthcare.gov—the flagship site of the Affordable Care Act, where millions of Americans have signed up to receive health care—is quietly sending personal health information to a number of third party websites. The information being sent includes one’s zip code, income level, smoking status, pregnancy status and more. EFF researchers have independently confirmed that healthcare.gov is sending personal health information to at least 14 third party domains, even if the user has enabled Do Not Track. It’s especially troubling that the U.S. government is sending personal information to commercial companies on a website that’s touted as the place for people to obtain health care coverage. Even more troubling is the potential for companies like Doubleclick, Google, Twitter, Yahoo, and others to associate this data with a person’s actual identity.

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2015/01/healthcare.gov-sends-personal-data.

Freedom of Information:

SSCI [Senate Select Committee on Intelligence] Wants Copies of Full Torture Report Returned

There is a new sheriff in town. Is that the message that Senator Richard Burr, the new chair of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, is trying to send? Senator Burr reportedly wrote to President Obama last week to ask that all copies of the classified 6,700 page Committee report on CIA interrogation practices be returned immediately to the Committee. While the redacted summary of the report has been publicly released and is even something of a bestseller for the Government Printing Office as well as a commercial publisher, the full report has not been made public. And Senator Burr seems determined to keep it that way. Senator Dianne Feinstein, who chaired the Committee while the report was produced, scorned the request for its return. Among other things, the proposed return of the full report may be intended to prevent its potential future accessibility through the Freedom of Information Act, which does not apply to records in congressional custody.

http://fas.org/blogs/secrecy/2015/01/ssci-returned/.

Seventy Public Interest Organizations and Companies Urge Congress to Update Email Privacy Law

EFF, along with more than sixty civil liberties organizations,
public interest groups, and companies sent two letters to the House and Senate leadership today. One supported the upcoming bipartisan Email Privacy Act by Reps. Kevin Yoder and Jared Polis, and the other supported the upcoming Electronic Communications Privacy Act Amendments Act by Sens. Mike Lee and Patrick Leahy. The bills aim to update the Electronic Communications Privacy Act (ECPA), an archaic law that’s been used by the government to obtain emails without getting a probable cause warrant. The bills are common sense bipartisan bills that help to codify current judicial decisions regarding the privacy of your personal online communications.


Intellectual Property:

Who Will Own the Internet of Things? (Hint: Not the Users)

From phones to cars to refrigerators to farm equipment, software is helping our stuff work better and smarter. But those features come at a high hidden cost: the rapid erosion of ownership. Why does that matter? Because when it comes to digital products, owners have rights. Renters on the other hand, have only permission. The source of the problem is simple: copyright. You may own your device, but your use of the software in it is usually governed by the terms of an End-User License Agreement (or EULA). And that license agreement is likely to restrict your ability to tinker with your stuff. Typical clauses forbid reverse-engineering (e.g., figuring out how the software works so you can adapt it), transfer (e.g., giving it to a friend or selling it on the secondary market), and even using “unauthorized” repair services at all. Further complication: the software may be saddled with digital locks (aka Digital Rights Management or DRM) supposedly designed to prevent unauthorized copying. And breaking those locks, even to do something simple and otherwise legal like tinkering with or fixing your own devices, could mean breaking the law.


Fair Use Is Not An Exception to Copyright, It's Essential to Copyright

Over the past two years, as talk of copyright reform has escalated, we’ve also heard complaints about the supposed expansion of fair use, or “fair use creep.” That kind of talk woefully misunderstands how fair use works. Fair use provides breathing space in copyright law, making sure that control of the right to copy and distribute doesn’t become control of the right to create and innovate. New technologies and services depend on the creation of multiple copies as a matter of course. At the same time, copyright terms cover works many decades old and copyrighted software appears in more and more devices. Taken together, these developments mean the potential reach of copyright may extend ever further. Fair use makes sure that the rights of the public expand at the same time, so add-on creativity and innovation can continue to thrive. In other words, “‘fair use creep” is an essential corollary to “copyright creep.”

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2015/01/fair-use-not-exception-copyright-its-essential-copyright.

Public Policy:

Obama’s EPA breaks pledge to divorce politics from science on toxic chemicals

In his first inaugural address, between promising to fix the economy and lower the cost of health care, President Barack Obama made this pledge: “We’ll restore science to its rightful place.” It might sound arcane as a presidential priority, but it was a big deal at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Political interference from the Bush White House had delayed or derailed dozens of the EPA’s findings on potential health risks posed by toxic chemicals. Yet the Obama administration’s plan has been a failure. In the past three years, the EPA has assessed fewer chemicals than ever. Last year, it completed only one assessment. Today, the agency has even embraced measures sought by the chemical industry that have led to endless delays.


Internet Access:

Study: Health IT Use Doesn’t Guarantee Doctors Receive Patient Data

More than one-third of physicians who use health IT do not receive the patient data needed to coordinate care, according to a study published in the journal Medical Care. For the study, researchers examined data from about 4,500 office-based physicians who responded to a nationally representative survey in 2012 on electronic health record use and electronic data sharing. The physicians were asked about how often they received certain types of patient health information for effective care coordination. Specifically, the study focused on whether health IT use was associated with a higher share of physicians receiving such data.

According to the study, 39% of surveyed physicians had an EHR system but did not electronically share patient health data; About 33% had an EHR system and shared patient health data electronically; and 25% did not have an EHR system or electronically share patient health data.
Tweets can better predict heart disease rates than income, smoking and diabetes, study finds

Is Twitter becoming a new public health database? The latest evidence: A group of researchers has found that analyzing tweets can accurately predict the prevalence of heart disease. In fact, the researchers say, Twitter can serve as a better predictor of coronary heart-disease rates than factors such as smoking, diabetes, income and education, obesity — combined. The findings from the University of Pennsylvania were published this week in the journal Psychological Science. The research is part of a larger effort to incorporate big data into science, rather than relying on the time- and cost-intensive process of collecting representative samples and conducting surveys. A previous study found that Twitter can be an especially good way to track the flu, and other research has shown that examining people's Wikipedia reading habits can accurately forecast the spread of influenza and dengue. Using Twitter as a tool to measure public health can help policymakers more quickly and effectively target campaigns and measure their results.

Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety.

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Advisory Council Bio: Sandy Malloy

I live in Oakland and work at Business Wire as Licensing Manager, since 2013. Prior to that I was a Senior Information Specialist at Business Wire, since 1989. I’ve been a chapter member since 1983.

I’m the new Chair of the Nominating Committee. My goal for the chapter is to continue to try & fill Board positions with members who are new to chapter office so we keep getting new ideas and keep chapter governance alive as our members retire or leave.

This is a vibrant and diverse chapter of SLA and I’ve enjoyed being a part of both the Board and Advisory Council. The organization and the chapter give me access to a group of smart people to whom information and access to information really matters. Besides, they’re fun to be around! And there is the Baseball Caucus, of which I’ve been a member for quite a while.

My hobbies are working out at my gym; watching A's baseball, Warriors basketball, and 49ers/Raiders/Steelers football; food/wine; volunteering at the Oakland Zoo; reading; and watching my favorite competition shows (Jeopardy, Project Runway, Dancing With The Stars.) The order depends on the day.

PRESENTATIONS THAT DON’T S&*#@!

SF SLA is pleased to offer our first professional development workshop of 2015:

PRESENTATIONS THAT DON’T S&*#@!

With Eris Weaver!

Join us on Friday, February 13 for this workshop. Prepare to be engaged! If you have trained with Eris before, you know about her interactive and lively presentations; if not, you will be delighted with her style and facilitation skills.

Where: Pacific Energy Center
851 Howard St., San Francisco, 94103
(between 4th and 5th streets)
Powell St. BART, 5th and Mission Parking Garage

**When:** Friday, February 13, 2015

**Time:** Registration 8:30 am – 9:00 am
Presentation 9:00 am – 12:00 noon
A light breakfast will be provided

**Cost:** $45 SLA members/$60 nonmembers

Registration closed.

**Thanks to our generous sponsor: Soutron Global**

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**More about this professional development workshop:**

We joined the library & information profession for a variety of reasons: we’re research junkies with a touch of OCD, interested in technology, and devoted to customer service. Public speaking is NOT necessarily high on our list. Yet we frequently DO need to make presentations: defending our budget to the boss or board; training our users on available resources; or sharing insights with our colleagues at conferences.

The techniques shared in this highly participatory workshop will increase your confidence and competence, improving the chances that your presentations will yield the desired results!

We’ll look at:

- The essential components of any presentation
- Analyzing your audience
- Clarifying your message
- Props & prompts
- Using images effectively
- Your body as instrument: voice, posture, movement

You will get the most out of this workshop if you come with a specific upcoming presentation in mind, and review the preparatory materials the facilitator will send out in advance.

**PRESENTER BIO**

Eris Weaver is a facilitator, trainer, and organization development consultant known for clarity, forthrightness, and humor. A former librarian (and Past President of the Chapter), Eris holds two masters degrees from University of California and is a member of the International Association of Facilitators, the International Forum of Visual Practitioners, the California Society of Association Executives, and the Northern California Human Resources Association. She is the author of two books and a popular professor at Sonoma State University. Possessing zero tolerance for boring meetings or wasted time, her motto is “Don’t work at it, play with it!”

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**Leadership Summit Recap**


As I mentioned in my last message, Hilary and I were at the Leadership Summit in Baltimore last week. WOW! What a great event.

The Leadership Summit is a mini-conference where all of the leaders of SLA meet and learn to be better leaders, learn how the association works, ask questions and meet each other.

It was great for me to see people I met last year and to meet other new leaders. I don’t think I can ever get enough networking in.

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**Snowy Trees**
I arrived in Baltimore on Wednesday after visiting with family for a bit. I finally got back to my computer after not having had the opportunity to really read email or anything except for a few minutes late at night. As I answered email (from all of you!) I saw something out of the corner of my eye that turned out to be big fat snowflakes falling. I am pretty sure I don’t want to live somewhere where I have to shovel snow and worry about pipes freezing, but the snowfall was mesmerizing to watch. I decided to go out and walk around. I couldn’t stop taking pictures and marveling at the way the snow stuck to things and how much was falling. I am sure those of you who have lived in snow are laughing at me! While mesmerizing, it was also cold and wet! 😅

The first official event (snow was not on the official agenda) was the 2016 conference planning meeting. Yes, you read that right, 2016. Caroline Hamilton, the event planner for SLA, explained to us why it needed to be started so early. She said that it was like planning a wedding for 3000 people. It was a great analogy, because it made the event seem more human and relatable. Anyway, making last minute alterations such as menu changes for 3000 people two days before became more understandable to us. After that, since I was not officially on the planning committee, I provided moral support and listened to YOUR colleagues preparing for an event that you will, hopefully, attend. It is really awe inspiring to see the volunteerism in action.

In the evening I went to a Dine-Around at a restaurant in Baltimore called La Tasca. It was walking distance, but that meant getting on all the gear again. I can understand why people who live in snow hibernate in their houses all winter. I enjoyed meeting some people for other chapters and divisions. I walked over with one of the Board candidates (Tom Nielsen), sat with two Seattle librarians. We commiserated about the time change and they extolled the virtues of the art museum. On the other side were a couple of academic science librarians, one from Cornell and one from the University of Arkansas. Across the table was an academic from Philadelphia who works in an Osteopathic Medical College. The food was good as the company.

Thursday came way too early for those of us from the West Coast. Thursday is the long day and lots of information was imparted. We used a tool called Hackpad (other people, not me except vicariously, as I was too lazy to lug my laptop down to the meeting room), a collaborative workspace similar to Evernote (as far as I can tell). You can read about some of the work we did on the SLA Hackpad site. Information from the conference is there as well as ideas contributed by fellow members from all over the world. I’ll be looking at it as I wind up this trip.

The opening keynote speaker was Steve Denning. He wrote a book called The Leader’s Guide to Radical Management: Reinventing the Workplace for the 21st Century. He gave us a very brief synopsis and the point I took away was that there are two types of organizations: those that delight their customers and those that don’t. I want to work with chapter members that are delighted with my leadership. I will think of ways, beginning with giving you information about the Strategic Plan. I am thinking of leading a book group about this book. If you are interested, email me and I will see what happens.

SLA 101 Highlights

The more volunteers: the less work for everyone. How will you help?

Stay professional! We were told a story of how a member spit on a former Association President while s/he was in office. We don’t always agree. We are all volunteers and deserve respect for that if nothing else.

Remember: we are all volunteers.

Membership

Members of the association have declined 42% since 2001. That has wider reaching effects in terms of finances, but is also just sad. Hilary and I will request some specialized reports that will help us contact members who may have just let their membership lapse. Are you willing to help out with membership? If so, contact Hilary.

In an effort to determine member preferences, a membership task force was convened by President Arnold last year. The task force delivered their report in September. The main points were:

- networking has the most value to SLA members over and over
- build a toolkit for managing volunteer participation in order to create a richer volunteer experience
- Value of membership declines when there are technology fails* and the perception there is a gatekeeper to SLA information

Some suggestions were:

- A Value of SLA ‘subgroup’ was suggested
- divide members into groups by time in the profession
  - not as their only unit, but as a way to connect with people in the same career stage
- virtual chapter for all members
- more news/events disseminated about members
- CE Institutes for senior and middle managers- career institutes (baby MBA)
- look at opportunities to collaborate with other non-library organizations
- Create tools for members
  - metrics
  - templates for demonstrating contribution
Our Past President, Cindy Hill, recently sent a message to the list about the two consultants hired for a 1 year contact to move SLA forward without a CEO. This is a temporary solution. They will assess the needs of the organization. You can email them your ideas and questions.

<Nota bene: the SLA staff has been working heroically to keep everything on track and serve members with outdated technology and fewer bodies. They have been doing more with less. We need to be a little patient while some systems are replaced that should make some membership and listserv problems go away.>

Treasurer’s Report

- Revenue down 42% since 2001
- Membership down 42% since 2001
  - membership down 4.5% in 2014 – I think SLA-SF tracks with this. If you know someone who is on the fence about their membership, talk to them and encourage them to join or renew
- Expenses down 35% since 2001 through the hard work of SLA staff
- There will be a significant loss in 2014 due to some contractual obligations
- Conference attendance in 2014 fell significantly short
- Without the contractual obligations, the Association would have a profit of $300,000
- HQ Building still on the market. A few inquiries have been made and groups have toured, but it has not yet had an offer. The Board planned for a year to 18 months for the sale to be realized
- 2015 is shaping up to be rosier financially

Strategic Thinking

You can see a lot of this on the SLA Hackpad site. This was an exercise to get us more comfortable with strategic thinking, which is funny, because if you are comfortable you are not thinking strategically. Most of us don’t like the task of strategic thinking and some of the reasons why are:

- We don’t feel we are being paid to step back and think;
- we feel that we are being paid to do. This is often supported by the question on an annual review: what did you accomplish this past year?
- Out of our comfort zone
- The status quo is very seductive

We used improving the Association as model and generated some ideas. The Board will look over all of the ideas and see what they can move further along.

Chapter Cabinet, Division Cabinet and Joint Cabinet Meetings

I passed along some concerns the Board had and one of them, regarding financial reporting, was made into a motion and referred to the Board, thanks to Marlene Vogelsang’s friend. I am thrilled and think it will make communication better.

Closing Keynote

The Closing Keynote speaker was John Calvin PhD and he spoke about collaboration and gave a number of thoughts for us to consider from thought leaders around management and leadership.

One thing he said that I would like you all to think about is:

“If you have an idea, be the champion of that idea.”

Mr. Calvin also said that ‘Givers’ are more likely to succeed. He mentioned another book, The End of Diversity as we Know it: Why Diversity Efforts Fail and How Leveraging Difference Can Succeed (2011), which made me wonder what our new Diversity Chair, Bacilio Mendez, knew about this book. I liked the title, though, and wondered about the content. I am only committing to reading one non-fiction book as a result of this conference. Let me know if you will read it and do a review for this publication.
more informal events as a way of serving our members who may not be able to stay for dinner meetings or may have a topic that they want to discuss over the course of a few meetings. We are looking for volunteers to lead and host these meetings with the support of the Board and Advisory Council as these events will be a grass roots effort. Stay tuned for more on those and step up!”

- Speaking of volunteering, the Advisory Council positions for Academic Relations, Archives, and Public Relations are still vacant. Are you someone just starting your career but need something on your resume? Volunteering is the best way to start!
- There was a quick recap of our 2014 Holiday Party, the highlight being the half-dozen awards given.
- There were two recaps of the tour of the Book Club of California, “a non-profit organization that is dedicated to furthering the Book Arts, preserving the California fine press tradition, and providing opportunities to publish and promote significant contributions to the literature and history of California and the West.” Heather Heen provides the first recap, and Helen Sobolik gives another (with a few big pictures!).

President’s February Message

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2015/02/presidents-february-message/

February 1, 2015 Categories: Bayline, Chapter Leadership
Tags: President's message

Jaye Lapachet, President 2015

Hello!

I hope you had a great January. My January was great on a lot of levels, not the least of which is that I successfully led my first Executive Board and Advisory council meeting. There was a glitch or two, but nothing crazy. Phew! As well, I think I am finally starting to thaw out a bit.

I am always sorry to see January go. I know a lot of people don’t like it, but I love January. The year feels so fresh and new and full of possibilities. I hope that I can hold on to that feeling throughout the year and pass it on to you as well.

Chapter Membership

Membership is an issue for the chapter. We lost 11 members last year and though we had many new members join, their addition did not make up for the loss. We need all of our members and we need YOU to help the Board add and retain members. What can you do? Here are some ideas:

- Greet unfamiliar faces at meetings and events
- Introduce yourself to fellow members you don’t know
- Start a conversation on the discussion list
- Host a lunchtime meeting on a topic of interest to you
- Go to lunch with someone whose job you want to know more about
- Remind your friends about the benefits of membership
- Invite friends to join
- Ask your friends if they have renewed

The Board cannot do everything. We are here to guide, but the chapter belongs to all of us members, so please help by welcoming people and encouraging them to maintain their membership.

Reminders

Periodically I receive a notice telling me I am a member of various SLA-SF email lists. These are sent out to remind you that you are a member and to tell you how to resubscribe should your email address change. They also allow Linda and Paul to make sure the technology supporting the work of our chapter are working well.

Member Records
Edit Membership

If you have not updated your directory listing lately, please take a look and make sure all of your information is correct. This is the way you control what information you get when and where. If your email is old, you will miss out on conference updates and special offers as well as webinars and other benefits of your membership. You can update your listing from the comfort of your computer in your pajamas! Head over to SLA.org and login with your membership number and password, then choose ‘Access your Membership’. All the fields are there for your editing convenience.

Please contact me, or any Board member, if you have ideas and questions. If you need help from HQ, contact information can be found at the top of the screen on the main site page. Thank you!

Jaye

Intersect Alert February 1, 2015

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2015/02/intersect-alert-february-1-2015/

February 1, 2015
Categories: Intersect Alert
Tags: archives, digital preservation, freedom of information, intellectual property, international outlook, open access, research

Freedom of Information:

Proposal by New Mexico State University Proposal Would Limit Access to Public Records
New Mexico State University plans to propose extensive changes to restrict the reach of the state’s public records law – amendments that transparency advocates call “troubling” and vow to fight. A document prepared by NMSU describes a litany of proposed exemptions to the Inspection of Public Records Act, including some that would make secret much of the public sector hiring process and certain law enforcement activities. “All of the proposed changes are very troubling,” said Albuquerque attorney Greg Williams, president of the New Mexico Foundation for Open Government. Universities in New Mexico historically were among the most resistant to public records requests.

Court OKs release of CAFO [concentrated animal feeding operation] information
A federal judge in Minnesota ruled the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) may release information regarding livestock farms subject to concentrated animal feeding operation (CAFO) regulations. The American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) and National Pork Producers Council (NPPC) had sought a court injunction to prevent EPA from publicly releasing data under Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests until a court could clarify EPA’s obligation to keep personal information about citizens private.
Long term, the case stems from EPA oversight of CAFOs through National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) regulations, dating back to about 2000. On 2008, the General Accountability Office issued a report concluding EPA did not possess reliable information it needed to identify and inspect CAFOs. In October 2011, EPA published a proposed CAFO reporting rule, which would have required all CAFOs nationwide to submit basic information to EPA; or required EPA to collect basic information from CAFOs in specific watersheds. The proposed rule would have allowed EPA to collect information, like locations and animal population sizes, and make it publicly available and readily searchable through an EPA website.
Farmers, agricultural organizations, USDA and even the

Judiciary Committee takes aim at secret law during attorney general nominee hearing
During Loretta Lynch’s confirmation hearing for one of the most critical positions in the federal government – attorney general – we saw a priority placed on improving the transparency and oversight of the Office of Legal Counsel (OLC), a component of the Department of Justice (DOJ). Such desperately needed changes have been a focus of Sunlight’s for years. Specifically, Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, flatly called for OLC opinions to be public, saying: “And let me say it right here: that office should be sharing with the American public the opinions it’s been providing to the president, especially when they supposedly sanction the unprecedented authority he claims to possess. And I’m going to work to see that it does. The public’s business ought to be public. Transparency brings accountability.”
IMF Offers Free Access to Its Online Economic Data
The International Monetary Fund has launched a new platform to support its move to free data and to improve online global statistical dissemination. The new portal enables bulk data downloads and introduces dynamic visualization to showcase datasets that became available free-of-charge on January 1, 2015. The platform will help users better query, visualize, download, and share data. The databases include International Financial Statistics, Balance of Payment Statistics, Government Finance Statistics, and Direction of Trade Statistics. The IMF will run its existing data portal located at www.elibrary-data.imf.org alongside the new portal located at data.imf.org in parallel for three months to help transition existing users to the new platform.

UNESCO and SciELO jointly launch SciELO – 15 years of Open Access in three languages, English, Portuguese and Spanish. The publication provides a detailed account on the origin, context, significance and raison d’être of SciELO – Scientific Electronic Library Online, which is a model for cooperative electronic publishing of scientific journals on the Internet. The publication summarizes the contribution of SciELO in scientific communication, notes its efficient ways to assure universal visibility and accessibility of scientific literature. The title is published to provide a best case practice model that can be replicated in other parts of the world. UNESCO and SciELO stand committed to support interested countries or a group of Member States to initiate the SciELO model of Open Access journal publication.
/unesco_and_scielo_launch_a_new_publication_on_15_years_of

Open Access:

Major HEFCE study of monographs and open access sheds light on complex issues
The Monographs and Open Access Project considers the place of monographs in the arts, humanities and social science disciplines, and how they fit into the developing world of open access to research. It concludes that open access for monographs has a great deal to contribute to scholarly communication, but that the challenges of introducing it will be real and policy should take account of the various issues identified in the report. The project has shown that, for open access to be achievable, a number of key issues must be tackled. Open access depends on a satisfactory transition to digital publishing that hasn’t yet happened for books in the way that it has for journals, and the various business models that can support open-access monographs are still largely experimental. Furthermore, the potential costs of third-party rights could pose serious problems, and there are issues around licensing that will need careful handling.

Digital History:

Private collector’s historic San Francisco photos now available online
San Francisco history aficionados are in for a spectacular treat: A private collector has donated thousands of incredible historic San Francisco photos to the Western Neighborhoods Project. WNP is, in turn, digitizing all the images and posting them online. The first batch to be posted on their online archive – over 1,100 images in total – are of the Cliff House, Sutro Baths, Sutro Heights and Ocean Beach areas. You can see 10 of those images in the gallery [on the sfgate site] and the rest here. The private collector, who wishes to remain anonymous, donated 25 filing cabinets of negatives, prints, postcards and more. It’s a daunting project; if you have any experience digitizing massive collections, the Western Neighborhoods Project would love to hear from you.

Never trust a corporation to do a library’s job
As Google abandons its past, Internet archivists step in to save our collective memory. Google wrote its mission statement in 1999, a year after launch, setting the course for the company’s next decade: “Google’s mission is to organize the world’s information and make it universally accessible and useful.” For years, Google’s mission included the preservation of the past. In 2001, Google made their first acquisition, the Deja archives. The largest collection of Usenet archives, Google relaunched it as Google Groups, supplemented with archived messages going back to 1981. In 2004, Google Books signaled the company’s intention to scan every known book, partnering with libraries and developing its own book scanner capable of
digitizing 1,000 pages per hour. In 2006, Google News Archive launched, with historical news articles dating back 200 years. In 2008, they expanded it to include their own digitization efforts, scanning newspapers that were never online.

In the last five years, starting around 2010, the shifting priorities of Google’s management left these archival projects in limbo, or abandoned entirely. After a series of redesigns, Google Groups is effectively dead for research purposes. The archives, while still online, have no means of searching by date. Google News Archives are dead, killed off in 2011, now directing searchers to just use Google. Google Books is still online, but curtailed their scanning efforts in recent years, likely discouraged by a decade of legal wrangling still in appeal. Even Google Search, their flagship product, stopped focusing on the history of the web. In 2011, Google removed the Timeline view letting users filter search results by date, while a series of major changes to their search ranking algorithm increasingly favored freshness over older pages from established sources.

Google may have dropped the ball on the past, but fortunately, someone was there to pick it up. The Internet Archive is mostly known for archiving the web, a task the San Francisco-based nonprofit has tirelessly done since 1996, two years before Google was founded. The Wayback Machine now indexes over 435 billion webpages going back nearly 20 years, the largest archive of the web. For most people, it ends there. But that’s barely scratching the surface.


International Outlook:

Facebook Caves to Turkish Government Censorship

Turkey has been a bastion of Internet censorship for so long that EFF could write a regular feature called This Week in Turkish Internet Censorship and never run out of content. Last year’s highlights included the Turkish government blocking Twitter and YouTube—bans that triggered widespread protest and were eventually lifted by order of the Constitutional Court, citing concerns over free expression. Now, less than a month into 2015, Turkish authorities are already using the threat of new bans to bully social media companies into blocking content for them.

What kind of content drives the Turkish government to make these threats? Political content. Both Facebook and Twitter took down content for users in Turkey in response to government bullying, though neither company is legally required to comply with a court order from a country in which they have no offices. If American social media companies continue to do the Turkish government’s bidding every time they threaten to block their service, they become complicit in Turkey’s long history of silencing dissent under the guise of “insult” or “national security.”

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2015/01/facebook-caves-turkish-government-censorship.

Intellectual Property:

January’s Stupid Patent of the Month: A Method of Updating “Grass” in Video Games

Sports. It’s what’s on EFF’s patent team’s mind. No, not because this Sunday is the Super Bowl. It’s because of U.S. Patent 8,529,350 – January’s Stupid Patent of the Month. The patent—titled “Method and System for Increased Realism in Video Games” – is owned by Utah-based troll White Knuckle LLC. Like most trolls, White Knuckle doesn’t seem to sell or manufacture anything, but does happen to have this patent on remotely updating a sports video game. What does White Knuckle claim to have invented? The patent covers a computer “configured” to “provide a sports video game” with “parameters” that can be updated over the Internet. Of course, White Knuckle didn’t actually invent computers, sports video games, or the Internet. And it didn’t invent updating software from a server. No matter. It was enough for the Patent Office that White Knuckle suggested applying these already banal technologies to a specific context. And they used it this month to go after Electronic Arts, the largest sports video game manufacturer, for infringement. Some of White Knuckle’s patent claims are as specific as remotely updating the “grass” a stadium. Specifically, White Knuckle calls out the last five years of NCAA Football games and the last five years of Tiger Woods PGA Tour games.


4 Ways Copyright Law Actually Controls Your Whole Digital Life

Most of us don’t really think about is how broad the net of copyright law really is. The tendrils of copyright law reach worldwide into almost everything we consume, do, and are in the digital era. The rules and regulations about how the internet works, what privacy rights you have, and how the entire digital economy functions all spring from copyright. It’s everything from why a bar can’t buy a really big-screen TV to why you don’t actually own any of the media you pay for. If you ever use a computer, or read, watch, look at, use, or listen to any piece of media or software created since printing or recording were invented, copyright law affects you:

1. Copyright is all about locks. At this point, DRM and software go hand in hand. Everything comes with some kind of anti-sharing, anti-piracy, anti-copying, anti-any-authorized-use key built in.

2. Copyright law is privacy law. The companies that make and sell digital locks want to know if you’re breaking theirs. They really want to know.

3. Copyright law weakens security. The “smarter” and more
network-connected everything gets, the more vital security is.
It’s one thing if someone messes with a network-connected printer; it’s entirely another if they can remotely cut your brakes. But privacy locks can weaken security, because “security” means different things to media companies and to consumers.

4. Copyright law is surveillance and censorship law. Copyright claims are often used as a silencing tactic, where a party with power issues a takedown claim to get content from a party with less power removed from the internet.


Advisory Council Bio: Cindy Hill

Tags: member highlights

Hi, I’m Cindy Hill, your current Past-President. SLA and this chapter have been part of my professional life since 1979 when Marie Tilson, long-time chapter member, invited me to join her jolly gang of program-planning volunteers. It’s been perfect connection ever since.

I manage the Research Library and Bank Archives at the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco working with a wonderful team of five on many creative projects. When I need advice, ideas or insights, I often turn to my long-time chapter colleagues who have become personal friends. It’s like I have a virtual, strong network that is both local and international, because our association, SLA, is international.

It’s been an awesome experience being on the chapter’s board. I’ve learned a lot, I’ve seen our volunteers in action, taking on unusual and occasionally challenging projects – just because they’re passionate about them. Mimi Calter, a chapter past-president (2012), led a group to survey our membership and from the information they gathered, they created a new strategic plan for us which is now being implemented. Anne Barker, also a chapter past-president (2013), worked with all the SLA Western State chapters to document the process for hosting our annual reception at the SLA Annual Conference. And there are many more contributions that occur every year! So if you have an idea about something you want to do for the chapter, let Jaye Lapachet, our President, know. And consider volunteering!

On a personal note, I love to travel with John, my husband, friends and family whenever the opportunity is there. While traveling I like to take “shadow pictures” of us – usually waving. Oh, and I like to take photos of me standing in front of public libraries’ signs, doing Vanda White’s letter-turning pose. My family and friends are now taking photos of themselves in the same pose and sending them to me. I love the holidays and every winter I become a want-to-be city planner and put together a mini-Winter Village of houses, businesses, people and animals which resides in our living room over the holidays. It has three libraries, two bookshops and a theater, plus a pub, Long’s Drugstore, a ski slope and a train. It’s a very literate town.

If ever you would like to visit our library or want to chat, I would love to hear from you.

Cindy Hill

cindyvhill@yahoo.com

LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/cindyvhill/

Advisory Council Bios: Matthew Woods

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2015/02/advisory-council-bios-matthew-woods/ February 7, 2015 Categories: Bayline, Chapter
Not having gotten many, this will be the last Advisory Council bio for this year. For your speed-reading pleasure, I present… myself!

I’m Matthew Cornell Woods, Jr. in formal introductions, and just “Matthew” otherwise. Not “Matt;” that’s too hip, and we get enough of that with having to call ourselves anything but librarians. Also, not “Michael” or “Mitchell,” for obvious reasons. “Mateo” is okay though, I’m ESL-friendly.

Regarding my credentials, I am a recent MLIS graduate from San Jose State University. Unlike many here, I’m just starting my career. It’s for that reason, needing to get something on my resume, that I volunteered to be the Editor and Chair of Bayline Magazine. My job is to solicit articles, remind people to write them in on time, and occasionally edit them. People here are good writers, so I spend more time fussing with pictures and formatting. My goal is to get two articles a week this year.

My other vocational activities are volunteering for the Exploratorium, the Internet Archive, and the San Francisco Day School. For the Exploratorium, I’m working on digitizing exhibit schematics for Global Studios. At the Internet Archive, I’m part of the music CD digitization project under the direction of our very own Chair of Hospitality, Michelle Krasowski. For the San Francisco Day School, I’ll be working as a library assistant, helping with clerical tasks and answering any questions the children may have. If I’m skilled and lucky enough, I may even do some library work for the San Francisco Botanical Garden. Maybe I’ll see some of you there?

Long-term goals? Vague, I’m afraid, but I do have them. I’m looking for a career where I’m not stuck in any one specialization, the reason I got into the MLIS program in the first place. Once career I’m looking into is being a freelance special librarian, organizing a variety of special collections. Another option I’d like would be to work as a reference librarian for a science museum. I like science museums, and I like answering questions on a variety of topics.

My interests are not very “grown-up” I’m afraid. I spend my free time watching YouTube playthroughs of video games, and occasionally reading fan fiction. I don’t do the latter much since finding good fan fiction is as much of a time sink as reading it. The fandoms I focus on as my interests change (it’s Pathfinder and Touhou at the moment), but mention anything from pop culture and I may have heard of it. I Used to peruse the literal Dictionary of Cultural Literacy when I was younger, but today I spend more time with its spiritual successor. I also read Cracked, the latest incarnation of gonzo journalism. It’s no The New Yorker or Vanity Fair, and the humor is often juvenile, but their investigative reporting is pretty good.

Alas, I’ve likely lost all credibility as a professional for coming out with my declassé interests. I’ll surely never be invited to any parties at the Hilton anymore (I technically paid to get in, but that’s beside my point). Perhaps if I get back into the habit of watching science documentaries again…

Come to think of it, that would be a good idea considering my career interests!

News from Bayline: February

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2015/02/news-from-bayline-february-2/ February 9, 2015 Categories: Bayline, Chapter Programs & Events Tags: events, librarians, open access, technology

“Jan Keiser, the chapter 2014 Webmaster, has turned her vast talents to the news. She will produce a synopsis of interesting articles for librarians on a regular basis as part of the Bayline. Please send Jan your congratulations and your comments. Another stellar volunteer effort!” -Jaye

My personal favorite is the Ayn Rand parody. You’ll have to download the whole pdf if you want to know more… -Editor

News from Bayline: February

Share this:

Intersect Alert February 9, 2015

Libraries

The Economic Value of Law Libraries

Executive Summary

“How are law libraries perceived by their organizational owners? How can law librarians better communicate their libraries’ value to stakeholders? By tailoring the ways in which they measure and communicate the impact of their services, law librarians can create best practices that work.”

“Occasioned by a widely shared sense that law libraries are undervalued by their organizational owners, the study examined current practices among law librarians for reporting on library services and activities. The study confirmed that commonly used methods offer room for improvement based upon the evolving role of the law library. There may not be a “silver bullet” solution that will heighten organizational stakeholders’ appreciation of the library’s value, but it behooves the librarian to measure the right things and communicate appropriately—in ways meaningful for decision makers—about their services and the impact those services have. The study presents 20 best practices. Four strategies for communicating qualitative measures and five strategies for communicating quantitative measures are defined. In addition, the study identified five actions librarians can take to enhance the likelihood of being heard by decision makers.”

http://www.aallnet.org/mm/Publications/products/economicvaluelawlibraries.pdf

At Your Service: Information Sleuth at the New York Public Library

“‘The answer man adjusted his headset, settled into his office chair and faced the next caller’s question.’”

“Hello, Ask N.Y.P.L.,” said the library researcher, Matthew J. Boylan, 54.”

“It was an official at the United States Holocaust Museum in Washington asking about Jews in early-20th-century Thessalonika.”

“Well, Thessalonika was part of the Ottoman Empire,” said Mr. Boylan, who steered the caller to a set of digitized oral histories in the library’s Dorot Jewish Division.”

“The next caller needed a certain biology textbook. Another wanted help finding rare films of drama productions. Another was calling for her nephew.”


President Obama’s Budget Increases Library Funding

“President Barack Obama today transmitted to Congress the Obama Administration’s nearly $4 trillion budget request to fund the federal government for fiscal year 2016, which starts October 1, 2015. The President’s budget reflected many of the ideas and proposals outlined in his January 20th State of the Union speech.”

“Highlights for the library community include $186.5 million in assistance to libraries through the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA). This important program provides funding to states through the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).”

http://www.districtdispatch.org/2015/02/president-obamas-budget-increases-library-funding/

Privacy

Under Senate Pressure, Verizon Plans Supercookie Opt-Out

“Verizon told the New York Times on Friday that it plans to begin allowing its customers to opt out of its privacy-invasive header injection program. For customers that are aware of the Verizon program and visit the opt-out page, this means they will soon be able to protect themselves against privacy circumvention like Turn’s zombie cookie.”

“Verizon’s move to begin allowing opt-out comes after more than 2,600 of you signed our petition urging the FCC to investigate Verizon’s practices. It also comes just one day after Senators on the the Commerce Committee sent a strongly-worded letter to Verizon Wireless [pdf] expressing ‘deep concern’ over Verizon’s continued practice of injecting UIDH headers into all Web traffic. This letter follows recent news that the header, which acts as a supercookie, was being abused by Verizon’s own advertising partner Turn to resurrect cookies that people had deleted from their browsers. These ‘zombie cookies’ are similar to Quantcast’s 2009 Flash-based zombie cookie program, which ended with a settlement that included an agreement not to ‘counteract any computer user’s decision to either prevent or delete HTTP cookies’ using the technology.”

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2015/02/under-senate-pressure-verizon-improves-its-supercookie-opt-out

Digital Preservation

The Smithsonian Libraries Artists’ Books Collection Online

“The Smithsonian Libraries is pleased to announce the new webpage of the Smithsonian Libraries Artists’ Books Collection!”
“The Artists’ Books Collection includes hundreds works of art in book form across numerous branches at the Smithsonian Libraries, spanning the 20th century through today, including works by artists such as Georges Adéagbo, Ida Applebroog, Julie Chen, Laura Davidson, Barbara Kruger, Sol LeWitt, Luan Nel, Yoko Ono, Ed Ruscha, and Claire Van Vliet. While some books in the collection are fairly common or are multiples, many are limited editions or unique and cannot be seen anywhere else but at the Smithsonian Libraries. The site serves as the portal to search or browse the entirety of the collection across the branches, to provide information about collection access, and to highlight book arts related happenings, projects and acquisitions at the Smithsonian Libraries.”

“This search portal has been a collaborative effort to bring artists’ books to light at the Smithsonian’s Cooper Hewitt, National Design Library, the American Art Museum/National Portrait Gallery Library, the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden Library, and the Warren M. Robbins Library at the National Museum of African Art, as well as the Dibner Library of the History of Science and Technology. The webpage is the culmination of several years of work on the part of staff and interns across the Smithsonian Libraries.”

http://library.si.edu/collection/artists-books

What have you found in Founders Online?

“Founders Online, a tool for seamless searching across the papers of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, and Alexander Hamilton, launched in 2013. Since then, the tool has grown to a fully searchable online database of over 165,000 documents, including thousands of documents that have not yet appeared in the published volumes.”

“The site has had nearly 750,000 unique visitors—an average of over 42,000 people each month.”

http://blogs.archives.gov/aotus/?p=5918

International Outlook

Beirut Libraries Struggle with Funding

“Inside a modest office in Ras al-Nabeh in Beirut, Antoine Boulad talks animatedly about the historic creation of municipal public libraries in Lebanon’s capital city 15 years ago. Boulad, the president of the Lebanese nongovernmental organization ASSABIL and a member of the Friends of Public Libraries Association’s administrative committee, explains how a group of volunteers came to run Beirut’s municipal library system.”

“It was a time of reconstruction after Lebanon’s devastating 15-year civil war. But Boulad and a small group of volunteers were more concerned about restoring ties than rebuilding houses. ‘We thought the real reconstruction should not only be on the stone but on the human being, especially those Lebanese who spent 15 years scattered all over. The reconstruction would offer them spaces to meet, spaces to share, spaces to find themselves again, united in one society. This made us found the association,’ Boulad told Al-Monitor.”

“The group did not start working with the Beirut municipality right away.”

“The evolution of their idea coincided with the first municipality elections in over 30 years, in 1998. The government did not know how to manage a municipal public library network, but signed a renewable three-year contract with ASSABIL. To start, the municipality provided the group with a free-of-charge space and minimal funding — ASSABIL has largely relied on private funding — and only two years after becoming an official nonprofit organization, Beirut’s first municipal public library opened in Bachoura in 2000.”

http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2015/01/lebanon-beirut-public-libraries.html#

ISIS Ransacks Libraries, Destroys Books in Iraqi City

“BAGHDAD — When Islamic State militants invaded the Central Library of Mosul last month, they were on a mission to destroy a familiar enemy: other people’s ideas.”

“Residents say the extremists smashed the locks that had protected the biggest repository of learning in the northern Iraq town, and loaded about 2,000 books — including children’s stories, poetry, philosophy, and tomes on sports, health, culture and science — into six pickup trucks. They left only Islamic texts.”

“The rest?”

“These books promote infidelity and call for disobeying Allah. So they will be burned,’ a bearded militant in traditional Afghani two-piece clothing told residents, according to one man living nearby.”

http://www.bostonglobe.com/news/world/2015/02/01/iraqi-libraries-ransacked-islamic-state-group-mosul/g5YDl4dV8kMDK01HGrQMHJ/story.html

Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety.
The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.

Share this:
Six professionals and one nonprofit recognized with 2014 SLA-SF awards

By Heather Gamberg

SLA SF Bay Region PR Chair

Library and information professionals have actively shared information and promoted knowledge for hundreds of years, and their contributions to the Bay Area’s prominence in the Information Age deserve recognition. The Special Libraries Association’s San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, which has recognized such professionals with awards since 1985, continued the tradition by honoring six of its members on Dec. 9, 2014. The group also acknowledged a Bay Area company with a Business Partner Appreciation Award.

Deb Hunt is a longtime Bay Area information professional and graduate of UC Berkeley’s former library and information studies master’s program. The SF Bay Region Chapter inducted Hunt into its Quarter Century Club in recognition of more than a decade of continuous involvement in chapter leadership, membership in SLA since 1987 and numerous roles at the association’s highest levels. Hunt was president of the SF chapter for the 2004-05 calendar year and president of the association in 2013.

In addition to association activities, Hunt has been employed in the profession for decades. She has run Information Edge, a firm that helps organizations find and manage critical business information, since 1987 and been an instructor in Diablo Valley College’s Library Technology program since 1994. Hunt worked at the Exploratorium from 1995 to 2009 and has directed the Mechanics’ Institute Library in San Francisco’s Financial District for a year and a half.

Hunt also advances the profession as creator of workshops like “The Global Information Manager: Creating Strategic Value” and co-author of the book “The Librarian’s Skillbook: 51 Essential Skills for Information Professionals.”

Catherine Ghent, recipient of the chapter’s 2014 Professional Achievement Award, has been involved with libraries since 1982, when she graduated from UC Berkeley with a master’s degree in library and information studies. After a decade of supporting the information needs of companies like PG&E and Safeway, Ghent joined Taylor & Associates, a library placement and management firm. Ghent eventually took over the business, and Taylor & Associates now manages the libraries of more than 100 law firms throughout the Bay Area while continuing to recruit librarians, information specialists and library assistants for corporate libraries and law firms.

Through her placement services, Ghent has helped numerous new librarians polish their resumes and get their first jobs in the industry. She also supports the San Francisco Bay Region chapter of SLA financially with repeated event sponsorships through Taylor & Associates.

The SF Bay Region Chapter Horizon Award honors a member of less than five years who shows potential to be an asset to the chapter, association and profession. The 2014 award went to Erin Meggyesy for her service as chair of the Hospitality Committee. A 2013 graduate of San Jose State University with a Master of Library and Information Science, Meggyesy works at ProQuest in Mountain View.

Jessica Neaves, who expects to receive her MLIS from San Jose State this December, was presented the chapter’s Student Award. Neaves served on the Strategic Planning Committee while attending school and serving as a virtual Digital Asset Management Intern at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County. A native San Franciscan with many years of experience as a fundraiser in the nonprofit sector, Jessica is currently Institutional Gifts Manager for the Edgewood Center for Children and Families.

Jonathan Leff and Cathy Salomon, chapter archivists for 2013 and 2014, received the Special Project Award for digitizing eight decades of chapter newsletters. As their nomination form explained, “Over 18 months, they worked patiently, diligently and thoroughly to see the project from its inception to completion, overcoming many obstacles, not the least of a fire at the Internet Archives processing site.” Salomon works part time in the History Room at the Mill Valley Public Library and volunteers at the Napa Historical Society, and Leff is the Operations Analyst for the UCSF Center for Tobacco Control, Research and Education.

These six people represent the dedication of a changing group of 20-plus people who volunteer on the chapter board and advisory council each year to help the chapter of 300-plus members continue its longtime history of supporting and promoting the library and information profession in the Bay Area.

The chapter is also supported in its mission by businesses and organizations, and in 2014 it presented the Business Partner Appreciation Award to Palo Alto-based Annual Reviews, which publishes leading scientists’ critical reviews of the most significant primary research literature in 46 disciplines. The nonprofit foundation doubled the impact of the chapter’s new Student Stipend Award, which pays for attendance at SLA’s annual conference, by matching the chapter’s $750 contribution. In its first year of offering the stipend, the chapter was able to give two students the funds to attend a conference in Vancouver, British Columbia, in June 2014.
Advisory Council Bio: Jessica Neaves

Hi everyone,

I’m a MLIS candidate at San Jose State University, and expect to graduate in December 2015 (yay!). At SJSU, I’ve been enjoying learning everything I can about digital asset management, reference, web design, cataloging, archives, and more. I have been a fundraising professional for many years, and am currently working full time as an institutional gifts manager (aka grantwriter) at a San Francisco nonprofit.

I joined SLA last year and right away was invited to participate in the chapter’s strategic planning committee, which was a wonderful learning experience. It also surprisingly led to my winning the chapter’s 2014 student award!

When Jaye approached me to participate in this year’s Advisory Council, it was a no-brainer for me after my time with the strategic planning committee. As the head of the Archives committee, I’ll be working with the chapter’s physical and born digital records, continuing on the great work by Cathy Salomon and Jonathan Leff.

I’ve volunteered at the Helen Crocker Russell Library at the San Francisco Botanical Garden and the Patrick J. Dowling Library at the United Irish Cultural Center and am excited to learn more about other special libraries and archives.

In my rare free time, I love to explore the Bay Area, take pictures, visit museums, try new restaurants, and binge watch TV shows. Like many others, I also love to travel and recently got back from a trip to Iran, where I got a spontaneous tour from the library director of the Esfahan Main Library.

I look forward to working with you this year!

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Advisory Council Bio: Mimi Calter

I’ve been a member of the San Francisco chapter since I moved out to California in 2003, and I have been a member of SLA since I joined in 1997, when I was in library school.

As Strategic Planning Chair, my role has been to assess the needs and preferences of the chapter membership, and develop a plan for the chapter to meet those needs over the next 3 years. My committee completed that work in the fall of 2014, and the program proposal has been reviewed and accepted by the executive board. I’m staying on as chair in 2015, and will be working with other committee chairs to ensure that the plan gets implemented. I expect the plan to be distributed to the full chapter any time now, and I think that will explain my hopes for the chapter. Having served as President for the chapter, I know that the report will provide important guidance.

As for what’s in it for me, it’s the camaraderie of a fantastic group of people, who give me great insight about the direction of my profession.
50 Google Search Tips & Tricks

“While Google has moved on from just being a search engine and dipped into other markets, like mobile devices and even robotics, its roots still deal with searching the internet to find what you’re looking for. Here are ten Google Search tips and tricks that you may not know about.”

Find News Archive Content

“Although archive search is no longer available within Google News, you can use Google Web Search to find the content that you’re looking for.”

Search for articles older than 30 days:

To find news articles that are older than 30 days, go to www.google.com and type in your search term. For example, if you’re looking for information about the fall of the Berlin wall, just type in fall of the Berlin wall and start your search. The results you see won’t be restricted by publication date.”

You can filter your results to a particular date range:

1. Go to www.google.com and type in your search term and click Enter.
2. Go to Search tools below the search box.
3. From the menu that appears, click the Any time drop-down list and select the Custom range option.
4. In the box that appears, type your specified dates.
5. The search results you see will be within the dates you entered.

Scientists Develop Comparative Search Engine That Helps to Predict Human Gene Function

“The Human Genome Project wrapped up over a decade ago, yet around a third of the genome remains mysterious, its function unknown. Now, School of Medicine researchers have developed a comparative search engine that uses evolutionary correlations between human and other species’ genes to help identify human gene function.”

“After the human genome was sequenced, scientists thought it would be a very short time before we knew what all the genes are doing,” said Tobias Meyer, PhD, professor and chair of chemical and systems biology. “It turned out not to be so easy, and we are currently in a holding pattern before we can really make use of all the genomic information.”

Copyright

Go to Prison for File Sharing? That’s What Hollywood Wants in the Secret TPP Deal

“The Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement (TPP) poses massive threats to users in a dizzying number of ways. It will force other TPP signatories to accept the United States’ excessive copyright terms of a minimum of life of the author plus 70 years, while locking the US to the same lengths so it will be harder to shorten them in the future. It contains DRM anti-circumvention provisions that will make it a crime to tinker with, hack, re-sell, preserve, and otherwise control any number of digital files and devices that you own. The TPP will encourage ISPs to monitor and police their users, likely leading to more censorship measures such as the blockage and filtering of content online in the name of copyright enforcement. And in the most recent leak of the TPP’s Intellectual Property chapter, we found an even more alarming provision on trade secrets that could be used to crackdown on journalists and whistleblowers who report on corporate wrongdoing.”

Open Access

Do Open Access Electronic Theses and Dissertations Diminish Publishing Opportunities in the Sciences?

“In academia, there is a growing acceptance of sharing the final electronic version of graduate work, such as a thesis or dissertation, in an online university repository. Though previous studies have shown that journal editors are willing to consider manuscripts derived from electronic theses and dissertations (ETDs), faculty advisors and graduate students continue to raise concerns that online discoverability of ETDs negatively impact future opportunities to publish those findings. The current study investigated science journal policies on open access ETDs and found that more than half of the science journals responding (51.4%) reported that manuscripts derived from openly accessible ETDs are welcome for submission and an additional 29.1 percent would accept revised ETDs under certain conditions.”
Libraries and Librarians

CSU to Turn 23 Campus Libraries Into One Giant, Cloud-Based Network

“It was her first major paper as a college student, so Carla Castro visited the John M. Pfau Library at Cal State San Bernardino to conduct research, but the business management major ran into a problem.”

“Castro said she couldn’t find the right research material to help her write the paper for her English class. She got by with the guidance of her professor, but Castro said in some cases, hunting at the local library, trying to find peers from whom she can borrow materials, or else waiting for the campus to track down the study items she needs can take a couple of weeks.”

Following L.A.’s History Through Maps

“For the last couple of years, Los Angeles Public Library map librarian Glen Creason has been involved in one of the most interesting literary projects in Southern California: to write each week, on the Citythink blog of Los Angeles magazine, about a map from the library’s collection. The idea is to excavate the hidden history of the city, an endeavor with which I have an abiding sympathy.”

“Part of the reason L.A. continues to confound so many of us, after all, is its complicated relationship with its past. The history is right there, on the surface, and yet we don’t see it, not really, even now.”

Feed Readers: a Thing of the Past?

Recently, I’ve been tasked by the SF Chapter President to solicit and post an article on Feed Readers. I solicited to the SF Bay Chapter discussion list, but got nothing. However, I also asked the list what feed readers they use. I got 7 replies.

I don’t know how large the subscriber base is, but I’m guessing it’s in the low-triple digits. I should probably ask how many people treat list messages as junk.

That aside, here’s the data I found. Of the 7 respondents, 3 used to use Bloglines before it disappeared, 1 used to use FeeDemon, and 1 other used Sage. 4 people use Feedly, 1 uses both Delicious and Netvibes, 1 uses a Twitter app, and 1 is still looking for a new feed reader.

Whether the low numbers are due to few people using feed readers anymore, or simply a low response rate, is not immediately obvious from the data. Thankfully, Lani Smith has an idea:

“Everyone I have asked, also informally, says that they don’t use rss feeds any more. When I ask why, folks say that the use social media, facebook, twitter, etc. for their links. I don’t quite understand this, as a feed reader is different than a recommended article.”

She also deserves special thanks for giving me the idea to post an informal poll about feed reader use. She’d also looking for a new feed reader, so let me know of any good ones so I can pass that along to her.

Intersect Alert February 22, 2015
International Outlook

Denmark’s Largest Digital Archive Opens Today

“Denmark’s largest digital photo album with nearly two million images will open to the general public today at 4pm.”

“Danes will have access to the online database at Arkive.dk, which includes 1,841,254 documents such as photos, diaries, letters, and sound and video recordings.”

“Since the late 1980s, all items from the country’s more than 550 archives have been recorded electronically, and today a large portion of them becomes freely available to the public.”

http://www.arkiv.dk/

Germany Returns Books Worth 2.5 Million Euros Stolen from Italian Libraries

“(Reuters) – German authorities on Friday returned 500 historical books including original works by Renaissance scientists Galileo Galilei and Nicolaus Copernicus, stolen from Italian libraries three years ago, to Naples prosecutors.”

“Most of the books, worth around 2.5 million euros, were stolen from the Girolamini library in Naples, according to Italian prosecutors. German authorities seized them in a Munich auction house at the Italians’ request.”

“The former director of the library, Massimo De Caro, was convicted of stealing the books and served a jail sentence before being put under house arrest.”

http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/02/13/us-germany-italy-books-idUSKBN0LH1PU20150213

Libraries and Librarians

Top 10 Academic Library Issues for 2015

“The beginning of the year brings many ‘top’ lists for what to look for in 2015. So far there’s not much predicting what looks big for the academic library world. Here’s a shot at it.”

“In January EDUCAUSE released its top ten information technology issues for 2015. It was just one example of the many lists produced at the beginning of a new year that look ahead in an attempt to predict what’s ahead for the coming year. Developing a list that attempts to offer those insights isn’t exactly an attempt at futurism. It’s about bringing attention to a set of concerns that are likely to matter to most of us. If you look at the EDUCAUSE list you’ll see that some of the issues are almost always present, such as data security. Perhaps I overlooked it, but nowhere did I come across a top issues list for academic libraries, so I decided to put one together. It’s a mix of a few issues that continue to concern our profession, ebooks for example, and a few that continue to emerge.”


The Long Good Fight: Libraries at the Heart of Intellectual Freedoms | Editorial

“Librarians and libraries are essential to discourse about intellectual freedoms. Now we have more work to do in light of violent efforts to curtail such rights, perhaps most notably the January 7 attack on the offices of Paris’s weekly Charlie Hebdo. For me, these events brought our work to date into high relief but also intensified a sense of urgency about what librarians can do to defend a richer understanding of the value of freedom of inquiry and expression.”

“American Library Association (ALA) president Courtney Young’s statement on the attacks framed the library ethos: ‘Such attacks are counter to the values of access to information with diversity of views—and to the values of civic engagement, which encourages people to read and discuss these views without fear.’”

“Libraries, in an important sense, exist to help remove fear from our culture: fear of the other, fear of the unknown, and fear of the differences of opinion that make us human. They do not exist to remove those differences. Our libraries hold and foster access to countervailing opinions, information about worlds beyond our own, and insight into cultures we have never experienced, as well as awareness of people living right next door. They are full of words answered by words—sometimes divisive ones—that together shape our evolving way of life.”


Search

I Tried to Use the Internet to do Historical Research. It Was Nearly Impossible.

“I was part of a research project organized by the British Library and Institute of Historical Research. We were among the first in the world to use the web archive for academic research. Of course, we knew that there were a lot of pages in the database. But since we could navigate Google reasonably easily, we thought we could use the archive in the same way. Do a search. Get a group of webpages on a particular subject. Read them. Draw some conclusions. How hard could it be?”

http://www.washingtonpost.com/posteverything/wp/2015
Freedom of Information

A Stronger Freedom of Information Act

“Congress came tantalizingly close last year to passing a bill to strengthen the Freedom of Information Act, which allows journalists and the public to access federal government records. The legislation, which would have brought more transparency, was blocked in December when the House speaker, John Boehner, refused to hold a vote on the Senate bill with no explanation. Two months later, lawmakers have a second chance.”

“The CIA recently told a federal judge that it will need six years to release agency documents that are already declassified in response to a FOIA request from MuckRock. MuckRock requested the agency’s CREST database of 11.6 million declassified documents that are currently only available onsite at the National Archive’s College Park location in Maryland (about 250,000 pages are available on the CIA’s website), with the goal of placing the entire collection online. The CIA initially said it would take 28 years to release the set, but later announced it could release the documents in six years with only a “spot check” for classified information, again, even though the documents are already declassified. The agency also “insists” on conducting a manual review of the files to remove metadata, and burning all the records onto 1200 CDs even though the records would all fit on a single $60 external hard drive.”

http://www.nytimes.com/2015/02/18/opinion/a-stronger-freedom-of-information-act.html?_r=1

Jack White’s Now Infamous Concert Rider Disclosed under Open Records Request – Not Leaked, CIA Needs 6 Years to Release Already Declassified Documents, and Much More

“Facebook recently promoted an article in its “trending” section concerning Jack White’s “leaked” tour demands, which included some odd guacamole requirements. News outlets like NPR jumped on the story, promoting the “leaked” angle.

Unfortunately, few news organizations bothered to dig deeper; if they had, they would have found the tour demands were released in response to an open records request by the University of Oklahoma’s The Oklahoma Daily in an attempt to find out how much the school was paying for White’s performance, not leaked.”

“The CIA recently told a federal judge that it will need six years to release agency documents that are already declassified in response to a FOIA request from MuckRock. MuckRock requested the agency’s CREST database of 11.6 million declassified documents that are currently only available onsite at the National Archive’s College Park location in Maryland (about 250,000 pages are available on the CIA’s website), with the goal of placing the entire collection online. The CIA initially said it would take 28 years to release the set, but later announced it could release the documents in six years with only a “spot check” for classified information, again, even though the documents are already declassified. The agency also “insists” on conducting a manual review of the files to remove metadata, and burning all the records onto 1200 CDs even though the records would all fit on a single $60 external hard drive.”


Wine Wine Everywhere, and Not a Drop to Drink


(Earlier, I solicited articles for non-standard libraries. Here’s one. –Editor)

The Sonoma County Wine Library, a wing of the Healdsburg branch is about an hour’s drive from San Francisco and a world away from the general collection with which it shares a roof. Prepare to drink in an expansive global collection of the legends and romance of wine, along with the science and business of viniculture in a bright and comfortably ample space. Both casual browsing among open shelves and dedicated print and online resource for in-depth industry historical, agricultural, marketing and technical research are available.

Spearheaded by the late wine writer and publicist, Millie Howie, the library celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2014. Director since 2012, Jon Haupt, 38, describes it as “a unique partnership of public, corporate and private members.

The former acting director of the Arts library Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Jon holds a master’s degree in library and information science from the University of Washington as well as bachelor’s and master’s degrees in piano performance and musicology from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln.

County funding is augmented by The Wine Library Associates, comprising two bodies of financial support – donor patrons and vintner subscribers. The latter group pays an annual fee based on output.
The library provides a rich repository of more than 5000 volumes and 75 scholarly journals devoted to wine and winemaking. Users can also access a large collection of photographs, films, labels, maps, posters and oral histories documenting winemaking in Northern California from the 19th century to the present.

Director Haupt has converted a massive vertical file of clippings, articles and ads to International Wine Research Database, an online index.

A typical reference query by a grower might require research into the history of a region’s soil or old labels of a particular wine maker. And of course the library is a haven for wine lovers and collectors. Tours are available, including a free video tour online.

* * *

Terese Mulkern Terry, a former business librarian at the Lippincott library of the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania recently relocated to San Francisco and maintains a blog for business and finance librarians.

Introducing the SLA-SF Strategic Plan

The Chapter Strategic Plan is revised approximately every 3-5 years. The Strategic Planning Committee undertook a survey of the membership last year to assess the groups priorities and objectives. Based on the response, the committee identified four key areas of concern for the chapter to address over the next three years. These are:

- Networking
- Professional Development
- Employment Support
- Membership

The survey sent out most recently by Sponsorships is an effort to further address a few of the above referenced issues in a specific way: Money. Chrystelle, Sponsorships Chair (and super volunteer) has identified anonymous demographic information about our chapter as a possible method of increasing sponsorship money. If she can tell vendor partners that 40% of our chapter uses their product then she has leverage for getting more sponsorships, which will help with one of the topics YOU requested in your answers to the Strategic Plan survey:

- More casual events that are lower priced and easier to come at the time that works for you. Having speakers and networking events without dinner—just drinks and appetizers to allow for lower cost, more mingling and easy to be a little later.

Events cost money. The difference between dinner and appetizers is negligible. Even officers have to pay the entrance fee. There are no free rides. Our crack Programs and Hospitality Team (from 2014 and 2015), Sarah, Erin, Michelle and Craig all work VERY hard to wring every last canape out of the venues to get the most bang for our bucks. Still, the venues have to pay their staff, buy food, etc. etc. Bottomline:
these events cost money. Getting more sponsors will help lower the price.

I have proposed Dutch Treat lunch meetings led by members. I have proposed that the chapter will promote them, but people, e.g. YOU will send out the call, decide on the place and meet up. These types of events allow for serendipitous conversation, a budget that fits everyone’s wallet and for the location of your choice. Even Google Hangouts or another technology-based solution might work.

Lunchtime, happy hour or afternoon coffee hour meetups fulfill a couple of the requests:

- good for networking
- some employment support, perhaps

Developing a book group on a certain topic such as historical fiction, Gilded Age Literature or Climate change would work.

No takers. 😞

Update from SLA HQ

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2015/02/update-from-sla-hq/ February 27, 2015 Categories: Bayline, Chapter Leadership Tags:

President's message

The following message was received from Tara Murray, SLA Secretary, on the Leadership List. I think it is important for all you to know what is going on at HQ, thus am sharing with you.

Regards,

Jaye

During their February conference call, the SLA Board of Directors received an update from Cindy Shamel and Ulla de Stricker, the recently engaged change consultants. Cindy and Ulla attended the Leadership Summit in January, where they interacted with attendees and made a brief presentation about their roles. During the first week of February, they spent three days at SLA headquarters interviewing staff members about their day-to-day activities and the work they perform throughout the “association year.”

The information Cindy and Ulla gleaned from members and staff will provide additional context for the many surveys, task force and committee reports, and other resources they are using to develop potential scenarios and recommendations for consideration by the SLA Board. Because SLA’s events, services, practices, and operations are closely interconnected, developing these scenarios will be challenging. For example, revenue cannot be regarded in isolation from the annual conference and other products and services, and our relationships with business partners—again, highly correlated with revenue—have a number of dimensions that are affected by SLA’s unit structure. Given that several aspects of upcoming annual conferences are locked in or soon will be, Cindy and Ulla are looking closely at this area in the early stages of their work.

SLA members are encouraged to share their thoughts and suggestions at interim@sla.org

—
Tara Murray
SLA Secretary

President’s March Message

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2015/03/presidents-march-message/ March 1, 2015 Categories: Bayline, Chapter Leadership Tags:
President's message

Hello Fellow Chapter Members!

Another month has whizzed by and I hope it has gone well for you. Your chapter leadership are gearing up for another Executive Board and Advisory Council meeting on March 12.

Our Professional Development seminar with Eris Weaver was, by all reports, a major success.

We don’t have any events this month, so I hope some of you will organize Dutch Treat lunch events and get togethers (coffee, book group, happy hour) in an informal setting.

You should be hearing about the Neighborhood Dinners soon. Think about the restaurant to which you want to introduce your colleagues.

SLA Benefits

One of the benefits of SLA is that all members are welcome to join the discussion about SLA governance. Many former Division and Chapter leaders join this list once they pass the mantles of their offices to new leaders in order to keep their hand in. You can join the discussion as well. E-mail Instructions to subscribe to the Governance List are:

Send an e-mail to the subscription address (lyris@sla.lyris.net) in the following format (leave the subject line blank):

Subscribe SLA-GOVERNANCE your-e-mail_address “FirstName LastName”

(e.g., Subscribe SLA-GOVERNANCE jdoe@xyz.com “John Doe”)

Note: The LISTNAME is the part of the list address preceding the @ symbol. For example, the list address is SLA-GOVERNANCE@lists.sla.org, the list name is SLA-GOVERNANCE.

Contact HQ staff if you have any issues.

Association News

The Storify summary of the February 18th #SLAtalk Twitter chat, “Building Your Brand,” is now available!

Save the date for the March #SLAtalk about networking. This is something mentioned in the SLA-SF Strategic Plan, so you may want to listen in.

Wednesday, March 25th at a special time, 4:00 pm EDT (Eastern Daylight Time), 1:00 pm Pacific and 8:00 pm UTC.

(What time is that where you are? http://time.is/compare)

More on the Leadership Summit

Tracy Maleef has posted the #SLAtalk Roundup: Lessons Learned from the 2015 Leadership Summit summary. Another place for you to go for great information!

The recording of the 2015 Leadership Summit Recap Webinar with Jill Strand, John DiGilio and Bill Fisher sponsored by the SLA Baseball Caucus and the SLA Business & Finance Division is now available.

Projects and Happenings in SLA-SF

Projects within our own chapter can also be great experience. Jessica, our Archives Chair, is starting to look at and think about the chapter’s ‘born digital’ materials. These are materials that never had a life in print. If you have experience with this issue, I am sure Jessica would love to talk to you.

Volunteering

I had a recent disturbing exchange with a potential volunteer. She was a young librarian and had just moved to the Bay Area. She was very interested in one of our Advisory Council positions, but decided that having a full time job precluded her from volunteering. I was baffled, because I find volunteering with SLA and other volunteer work I do extremely rewarding. Then I began thinking about it.

The SF Opera and SF Ballet have both reported dwindling memberships and fewer volunteers. This thought led me to wonder if our younger members are not volunteering. One of our Past Presidents suggested I ask some of our current student and younger members about their volunteering. Here is what they said:

“Although I work full-time, am in school to get my MLIS, and volunteer at a special library, I was drawn to volunteering with the chapter for the chance to meet local librarians and archivists and to learn more about the types of settings in which it may be possible to work as an information professional. Because I have already met many wonderful and supportive people through SLA events, it encouraged me to give back and volunteer for the chapter despite a busy schedule. Through my work on Advisory Council committees, I’m not only meeting amazing librarians, but gaining professional skills.” -Jessica

“I’m a library student and new volunteer. It’s exciting to work together with highly experienced professionals in the field, getting to know them while they get to know me. I work, go to school, am married, and volunteer for SLA as well as for an arts organization. It’s definitely a full plate but a rich and interesting one.” -Paul

“I started volunteering with SLA as a student in order to network with experienced professionals and learn about what being a special librarian actually means. In such a diverse field, the experience of working with and getting to know people with a wide variety of experiences really helped me focus my education and goals. I was also pleasantly surprised to find a community of like-minded students involved in the chapter who I wouldn’t have met otherwise in the all-virtual environment at SJSU.”
Now that I’ve finished school and am working full-time, volunteering has helped me maintain relationships with colleagues and keep up to date on the developments in our industry.” – Erin

The best part for me is meeting other SLA members. Time available to volunteer definitely waxes and wanes. I would not have been able to spend the time to be President when my son was small, but I worked on the Nominating Committee. We can find you a slot if you want to help.

Jaye

Do you have a volunteering story you want to tell? Let me know!

Have a great week!

Intersect Alert March 2, 2015

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2015/03/intersect-alert-march-2-2015/

March 2, 2015 Categories: Intersect Alert Tags: intellectual property, internet access, librarians, libraries, open data, values

Intellectual Freedom

ALÅ, ARL Applaud FCC Vote on Net Neutrality

“In a significant victory for supporters of Net Neutrality, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) today reclassified broadband Internet as a public utility, and established a new Open Internet Order that applies to both fixed and mobile broadband.”

“The new Open Internet Order includes three ‘bright line’ rules, specifically banning broadband providers from blocking access to legal content, applications, and services; impairing access to content, applications, and services; and prioritizing Internet traffic in exchange for “consideration of any kind.” This would prohibit Internet Service Providers from establishing ‘fast lane’ schemes in which corporate customers are charged fees to have data pass quickly through a network, while websites and services that could not afford these fees would find their traffic deliberately throttled or slowed by comparison.”

http://lj.libraryjournal.com/2015/02/advocacy/ala-arl-applaud-fcc-vote-on-net-neutrality/#

The Anti-Information Age: How Governments are Reinventing Censorship in the 21st Century

“Two beliefs safely inhabit the canon of contemporary thinking about journalism. The first is that the Internet is the most powerful force disrupting the news media. The second is that the Internet and the communication and information tools it has spawned—like YouTube, Twitter, or Facebook—are shifting power from governments to civil society and to individual bloggers, netizens, or citizen journalists.”

“It is hard to disagree with these two beliefs. Yet they obscure evidence that governments are having as much success as the Internet in disrupting independent media and determining what information reaches society. Moreover, in many poor countries or in those with autocratic regimes, government actions are more important than the Internet in defining how information is produced and consumed, and by whom.”


Open Source

Open Source and the Future of Print in the Age of the Social Network

“There are many memorable quotes attributed to Tim O’Reilly. Which isn’t surprising. He’s been talking for decades about open data, the internet and the direction technology is taking us. Like Arthur C Clarke, much of what he’s predicted, talked about and written has proven incredibly judicious. He popularised the ideas behind ‘Web 2.0’, as well as the incoming wave and impact of social media. He believes in an open government and that the internet will become a global brain of networks and things.”

“At the same time, his publishing company has given us many of the (DRM free) titles we all rely and learn from, while championing open source and open data. But there’s one quote in particular that resonates with us here at Linux Voice. It was partly responsible for the inception of the magazine, and it’s one we think encapsulates the spirit of open source: ‘Create more value than you capture.’”

http://www.linuxvoice.com/interview-tim-oreilly/

The Truth About Contracts

“The impetus behind this post is a specific discussion that took place on an e-mail list. The question under discussion was how to license student work for deposit in an institutional
repository. At one point I said that a license could be created by a simple line in the syllabus for a course that said that certain designated works would be put in the repository, followed by the “performance” (used in contract law to refer to conduct related to the bargain) of handing in those works. This claim, which I thought was innocuous, was disputed.”

“The whole discussion reminded me that there are some serious misapprehensions about contracts, contract law, and licensing in the academic world. So rather than continue the debate on the list, I thought I would offer some basic truths about contracts and licenses in this space. That way my musings only clutter the in-boxes of those who subscribed, rather than everyone on the list. And the debate, if needed, can continue, because the comments will be open, as they are for all posts on this blog. I should add that what I say here is based on U.S. law, and mostly on the Uniform Commercial Code, which has been adopted into the commercial law governing contracts in every U.S. state.”

http://blogs.library.duke.edu/scholcomm/2015/02/13/truth-contracts/

Libraries and Librarians

Meet Amy Randazzo, Ferguson’s New Crowdfunded Librarian

“What do you do with an unexpected $350,000? Scott Bonner, director of the Ferguson Municipal Public Library (FMPL), MO, had two items on his wish list: new carpeting and a children’s librarian. The carpeting is still forthcoming, but FMPL has just hired Amy Randazzo to serve as its long-awaited children’s services librarian starting March 9.”

“Bonner’s actions in August and November of 2014, when he joined forces with local teachers and volunteers to provide a safe, engaged space at FMPL for all of Ferguson, notably children and teenagers during school closings, prompted an outpouring of gratitude and generosity. Social media campaigns brought in donations of several thousand new books and the aforementioned money—an unprecedented bounty for a small library with a $400,000 annual budget. ‘We have a very, very frugal board and I’m frugal myself,’ Bonner told LJ in December, and explained that—as FMPL’s sole full-time employee—along with replacing the worn mid-1990s carpeting, hiring a children’s librarian was his first priority. The job was posted in January 2015, and Bonner announced Randazzo’s hire February 26.”

http://lj.libraryjournal.com/2015/03/people/meet-amry-randazzo-fergusons-new-crowdfunded-librarian/

Paralibrarian of the Year 2015: Tamara Faulkner Kraus

“In two decades (plus one year) she has moved from work with the very young, through young adults, to dynamically serving seniors at the Hickory Public Library (HPL), NC. Tamara Faulkner Kraus’s passion for providing library service to people in need more than sustains her energy and creativity. That unsinkable spirit is now being acknowledged with the 2015 LJ Paralibrarian of the Year Award, sponsored by DEMCO.”

“Her work significantly enhances the library’s visibility in the community and makes a positive difference in many lives,” says HPL director Louise Humphrey, who nominated Kraus.


Berkley, not Berkeley? Library Scores Misspelled Buttons

“When two cities have nearly identical names, mix-ups are bound to happen.”

“But for the city of Berkley’s Public Library, a decade-old mistake by a library on the west coast turned into a pretty sweet deal.”

“The Oakland County library received a batch of buttons from the Berkeley Public Library, located in Berkeley, Calif., after the library noticed its order of buttons were misspelled.”


Copyright

Mother Teresa Painting Removed From Trumbull Library Over Copyright Infringement Complaints

“Trumbull officials have temporarily removed private artwork displayed in its public library to protect the town from possible litigation after concerns were raised referencing arguing the painting infringes on copyright with the use of Mother Teresa’s image.”

“The painting, which Dr. Richard Resnick donated to the library, shows Mother Teresa and other women marching, holding signs that say messages including ‘Onward We March,’ ‘Planned Parenthood,’ ‘Mission of Charity,’ ‘Feed the poor,’ ‘Sister of Mercy,’ ‘Shelter the Poor,’ ‘Remember The Ladies,’ ‘Hospital Reform,’ ‘Right to Vote,’ ‘19th Amendment,’ ‘Equal Wages for Us,’ ‘Not For Ourselves Only.’”

“Independent organizations have complained that the inclusion of Mother Teresa’s image in the painting is ‘potential copyright infringement,’ according to Trumbull First Selectman Timothy Herbst. The town opted to remove the painting for the time being because the library did not have a written agreement with Resnick protecting the town against ‘any potential liability’ from the copyright violation allegation to any possible damage
to the paintings or theft, Herbst said.”


Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety.

SLA-SF Strategic Plan pt.2


If you have not read the introduction, you may want to start there.

Chapter Description

I hope by now that you have not only noticed the recent survey from the sponsorship committee asking for MORE information from you, but that you have also answered it. If you haven’t take a moment to give some feedback. Chrystelle is part of the team trying to make the chapter more relevant to your needs.

This is the second part in a multi-part series of posts on the Chapter’s Strategic Plan. As I mentioned last time, you can cut straight to the chase and read the 2014 Strategic Plan yourself, completely skipping my editorial comments. For those of you wanting the editorial comments, read on!

The Chapter Strategic Plan is revised approximately every 5 years. The Strategic Planning Committee undertook a survey of the membership to assess the groups priorities and objectives. This time around, the committee identified four key areas of concern for the chapter to address over the next three years. These are:

- Networking
- Professional Development
- Employment Support
- Membership

The survey sent out most recently is an effort to further address a few of the above referenced issues in a specific way: Money. Chrystelle, Sponsorships Chair (and super volunteer) has identified anonymous demographic information about our chapter as a possible method of increasing sponsorship money. If she can tell vendor partners that 40% of our chapter uses their product then she has leverage for getting more sponsorships.

Last time we discussed networking. This time we are going to discuss professional development.

The information gleaned from Chrystelle’s Sponsorship survey will also help us be able to afford more professional development opportunities. In your answers to the Strategic Plan questionnaire you told us:

- More in--depth professional development programs (half day – twice a year); more webinars either free or very low fee; provide volunteer opportunities to the local communities (KQED--like opportunities, plant-a-tree, work at a food bank, etc. as a group, book donations to local homeless shelters, etc.)

A few weeks ago, the chapter organized a professional development seminar. The cost was only $45 dollars, because the chapter subsidized the cost. In addition, there were 5 free spaces offered a few days before the event as well as student and under-employed pricing. We had space for 24 people and only 10 people attended.

Paul, Chair of Technology and Innovation has implemented a new calendar. We found out about this calendar app from the NY chapter. Our calendar now includes many types of events from many different sources in addition to our own chapter events including as many Association-wide webinars as possible. These non-SF events fall into different cost segments including free. We are adding events and opportunities as we are notified of the events, so it is not comprehensive. Do these fill your needs?

If not, how can you help?

Help Us Help You
There is much more in the Strategic Plan. I will take the opportunity to check in with you about more of the points next week. Please read the Strategic Plan and let your fellow chapter members and your Board know your thoughts.

Now that you have read some of the results and know the direction your Board is taking, do you really want what you said you wanted? Fortunately, your Board is there to pull me back from the ledge. “Yes,’ they say, ‘we have to work harder.”

What will you do to help us achieve what you and your colleagues say you wanted? Here are a few thoughts I had on available opportunities:

- Networking chair to handle the Chapter’s social media. It will look great on your resume!
- Organize a small event (again, it is Dutch treat unless you have recently won the Lotto)
- Organize a group volunteer event such as answering phones at KQED (next fundraising drive is usually in May)
- Organize a book drive for a local school or homeless shelter
- Organize a book group
- Write an article for Bayline. Contact Matthew Woods to discuss.
- Organize a craft day

All you have to do is organize 1-ONE event or meeting or lunch. You don’t have to change the world. Ask a friend and work as a team.

Your Board cannot do everything; we all have to work together. We need your help to make the chapter what you want it to be.

Comments about the Strategic Plan? Contact the Strategic Planning team!

Thank you!

Jaye

Landfill Librarian, by Samantha O’Brien

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2015/03/landfill-librarian-by-samantha-obrien/ March 4, 2015 Categories: Bayline, Chapter Programs & Events Tags: libraries

(Here’s the other article article on non-standard libraries, and it’s exactly what I’m looking for! Be sure to send more in if you have them. --Editor)

The following is recalled from my somewhat distant memory and the facts are a little hazy. I did my best to be accurate but may have misremembered some details.

It was the summer of 2007 when I began my very first library internship and I was excited to get anything library related. I was recommended by a friend who had the job before me. It was pitched to me as mostly sorting, labeling, filing and shelving records. There was a big stack of paper waiting for me in an inbox, and several brown file storage boxes filled with backlog. I trained with the librarian and learned the in-house categorization system and the existing workflow for incoming records. The system was pretty straight-forward, with numbers assigned to categories, sub-categories and the refuse center location that the record referred to. There were about 15 locations and the library was located at the Central Landfill, location 01, in Petaluma California. Even though it had been a landfill, it was a beautiful location. No trash was dumped in the ground there, it was all transferred out of the county. I had a spectacular view of the Petaluma hills and saw wildlife every day. The Library records were kept on an Excel spreadsheet with a handful of columns for metadata fields. It was a simple system but it was effective, especially since there were only a few library users, 1 librarian, and an intern.

After familiarizing myself with the system, I dove into the stack of incoming records. Many of them were simple memos that documented some regular inspection. Some were long complaint letters sent by community members. I filed each slip of paper that hit my desk and made quick headway on the backlog to the delight of my office mates who seemed to feel the waves of paper would never end. After tackling the paper stack in my inbox, I moved on to the boxes. Many of these records were duplicates so I was happy to do some house cleaning. While I was making good progress, there were always new projects coming in. Certain categories of records and some of the major reports were referenced often by the engineers and they requested that digital copies be made. I began a digitization project that prioritized the requested categories and started scanning. I created bookmarked PDFs and linked them to the spreadsheet. As these were used more and more, the spreadsheet grew and was no longer cutting it. I decided it was time to upgrade. I took a few tutorials in Access and migrated the spreadsheet into a very basic Access database. I’m still unsure what someone who actually knew Access would think about it, but it was an improvement and I was happy.
At one point, the site supervisor came in with a worried look and a full filing box. She said she had just received word that the daily load checks were considered hazardous materials records and needed to follow a very long retention schedule. This meant that a slip of paper that was filled out for each load that came in at every transfer station location in the county needed to be saved for at least 10 years. I assured her this was not bad news to me, this was job security! I told her to send them my way and I would handle it. I cleared 3 drawers of a large filing cabinet and started printing labels. I ordered several boxes of folders and got to work. As soon as the drawers were full, I began digitizing them. These were forms that came directly from the tipping floor. They were sometimes not very pretty. Many were wrinkled, some were ripped, and the ones from the wet seasons were... muddy. At least I hope that was mud.

Another challenge that came to me was the inevitable desire for more digitization. Specifically, the digitization of large format engineering drawings. Until then, I had been scanning on an industrial sheet feed scanner that could do about 50 pages per minute on 300 dpi for anything up to 9 inches wide. These drawings were usually 24×36 inches, sometimes rolled up, sometimes folded, and sometimes stapled and bound in with a cover from the blueprint company that printed them. These were challenging to scan. I familiarized myself with the wide format printer/scanner and moved my work station to the “storage cubicle” where the drawings lived. The paper cuts were brutal.

I have very fond memories of this job. It was nowhere near the art collection I dreamed of organizing, and was nothing like the academic setting I imagined when choosing to pursue my MLIS, but I gained valuable experience with a small collection that was at the same time structured, following government records retention schedules, and personal, where my tasks came directly from the users’ needs. The position was extended for as long as possible, only ending when I graduated because I could no longer be an intern. I stayed on for a few months longer as a contractor but the position was always impacted by the department budget. When I left, I don’t think a records management position existed in the department. I hope that I left a system that is easy for anyone to pick up and if they haven’t already, I hope that the department has the funds to bring in a new records manager soon.

Intersect Alert, March 9, 2015

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2015/03/intersect-alert-march-9-2015/

March 9, 2015 Categories: Intersect Alert Tags: internet access, privacy, social media, technology, transparency

Cable

City-Run Internet Services Still In Limbo After FCC Vote

The FCC voted to pre-empt laws in two states, North Carolina and Tennessee and allow the cities to offer broadband residents. The FCC ruling will probably be released in late March. The ruling will probably be challenged; cities will wait for the legal decision before acting on the ruling. The big telecoms didn’t respond to the ruling but the National Association of Attorneys General (NCSL) repeated their threat of last year, “The NCSL takes the pre-emption of states very seriously and will continue to pursue our options to ensure that any action taken by the FCC on municipal broadband networks is overturned by the courts,” according to a statement posted last week on its website. When asked the NCSL said there were no plans to sue, Tennessee’s Attorney general, however “left the possibility open.”

— A. Holmes, Center For Public Integrity, 3.3.15
http://www.publicintegrity.org/authors/allan-holmes

Senators: We Need A National Strategy For The Internet Of Things

Senators on the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee believes that the Internet of Things (IoT) “could drive significant economic growth in the U.S.” The Committee has introduced a resolution for a national strategy that would encourage further development of the IoT believing it will improve the country’s important assets (agriculture, energy, etc.), “fostering further economic growth and improve our collective social well-being.” The FCC published a report in January recommending such a measure be taken up by Congress.

— Ravindranath, M., NextGov, 3/6/15
http://www.nextgov.com/emerging-tech/2015/03/senators-introduce-internet-things-resolution/106905/


Privacy

A Way Forward: Bruce Schneier’s Data and Goliath Explains Where Our Privacy is Now, and How We Fix It
Bruce Schneier, a member of the EFF Board has written an “exciting” book to attempt to reassure citizens that they can help to ensure privacy. The constant headlines revealing “cyberwarfare, data breaches and corporate snooping” have left many of us feeling vulnerable and powerless. “Armed with the knowledge Schneier shares in his book, anyone can join the conversation EFF and other advocates have been having, in the courts and elsewhere, about how to think seriously and honestly about our current digital surveillance state and more importantly, how to build a digital society run by the consent of the governed.”

Senators Propose Law to Regulate Data Broker Industry

“Senators Markey, Blumenthal, Whitehouse and Franken have introduced the Data Broker Accountability and Transparency Act. http://www.markey.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/2015-03-04-Data-Brokers-Bill-Text-Markey%20.pdf. The bill would give consumers the right to access their personal information held by data brokers and stop data brokers from disclosing or selling that information to others. Senator Markey said, “The era of data keepers has given way to the era of data reapers.” In 2005, EPIC testified before Congress on “Identity Theft and Data Broker Services” and urged the regulation of data brokers following the disclosure that Choicepoint sold personal information to identity thieves. EPIC’s FTC complaint led to a $10 million settlement with Choicepoint.”

https://epic.org 3/5/15
–C. Cohn; N. Kayyali, EFF, 3.6.15

International Privacy

A New Bill in Paraguay Would Destroy Online Privacy

“This bill, if passed, will require Paraguayan telecom providers to store highly personal information about their customers Internet use, for one year, for possible future access by law enforcement agencies. The bill was introduced last year under the flimsy pretext that this measure is urgently needed to prevent crime. TEDIC, a Paraguayan digital rights organization, has launched a grassroots website called Pyrawebs http://pyrawebs.tedic.org/ (Not available in English) to expose this threat and to mobilize ordinary Internet users to stop it.”

–Rodriguez, K., EFF, 3.5/15
https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2015/03/stop-spies-paraguay

Libraries

Library supporters concerned about privatization talk

In an effort to save money, the Kern county library system, is considering privatizing the entire library system (25 libraries and a bookmobile operation). The concerns are obvious and of course they include staffing issues. The county has been negotiating staffing with the Service Employees International Union, which represents library employees. Retired Library Director Sherry Gomez said, diplomatically, that discussing the idea is worthwhile. “If there is a way for the county to provide better service and more hours to the public while still respecting the employees of the library, then the idea of privatization is worth exploring.” Supervisor (5th District) Leticia Perez explained that her district is poor and the constituents need the library for training and education. She admitted, however, that most of the board is advocating for privatization. Other comments about privatization include “egalitarianism” and “whether making the libraries private will compromise its duty to the public.” Library Systems & Services LLC, is a for-profit Maryland company that runs public libraries across the nation and they have shown interest. –Burger, J., The Bakersfield Californian, 3.7.15
http://www.bakersfieldcalifornian.com/pick-6/x912902816/Library-supporters-concerned-about-privatization-talk

Net Neutrality

mHealth Advocates Fear Net Neutrality

Not all groups are happy about the new Net Neutrality rule. Many health advocates believe it will harm medical care, particularly emergency medical care. Proponents claim the new rules reclassifying suppliers as utilities is “to ensure a level the playing field for Internet Access.” Healthcare advocates, however, cite incidents such as a stroke victim who has a short window to receive emergency care, “should not share similar speed constraints as a movie streamed online.” Another example, home health care monitoring, needs a connection that however, cite incidents such as a stroke victim who has a short window to receive emergency care, “should not share similar speed constraints as a movie streamed online.” Another example, home health care monitoring, needs a connection that will deliver patient vitals to their doctors quickly. Deep divisions will remain and most likely the rule (not yet released) will be challenged in court by the telecommunication and cable industry.

–Vesely, R., iHealthBeat, 3/9/15

Social Media

Who’s in Charge of Social Media?

Social media used by government agencies has evolved a great deal in the last several years. Early responsibilities of social media posting first belonged to the Webmaster, the Internet site was owned by the Webmaster who did it all. Eventually agencies began to see that this medium provided a “voice” and could encourage users to participate in their government. A new title evolved, such as public information officer (PIO). The responsibilities of the PIO include managing the entire public interface for an agency. “Social media survey data from the International Association of Chiefs of Police in 2014 shows that the PIO is typically responsible for the day-to-day management of the agency’s public-facing social media
accounts. The distant second and third most popular roles for managing social media in law enforcement are command staff and the chief executive. “In April, the first Government Social Media Conference & Expo will launch. It is described as a “training event just for individuals who manage local and state government social media.”

–Dalton, K., GovTech, 3.6.15

Transparency

Gov. Andrew Cuomo Orders Most State Government Email Deleted After 90 days

New York’s Governor Cuomo made a startling announcement on Friday. Rather than archive government emails, he wants emails, except those considered “worthy of saving,” to be auto-deleted after 90 days (a 118 page definition of “worthy of saving” was written for government employees). The reason for the policy; the why of this policy is uncertain. According to technology experts (e.g. Electronic Frontier Foundation or EFF), there are no technological issues with New York’s email archives, expense is low and there is plenty of storage. The article reminds readers that this new policy is just one more example of the false promise Cuomo made to be “the most transparent in history.” The article cites meetings held by using Blackberry Messenger avoiding the trail of meeting discussions, as just one more example of this administration’s transparency, not. Comments from legislators range. There was mention of a lawsuit that hinges on exactly what the Governor is proposing — deleting emails. “What could cost the state money is the lawsuit now pending over deletion of emails in the food-truck dispute. The Attorney General’s office told the Albany Times Union that New York should not be liable because — get this — the deletions “happened automatically,”

–Levine, G., Aljazeera America, 3.6.15

This Month in Bayline: February 2015

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2015/03/this-month-in-bayline-february-2015/ March 9, 2015 Categories: Bayline, Chapter Programs & Events Tags: awards, events, libraries, member highlights, President's message, social media

Proof that even editors are human, the monthly recap of February’s articles over a week late!

Let’s make a deal, you send in more articles, and reply to my emails on time, and I’ll be more punctual with my recaps? 😊

- Jaye lets us know that the SLA-SF needs more members, and gives us advice on how to get some.
- Intersect Alert is now showing up on Bayline. If you want to know what’s news in the world of information, whether it be IP or information wanting to be free, then here’s the place to give it a look!
- We’ve gotten a couple more bios from the SLA-SF Advisory Council: Cindy Hill, and yours truly!
- Another recap of the 2014 Holiday Party, focusing on the six award winners. Find out who they are, and what they did to deserve recognition.
- An article by myself, showing the results of my investigation into the usage of feed readers.
- Two articles on unusual libraries, the Sonoma County Wine Library and-

Oh, wait, that’ll have to wait for the March recap. 😊

I do apologize for the brevity of this recap, though, but I figured I was late enough as it is! Or do you prefer it brief (I sure do)? E-mail me and let me know!

Consultants’ Update from HQ

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2015/03/consultants-update-from-hq/ March 16, 2015 Categories: Bayline, Chapter Leadership Tags: President's message, take action
The information below is cut/pasted verbatim from the email sent to the Leadership List.

Jaye

________________________________________________________

“During their March conference call, the members of the SLA Board of Directors heard from Cindy Shamel and Ulla de Stricker, the change consultants engaged by SLA to provide strategic recommendations for the board to make decisions in areas such as marketplace positioning and viability, membership and revenue growth, and conference modeling.

In the past month, Ulla and Cindy have continued to analyze the library and information market landscape to determine how SLA compares to other associations that information professionals might choose to join. They have also been studying SLA's offerings of products and services and overall financial picture so they can better evaluate potential opportunities against budgetary constraints.

Because SLA leadership needs to make planning decisions about the 2016 Leadership Summit within the next few weeks, Ulla and Cindy submitted recommendations to the board regarding leader training. In addition, the consultants have been in discussions with the SLA treasurer regarding future options for handling SLA's financial affairs and have provided initial recommendations to the Finance Committee for consideration.

The consultants are planning a two-day visit to SLA's headquarters later in March to discuss the activities each staff member will be working on for the rest of the year in the context of the 2015 goals and objectives. They will be focusing on professional development and the annual conference and especially on options for developing educational content.

SLA members are encouraged to share their thoughts and suggestions at interim@sla.org.

—

Tara Murray
SLA Secretary”

Intersect Alert, March 16, 2015


Bots

Bot or Not

Gleck tells us that we inhabit a variety of virtual worlds, such as the Twittersphere. His column refers to our friends, the Bots, and the destruction they are capable of. Most people just think they are annoying, “a nuisance.” Twitter claims there are “millions,” of bots pretending to be human and they develop a following. Students at Indiana University have developed a tracking program to spot the androids. They believe 31% are bots, not humans, as described in their Technical Paper, “The Rise of Social Bots.”


Census News

Designing, implementing Internet response option

The GAO has released a report on the plan to implement the 2020 Census over the Internet. There are still obstacles to overcome. While having an electronic Census would have obvious advantages (e.g. the data is already electronic), there are still populations who might be hard to reach, “historically hard-to-count populations” such as minorities, renters, children and low-income and/or low-education households. There are also apparently several gaps in “technical competencies, including cloud computing, security integration and engineering, and requirements development,” not to mention a shortfall in funding.

--Sarker, D., 3.11.15, GAO Report

Freedom of Information
Making the Grade: Access to Information Scorecard 2015

The 2015 report was issued this month. Highlights include:

- eight agencies improved their overall scores from last year.
- Performance at most agencies is moving in the right direction.
- More agencies received the highest grades possible (A) in each performance area than last year, with significant enhancements in websites, but timely request processing remains a challenge.

The Department of Agriculture (USDA) was the top performer, with a B grade, and the Social Security Administration came in second with a B-. Despite these improvements, federal agencies are still struggling to effectively and consistently implement public disclosure rules. Ten of the 15 agencies did not earn satisfactory overall grades, scoring less than 70 out of 100 possible points. The scores of five agencies – the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Department of Justice, and the Environmental Protection Agency – fell marginally.

–Center for Effective Government, 3.1.15
For report: http://www.foreffectivegov.org/access-to-information-scorecard-2015-media

Libraries & Librarians

Creating Workflows for Born-Digital Collections: An NDSR Project Update

An interview with librarian Ms.Manus describing her fascinating job…"my primary task is to create, test and implement access-driven workflows of born-digital collections at New York University Libraries… I am tasked with investigating and implementing workflows that encompass the entirety of the born-digital process, from accession to access. This means that while I spent a month learning digital forensics techniques, I have also researched and implemented workflow steps that occur before acquisition and after ingest. Manus is also coordinating a “un-conference” called CURATEcamp, for stakeholders who have an interest in archiving collections… they will tackle issues such as Forensic Toolkit and BitCurator Access, located at the beautiful Brooklyn Historical Society in Brooklyn Heights. She will also be updating her work at the American Institute of Conservation in May and the Society of American Archivists in August.

Whew.

–Manus, S., The Signal Digital Preservation, 3.13.15

Privacy

ACLU Files Suit against NSA ‘Upstream’ Surveillance

“The Wikimedia Foundation, Amnesty International USA, the conservative Rutherford Institute and other plaintiffs allege that the NSA’s “Upstream” surveillance program violates privacy rights under the Fourth Amendment and infringes on First Amendment freedom-of-speech guarantees. They are being represented by the American Civil Liberties Union.” The plaintiffs alleged that the NSA intercepts, copies and searches through Internet traffic using keywords called selectors that are associated with its targets… that the agency exceeds the scope of that law with what amounts to unconstitutional, warrantless review of private emails and online activities…and that the risk of having their Internet communications scooped up has caused problems for the plaintiffs. Fellow plaintiffs include Human Rights Watch, The Nation magazine, and the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. The Wikimedia Foundation says it worries that foreign users will stop contributing to Wikipedia because they cannot be sure their communications won’t be intercepted… So far, lawsuits challenging the NSA have had limited success.


Privacy

3 Big Issues We Heard About at SXSWedu

The issues of privacy are of interest to educators and students who are adamant about privacy. At the conference, “Some 32 national organizations unveiled a statement of “Student Data Principles” during the conference, outlining a guiding philosophy… The document was created primarily with secondary education in mind, but among its supporters are some higher-education groups, including the Institute for Higher Education Policy. Mitchell L. Stevens, an associate professor in Stanford University’s Graduate School of Education, said that a focus on privacy could be too limited and that a better approach would be to consider a broader set of issues he called “data policy.” Several sessions focused on how alternative credentials, such as digital badges and new features of social-media platforms like LinkedIn, would become an important new currency for signaling personal achievement…“

–Blumenstyk, G., Young, J.R., WiredCampus, 3.13.15
http://chronicle.com/blogs/wiredcampus/3-big-issues-we-heard-about-at-sxswedu/56063

Transparency

Mandating Transparency

“Experts believe the open data trend will continue in 2015, particularly in the East… California continues to set an example with open data policies and legislation. San Diego passed a policy at the end of 2014, and other cities and counties in the state will likely follow… passage of a 2014 ballot measure
signals strong support for open data among California voters. The measure — known as the California Compliance of Local Agencies with Public Act — requires local governments and agencies to comply with the California Public Records Act and the Ralph M. Brown Act as well as with any subsequent changes to the acts. This guarantees a person’s lawful right to attend public meetings and have access to public data.”

—Heaton, B., Government Technology, 3.13.15
http://www.govtech.com/state/Mandating- Transparency.html

Advisory Council Bio: Paul Kaidy Barrows

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2015/03/advisory-council-bio-paul-kaidy-barrows/
March 18, 2015 Categories: Bayline, Chapter Leadership Tags: member highlights

(Greetings, Bayline readers. We’ll be getting the bios from the rest of the Advisory Council in the next couple weeks. First up is our webmaster, who makes it possible for me to do my job in the first place! —Editor)

When I was in elementary school I organized all the books at home by the Dewey Decimal System. Some of the books in my mom’s house still have my stickers on the spines. I guess you could say I was born a librarian. I love organizing things – photos, books, spices, genealogical documents, DVDs, and other people’s lives.

Currently I am completing a Master’s degree in Library and Information Science at San Jose State University, but my road to thinking of myself as a librarian has been a circuitous one. I owe the field of Special Librarianship a debt of gratitude for raising my awareness that I have been working as a librarian for years without realizing it. Special Librarians do all sorts of cool information-related things but often may not be called “librarians.”

In my position at SF State University, I develop and manage websites, provide research assistance, organize digital files and write procedures documenting their storage and use, maintain the integrity of data, develop and lead trainings, and oversee the creation of instructional and outreach videos. But I work in an administrative unit and not the library – so I didn’t realize that all along I was working as a “special librarian.” Soon I will have the MLIS to go along with it.

I am a new volunteer with the SLA/SF Bay Region Chapter, chairing the Technology and Innovation Committee. Chapter leaders and members have been incredibly welcoming, and I love my new role working with them to further the organization’s activities and mission.

In addition to my job and school, for 15 years I have served as the volunteer webmaster for a small arts organization in my hometown in Connecticut. Virtual volunteering is great – it allows me to remain connected to the organization my dad first joined as an artist many years ago.

My husband Steve and I met in Massachusetts and now live in San Francisco. We love taking long road trips all around the country to hike in forests and deserts and eat barbecue. So far we have driven to 43 states, making all but our last trip in our 1997 Toyota. We don’t have children so we take photos of our car. Below is a photo of our Toyota at 9,000 feet on a Hopi mesa. Also below is a photo of Steve and me in Monument Valley on the Utah/Arizona border (I’m on the left), photo taken by our Navajo guide Gary.

You can contact me at:
tech@sanfrancisco.sla1.org
LinkedIn
On January 29th, 60 BayNet and SLA-SF Bay Region members met in Oakland to hear Sarah Houghton present “The Wrong Love: Why We Need to Stop Telling People to Love Libraries.” Houghton is the Director at the San Rafael Public Library, a Library Journal Mover and Shaker (2009), and an award-winning blogger at her site LibrarianInBlack.net. She spoke at the CSUEB Oakland Center.

Houghton opened her talk with humorous examples of “Love Your Library” campaigns, including a couple of instances where patrons expressed their love not for their institutions but for specific librarians. The main problem, she said, is that the campaign sounds defensive and needy, like we professionals are begging for affection.

She prefers “how can we work together?” Librarians, especially those in public libraries, treat everyone who walks through the door equally. She told a story about military libraries, which serve as centers where communities come together to support each other while loved ones are away or under stress. Along those lines, she revealed the San Rafael Public Library’s weeklong “Library Loves You” event, which led up to Valentine’s Day. Press releases were sent to the local media and signs were positioned around the libraries (there are two in the SRPL system) that highlighted special activities or services. Some of the services were offered by the library – and are offered by most libraries – all the time, but are often forgotten by users (for example, “help with finding information on a topic of your choice”). Bringing such services to patrons’ attention is an inexpensive way to both publicize and personalize the services librarians provide.

Houghton offered these suggestions for improved communication with the community:

- Reframing language when referring to the community
- Project confidence
- Think like a business “or any other municipal agency” (the water department doesn’t ask for affection but focuses on how it brings or improves its services, the delivery of water)
- Communicate your responsiveness – follow-up with people who make suggestions that were then implemented, which could be as easy as thanking them on a sign at the library’s entrance or as personalized as a phone call or letter to them
- Focus on individual contributions
- Focus on community, not yourself (not the library itself)

She concluded her presentation by urging us all to demonstrate our libraries’ love TO community, instead of asking expressions of love from our patrons.

The evening ended with a question-and-session section. Among Houghton’s responses:

- On the psychology of the word “free”: people (often) don’t appreciate free things. She suggests tweaking the language to “at no cost to you” or “gift” instead of using the term she calls “the F word.”
- On volunteers: offer opportunities. People love to volunteer. At San Rafael Public Library, 400 people offered to pick up books for homebound patrons. Others
offered to help take care of the plants in and surrounding the library.

- On showing love to library’s users: she suggested a range of possibilities, from simple and inexpensive actions like keeping a public list of “Promises Made, Promises Kept.” Alternatively, your organization could provide workshops on topics and skills many people don’t usually associate with libraries. In the latter category, Houghton pointed to the DC Public Library (Washington, DC) 10 days’ worth of events about personal privacy and government, which included a workshop on how to protect one’s privacy online. (The series was called Orwellian America? Government Transparency and Personal Privacy in the Digital Age. More information about it can be found here: http://dclibrary.org/1984)

- On tracking users’ desires: she said their requests and complaints are much more useful than their reference questions. On the related topic of surveying users, she recommends asking open-ended questions, and including this one: “What would you miss if we didn’t provide it? Or if we weren’t here?”

Some of the points made by Sarah Houghton work best in public or academic libraries, but every institution could benefit from a decreased focus on how much we need users and a greater attention on the services we provide to ease their jobs and their lives.

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Intersect, March 23, 2015


Digital Communications

Are Message Boards on the Way Out?

This article discusses why people are dropping off of message boards: some of the following reasons.
1) They preferred Facebook
2) They were online less than they used to be
3) The board had some politics and posting rules that Facebook didn’t
4) The board was old enough that some people had histories or habits they had grown out of.

The author on the other hand, misses being able to post without being “jumped on.” Also, social media is FAST, just like the ideas that seem to come and go quickly, “I want to be able to log in and see a list of everything I missed since my last visit, go through them one by one and check them off. Social media doesn’t work that way, to my eternal annoyance…the passing of an era.”


FOIA

Unnecessary Freedom of Information Act Fees

“The Federal FOIA Advisory Committee, made up of government and non-government members including myself, has identified fees as the most frequently contentious issue in the FOIA process…Miriam Nisbet, the former director of the FOIA Ombuds office, confirmed this week that some agencies use fees to dissuade people from filing FOIA requests…The use of fees to dissuade people from making requests becomes even more questionable when one understands that the money goes to the U.S. Treasury’s General Fund, not to defray actual agency FOIA costs…Some FOIA processors counter that imposing FOIA fees is important, not because it pays for the FOIA process, but because it’s a useful tool to convince requesters to narrow requests agencies find overly-broad…there are exemplary FOIA agencies that recognize this and waive most or all fees as a matter of policy…The DEA and other agencies have improperly skirted the intent…”


Government Security

Cyber chief: Efforts to deter attacks against the U.S. are not working

At a hearing of the Senate Armed Services Committee, Adm. Michael S. Rogers said that the U.S. is at a “Tipping Point.” He doesn’t believe U.S. security efforts are protecting us, the “level of deterrence is not deterring.” Adm. Rogers described the threat of Russia, China and Iran as “growing,” saying that attackers not only want to attack our networks, but establish “a
persistent presence on our networks.” He brought up the case of North Korea infiltrating the Sony Corp. and that the U.S. did something it has never done – named the culprit. This was necessary, Rogers said, because the only way to deter other threats was to acknowledge to the world the U.S. was aware their attacker was North Korea. To avoid detection, other countries will try to confuse the U.S. by using third parties to disrupt networks and not be “as easy to attribute directly to the state.”

— Nakashima, E., Washington Post, 3/19/15
http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/head-of-cyber-command-us-may-need-to-boost-offensive-cyber-powers/2015/03/19/1ad79a34-ce4e-11e4-a2a7-9517a3a70506_story.html

Health Technology

Poor Oversight Hinders California IT Projects, Doc Licensing System

Nearly everyone in California is at some point affected by the CalTech System. The lack of oversight referred to in this article involves the impact on healthcare. Projects ranging from a computer system that should process online applications and renewals from healthcare providers, to an online portal for the Board of Registered Nursing “designed to improve licensing and enforcement,” and that had 1700 defects after its launch. The California HealthLine article summarizes different pieces about the continuing disappointment with California’s Department of Technology (CalTech). “…despite clear statutory authority to curtail troubled state IT projects, CalTech faces challenges in pursuing effective project oversight. One challenge is that CalTech lacks guidance in two critical situations: when CalTech management should suspend or terminate a project and when its independent project oversight (IPO) analysts should escalate concerns to CalTech management. In addition, CalTech does not formally set expectations for its oversight authority with sponsoring agencies—the state agencies that are implementing IT projects.”


Open Access

UC Davis and CDL Awarded $800,000 Grant From Mellon Foundation to Lead Project to Build Open Access Financial Model

The Mellon Foundation has awarded the University of California, Davis and the California Digital Library an $800,000 grant to lead a project that will define the future of Open Access. The project, Pay It Forward: Investigating a Sustainable Model of Open Access Article Processing Charges for Large North American Research Institutions, is to study the most efficacious way to fund scholarly communications while allowing Open Access. Presently the model being used in other parts of the world is the article processing charges (APCs), which may be even more expensive than the current journal subscription model. A group of scholarly communications experts and three major research libraries (Harvard University, Ohio State University and the University of British Columbia) as well as the ten University of California campuses will lead the project along with information providers, EBSCO, Thomson Reuters and the Association of Learned and Professional Society Publishers. While authors of scholarly literature are eager for the regular use of Open Access the present system of funding isn’t sustainable. MacKenzie Smith, UC Davis’ University Librarian and lead investigator believes that the APC model would become even more expensive than the current model.

—Dickson, J., 3.20.15
http://www.cdlib.org/cdlibinfo/2015/03/20/uc-davis-cdl-to-lead-major-project-to-build-open-access-financial-model/

Distinctions Emerge in U.S. Government Plans for Expanding Access to Research

This article provides a good overview of the “distinctions” between public access and open access. “The U.S. public access requirements are established only to ensure that federally funded research is “free to read,” while OA publishing ensures that research is both free to read and that licenses are clearly defined.” The current effort to provide more open access stems from the Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies, from 2013. “That order required the development of new policies to provide expanded access to the research being funded by the U.S. government. The memo and the legislation impact 24 agencies that spend at least $100 million in research funding annually.” Presently, government papers are published in journals that require a password and payment to read and/or download. The new requirements will resemble the conditions in place for the DHHS. Huffine’s mention of the organizations involved, CHORUS (Clearinghouse for the Open Research of the United States, FundRef, Shared Access Research Ecosystem (SHARE) help to explain the perspectives of the different players involved, writers, readers, publishers.

—Huffine, R., InfoToday, 3.17.15

Libraries and Librarians
Libraries are undergoing a Revival as Apartment Buildings

With the scarcity of affordable land in urban areas, developers and libraries have hooked up. In the examples pictured in this article, the libraries are part of a larger building containing apartments with retail space on the ground floor. Since libraries operate on public land, partnering with developers offers up “prime” space. However, “…there is debate over whether this trend is a continued erosion of available public space in the US.” The designs are unique and completed as “urban living developments.” In Milwaukee, two libraries have been integrated with multi-floor housing buildings, with a third currently approved. One is integrated with housing and called The Standard. To truly appreciate these libraries, please see the photographs using the link below.


Privacy

What Spymaster Barbie Can Teach Us About Privacy

“The latest version of Mattel’s Barbie is designed to listen to a child’s voice, transmit that audio via WIFI to Mattel computers, and, based on analysis of that audio, generate a reply.” This is a thoughtful essay on the dangers of disrupting privacy, based on current privacy law. Most law describes human beings as “reasonable” or “ordinary.” “American privacy law, the individual it is built to protect seems to be a caricature of a person that only bears a passing resemblance to the real thing…our privacy calculus also needs to account for larger swaths of human behaviors, including the uniquely complex behaviors of children.”


Presentations that don’t S#$()*#!!!!

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2015/03/presentations-that-dont-s-2/

Friday, February the 13th, was a LUCKY day for the librarians/information professionals who attended a workshop on presentation skills held at the Pacific Energy Center in San Francisco. Eris Weaver, a former chapter president who now does facilitation and group process training, conducted a lively morning session that took attendees away from the powerpoint presentation and into a more interactive and participatory preparation/presentation style. Eris, who has a theater/performance background, urged us to call upon acting skills as we plan for making presentations: ie, have a “script”, rehearsals, and make the talk “showtime”!

Components of a great presentation include :

**The Content:** what really is your message? What’s the problem? What’s your solution?

**The Presenter:** YOU! Your voice and body language, movement. Wear clothes that make you comfortable, practice speaking from your diaphragm and really sending out your voice. Don’t stand in one place behind the podium, move around.

**The Props:** Not only powerpoint! Use images selectively, cut way back on text, use a blank screen ( control – b or include it in the deck) when you are not speaking about contents of a
specific slide. Consider an appropriate prop or two. Think of good Ted Talks and how the slide deck is NOT the presentation!

Eris stressed preparation. In order to know your audience as well as possible try designing an empathy map. Think about what your audience is really like: what they care about, think about, what keeps them up at night. Not the easiest thing to do, I will admit, but even spending a bit of time thinking about this will help you focus better. She also stressed ruthless editing and cutting the main points down to just 3-5. Eris always gets to the meeting place early to check the set up, the a/v, her note and handouts. And as any actor will tell you, PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE!

One more thing that stuck with me: after going around the room doing introductions, Eris noted that no one had stood up, we each spoke from our seat. She commented that standing up when you introduce yourself is speaking from a position of strength and power. So from now on, look for me to stand up when introductions are made! Try it yourself, and let me know how it goes.

Thanks again to support from our sponsor, Soutron Global. Not only did Soutron provide sponsorship for the meeting, they also offered complimentary registrations and three members took them up on that gracious offer. Thank you, Tony Saadat and Soutron Global.

Thanks to all who helped with this event, especially Michelle Krassowski, Sarah Cook and Chrystelle Browman. And thanks again, Eris, we are always happy to have you at chapter events.

Your 2015 Professional Development Committee: Tamara Horacek, Lisa Ngo and Marlene Vogelsang

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SLA-SF Strategic Plan pt.3

March 30, 2015 Categories: Bayline, Chapter Leadership Tags: President's message

Chapter Description (Strategic Plan)

We are still talking about the Strategic Plan. You can read the introduction and part 2, which you may want to do before you continue here.

Employment Support

Many of you are un- or under-employed. Survey responses said:

- The result of the questions on this topic also show that we are not doing well on employment alerts or communicating with members (the newsletter and the website). The committee recommends a broader effort on delivering news and employment alerts.

As you have seen, your chapter has a new, enthusiastic and creative Bayline editor. I have set a high bar for him and he is working hard to achieve 2 posts per week. We have also added an additional newsletter with a variety of different stories related to information and libraries. Jan Keiser, 2014 Webmaster, is heading up that effort and working out the kinks. Send her any news or comments. Another stellar volunteer effort.

The Jobline has gone to the SV Valley chapter for their two year stint at managing it. Our Jobline page links you to the most recent job postings. Any postings are posted to the Reflector.

What you can do:

- Share jobs you see with your job seeking colleagues.
- Encourage your own employers to post jobs to the Jobline.
- Hire your colleagues.
- If you see a colleague’s LinkedIn profile and it is stellar, ask him or her for tips.
- Work with a career center or career counselor. Check your alma mater for free or low cost services.

Your board is discussing more ways to support job seekers.

Membership

There is no easy way to say it. Membership is down both in the chapter, and Association-wide. Your comments resulted in the
Q1 shows that there is a big difference in the number of new members (0–2 years) compared to those after five. This appears to show a membership retention problem, where new members aren’t seeing the value and aren’t renewing much past the first year or two. Also, the answer to Q10—on the biggest challenges facing the chapter—are overwhelmingly about membership, especially around obtaining new members. Surprisingly, though, recruiting new members seemed to be ranked pretty low on the suggested areas of focus in Q11, so membership efforts must be balanced with other objectives.

If not, how can you help?

Help Us Help You

There is much more in the Strategic Plan. I will take the opportunity to check in with you about more of the points in the next weeks. Please read the 2014 Strategic Plan and share your thoughts with your fellow chapter members and your Board.

Now that you have read some of the results and know the direction your Board is taking, do you really want what you said you wanted? I see conflict and indecision. Fortunately, your Board is there to pull me back from the ledge. “Yes,” they say, “we have to work harder.” So we, your Board, will work harder.

What will you do to help us achieve what you and your colleagues say you wanted? Here are a few thoughts I had on available opportunities:

- Networking chair to handle the Chapter’s social media. It will look great on your resume!
- Organize a small event (again, it is Dutch treat unless you have recently won the Lotto)
- Organize a group volunteer event such as answering phones at KQED (next fundraising drive is usually in May)
- Organize a book drive for a local school or homeless shelter
- Organize a book group
- Write an article for Bayline. Contact Matthew Woods to discuss.
- Organize a craft day

All you have to do is organize **I-ONE** event or meeting or lunch. You don’t have to change the world. Ask a friend and work as a team.

Your Board cannot do everything; **we all have to work together.** We need your help to make the chapter what you want it to be.

Comments about the Strategic Plan? Contact the Strategic Planning team!

Thank you!

Jaye

Comments about the Strategic Plan?

Contact the Strategic Planning team!

Thank you!

Jaye

**Intersect, 3.29.15**

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2015/03/intersect-3-29-15/ March 30, 2015 Categories: Intersect Alert Tags: government, libraries, open access, privacy, technology

**California Government Technology**

**California Will Start Scoring Information Technology Contractors**

Lawmakers questioned Department of Technology Director Ramos and Consumer Affairs Director Awet Kidane about why the BrEZE project is on track to cost nearly four times its original $27 million budget. [“The Department of Consumer Affairs is very excited to announce that a new online program is coming that will revolutionize the way we do business, the way our licensees and license applicants do business with us, and the way consumers interact with us. It’s called BrEZE – BrEZE, because many of the tasks that were paper-based and took some time and effort to complete will now be a, well, BreEZe.](https://www.dca.ca.gov/dca/about_dca/breeze/index.shtml)

Accenture provided the only bid for this project and the contract was said to be “unusual.” “Accenture… required the terms as a condition of taking the work. State officials didn’t want to put the contract out to bid again. So they accepted terms – since renegotiated –that could pay Accenture tens of millions of dollars even if it stops working on BreEZe.”

–Ortiz, J., Sacramento Bee, 3.23.14


**Government Technology**

**White House building a ‘Yelp’ to rate federal services**
The Office of Management & Budget (OMB) announced that it would develop a rating system device for consumers to provide instant feedback. In other words, consumers using agency services could immediately record their pleasure or displeasure electronically. Lisa Danzig, associate director for performance and personnel at the OMB called this device a “federal feedback button…kind of like a Yelp for the federal government.” The initial rollout will only include a few websites while Danzig works with other agencies, including the Transportation Security Administration (TSA). This may seem ambitious, but Danzig believes “the agency [TSA] could compare millions of customer experiences a day across hundreds of airports, data that could lead to further innovation and improvement in the customer experience.”

–Andy Medici, Federal Times, 3.24.15
http://www.federaltimes.com/story/government/it/2015/03/24/yelp-pilot/70378800/

Health Technology

Health Information Exchange: Lessons From Libraries

Apparently medical staffs trying to successfully use Electronic Health Records are living in a “nightmare.” The primary care provider is still using multiple fax lines and “prints stacks of paper from the EHR to fax machines to the specialist’s office, where it is scanned in heaps as unstructured data into the chart…” Without universal standards for the same process, there cannot be seamless use of the EHR systems between offices next door from each other. There isn’t yet a universal standard used to code medical diagnoses for example, and coding for different labs and imaging processes can also be different. The “model for information exchange,” is libraries. Library standardization began with the Library of Congress, went on to MARC records (using taxonomy – further standardization) allowing for the storage of standard descriptions, to the creation of OCLC. OCLC, when cataloged, is “interoperable”, allowing users everywhere to locate the exact status of a book or journal. This is the sort of standardized system necessary for the eventual success of Electronic Health Records as initially assumed. “We need a governing body as influential as the Library of Congress to initiate development and promote standards in the best interests of national health.”

–Takaro, C. 3.26.15
http://www.ihealthbeat.org/perspectives/2015/health-information-exchange-lessons-from-libraries

Libraries and Librarians: Resources

ProQuest and Google collaborate to improve researchers’ workflows

“ProQuest will enable the full text of its scholarly journal content to be indexed in Google Scholar, improving research outcomes. Work is underway and the company anticipates that by the third-quarter of 2015, users starting their research in Google Scholar will be able to access scholarly content via ProQuest.”

–ProQuest Press Release, 3.25.15
http://librarytechnology.org/ltg-displaytext.pl?RC=20452

Open Access

Major Publisher Retracts 43 Scientific Papers Amid Wider Fake Peer-Review Scandal

“…the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE), a multidisciplinary group that includes more than 9,000 journal editors, issued a statement suggesting a much broader potential problem. The committee, it said, “has become aware of systematic, inappropriate attempts to manipulate the peer review processes of several journals across different publishers.” BioMed began the search for “deceptive reviewers” in November based on evidence of what appeared to be fabricated reviews. In the process of their investigation they heard from authors about third-party reviewers who promised “favorable reviews,” for example, among those third parties that are honorable. A search under “retraction” in the BioMed search box provides a list of the articles retracted.

http://retractionwatch.com/2015/03/26/biomed-central-retracting-43-papers-for-fake-peer-review/ AND BioMed Central
http://blogs.biomedcentral.com/bmcblog/2015/03/26/manipulation-peer-review/

Privacy

DMV Photo-Sharing, Facial Recognition Nixed from California Strategic Plan

“More than 1,500 Californians over the last two weeks joined EFF in an email campaign to defeat a proposal by an obscure committee within the California Department of Justice that would have compromised the privacy and security of their driver-license photos…the CLETS Advisory Committee (CAC) voted unanimously to delete “Goal 8,” which encompassed both the image sharing and facial recognition, from its strategic plan. (CLETS, by the way, stands for the California Law Enforcement Telecommunications System, the
Advisory Council Bio: Marlene Vogelsang

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2015/03/advisory-council-bio-marlene-vogelsang/  March 31, 2015  Categories: Bayline, Chapter Leadership Tags: member highlights

I have been a happy member of SLA since my student days at San Jose State School of Library and Information Science..back in the late 80’s.  I joined as a student in 1988 and have never regretted it.

I taught school for many years before I became a school librarian in St. Thomas, one of the US Virgin Islands. My colleague, Mary Barzelay, encouraged me to consider an MLIS, which I did when I returned to California.

I have been the Resource Specialist at the PG&E Pacific Energy Center since 1992.  It is a great position that allows me to work with both internal staff as well as our customers.  My library is open to the public, so if you need energy, energy-efficiency information, just let me know.

My first memories of SLA are of the wonderful student meetings that were held at SJSU and attended by local San Andreas Chapter SLA members.  The genuine concern and mentoring they offered (Libby, Cindy, Peggy, Richard, Michele, Nan and so many others) made all the difference when it came to deciding what professional association to join.

I became active in SLA almost immediately and have held many positions in both our local chapter and with my division, Petroleum and Energy Resources.  I have served as President (and assorted other positions) with the San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, and have been Chair and continue on the Board of DPER.  I also serve as the Treasurer of the Baseball Caucus.

My volunteer work with SLA is important in many ways.  It is “giving back” to the profession that has given me so much.

It has also proved to be a great network both professionally and personally.  I count so many SLA colleagues across the world as friends.

I love to travel and I love A’s baseball. When I can combine the two, I am delighted!  My other volunteer efforts include serving on my church council as Treasurer, and as the chair of the local Lefty O’Doul SABR (Society for American Baseball Research) Chapter.

Marlene Vogelsang

Pacific Energy Center

415-973-7206

Mxv6@pge.com

President’s April Message

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2015/04/presidents-april-message/  April 1, 2015  Categories: Bayline, Chapter Leadership Tags: President's message

Hello!

Happy April! No joke. 😊

I received two messages the other morning from librarian friends who said they were just thinking about me and wanted to call. It made me really feel good that someone out there cared about my professional doings.

I have a wonderful family, but, frankly, they have no idea what I do. In fact most people in the regular (non-librarian world) don’t know what we do. It is hard to see what we do, because so much of it goes on in our heads flowing through our fingers to a computer keyboard. I think, among many other reasons, one reason we want to work in libraries and information centers with books is that books are tangible and we can actually hand one to someone.

It is really nice when colleagues get in touch, want to go to lunch or have a coffee. We can talk about our patrons, we can puzzle out problems. We can mentor each other. They
understand.

If you are sitting alone in your office or on your couch reading this, open up your email program and RSVP for an event! Neighborhood Dinners are coming for April. Attending a neighborhood dinner is the first step in having another librarian who is thinking about you, pick up the phone and call you. YOU can also start this chain of events by picking up the phone and calling one of your librarian friends or colleagues. Go have coffee or lunch.

Nominations

Nominations are coming. The very competent Sandy Malloy is in charge of our Nominations Committee this year. When you see the message asking if you want to be on the committee, please say yes. This is a committee that needs people. We need smart members who know other smart people in the chapter. Also, it is a great opportunity to get your feet wet in committee work. I was chair of this committee for many years and loved the experience.

Next, you may get a call asking you to serve our chapter. Say yes! Yes, it is more work, but the experience is really worth it. I have met way more people than I ever would have had I not taken on various positions in chapter leadership. We want you to help keep our chapter vibrant!

If you are considering a position, check out the Chapter Leadership page on our website. Also, if you want to be considered for one of our positions (President-Elect, Treasurer, Assistant Director of Programs), please contact Sandy. The chapter leadership page provides job descriptions of the various positions. It is a good page to check, also, if you are in that position.

More on Volunteering

We are still in need of a Networking chair. This position has a lot of flexibility in terms of what can be done with it. At the minimum it is a great skillbuilder for your resume. Managing the Twitter Feed and Facebook page for the chapter can give you a social media line that will beef up your LinkedIn profile.

There are other opportunities as well. In what are you interested? Writing? Scheduling an event? Hosting a book club? Talking about technical services and what that means today? There were lots of ideas generated during the information gathering stage of the Strategic Plan. We want your help to implement some of those ideas. What will you contribute?

If you want a short term volunteer position, talk to Sandy Malloy, awesome former chapter President and Nominations Chair. She will be needing 8-10 people to work on the committee to fill the positions open in our chapter for 2016. See above.

Annual Conference

Early Bird Registration closes on April 17: http://bit.ly/SLAEarlyBird

Hope to see you there.

Jaye Lapachet, President 2015
Have a great month!

Jaye

Share this:

This Month in Bayline: March 2015

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2015/04/this-month-in-bayline-march-2015/ April 2, 2015 Categories: Bayline, Chapter Programs & Events Tags: events, librarians, member highlights, President's message, professional development, take action

The monthly recap of Bayline, mostly on time this month!

• This month’s message from the SLA-SF President talks about the importance of volunteering, how to join our discussion list, and our upcoming Neighborhood Dinners. “Think about the restaurant to which you want to introduce your colleagues.” I already have!
• Also, don’t forget to see what Intersect has to report!
• Worth looking at is the SLA-SF Strategic Plan. It’s what
make decisions in areas such as marketplace positioning and viability, membership and revenue growth, and conference modeling.” Read more about it [here](#).

- We’re getting Advisory Council bios again! This month we have [Paul Kaidy Barrows](#) and [Marlene Vogelsang](#).
- A thorough recap of Sarah Houghton’s “The Wrong Love: Why We Need to Stop Telling People to Love Libraries,” where she tells us how to get patrons to care more about their libraries without seeming so pushy.

Another recap, this one of an event teaching how to give…well…the title’s self-explanatory. It really gets to the point of the main points. That’s it for this month. Tune in next month where I give a brief summary of next month!

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**Advisory Council Bio: Michael Sholinbeck**

April 3, 2015  
Categories: Bayline, Chapter  
Leadership Tags: member highlights

(This one’s a bit more formal than usual, but this is his voice so I’ll go with it. –Editor)

Michael has worked for the UC Berkeley Public Health Library since 2001, and is currently the Instruction/Outreach Librarian. Michael coordinates the instruction activities of the Library, both to the UC Berkeley School of Public Health, other UC Berkeley groups, and to State of California public health professionals at the California department of Public Health and CalEPA. He also conducts research for the California Department of Public Health, and provides reference services to all the clientele of the Public Health Library, including distance students. In the past, he has worked on the development of a web portal our state contract clientele use to access the Library’s services.

He joined SLA shortly after landing his first UC Berkeley position, and is proud to be a member of the San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, clearly the best chapter in the world. He is currently Chair of the Government Relations Committee, and produces, along with some volunteers, the weekly Intersect Alert. In the past, he has served on other SFSLA committees, such as Professional Development and Web. Michael is active in the Environment and Resource Management Division, where he has served as Division Chair and other positions. Michael finds that volunteering for SLA provides him with professional fulfillment and fabulous networking opportunities.

Michael is also a member of the American Public Health Association where he is active in the Occupational Health Section. He also volunteers as a mentor to UC Berkeley undergraduate students who are former foster youth, orphans, or independent minors. At UC Berkeley, he is Co-Chair of the Committee on Diversity of the Librarians Association of University of California, Berkeley.

Michael has a MLIS from San Jose State University, an MA in Geography from Oregon State University, and a BA in geography from UC Berkeley. Michael was born in (and survived) Orange County, California; he currently resides with his family in Richmond. When not at work he lives out his fantasy as a rock and roll drummer.

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**Intersect Alert April 5, 2015**

April 5, 2015  
Categories: Intersect Alert Tags: freedom of information, intellectual property, international outlook, internet access, libraries, privacy

**Freedom of Information:**

**Journalists Fight for Open Government in The Face Of Secrecy**

Transparency is inconvenient. It’s inconvenient for the reporter who’s trying to report the news and it’s inconvenient for the government that attempts to hide information. “It is not unique for federal officials to go to great lengths to get around having to turn over documents or respond,” Sharyl Attkisson said during a keynote address last week at the University of Florida’s public information conference, “Breaking Down Walls: The Fight for Open Government.” One journalist told the tale of being denied documents about the terrorists who held him hostage for six years because it would infringe upon his captors’ privacy. Another told of a time when she filed a Freedom of Information Act request, only to receive a response a decade later.
The group of journalists and law professionals agreed that it’s critical to report on FOIA violations to make audiences aware of why the issue is important. One way to do this is by leaving blanks in stories where public information was denied. The Miami Herald did just that when they published two copies of the same report, obtained via public record requests from the Department of Children & Families a year apart. The latest release of the report was subject to DCF’s new disclosure policy, which led to almost every word being blacked out, whereas the first released copy of the report had about a sentence or two blacked out at most. http://www.pbs.org/mediashift/2015/04/journalists-fight-for-open-government-in-the-face-of-secrecy/

Army Denies it Sought to Hide Troops’ Chemical Exposure in Iraq
The Pentagon denies it deliberately tried to hide the fact that U.S. troops were exposed to chemical agents, including mustard and sarin, during the Iraq War. The Army on Friday apologized for its failure to properly care for Americans exposed to the chemical agents, promised to provide medical support to those affected and indicated some troops would be eligible for the Purple Heart. But the Army on Monday said there was never any “conspiracy” to play down or conceal the chemical exposures, including from those who experienced them.
In October 2014 The New York Times published a lengthy series based on documents acquired through Freedom of Information Act requests and interviews with Iraq War veterans, including 17 who were exposed to chemical agents. The Times said that about 5,000 chemical warheads, shells or aviation bombs were found by U.S. troops following the 2003 invasion. Officer and enlisted personnel interviewed for the story said they were told to keep silent or provide as little information as possible about such exposures, including to sarin.

Intellectual Property:
Not Just Space Photos: Flickr Now Allows All Users To Expand the Public Domain
The way copyright lawyers talk about the public domain as something works “fall into” when the copyright terms finally expires, it sometimes sounds like some kind of trash heap. But that couldn’t be further from the truth: The public domain is a fantastic resource for learning, creativity and innovation—our cultural commons.
We were very happy to learn that Flickr has released a feature this weekend that allows any uploader to use Creative Commons tools to take easy affirmative steps to support that resource. Flickr users can now easily mark their photos as public domain materials in two ways: either by using a Public Domain Mark (for images already available without copyright restrictions), or using the CC0 waiver (to release whatever restrictions might be in place). This announcement comes after SpaceX, the private spaceflight company that operated a mission for NASA earlier this year, said it would release photos without any restrictions. That was big, but Flickr’s technical update supporting it could have an even greater impact.

Libraries:
America’s ‘national library’ is lacking in leadership, yet another report finds
The federal government’s watchdog agency released a critical report Tuesday on the Library of Congress’s long-standing failures to manage the complex computer systems that are vital to its mission. The result of a year-long investigation by the Government Accountability Office, the report reveals a work environment lacking central oversight and faults Librarian of Congress James H. Billington for ignoring repeated calls to hire a chief information officer, as required by law. Digital technology is crucial to the library’s evolving operations, and yet it is not a priority of management, the GAO investigators found. These findings repeat the conclusions of previous reports dating back 20 years. Taken together, the reports reveal library mismanagement costing taxpayers tens of millions of dollars, and outdated and inefficient systems in the U.S. Copyright Office. And despite the library’s reputation as an early Internet pioneer, various reports have found that it hasn’t kept up with the rapidly evolving digital times. “The library does not have the leadership needed to address these IT management weaknesses,” the GAO report said.

Internet Access:
U.S. Internet users pay more and have fewer choices than Europeans
More than a quarter of Americans cannot go online at home to check their children’s grades at school, apply for jobs, pay bills or research health issues. They don’t have what has become a crucial service for participation in modern society: Internet service at home. The proportion of households with Internet service had been rising steadily for decades, according to the Pew Research Center, until the past few years when the
adoption rate slowed. One reason? The high cost of broadband and the lack of competition that leads to those high prices.

A Center for Public Integrity analysis of Internet prices in five U.S. cities and five comparable French cities found that prices in the U.S. were as much as 3 1/2 times higher than those in France for similar service. The analysis shows that consumers in France have a choice between a far greater number of providers – seven on average – than those in the U.S., where most residents can get service from no more than two companies. The Center’s analysis echoes the findings of several studies on Internet pricing disparities worldwide. By mapping the service areas of U.S. providers, The Center for Public Integrity also found that telecommunications companies appear to carve up territory to avoid competing with more than one other provider.


Nearly 7% Of Americans Say Their Smartphone Is Their Only Way To Get Online

We may often joke that losing our smartphone would mean being cut off from the outside world. While that’s likely an exaggeration for many consumers, a new report from The Pew Research Center finds Americans’ reliance on smartphones to stay connected with the rest of the world is very real, especially when it comes to accessing the internet. Pew’s latest report, based on a survey conducted in October 2014, focuses not only on American’s increased use of smartphones, but also their changing preference for connecting to the internet.

Today, nearly 64% of American adults own smartphones; that’s a substantial increase of 29% from just four years ago. While most Americans once relied on actual computers to go online, that simply isn’t the case anymore, thanks in part to the availability of smartphones. Of the consumers with smartphones, 10% tell Pew they don’t have broadband access at home, and another 15% say they have few other options to access the internet beyond their phones. When both factors are considered, 7% of respondents say that they do not have broadband access at home, and also have relatively few options for getting online other than their cell phone.

http://consumerist.com/2015/04/01/nearly-7-of-americans-say-their-smartphone-is-their-only-way-to-get-online/.

International Outlook:

Secular writers in Bangladesh fearful after 2nd blogger slain by suspected Islamists

Bangladesh, a majority Muslim nation long seen as insulated from the most fervent strains of militant Islam, has seen that reputation crack amid an increasingly bloody divide between secular bloggers and conservative Islamist groups. The writer, a thin young man who fears the growing interweaving of religion and politics in Bangladesh, knows his turn could come next. What happened earlier this week, when the second secularist blogger in less than a month was hacked to death in the streets of the capital, made it clear he wasn’t safe.

“Anytime they can hit me or my like-minded friends,” said Ananya Azad, a 25-year-old blogger who has written pieces that were critical of Islamic fundamentalism and politics driven by religion. He quit his job as a newspaper columnist and stopped writing blogs in recent months after receiving numerous threats, but still posts critical comments on Facebook. Ananya says he’s thinking about fleeing the country and spends much of his time indoors these days.

Advisory Council Bio: Sarah Cook

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2015/04/advisory-council-bio-sarah-cook/ April 8, 2015 Categories: Bayline, Chapter Leadership Tags: member highlights

(This one’s particularly to the point, and therefore easy reading! I can also personally attest that Sarah is a wonderful person to know personally. –Editor)

Current and past job or volunteer positions: I am currently a paralegal for Levin Simes LLP. I worked as a Library Assistant for Paul Hastings LLP and Weinberg Roger and Rosenfeld.

I volunteer for the SLA…. to meet like minded library professionals.

Education: BA English–Creative Writing from San Francisco State University. MILS from San Jose State University with a concentration on Legal Research

Interests: I love to read (of course), nail art and to embroider.

Family: I’m married with three chihuahuas.

News from Bayline: April

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2015/04/news-from-bayline-april-2/ April 10, 2015 Categories: Bayline, Chapter Programs & Events Tags: events, libraries, professional development, publishing, social media, technology

Remember February’s News from Bayline? We’ve got some for April Now!

The ad for JVS got my attention since I’ve worked with them before, and will do so again soon.

Advisory Council Bio: Heather Heen


My name is Heather Heen. I am the Library Tour Chair for SLA San Francisco, and have been in the role for two years. I am a current student at Drexel University for MLIS with focus on Competitive Intelligence and Knowledge Management and the Librarian Relations Manager for Thomson Reuters Westlaw.

I believe that volunteering provides both professional and personal growth opportunities. As a professional, finding leadership teams like SLA-SF has led to increased networking opportunities and a way to grow in new areas without the long term commitment of a new career. It also increased my professional resume for my current role. On a personal level, volunteering can open doors into new areas of interest and ideas that you enjoy participating in. My own time with SLA-SF gives me the opportunity to meet new and interesting librarian professionals and see the libraries they are building which gives me ideas that might influence my own education.

I have also had the opportunity to volunteer for the Monterey Bay Aquarium and the 2014 Veteran’s Stand Down Event which focused on services to homeless veterans.

Intersect Alert April 12, 2015

**Intellectual Property:**

**Ellen’s New Copyright (video)**

Watch Ellen DeGeneres explain her new copyright
https://youtu.be/17or3tqlxY.

**Videogame Publishers: No Preserving Abandoned Games, Even for Museums and Archives, Because All “Hacking” is Illegal**

The Entertainment Software Association doesn’t want anyone to restore the functionality of older videogames that are no longer supported by their publisher, because, says ESA, this is “hacking,” and all hacking is “associated with piracy.” EFF, along with law student Kendra Albert, is asking the Copyright Office to give some legal protection to game enthusiasts, museums, and academics who preserve older video games and keep them playable. We’re asking for an exemption to the Digital Millennium Copyright Act’s anti-circumvention provisions (Section 1201) for those who modify games to keep them working after the servers they need are shut down. Many player communities, along with museums, archives, and researchers, want to keep the games they own playable after publishers shut down the servers the games depend on. Section 1201 creates legal difficulty for these communities, which is why we’ve asked the Copyright Office to give them an exemption.

Section 1201 is often used by the entertainment industries not to prevent copyright infringement but to control markets and lock out competition. So it’s not surprising that ESA (the trade association for the largest game producers), along with MPAA and RIAA, have written to the Copyright Office to oppose this exemption. They say that modifying games to connect to a new server (or to avoid contacting a server at all) after publisher support ends—letting people continue to play the games they paid for—will destroy the video game industry. They say it would “undermine the fundamental copyright principles on which our copyright laws are based.”


**Privacy:**

**F.C.C. Fines AT&T $25 Million for Privacy Breach**

The Federal Communications Commission fined AT&T $25 million for failing to protect the personal information, including Social Security numbers, of its customers, the agency said on Wednesday. The penalty is the largest the F.C.C. has ever issued for data security and privacy violations. Employees at AT&T call centers in Mexico, Colombia and the Philippines were found to have stolen the names and full or partial Social Security numbers of about 280,000 of the wireless carrier’s customers in the United States. The workers sold that information to third parties. F.C.C. officials said the parties who bought the data appeared to have been trafficking stolen cellphones they sought to activate. They added that the personal information that employees had taken without authorization was used to submit 290,803 handset unlock requests for mobile phones through AT&T’s website. Agency officials speculated that the third parties could have been seeking to resell those phones in the United States or abroad.


**Snapchat reports more than 400 government requests for user information**

Snapchat has released its first transparency report cataloging requests for user data information from law enforcement. Overall, the photo messaging app received 403 government requests for user information – 375 from American law enforcement and 28 from international governments, according to its report. The company says that in July, it will begin issuing a full report every six months, but “in the interest of transparency, we figured why wait until we had a full six months of data before publishing our first Transparency Report.”


**RadioShack’s Bankruptcy Could Give Your Customer Data to the Highest Bidder: The phone numbers, e-mail addresses, and shopping habits of more than 100 million customers are part of RadioShack’s bankruptcy auction**

The remnants of RadioShack’s retail empire went on the auction block on Monday, giving bidders the first chance to snap up the company’s trademarks, patents, leases—and the names, e-mail addresses, and phone numbers of millions of RadioShack customers. For RadioShack itself, the stakes are enormous. Bloomberg News reported Tuesday morning that Standard General, a hedge fund that is one of RadioShack’s creditors, has won the auction. Hinging in the balance on Thursday, when a federal bankruptcy court is expected to approve or reject the asset sale, is the continuation of the 94-year-old retailer’s operations. Standard General has said it will try to keep the retail chain operating on a smaller scale. RadioShack’s customers—even those whose most recent purchase came years ago—could also find themselves sold off in the deal. The company included personal data in its bankruptcy auction as its own asset class. A website maintained by Hilco Streambank, which is serving as an intermediary for RadioShack, says that more than 13 million e-mail addresses and 65 million customer names and physical address files are for sale. Hilco Streambank is careful to note that the bankruptcy court might not approve the deals, and there have already been two legal filings in attempts to block the sale of customer data.

Public Policy:

Who’s Calling the Shots in State Politics? Secretive group destroys candidates’ chances, leaves few fingerprints

Wedge between a nail salon and a pizza shop in a strip mall about 25 miles south of Washington, D.C., is a postal supply store where a small brass mailbox sits stuffed with unopened envelopes. It’s the unlikely home of one of the country’s most mysterious political hit squads. The Law Enforcement Alliance of America once had offices in a nearby office park, but it abandoned them more than a year ago. It hasn’t filed required IRS reports in two years, and its leaders, once visible on television and in congressional hearings, have all but vanished. But the nonprofit that calls itself “the nation’s largest coalition of law enforcement professionals, crime victims and concerned citizens” still has teeth. It has succeeded in helping knock out 12 state-level candidates in 14 years, including an Arkansas judicial candidate last year. In doing so, the group helped launch the current governors of Texas and Nevada to their stepping-stone positions as state attorneys general. The LEAA uses brute tactics – parachuting into otherwise small-dollar races close to the end and buying up TV ads that accuse candidates of siding with “baby killers” and sexual predators. The group is an extreme example of a growing cadre of political organizations – from the conservative Crossroads GPS to the environmental advocate League of Conservation Voters – that insert themselves into elections, flood the airwaves with attack ads and often tip the scales in favor of the candidate they prefer. http://www.publicintegrity.org/2015/03/25/16941/secretive-group-destroys-candidates-chances-leaves-few-fingerprints.

Internet Access:

Search Engines Make Us Think We’re Smart

Search engines provide answers to questions that we don’t know, and with a click or two confirm those we think we do. Numerous research papers from prestigious schools and scholars suggest that search engines make people dumb. The latest from researchers at Yale University suggests that search engines make people think they’re smarter. In fact, Yale researchers conclude that searching the “Internet may cause a systematic failure to recognize the extent to which we rely on outsourced knowledge.”

One of the biggest issues involves the incorrect sourcing of information. The findings suggest confusion between accessible knowledge with one’s personal knowledge. People often mistake access to information for their own personal understanding of the information. When searching online, people mistakenly attribute the source of the specific answers they find because they think the answer was stored in their own mind instead of on the Internet. http://www.mediapost.com/publications/article/247105/search-engines-make-us-think-were-smart.html.

International Outlook:

Qatar Digital Library Preserves The Music Of A Vanishing Past

The songs our grandparents sang can tell us who we are. Here in the U.S., the Lomax family became famous in the 1930s, when they recorded America’s folk music. In other countries that are changing fast, people are also trying to hold onto their heritage. The tiny, super-rich state of Qatar takes pride in its modernity, with its gleaming skyscrapers and lucrative gas fields. But it is also investing in a huge history project. The Qatar Digital Library began as a brainchild of the former first lady, Sheikha Mozah bint Nasser al-Missned, and was put together with Richard Gibby from the British Library.

Last year, the library made public a digitized archive of Arab scholarship, maps and artworks, particularly from Gulf countries like Kuwait, Oman and Iraq. The library has also compiled a music archive. Staff members collected early recordings on disks made from shellac. http://www.npr.org/blogs/parallels/2015/03/22/394604701/qatar-digital-library-preserves-the-music-of-a-vanishing-past.

European Facebook Privacy Lawsuit Heads To Court In Vienna

A class action data privacy lawsuit that’s being brought against Facebook in Europe – for participation in the NSA’s PRISM dragnet surveillance program, among other alleged data protection violations – gets its first preparatory court hearing today in Vienna’s Regional Court. The suit was originally filed in Vienna’s Commercial Court but that court rejected it and referred it on to the regional court. The class action was initiated by Europe vs Facebook privacy campaigner and lawyer, Max Schrems, who has been pricking Facebook’s data protection conscious for years – including forcing the social network to offer a global user vote on proposed policy changes back in 2012. The lawsuit targets the following “unlawful acts” on the part of Facebook, as the group sees it:

- Data use policy which is invalid under EU law
- The absence of effective consent to many types of data use
- Support of the NSA’s ‘PRISM’ surveillance programme
- Tracking of Internet users on external websites (e.g. through ‘Like buttons’)

Monitoring and analysis of users through ‘big data’ systems
- Unlawful introduction of ‘Graph Search’
- Unauthorised passing on of user data to external application

Neighborhood Dinners

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2015/04/neighborhood-dinners-2/  April 14, 2015 Categories: Bayline, Chapter Programs & Events
Tags: events

There is still plenty of time to sign up for neighborhood dinners, either as a host or as an attendee. Check out the great events that have already been lined up:

Marin/Sonoma will have a neighborhood dinner on Tuesday, April 14, 6:45 pm at My Thai II in downtown Novato – not to be confused with My Thai in downtown San Rafael. The address is 811 Grant Avenue, and the phone number is 415-895-5080. Please let me know by Saturday, April 11 if you plan to attend.

Diane Rosenberger
Technical Services Librarian
Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco
dianerosenberger@yahoo.com
phone: 415-459-3471

—Mission Neighborhood Dinner:

Wednesday, April 22, 6:00 PM
Poc-Chuc
2886 16th Street, between Van Ness and Shotwell
http://www.yelp.com/biz/poc-chuc-san-francisco
Please RSVP to both Hilary and Lisa, hschiral@library.berkeley.edu and lngo@library.berkeley.edu

Limited seating! RSVP early!

—

Hilary Schiraldi
Head
Long Business Library
Haas School of Business
UC Berkeley
510-643-6471
hschiral@library.berkeley.edu

—Oakland Neighborhood Dinner: Wednesday, April 15…
Let’s meet at El Gusano!
1015 Clay Street in Old Oakland
Time: 6pm

RSVP by April 12: christineorr@mindspring.com
Order delicious, reasonably-priced Mexican specialties at the counter, pick up a cocktail (if you are so inclined) at the bar, and take a seat with your SLA colleagues. See http://el-gusano.com for more info on the place.

Best wishes,
Chris Orr (Note: that if you receive a spam notice from Chris’ account your message will not be lost. She will add you to her address book and call off the dogs!)

—

Daly City Neighborhood Dinner
April 30, 6:30 pm
Cafe Boulevard
2 Poncetta Drive
Daly City (conveniently located near Daly City BART station)
http://www.theboulevardcafe.com/
Hosted by Craig Cruz and Jaye Lapachet
Please RSVP to Craig Cruz (asst-programs@sanfrancisco.sla1.org) by April 29.

Interested in setting up a Neighborhood Dinner? There are still plenty of dates!

1. Pick a date and a neighborhood, and let Craig Cruz know (see contact info below) so he can add it to the calendar.
2. Choose a local restaurant and make a reservation.
3. Send an email to the SLA-SF email list with the details.
4. Collect RSVP’s.
5. Enjoy dinner with your colleagues!

Craig Cruz
Asst. Programs Director
asst-programs@sanfrancisco.sla1.org

Bayline Digitization Project
Bay Area library organization makes 80 years of its newsletter freely available on the Net

By Heather Gamberg

SLA-SF Public Relations Chair

Two volunteers have helped make 80 years of a Bay Area library organization’s history available to the public.

In July 2013, the president of the San Francisco Bay Region Chapter of the Special Libraries Association hoped to track down photos of previous presidents of the chapter and asked that year’s co-archivists to see if they could get such photos from printed and bound copies of the chapter’s newsletter, named Bayline since 1998 and The Bulletin before that. The chapter has never had a permanent location or office space, so photos and other artifacts have not been consistently saved.

Cathy Salomon and Jonathan Leff headed down to the basement of UC Berkeley’s Institute of Governmental Studies (IGS) Library, where the newsletters live. After getting a peek at the newsletters, Leff and Salomon realized that a wealth of information documenting libraries’ and librarians’ roles in the Bay Area since 1924 was hidden away and should be accessible.

Leff had been on a tour of the Internet Archive and knew that it had a book-scanning program, so he got approval from the chapter’s board to get a quote for having the 40 bound volumes scanned by the professionals at IA. The approximate cost of $2,500 was approved in September 2013.

After having IA test-scan four volumes of the newsletter in November, the project officially began. Jesse Bell coordinated the project from IA’s end and was extremely helpful. Not to be without a hitch, those four volumes were destroyed by a fire at IA. Fortuitously, they had already been scanned and IA provided replacement copies for free.

Over the next eight months, the heavy volumes were retrieved from the library, shepherded from Berkeley to IA’s processing site in San Francisco during its open hours, and returned to their basement home in Berkeley. Salomon and Leff’s schedules were incompatible with the IGS Library’s hours, so they were assisted by chapter members Rose Falanga, who helped bring the newsletters to the Internet Archive, and Julie Murphy, who returned them to Berkeley. The digitized versions of the newsletters also had to be proofed, a task that the archivists gladly shared with Falanga.

In August 2014, all bound volumes of the newsletter were digitized and freely available on the Internet Archive web site in a variety of formats, including PDF, epub, JPEG, and full text. Interestingly, the digitized newsletters were not very helpful in answering the original request. “Although the impetus for this project was to get images of past presidents,” Salomon said, “actually there were almost no photographs in the issues of Bayline at all.”

When asked what they had learned that might be useful to anyone taking on a similar, large-scale digitization project, Leff and Salomon pointed out that verifying the quality and accuracy of the scans was labor- and time-intensive. Leff recommends that one “plan for this or consider only spot-checking and trusting that the scans were done properly.”

And while the cost of having the Internet Archive scan the newsletters was low, there is a payoff. “When IA scans items, they will be displayed on IA’s website for anyone to access,” explained Salomon. “This means that IA would not be a good solution for documents with copyright restrictions or documents that you don’t necessarily want to make accessible to everyone.”

At the end of 2014, Leff and Salomon, who continued their archivist roles 2014, received the Special Project Award for the Bayline digitization project. Anne Barker, who was chapter president in 2013 and set the digitization project in motion by her request for photos, wrote on the nomination form, “Over 18 months, they worked patiently, diligently and thoroughly to see the project from its inception to completion, overcoming many obstacles, not the least of which a fire at the Internet Archives processing site.”

Salomon works part time in the History Room at the Mill Valley Public Library and volunteers at the Napa Historical Society. Leff is the Operations Analyst for the UCSF Center for Tobacco Control, Research and Education.
Our hardworking President, Jill Strand, is working to put together a report on the strategies you use with your management to demonstrate value. The survey is available for YOU to answer. Jill and her team need everyone’s input. One of her questions is “What are you telling us about your strategies for advocating and demonstrating your contributions?”

From that question, Jill and her team recently reported that, to date, we know that:

- 3 out of 4 of you provide a regular report on your services to your stakeholders
- 8 out of 10 of you chose your language carefully when explaining the value of your operation
- Over 60% of you have specific vision/mission statements and values
- 70% of you don’t benchmark your services
- Over 30% of you have a pre-prepared pitch for those chance conversations

Be part of the conversation. Our task force needs you to complete our survey in the spirit of sharing and networking that enables SLA work for its members. All responses will be kept strictly confidential unless you give us permission otherwise.

If you cannot access Survey Monkey, please email learning@sla.org. You can also share relevant materials with us by emailing learning@sla.org after you complete the survey.

The results will inform our knowledge-cafe event at the 2015 Boston conference, where you can discuss your experiences face to face with the task force and colleagues. Later in the year, your insights will help us compile a tool kit of best practices to enable you to continue the conversation with your stakeholders.

Last submissions: April 30th 2015

Regards,

Jaye

Intersect Alert April 19, 2015

Open Access:

Internet Archive and CADAL Partner to Digitize 500,000 Academic Texts
The Internet Archive and the Chinese Academic Digital Associative Library (CADAL), are pleased to announce that 500,000 English-language, academic books will be digitized through a partnership that leverages strengths from both organizations. This furthers an initiative begun in 2009, The China-US Million Book Digital Library Project, seeking to bring one million texts into the public domain. The Chinese Academic Digital Associative Library (CADAL) is a consortium of over 70 Chinese University Libraries. CADAL will provide access to a leading set of libraries, the technical resources to display, and share the books inside China, as well as the staff needed for digitization. The Internet Archive will select the books, and provide equipment and processing resources. Both organizations will offer access and discovery tools for both scholars and citizen-scholars. Together, CADAL and the Internet Archive are contributing to a growing, global digital library.


Freedom of Information:

Books By People of Color Are Disproportionately Likely to Be Banned
What do a picture book about gay penguins, a graphic memoir centered on Iran, and a comic about cosmic war have in common? They’re all among the books that were most likely to be challenged at schools and libraries across the country this past year. On Sunday, the American Library Association (ALA) released their 2015 State of America’s Libraries Report and it included a list of the top ten books most often challenged or banned in 2014. The ALA defined a challenge as “as a formal, written complaint filed with a library or school requesting that a book or other material be restricted or removed because of its content or appropriateness.”

What kind of books are most likely to be banned? Books that
focus on diversity. The ALA points out that 80 percent of 2014’s most challenged books include “diverse content” – meaning they have main characters who are LGBT, people of color, or have a disability and/or the book deals with issues like racism, mental illness, and religion. Four of this year’s most-challenged titles were written by people of color and two were challenged specifically for containing homosexuality. Seven contested titles were written by people of color and two were challenged for being “sexually explicit.”


To shield tech executives, California’s biggest water users are secret

In the midst of a historic drought, Californians have no way of knowing who’s guzzling the most water. That’s not an accident. It’s by design, thanks to an obscure 1997 measure that weakened one of the state’s chief open government laws, the California Public Records Act. For the source of this legislation, look no further than Silicon Valley, where the city of Palo Alto decided it needed to do more to protect the privacy of the tech elite. “Palo Alto, even then, was home to a number of very high-profile tech-related residents,” said Ariel Calonne, who was the city attorney at the time. “We had fairly extensive databases that covered a lot of sensitive information for a lot of noteworthy people, and that became a concern for our utility managers.” In the name of privacy and security, the city of Palo Alto backed legislation sponsored by Byron Sher, the local state senator. It allowed utilities to keep secret their customers’ “utility usage data” – that is, how much water and power they were using. Other supporters included the California Municipal Utilities Association and the League of California Cities. Earlier this month, a judge ruled that corporate water bills also should remain secret, saying that while businesses don’t have the same privacy rights as people, the law nevertheless applies to all customers.

http://www.revealnews.org/article/californias-biggest-water-users-are-secret-to-shield-tech-executives/.

Want to Record The Cops? Know Your Rights

There are some very disturbing videos circulating the Internet right now, depicting the deaths of unarmed civilians at the hands of trained, armed men. Many of these videos even show individuals being shot in the back, or as they try to flee. Citizen videos of law enforcement encounters are more valuable than ever. And for those who are wondering-it is legal to record the police [emphasis in original]. The police don’t always seem aware of this. There have been incidents across the country of police telling people to stop filming, and sometimes seizing their camera or smartphone, or even arresting them, when they don’t comply. That’s why … we’re sharing some basic information cop watchers should know.

Courts across the country have held that there is a First Amendment right to openly record the police. Courts have also held, however, that individuals cannot interfere with police operations, and that wiretapping statutes that prohibit secretly recording may apply to recording the police. But underlying these decisions is the understanding that recording the police is constitutionally protected.

http://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2015/04/want-record-cops-know-your-rights.

DEFENSES AGAINST FOIA: Non-Profit Planned Parenthood Succeeds In Keeping Operations Manual Secret

When-inquiring minds want to know, non-profit organizations now have a stronger response. Last year, we posed the question: Can a non-profit maintain trade secrets and other confidential commercial information? The First Circuit recently answered our question: “yes.”

In New Hampshire Right to Life v. U.S. Dep’t of Health & Human Servs., 778 F.3d 43 (1st Cir. 2015), the First Circuit held that Planned Parenthood, a non-profit organization, can possess confidential, commercial information, and protect it from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”). The First Circuit examined Exemption 4 to the FOIA, which shields documents from FOIA disclosure if they constitute “trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person and privileged or confidential.” 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(4). While the First Circuit did not explicitly hold that Planned Parenthood possessed “trade secrets”, it did find that Planned Parenthood possessed information which was both “commercial” and “confidential,” and implicitly found that this confidential, commercial information was valuable to Planned Parenthood (a.k.a. a trade secret). The First Circuit found not only that non-profits may possess commercial information, but also that a non-profit may suffer competitive injury from the disclosure of certain commercial information, making that information “confidential” and precluding disclosure under the FOIA.


Public Policy:

Consumer group: Federal food additive safety process is illegal

The Center for Science in the Public Interest today charged that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration’s process for overseeing food additives is illegal. Center for Public Integrity reported this week how a legal loophole created in a 57-year-old law allows the food industry to determine whether additives can be deemed “generally recognized as safe,” or GRAS, and avoid a rigorous pre-market government safety review. A second Center for Public Integrity story, published today, details how the food industry repeatedly turns to the same small group of scientists to evaluate the safety of food additives they hope to market. Many of those scientists have done similar work for the tobacco industry, the investigation shows.

The FDA did not immediately respond to requests for comment.
A Night to Remember with State Librarian, Greg Lucas!

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2015/04/a-night-to-remember-with-state-librarian-greg-lucas/ April 19, 2015 Categories: Bayline, Chapter Programs & Events Tags: events, librarians

SF Bay Region Chapter
Joint Meeting with Silicon Valley

Thursday, May 28, 2015, 5:30 pm – 8:00 pm
Fattoria e Mare, 1095 Rollins Rd, Burlingame, CA

Registration is now closed.

Please join us for a night to remember with special guest California State Librarian, Greg Lucas! This is a unique opportunity to hear a leader of libraries speak. Prepare to be engaged!

Greg Lucas was appointed California State Librarian by Governor Jerry Brown on March 25, 2014. Besides collecting and preserving California’s history and culture, the State Library – founded in 1850 – provides access to books for visually impaired Californians and conducts research into an array of areas at the request of lawmakers and the governor. The State Librarian also advocates for literacy, librarians, and California’s 1,185 libraries.

California possesses one of the most important history collections in the United States. The collection begins with artifacts dating to 1540 and continues through the present. There are books, newspapers, lithographs, and campaign memorabilia as well as 4,500 maps and 250,000 photographs.

Previously, Greg was a senior editor at Capitol Weekly and a freelance writer. He created the blog, California’s Capitol, www.californiascapitol.com, in 2007. He is also a Friends of the California Archives board member.

During 19 years covering the state Capitol for the San Francisco Chronicle, Greg wrote nearly 3,000 articles on everything from presidential politics to the introduction of prune burgers in school cafeterias. He was also a ride operator on Pirates of the Caribbean at Disneyland.

He has a Bachelor’s degree in Communications from Stanford University and a Masters degree in Professional Writing from the University of Southern California.

Agenda for Thursday, May 28, 2015

5:30 – 6:30 Registration, networking and appetizers
6:30 – 7:00 SLA-SF announcements
7:00 – 8:00 Program with Q&A following

Menu
A variety of delicious foods in a buffet-style

SLA Program Cost

Early Bird Special
$30 for members
$50 for non-members
$25 for student/retiree/between jobs members

Late registration (after May 15, 2015)
$35 for members
$55 for non-members
$30 for student/retiree/between jobs members

Registration is now closed.

Location
Fattoria e Mare, 1095 Rollins Rd, Burlingame, CA 94010, (650) 342-4923

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RAVEL
List of 2015 Neighborhood Dinners (as of April 22)


Castro Valley
Monday, April 13
HOSTS: Deb Hunt, Sandy Malloy, Marlene Vogelsang

Life is Short: Have Dessert First! Join your colleagues from San Leandro/Hayward/Castro Valley and nearby East Bay Cities for a Delicious Neighborhood Dinner at Knudsen’s Ice Creamery, an old fashioned ice cream shop in Castro Valley. If dessert for dinner is not for you, Knudsen’s has an extensive menu of sandwiches, salads, soups, burgers and more: http://www.icecreamery.net/

Monday, April 13, 6:30 p.m., 3323 Castro Valley Blvd, Castro Valley
Please RSVP by Monday, April 13, 9 a.m. to Deb Hunt, dhunt@milibrary.org

Parking in the back. Close enough to walk from Castro Valley BART.

Hope you can join us!
Deb Hunt, Library Director
Mechanics’ Institute Library
415.393.0113 dhunt@milibrary.org
www.linkedin.com/in/informationedge
Co-author: The Librarian’s Skillbook

Novato (Marin/Sonoma area)
Tuesday, April 14
HOST: Diane Rosenberger

Marin/Sonoma will have a neighborhood dinner on Tuesday, April 14, 6:45 pm at My Thai II in downtown Novato – not to be confused with My Thai in downtown San Rafael.

The address is 811 Grant Avenue, and the phone number is 415-895-5080.
Please let me know by Saturday, April 11 if you plan to attend.

Diane Rosenberger
Technical Services Librarian
Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco
dianerosenberger@yahoo.com
phone: 415-459-3471

San Francisco (the Mission)
April 22
HOST: Lisa Ngo and Hilary Schiraldi

Wednesday, April 15
HOST: Chris Orr

Let’s meet at El Gusano!
1015 Clay Street in Old Oakland (near 12th Street BART)
Time: 6pm
RSVP by April 12: christineorr@mindspring.com

Order delicious, reasonably-priced Mexican specialties at the counter, pick up a cocktail (if you are so inclined) at the bar, and take a seat with your SLA colleagues.
See http://el-gusano.com for more info on the place.
Best wishes,
Chris Orr
(Note that if you receive a spam notice from my account your message will not be lost. I will add you to my directory and call off the dogs!)

Daly City
April 30
HOSTS: Jaye Lapachet and Craig Cruz

The Boulevard Cafe
2 Poncetta Drive, Daly City
Thursday, April 30, meet between 6-6:30 in the cocktail lounge.

Join me and chapter president Jaye Lapachet at The Boulevard Cafe in Daly City on April 30. We’ll meet between 6-6:30 in
the cocktail lounge and head to dinner in the main room at 6:30. The restaurant has a diverse menu, featuring burgers, pasta, large salads, and steaks and pork chops. They have a variety of macaroni & cheese entrees, and also Greek inspired specialties. Personally, I’m a fan of their fish & chips. Offerings can be seen here: http://www.theboulevardcafe.com/menu.html

Boulevard Cafe is located a short walk from Daly City BART, between the station and Westlake Shopping Center. The street address is:

A map of the location can be viewed here: http://www.theboulevardcafe.com/location.html

RSVP by April 28 to craig.cruz.sf@gmail.com

We hope to see you there! Craig Cruz & Jaye Lapachet

San Francisco (Noe Valley)
Tuesday, April 28
HOSTS: Craig Cruz & Cynthia Berglez

Noeteca
1551 Dolores Street (corner of Valley and Dolores)
Tuesday, April 28 at 6

Join me and former chapter president Cynthia Berglez at Noeteca in Noe Valley, San Francisco on Tuesday, April 28 at 6.

The restaurant has Alsatian-inspired flatbread pizzas, salads, meat and cheese plates, and a nightly special. They also have an extensive wine list and European beers. You can see a typical menu here: http://noeteca.com/menu.html

Noeteca is located at 1551 Dolores Street, on the corner of Valley and Dolores, in outer Noe Valley. It is 3 blocks from the Muni J-Church stop at Day and Chuch Streets (near 29th Street). From Mission Street, it’s a 3 block walk from the bus stop at 29th and Mission streets. For those driving, there is street parking.

A map of the location can be viewed here: http://noeteca.com/visit.html

Please RSVP by 10 am on April 28 to craig.cruz.sf@gmail.com

We hope to see you there!

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Privacy:

Privacy advocates seek more openness on NSA surveillance

As Congress considers whether to extend the life of a program that sweeps up American phone records, privacy advocates and civil liberties groups say too much about government surveillance remains secret for the public to fully evaluate its reach or effectiveness. The disclosure two years ago of the National Security Agency’s surveillance efforts prodded the federal government to declassify reams of once-secret documents, including opinions from a secretive intelligence court laying out the program’s origins and legal underpinnings. But critics say key language from the disclosed documents remains censored, the release of information has been selective, and the ongoing trickle of once-secret memos has raised concerns about how many other potentially illuminating records might yet remain outside the public’s reach.

“That means the public lacks information it needs to understand the significance of the powers that government already has and the significance of the powers that the government is asking for,” said Jameel Jaffer, deputy legal director of the American Civil Liberties Union.

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Intersect Alert April 26, 2015


April 26, 2015 Categories: Intersect Alert Tags: intellectual property, international outlook, internet access, privacy, public policy


AALL Strongly Opposes Clean Reauthorization of Section 215 of USA PATRIOT Act

With the June 1 expiration looming, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) and Senate Select Intelligence Committee Chairman Richard Burr (R-N.C.) have introduced legislation to reauthorize of key provisions of the USA PATRIOT Act (Patriot Act). The bill, S. 1035, would extend, without amendment, Section 215 of the Patriot Act through 2020. Circumventing the usual deliberation and debate that occurs in committee, the Majority Leader has invoked Rule XIV, a Senate procedural rule to bypass the usual committee process and send the bill straight to the Senate floor.

AALL staunchly opposes this effort to cleanly reauthorize Section 215, the “library records” provision, which has been used to justify the National Security Agency’s mass surveillance of Americans’ phone records. Since its hasty passage in 2001, the Patriot Act has upended Americans’ expectation of privacy and fomented a culture of government secrecy.

firefighters raising the American flag over ground zero hours after the World Trade Center towers collapsed on Sept. 11, 2001. In documents filed Monday, William Dunnegan, an attorney for the newspaper, wrote that Palin’s attorneys told him that the former Alaska governor and Republican vice presidential nominee required the non-disclosure clause “because her political action committee did not want any hint of compromise associated with her name.”


International Outlook:

Woman behind Pakistan’s first hackathon, Sabeen Mahmud, shot dead by unknown gunmen

The progressive activist and organizer who ran Pakistan’s first-ever hackathon and led a human rights and a peace-focused nonprofit known as The Second Floor (T2F) was shot dead today by unidentified gunmen in Karachi. Sabeen Mahmud was leaving the T2F offices with her mother some time after 9pm on Friday evening, reports the Pakistani newspaper Dawn. She was on her way home when she was shot, the paper reports.

T2F had on Friday organised a talk on Balochistan: ‘Unsilencing Balochistan Take 2: In Conversation with Mama Qadeer, Farzana Baloch & Mir Mohammad Ali Talpur.’ Sabeen had left T2F after attending the session, when she was targeted. T2F, described as a community space for open dialogue, was Sabeen’s brainchild. In an interview with Aurora, she referred to it as “an inclusive space where different kinds of people can be comfortable.” Conceived as a bookstore and café patterned after the old coffeehouse culture of Lahore and Karachi, The Second Floor – or T2F, as everyone calls it – says on its website that it was born out of a desire to enact transformational change in urban Pakistani society.


Settlement stalls in Palin copyright lawsuit

Sarah Palin agreed to pay a New Jersey newspaper $15,000 for using one of its iconic Sept. 11 photographs, but terms of a confidentiality agreement stalled the deal, according to federal court documents filed this week. Details of the legal wrangling became public in a federal copyright infringement lawsuit. New Jersey Media Group, which publishes The Record of Bergen County, sued Palin and her political action committee, SarahPAC, in September 2013 after one of its images was used without permission on the campaign’s website and social media.

The photograph, taken by Thomas E. Franklin, showed three firefighters raising the American flag over ground zero hours after the World Trade Center towers collapsed on Sept. 11, 2001. In documents filed Monday, William Dunnegan, an attorney for the newspaper, wrote that Palin’s attorneys told him that the former Alaska governor and Republican vice presidential nominee required the non-disclosure clause “because her political action committee did not want any hint of compromise associated with her name.”


Public Policy:

Hearing airs charges that states took grant money while violating laws

At a U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee hearing Tuesday, federal employees and child advocates argued that states have been allowed to take juvenile-justice grant money while violating laws against jailing kids for minor infractions. “The true victims in all of this are the children who come into contact with inadequate juvenile-justice systems,” said Iowa Republican Chuck Grassley, the chairman of the committee. Among those testifying at the hearing was University of Tennessee law professor Dean Rivkin, who was featured in a 2014 Center for Public Integrity investigation into children who were shackled and jailed in Knox County, Tenn., after being summoned to court for truancy. “In the juvenile jail,” Rivkin told the committee, “our clients were shackled, indiscriminately drug tested, asked to strip, given orange jail jump-suits, and placed in a facility that held serious juvenile offenders. They were not screened for mental-health problems.”


Can California Tame “Energy Hog” Computers?

California may soon become the first state in the nation to set minimum energy standards for home digital devices, including computers, monitors, modems and video game consoles. These machines use a lot of electricity, even when they’re off – and we’re using them more than five times as often as we did in 2001. The California Energy Commission is debating new rules for digital energy efficiency at a public workshop on Wednesday in Sacramento. Last fall, the governor vetoed an industry-supported bill that would have made rules like these non-binding.


Digital Millennium Copyright Act

According to Auto Alliance, when any third party tinkers with a vehicle’s ECU it’s “legally problematic.” After all, a kid who decides to tweak his ride’s ECU could through amateurish programming cause the brakes to become unresponsive or shut off all emissions controls.


Digital Millennium Copyright Act

The whole thing stems from the Digital Millennium Copyright Act, a piece of legislation that doesn’t seem to obviously prohibit people from fixing or modifying their own cars. According to Auto Alliance, when any third party tinkers with a vehicle’s ECU it’s “legally problematic.” After all, a kid who decides to tweak his ride’s ECU could through amateurish programming cause the brakes to become unresponsive or shut off all emissions controls.


Digital Millennium Copyright Act

Report: Automakers Push To Outlaw Home Car Repairs

According to a report recently run by Autoblog, in the future it could contrary to copyright law if car enthusiasts were to work on their own vehicles. Thanks to Auto Alliance, which is the big lobbying group that represents automakers in the U.S. the brave new world could crush shade tree mechanics nationwide.
Internet Access:

How to Detect Sneaky NSA ‘Quantum Insert’ Attacks
Among all of the NSA hacking operations exposed by whistleblower Edward Snowden over the last two years, one in particular has stood out for its sophistication and stealthiness. Known as Quantum Insert, the man-on-the-side hacking technique has been used to great effect since 2005 by the NSA and its partner spy agency, Britain’s GCHQ, to hack into high-value, hard-to-reach systems and implant malware. Quantum Insert is useful for getting at machines that can’t be reached through phishing attacks. It works by hijacking a browser as it’s trying to access web pages and forcing it to visit a malicious web page, rather than the page the target intend to visit. The attackers can then surreptitiously download malware onto the target’s machine from the rogue web page. Quantum Insert has been used to hack the machines of terrorist suspects in the Middle East, but it was also used in a controversial GCHQ/NSA operation against employees of the Belgian telecom Belgacom and against workers at OPEC, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries. The “highly successful” technique allowed the NSA to place 300 malicious implants on computers around the world in 2010, according to the spy agency’s own internal documents—all while remaining undetected. But now security researchers with Fox-IT in the Netherlands, who helped investigate that hack against Belgacom, have found a way to detect Quantum Insert attacks using common intrusion detection tools such as Snort, Bro and Suricata.


Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety. The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.

Mission Neighborhood Dinner writeup

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2015/04/mission-neighborhood-dinner-writeup/ April 28, 2015 Categories: Bayline, Chapter Programs & Events Tags: events

The Mission neighborhood dinner hosted by Hilary Schiraldi and Lisa Ngo on Wednesday, April 22nd was well attended. All eight open spots were filled and it was a perfect sized group for us to share food and conversation. We gathered at Poc Chuc for delicious Spanish and Mayan fusion food including the namesake Poc Chuc pork dish, guacamole, fried plantains, fresh tortillas and chicken and regional vegetable dishes. The restaurant also surprised us with flan and fried bananas for dessert! In addition to our hosts, the group included Helen Block, Hilary Clark, Ari Kleiman, Eloise Marszalek, Wess-John Murdough and Christi Weindorf.

We discussed current and former jobs, made connections over shared acquaintances, and laughed at the many similarities between the two people named Hilary in our group — not only do they share the same name with the same spelling, but amongst other things, they attended the same library school and live in the same neighborhood! We also talked about the books we are currently reading and we discussed past and future SLA conferences and other library and archival events we plan to attend. We all laughed and enjoyed ourselves and look forward to gathering again in the future.

President’s May Message

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2015/05/presidents-may-message/ May 1, 2015 Categories: Bayline, Chapter Leadership Tags: President's message

Dear Colleagues,

I hope you are enjoying the spring. The quick rainstorm we had mid-April looks like it extended the green for us a little bit, which is nice. It does seem a long time ago, though. I spent a few days in Portland and loved looking at the flowering trees there.
Events

Are you using our new calendar? Paul Kaidy Barrows and others are working hard to keep it up to date by adding a variety of Professional Development events. These events are often free or low cost, which fits in with one of the strategic goals of the chapter. What is your experience with the calendar? We want to hear, so email Paul or me with comments.

Sign up for the Joint meeting with our colleagues at the SLA-SV chapter. It is our turn to host and we have engaged the State Librarian to join us and speak to us. Sarah, Craig and the Programs Committee have worked hard to make the event useful and interesting.

I was disappointed not to see more of you at the Neighborhood Dinners. In order to build our chapter and the community, we need to see each other. Chapter events are one way. Are you meeting with your librarian friends at other times? If so, GREAT! If not, give one of them a call and get together.

I went to two neighborhood dinners, enjoying a new restaurant and a favorite.

Stipends and Awards

The chapter has awarded its annual stipend and you will be hearing about that shortly. This work is thanks to Cindy Hill, Past President and her hard working committee. We received an application from a stellar candidate, but were disappointed not to receive more applications. We will be reconsidering the parameters of the award for next year. If you have comments, please email Cindy.

For Pondering

Dewey B Strategic blog recent posted some comments and information on a study called Why Libraries Still Matter: Insights From a Recent Study of Academic Libraries by Gensler. This is an interesting post and provides some very cautious optimism for the future of libraries. There are some comments about how this study translates to law firms, but nothing in depth. What do you think? Are supporting places of solitude a good enough reason to retain a library in a company that has to answer to shareholders or is facing double or triple the real estate rates when the lease comes up for renewal?

HQ

I was recently asked to join the SLA Competencies Task Force. In the course of my preparations to talk with the chair about the job, I read over the competencies, which, I am ashamed to say, I had not previously read over. The section on personal competencies struck me. It says:

**Personal Competencies**

Every information professional:

- Seeks out challenges and capitalizes on new opportunities
- Sees the big picture
- Communicates effectively
- Presents ideas clearly; negotiates confidently and persuasively
- Creates partnerships and alliances
- Builds an environment of mutual respect and trust; respects and values diversity
- Employs a team approach; recognizes the balance of collaborating, leading and following
- Takes calculated risks; shows courage and tenacity when faced with opposition
- Plans, prioritizes and focuses on what is critical
- Demonstrates personal career planning
- Thinks creatively and innovatively; seeks new or “reinventing” opportunities
- Recognizes the value of professional networking and personal career planning
- Balances work, family and community obligations
- Remains flexible and positive in a time of continuing change
- Celebrates achievements for self and others

What do you think of these competencies? Is this you? Are there lines that you know you should improve and are working on? I look at some of these and think of colleagues who epitomize them and wonder if they are a goal for which to strive or qualities that should be the basis of our profession? Let me know your thoughts.

The Annual conference is fast approaching. As you might have seen from the SLA-SFBay Twitter feed, I am speaking on Tuesday on Competitive Intelligence tools and resources. I hope to see you there!

Regards,

Jaye

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This Month in Bayline: April 2015

This Month in Bayline…

- Another message from the SLA president. Ask if you want to be nominated for the Nominations Committee (say yes).
- Equally important is the SLA Value Project. The survey’s over, alas, but there’s some interesting information in response to the question “What are you telling us about your strategies for advocating and demonstrating your contributions?”
- We’ve got a few more Advisory Council Bios this month: Michael Sholinbeck, Heather Heen, and Sarah Cook.
- There’s a lot of freedom of information news in the Intersect posts. Be sure to give them a look.

That’s it for this month. I look forward to reading about how your dinners have been!

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Intersect Alert May 3, 2014

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2015/05/intersect-alert-may-3-2014/ May 3, 2015 Categories: Intersect Alert Tags: freedom of information, intellectual property, internet access, open access, privacy, public policy

Intellectual Property:

Library Associations Spearhead New Copyright Coalition
A group of technology companies, trade associations, and civil society organizations have joined forces to form Re:Create, a national coalition to advocate for balanced copyright policy. In the wake of recent proposals to amend the Digital Millennium Copyright Act, as well as constant advances in the field of knowledge creation, coalition members are calling for responsive copyright law that balances the interests of those who create information and products with those of users and innovators, providing robust exceptions as well as limitations to copyright law in order that it not limit new uses and technologies. Particular attention will be paid to the concept of fair use, considered a “safety valve” within U.S. copyright law and an important reinforcement of the First Amendment right to freedom of expression. This emphasis is particularly timely, as on April 29 register of copyrights Maria Pallante announced at a House Judiciary Committee hearing that the U.S. Copyright Office would launch a Fair Use Index – a searchable database listing court opinions pertaining to fair use. http://lj.libraryjournal.com/2015/04/copyright/library-associations-spearhead-new-copyright-coalition/.

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Freedom of Information:

Security-Cleared Population Declined by 12% Last Year

The number of persons holding security clearances for access to classified information decreased by more than 635,000 (or 12.3 percent) last year, according to a new report to Congress from the Office of the Director of National Intelligence. It was the first reported drop in the total security-cleared population since the government began systematically collecting statistics on security clearances in 2010. What makes the new reductions particularly interesting is that they were not simply a statistical blip or an artifact of changes in the budget. Rather, they were purposefully achieved through a “concerted effort” by agencies seeking to reduce the number of security clearances. http://fas.org/blogs/secrecy/2015/04/clearances-2014/.

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Public Policy:

CPJ releases annual assessment of press freedom worldwide
Terrorist groups and the governments who purport to fight them have made recent years the most dangerous period to be a journalist, the Committee to Protect Journalists found in its annual global assessment of press freedom, Attacks on the Press. Some journalists are kidnapped or killed by militant groups while others are surveilled, censored, or imprisoned by governments seeking to respond to that threat, real or perceived. Non-state actors, including criminal organizations and violent political groups, pose a significant threat to journalists as well as a challenge to press freedom advocates and news organizations. In places like Mexico and Paraguay, trafficking organizations are the primary threat. http://libraryjuicepress.com/blog/?p=4960.
If You Thought Corporate Personhood Was Bad, Wait Until You See Corporate Nationhood in the New Trade Treaty

The government of El Salvador was so concerned that its water was so fouled by mining companies that it passed a moratorium on new mines in 2008. Oceana Gold, an Australian corporation, didn’t like the law, so it sued El Salvador for $301 million, the amount the company said the policy cost it in lost profits. The case was not heard in a Salvadoran court, but rather by a special, secretive corporate tribunal based in the United States and overseen by a panel of three judges, all corporate lawyers. If the tribunal rules in favor of the mining company, El Salvador has no right to appeal. The El Salvador case is unfortunately not a bad science fiction story. Thanks to something known as the investor-state dispute settlement process (ISDS), which is part of the Central American Free Trade Agreement, corporations can sue if they think their interests are negatively impacted by the host country’s laws. And this is only one of a number of international trade agreements that grant corporations these special rights. To date, more than 500 suits have been filed against sovereign national governments by aggrieved corporations claiming that national laws and regulations have constrained their ability to realize the profits they counted on. [http://www.foreffectivegov.org/blog/if-you-thought-corporate-personhood-was-bad-wait-until-you-see-corporate-nationhood-new-trade-t](http://www.foreffectivegov.org/blog/if-you-thought-corporate-personhood-was-bad-wait-until-you-see-corporate-nationhood-new-trade-t).

Senate Committee Fails to Fix Flawed Chemical Bill

On April 28, the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works reviewed proposed legislation from Sens. David Vitter (R-LA) and Tom Udall (D-NM) to revise the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), our nation’s primary chemical safety law. Despite numerous attempts to constructively amend the flawed bill, the committee failed to fix the legislation and sent it on to the Senate floor. When Vitter and Udall introduced their so-called TSCA “reform” bill in March, they claimed it would improve current law by eliminating some of the analytical requirements that TSCA imposes on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and allowing the agency to move faster to restrict dangerous chemicals. However, when combined with damaging provisions that would weaken the existing law and override strong state protections, the proposal represented a step backward, not meaningful reform. The Vitter revisions prohibit states from adopting or enforcing a new chemical restriction or ban once EPA issues a plan to review a specific chemical of concern. This provision would apply to state actions taken after Aug. 1, 2015. States are also banned from taking any action on the chemical during this multi-year review process. If EPA determines that the chemical is “safe,” states are blocked – indefinitely – from restricting or banning the chemical, even if they have evidence that the chemical poses a risk to their residents. [http://www.foreffectivegov.org/blog/senate-committee-fails-fix-flawed-chemical-bill](http://www.foreffectivegov.org/blog/senate-committee-fails-fix-flawed-chemical-bill).

Privacy Issues:

Legislators Introduce Student Digital Privacy Bill

Months after President Obama proposed to strengthen digital privacy protection for students, two legislators on Wednesday introduced a comprehensive bill in Congress intended to accomplish that goal. Titled the Student Digital Privacy and Parental Rights Act of 2015, the bill would prohibit operators of websites, apps and other online services for kindergartners through 12th graders from knowingly selling students’ personal information to third parties; from using or disclosing students’ personal information to tailor advertising to them; and from creating personal profiles of students unless it is for a school-related purpose. The bill would give parents access to information held about their children and allow them to correct it; to delete information about their children that schools do not need to retain; and to download any material their children have created. It would allow operators of services to use and disclose aggregated student information without personal identifiers to improve their own educational products or market their effectiveness. And it would allow companies to sell or disclose student information as part of a merger or acquisition, provided the successor company continued to be subject to the restrictions under which the data was originally collected. [http://bits.blogs.nytimes.com/2015/04/29/legislators-introduce-student-digital-privacy-bill/](http://bits.blogs.nytimes.com/2015/04/29/legislators-introduce-student-digital-privacy-bill/).

Facebook Warns European Privacy Regulators to Back Off

Facebook has a message for privacy regulators across Europe: You’re endangering the EU. Richard Allan, the Menlo Park, Calif. company’s, head policy official in Europe, said in an opinion piece published Wednesday that the series of probes from national regulators risks fragmenting Europe’s regulatory landscape, strangling companies by forcing them to deal with regulators from Athens to Zagreb. The implicit threat: Facebook’s and other companies’ users in Europe might fall behind the rest of the world when new products and services are rolled out. “Facebook’s costs would increase and people in Europe would notice new features arriving more slowly, or not at all,” Mr. Allan wrote in the Financial Times. “If it is allowed to stand, complying with EU law will no longer be enough.” [http://blogs.wsj.com/digits/2015/04/29/facebook-warns-european-privacy-regulators-to-back-off/](http://blogs.wsj.com/digits/2015/04/29/facebook-warns-european-privacy-regulators-to-back-off/).

Open Access:

Government Releases Massive Trove of Data on Doctors’ Prescribing Patterns

The federal government released detailed data today on nearly 1.4 billion prescriptions dispensed to seniors and disabled people in the Medicare program in 2013, bringing more
openness to the medication choices of doctors nationwide. Medicare Part D is popular among seniors for helping to lower their drug costs. But experts have complained that since Part D began in 2006, Medicare has placed a higher priority on getting prescriptions into patients’ hands than on targeting problem prescribers. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ inspector general has repeatedly called for tighter controls.

The data release comes two years after ProPublica reported that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services had done little to detect or deter hazardous prescribing in its drug program, known as Medicare Part D. ProPublica analyzed several years’ worth of prescription data, obtained under the Freedom of Information Act, and created a tool called Prescriber Checkup that lets users compare individual physicians to others in the same specialty and state. But Medicare itself hadn’t made this information easily accessible – until now.


Libraries:

Police groups object to ‘Don’t Shoot’ art piece in Madison

Police advocacy groups in Wisconsin on Friday objected to a painting displayed at the Madison Public Library that shows an African-American boy pointing a toy gun at three riot police officers who have their weapons aimed at the child, calling it inflammatory and biased. Artist Mike Lroy said the piece – acrylic and spray paint on canvas, entitled “Don’t Shoot” – is meant to stir emotion and provoke reflection. The criticism comes as demonstrations endure nationwide to protest the killings of black suspects by white police officers, most recently the death of Freddie Gray while in Baltimore police custody. In March, a white police officer shot and killed an unarmed biracial man in Madison, sparking demonstrations. The Wisconsin Professional Police Association and the Madison Professional Police Officers Association issued a joint statement saying they are “deeply troubled” by the artwork.

http://bigstory.ap.org/article/de33dcedf0c6c40d18bb48ec2f2a546a0b/police-groups-object-dont-shoot-art-piece-madison.

Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety.

The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.

SLA Neighborhood Dinners 2015: Siam Bay, Oakland

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2015/05/08/2015-siam-bay-oakland/ May 5, 2015 Categories: Bayline, Chapter Programs & Events Tags: events

It was a good thing I stopped by El Gusano, the restaurant I had selected for our Oakland neighborhood dinner, to confirm my phone reservation for the April the 15th. The bad thing was they told me they no longer serve dinner! No mention of this fact was made on their web site or their reservation line.

A dozen people were scheduled to meet me for dinner in a few hours. I had to find an alternate venue fast. Happily, in downtown Oakland there are more restaurants per block than ever. In fact, there was a good candidate right next door: Siam Bay. With a nice menu, reasonable prices and a quiet vibe that meant we would be able to converse, I took the leap and made a reservation. The location also meant I would not need to direct people far away from my original plan.

SLA colleagues are a very open-minded and flexible bunch. No one objected at all to changing from Mexican to Thai food, or to sharing big plates of basil chicken, tofu asparagus, garlic green beans, raad nah (noodles) and various fresh wraps. We talked about a wide range of topics from being retired (Congratulations, Cynthia Eastman), working at UC (with a special RIP salute to UCB Librarian and Professor Norma Kobzina, 1944-2013), commuting strategies via BART (a hot topic), public libraries vs. special (the benefits of largely consistent patrons at the latter), Google Scholar, Window 8 and author Carole Levitt (“Internet for Lawyers”).

Attendees were Claudia Fenelon, Lori Guidry, Margaret May, Ari Kleiman, Cynthia Eastman, Rebecca Kozak, Mari Clark, Jodi Levin and me, Chris Orr.
Noe Valley (San Francisco) Neighborhood Dinner, By Craig Cruz

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2015/05/noe-valley-san-francisco-neighborhood-dinner-by-craig-cruz/ May 8, 2015 Categories: Bayline, Chapter Programs & Events Tags: events
On April 28, Cynthia Berglez and I hosted Jaye Lapachet and Adi Berglez at Noeteca in San Francisco. The café and wine bar serves a variety of entrees, salads and Alsatian-styled flatbread pizzas along with wine and beer. The special dish that night was prosciutto-wrapped slow braised pork shank, which one person ordered and enjoyed. Desserts included a chocolate hazelnut tartufo and a flourless chocolate fudge torte. I had the homemade raspberry-coconut snowball (which demolished memories of the distant cousin manufactured by Hostess Cakes).

The conversation ranged widely, starting with a long talk about this year’s SLA conference in Boston. Adi and Cynthia know Boston very well and offered suggestions on sights to see (I’d asked about cobblestone streets and Paul Revere). They also advised us to sample Italian cuisine. They talked about Boston’s large Italian community (mainly from Sicily) and the restaurants they’ve opened. Other topics at dinner included law librarianship, a taxonomy workshop offered at the SLA conference, quilting, and the seemingly small network of Bay Area handymen (or handypersons, although the ones under discussion were, in fact, men). We talked about the thrill of ordering from Amazon when Amazon was new, sending kids off to college and a short discussion on red wine and bloody noses!

After a couple of hours, we parted into the breezy cold night, fortified by good wine, food, and the support of friends.
Intersect Alert May 11, 2015

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2015/05/intersect-alert-may-11-2015/


Copyright

The Hierarchy of Creative People

“A coalition formed ‘to combat copyright piracy and demonstrate the value of creativity’—Creative America—has changed its name to CreativeFuture. Major motion picture and television companies initially formed this group now that is now considering the future, the present day, and no doubt, the past as well.”

“CreativeFuture now has individual members as well industry and trade groups. These new members call themselves ‘the creatives.’ Apparently, by calling themselves the creatives, they are a specially placed group, distinct from other people who create.”

http://www.districtdispatch.org/2015/05/the-hierarchy-of-creative-people/

Privacy

Health Care Organizations Report Data Breaches Affecting Thousands

“Partners HealthCare, based in Boston, is notifying about 3,300 patients of a data breach it discovered in November, AP/ABC News reports (AP/ABC News, 4/30).”

“In a release, Partners officials said that the breach occurred after employees responded to ‘phishing’ emails, under the belief that the emails were legitimate. The emails enabled unauthorized access into the employees’ email accounts within the Partners network (Bartlett, Boston Business Journal, 4/30).”


What Every Librarian Needs to Know About HTTPS

“Librarians have long understood that to provide access to knowledge it is crucial to protect their patrons’ privacy. Books can provide information that is deeply unpopular. As a result, local communities and governments sometimes try to ban the most objectionable ones. Librarians rightly see it as their duty to preserve access to books, especially banned ones. In the US this defense of expression is an integral part of our First Amendment rights.”

http://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2015/05/what-every-librarian-needs-know-about-https

Libraries

The Giant Robots That Serve the World’s Largest Library Archives

“The largest libraries do more than just store books and newspapers on their shelves. When a library collection contains millions of documents, it needs complex and highly sophisticated logistical systems in order to serve its readers’ requests. It needs library robots.”

“In many libraries, amazing automated transportation and robotic retrieval systems are behind every book you receive from your librarian. Peek far behind the walls of the familiar reading rooms into the seemingly endless rows of stainless steel shelves, data centers, and intelligent servants that deliver humankind’s collective knowledge.”

http://gizmodo.com/the-giant-robots-that-serve-the-worlds-largest-library-1700712936

What’s New in the National Archives Catalog: WWI Photographs

“The National Archives recently embarked upon a large scale digitization project, focused on photographic and moving image records related to World War I and World War II. These public domain records are being digitized through a gift to the National Archives Trust Fund with the goal of making them more accessible for everyone to use, from teachers and local community groups, to museums and filmmakers.”

“Recently digitized and now available in our online catalog is a fascinating series of World War I photographs, the American Unofficial Collection of World War I Photographs, 1917-1918.”
Open Data

We’re Making it Easier to Access and Use Sunlight’s Data

“When I started late last year as Sunlight’s new president, I promised to make it my mission to streamline and simplify Sunlight’s focus so we can maximize the impact of our work. Today, I’m pleased to follow up on that promise by announcing a major initiative we’ve just embarked upon to make it easier for you to access and use the data we open up about government and political influence.”

“In the coming months, we will consolidate our resources and will roll out a flagship suite of websites, mobile apps and a single, unified API with an associated data explorer.”

“One valuable bit of recurrent feedback I’ve received about Sunlight’s first nine years: Our early experiments in creating branded projects that focused on one dataset resulted in us offering too many different sites. By scattering our efforts across myriad sites and tools, we hid the true potential of the underlying data. As time went by and we launched more and more projects, it created a challenge for you, dear user, to remember where to look to find that critical piece of data that will help you with your news story, civic app, etc. Such an approach also makes it difficult to analyze analogous datasets in one place to detect patterns”

http://sunlightfoundation.com/blog/2015/05/04/were-making-it-easier-to-access-and-use-sunlights-data/

Search

Plant Database

“The University of Connecticut has developed this site dedicated to the ornamental attributes, appropriate use and identification of landscape plants. This site is geared toward the teaching of landscape plants and contains valuable information for students, homeowners and plant professionals.”

“At the core of this site are plant information pages that contain text, photographs, illustrations and latin name pronounciations. The plants listed in this resource are meant to create an awareness of the great variety of ornamental plants that will grow in USDA hardiness zone 6 or colder, and to encourage people to think about planting a greater variety of ornamentals. Users should be aware that some plants listed are not readily available and may actually be difficult to find.”

http://www.hort.uconn.edu/plants/index.php

Coming Soon to HeinOnline: Religion & the Law

“We are pleased to introduce a a new library coming soon to HeinOnline: Religion & the Law. Consisting of more than 1,200 titles and 600,000 pages, this library provides books, periodicals, and bibliographies that relate to religion and the law. Explore the development, history, organization, and fundamental principles of world religion. This collection also includes an assortment of canon law, early constitutions of the church, and rare historical bibles. As we continue to add new material this collection will grow significantly in the coming years.”


Digital Preservation

Saving the Digital Record

“When digital becomes dinosaur, most people simply get inconvenienced. But librarians and archivists get seriously concerned.”

“Ensuring that digital content — whether it’s a short story by John Updike or a very rare audio recording of a vanished Native American language — lives on past its initial platform is one of the most pressing issues in preservation science. Harvard is one of a handful of cultural institutions in the first wave of adopting a technology and process to preserve its digital content.”

“Libraries and archives at Harvard hold thousands of unique items across hundreds of digital formats, including aging technology such as CDs, floppy disks, tapes, and cassettes. To retrieve content prior to total obsolescence or decay of digital formats, librarians are using digital forensic software commonly employed by the police or the FBI to solve crimes, which enables them to identify content noninvasively and migrate it to a more stable platform.”

http://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2015/05/saving-the-digital-record/

Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety. The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.
Research

Does Peer Review Do More Harm Than Good?

“On March 24, Mark Maslin, like the other members of Scientific Reports’ editorial board, received an email with huge ramifications. The message—from the academic journal’s publisher, Nature Publishing Group—told Maslin that his publication was doing a pilot project for a new article-evaluation process. For $750, authors could now fast-track papers through peer review and get a yay-or-nay verdict from a paid pool of third-party reviewers within three weeks.”

“Maslin, a climatology professor at University College London, was taken aback, not because of the short time span—peer review, an anonymous and voluntary inevitability of academic life, is a notoriously protracted procedure—but for its implications.”

http://www.macleans.ca/news/canada/does-peer-review-do-more-harm-than-good/

Forensic Bibliographic Reconstruction: Tracking Down Troublesome Citations and the Problem of Lost Knowledge

“Do we have a professional responsibility to not only collect, describe, evaluate, store, preserve, and share information—but to also improve it? I was thinking about this when my friend Tara was telling me about her interlibrary loan (ILL) work.”

“Here is one story: a number of years ago she was trying to locate a journal article. It was roughly twenty years old and had been cited several times…but uncovering it was impossible. She finally tracked down the author who somewhat reluctantly admitted that he made it up much earlier in his career to beef up his CV. The student had some difficulty accepting this explanation because the item had been cited in a dissertation and several scholarly articles. It makes you wonder how often people cite things they have not read just to pad their own bibliographies.”


Entire Harper’s Bazaar Archive to be Accessible for First Time Online

“ANN ARBOR, MI, May 12, 2015 – ProQuest is creating the first digital archive of Harper’s Bazaar, spanning 1867 through the current issue. Research outcomes in areas as wide-ranging as fashion, design, art, women’s studies, gender studies, marketing and business will be improved through simple online access and precision searching of both text and images from the magazine’s entire run. Accessible later this year on the ProQuest platform, the Harper’s Bazaar Archive will be cross-searchable along with the Vogue and Women’s Wear Daily archives and the rich variety of sources needed to generate pioneering research, such as scholarly journals, working papers, conference proceedings, ebooks, newspapers and other primary sources.”


Publishing

Instant Articles: A Faster Reading Experience on Facebook

“Today we’re excited to introduce Instant Articles, a fast and interactive experience for reading articles in News Feed.”

“We get articles in the Facebook app take an average of eight seconds to load, by far the slowest single content type on Facebook. Using the same technology that loads photos and videos quickly in our mobile app, Instant Articles load as much as ten times faster than standard mobile web articles, so you get to the stories you want to read instantly. Once there, new features like tilt-to-pan photos, auto-play video, embedded audio captions, and interactive maps let you explore the story in beautiful new ways.”

http://newsroom.fb.com/news/2015/05/instant-articles-a-faster-reading-experience-on-facebook/

Libraries and Librarians

Libraries: The Inside Story – Books Podcast

“As austerity bites, we’re exploring those healing places for the soul: public libraries.”

“We begin next door to the Guardian’s offices in London, at the British Library, tracing the journey of one volume through one of the world’s great temples of the book from the whirr and hum of the underground basements to the calm of the reading rooms above.”

http://www.theguardian.com/books/audio/2015/may/01/libraries-inside-story-books-podcast

Not Just Librarians Anymore: Jeffco’s DTLs are Leaders
in a Digital Age

“The days of the dewey decimal system, card catalogs, and “Please Be Quiet” signs have long past for Jeffco Schools librarians. Today’s Digital Teacher Librarians (DTL’s), have very complex jobs where the focus is on student information literacy and technology.”

“Books still form the core of their mission, but Jeffco DTL’s say the primary goal is to help students research, sift, and decipher information from a wide range of sources. They also have to ensure all the technology available to students and teachers, is in working order, and that library users are trained up on it.”

http://yourhub.denverpost.com/blog/2015/05/not-just-librarians-anymore-jeffcos-dtls-are-leaders-in-a-digital-age/97337/

Search

Why Internet Searches Are Not Enough

“Historians are used to sleuthing. Obtaining verifiable sources is difficult; original documents may be unavailable. With computer searching methods some of the detective work has eased up, at least superficially. However, search engines depend on databases that can be parsed and queried digitally. Whatever is not in these databases is unreachable except in person. Great strides have been made thanks to the Internet, and online techniques are useful tools, but their help is always limited.”

“The search for Félix Pita Rodríguez’s ‘Chinese Poem’ is a case study in how, despite strong efforts and advanced technological approaches, searches cannot be guaranteed to succeed.”

http://lj.libraryjournal.com/2015/05/opinion/peer-to-peer-review/why-internet-searches-are-not-enough-peer-to-peer-review/#

Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety.
The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.

Intersect Alert May 25, 2015


Freedom of Information

Most Agencies Falling Short on Mandate for Online Records

“Washington, DC, March 13, 2015 – Nearly 20 years after Congress passed the Electronic Freedom of Information Act Amendments (E-FOIA), only 40 percent of agencies have followed the law’s instruction for systematic posting of records released through FOIA in their electronic reading rooms, according to a new FOIA Audit released today by the National Security Archive at www.nsarchive.org to mark Sunshine Week.”

“The Archive team audited all federal agencies with Chief FOIA Officers as well as agency components that handle more than 500 FOIA requests a year — 165 federal offices in all — and found only 67 with online libraries populated with significant numbers of released FOIA documents and regularly updated.”

http://nsarchive.gwu.edu/NSAEBB/NSAEBB505/

Search

Jumpstart Your Foreign, Comparative, and International Research

“When we need to jumpstart our research engines to help others find information, a world of people can help us. Working as part of a global legal information community can be pretty nifty! So, if your foreign, comparative, and international law (FCIL) research engine won’t start, find some people you can call on for a jumpstart. They can set you in motion to find the information you need to help your users!”

“How can you find helpful people when stumped by an FCIL research question?”

“Get to know your local FCIL resource people. Get to know the folks locally in your city, your state, your region who have experience working with FCIL materials, teaching FCIL research, and answering FCIL reference questions. They’re useful first contacts for jumpstarting your FCIL research
“Attend your local AALL chapter’s FCIL programs and get to know the speakers. Attend FCIL-related programs of other local associations and institutions. Network, network, network. It’s easier to ask people for help when you’ve met them and they know you – they’re more likely to be willing to help or they’ll know other people who can help. FCIL folks help even when they don’t know you, too.”

http://www.aallnet.org/sections/fcil/research/Jumpstart

Psychology of the Searcher: Patterns in How Searchers Formulate Queries

“Marketers see visitors from a wide variety of search queries coming to their site. This data is valuable in guiding a search strategy, but it has existed in a vacuum, with little known about how searchers make decisions about how to phrase their search that lead up to the visit. New research from Blue Nile Research surveys searchers about how they choose to form their searches in a variety of different scenarios, and helps Marketers see the patterns in how searchers formulate their queries.”

“Blue Nile’s research shows an exact 50-50 split between users who search in fragments (e.g. ‘swollen ankle’) and those who search in more fully formed terms (e.g. ‘causes of swollen ankle during sleep’). When it came to questions vs. statements, 27% of respondents phrased their query in the form of a question, with ‘How’ being the most commonly used prefix.”

“With the research showing no clear clustering in how users phrase their searches, Marketers who wish to be well prepared to reach their target audience must be thorough in first understanding how their audience chooses to search before developing a strategy and by crafting content that closely maps to their pain points.”

http://bluenileresearch.com/psychology-searcher/

A New Way to Discover Tweets

“We’re excited to team up with Google to bring Twitter’s unique, real-time content to Google’s search results. Starting today, U.S. users searching in English will see relevant Tweets in their search results within the Google app (iOS and Android) and mobile web. The desktop web version is coming shortly, and we have plans to bring this feature to more countries in the coming months.”

https://blog.twitter.com/2015/a-new-way-to-discover-tweets

Libraries and Librarians

Seattle Library Patrons Can Check out Wi-Fi Hotspot Devices

“As of Monday, anyone with a Seattle Public Library card could check out a Wi-Fi hotspot device to use on the go or at home.”

“The initial 150 devices were funded with a $225,000 grant from Google and Google.org to the Seattle Public Library, according to a library news release.”

“We want the library to be anywhere, everywhere, any place and on any device,’ said Andra Addison, a spokeswoman for the library.”


Stacey Aldrich: A Sense of Aloha

“Stacey Aldrich was named state librarian of Hawaii on February 18 by the Hawaii Board of Education, filling the position vacated by former state librarian Richard Burns when he retired in in December 2014. Aldrich, a 2003 LJ Mover & Shaker, is no stranger to state libraries: She served as state librarian for California from 2009–12 and as deputy secretary for the Office of Commonwealth Libraries of Pennsylvania from 2012 until this year.”

“The Hawaii State Public Library System (HSPLS) is unique, however, as the nation’s only statewide public library system. The 50 branches, distributed among the state’s five major islands across nearly 11,000 square miles, constitute a single entity; Hawaii has no locally governed (or funded) libraries. Aldrich’s home base is in Old Honolulu on the island of Oahu, and LJ caught up with her seven weeks into her new role (regrettably, not in person).”

http://lj.libraryjournal.com/2015/05/people/stacey-aldrich-a-sense-of-aloha/

Copyright

‘Simple and Seamless’ or ‘Significant Obstacle’?

“Academic, library and technology organizations are denouncing a new sharing and hosting policy adopted last month by publisher Elsevier, saying it undermines open-access policies at colleges and universities and prevents authors from sharing their work.”

“Elsevier, which publishes thousands of journals, introduced the policy last month. It aims to strike a balance between making sharing “simple and seamless” and “being consistent with access and usage rights associated with journal articles,” the publisher said in a blog post.”

Day-in-the-Life — Law Librarians: Chris Orr

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2015/05/day-in-the-life-law-librarians-chris-orr/ May 28, 2015 Categories: Bayline, Chapter Programs & Events Tags: member highlights

• How did you become a law librarian?

I have an MLIS but I am not a law librarian. I am Chief Manager, Legal Information Services at the University of California’s Office of the General Counsel (OGC). I manage seven people: a law librarian, a records manager and related IT, clerical and analytical staff. As part of a larger Operations team, we design, implement and run information services and systems within the General Counsel office at the headquarters of UC in Oakland. “Information services” run the gamut of legal case management, document management, records management, law research, collection development and knowledge sharing. Besides serving the 100+ Oakland employees of OGC, some of our support extends to those attorneys and staff at the 10 UC campuses and 5 med centers throughout the state.

• In a typical work day, what’s the task that takes the most time?

The award for most time-consuming would have to go to the many HR-related tasks that are required when managing a team: from filling out paperwork for contracts, family/medical leaves, purchases, travel reimbursements to timesheet approvals. UC is only second to the state itself in its number of employees. California employs approximately 190,000 people (the state of California employs approximately 220,000 people). You can imagine the number of policies and procedures that encompass all the diversity inherent in such a large workforce.

• How much of your library is hard-copy? How much is electronic? Are there any digitization projects at your library?

We are gradually shrinking our law library’s print holdings. We are now down to about 1,000 linear feet of printed material that is essential for our audience, either because they prefer hard copy or there is no online version. We provide our users with access to the usual Lexis/Nexis, Westlaw, and Continuing Education of the Bar legal databases among many other digital resources. Our external resources include having the Alameda County Law Library down the street from us and the UC Berkeley Law School Library just a few miles away. We have a digitization project underway to scan the historical OGC opinion files which were carefully indexed and are still relevant to legal research about UC.

• What’s your favorite task?

I love working with our users at all levels to improve our legal case and document systems, both of which are cloud services from reliable vendor partners. It is the combination of technology, people, processes and business analysis that I find very satisfying and productive.

• What’s the task you would delegate without hesitation if you had the chance?

I am currently looking to outsource in-person training for our essential document management system. Much as I enjoy teaching, it is best done with a focused pedagogy that takes into account the diverse learning styles of an audience the size of OGC. The related task of producing quick reference guides and handouts is fun for me, but very time consuming. I don’t have that luxury of time.

• What do you like most about your job, overall?

I like the fact that ultimately we are all working for the students and campuses of the University of California. The longer I am involved with UC, the more I respect this public institution and the economic and intellectual benefits it provides for the state. Of course we are concerned about money and efficiency, but my job is not driven by monetary ROI (Return on Investment) as it was when I worked in a corporate setting.

• How would you complete the sentence: “In my job, I can’t live without ____”

In my job, I can’t live without my MLIS/MLS colleagues, some of whom have moved into the business side but who still thoroughly appreciate information management. We understand project management, the value of information organization (from taxonomies to folksonomies), and the power of knowledge sharing.

• What’s the strangest thing that happened on your job?
One day I boarded the elevator as usual and found myself alone with the former head of the Department of Homeland Security (and her low-key bodyguard, of course). This was Janet Napolitano, who had then just become the first woman President of the University. It is not unusual to meet the UC President coming or going from work, but it was strange to be near someone who is such a DC insider, especially for DHS. (There have been times when Governor Jerry Brown is also in the building, but that is not weird. Not only is he deeply involved in UC, he is a former mayor of Oakland. We have seen him at large downtown often.)

• If you weren’t working in legal, where might you be?

My heart remains with the arts: theater, museums and any creative setting like design agencies. I started my library career in publishing (news, textbooks, and magazines) and I miss the lively dynamics of artists, editors and writers. Not to mention the more colorful office settings!

Conference Events in Boston

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2015/05/conference-events-in-boston/

Events Tags: annual conference

May 31, 2015 Categories: Bayline, Chapter Programs &

knowledge audit in strategy implementation.

Our own chapter member and former SLA President, Deb Hunt, will be speaking.

Saturday June 13

8-5pm: **Teaching Research Data Management with the New England Collaborative Data Management Curriculum Saturday June 13, 2015 8:00am – 5:00pm

This “train the trainer” class is intended for librarians who will be teaching best practices in research data management to science, health sciences, and/or engineering students, faculty and library staff. Librarians involved with outreach to other disciplines or professional areas are welcome and will encounter transferable content and ideas.

During the workshop, Elaine Martin and Donna Kafel of the Lamar Soutter Library at the University of Massachusetts Medical School, Andrew Creamer of Brown University, and Regina Raboin of Tisch Library at Tufts University will be demonstrating the components of the New England Collaborative Data Management Curriculum (NECDMC), a Creative Commons, open-source curriculum, and discussing ways that the curriculum materials can be used and customized.

This workshop uses actual cases from the sciences, health sciences, and engineering disciplines to illustrate how research data management can be taught in a general or disciplinary context. It also includes hands-on activities, a breakout session, web resources (http://library.umassmed.edu/necdmc/index), and print materials. Please note that this class is about teaching data management and not a course on data management. Attendees are expected to already have a broad understanding of data management concepts. It is suggested that all participants bring either a laptop or tablet for use during class. NECDMC has been funded by the National Library of Medicine under contract (HHS-N-276-2011-00010-C) and the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) with the University of Massachusetts Medical School in Worcester.

Conference Events in Boston

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2015/05/conference-events-in-boston/

Events Tags: annual conference

Saturday June 13

8-4pm: The Knowledge Audit: Evaluating Intellectual Capital Use (KMKS)

This course provides techniques and guidelines for understanding and utilizing the knowledge audit, the evaluation tool which combines the methodologies of the standard needs analysis and the information audit to establish and evaluate knowledge assets for the larger parent organization. Topics covered include distinctions between the needs analysis and the knowledge audit; matching the organization’s knowledge strategy with service delivery goals; the Henczel seven-stage audit model; and determining scope and resource allocations for conducting the knowledge audit.

Program Takeaways

1. Participants will learn how to custom design a knowledge audit for their organization.
2. Participants will come to understand knowledge audit success factors.
3. Participants will be able to explain the importance of the
Instructors:

Andrew Creamer, Scientific Data Management Specialist, Brown University

Donna Kafel, e-Science Project Coordinator, University of Massachusetts Medical School

Elaine Martin, Director of Library Services, University of Massachusetts Medical School

Regina Raboin, Associate Director for Library Education and Research, University of Massachusetts Medical School

Pricing: Member | Non-Member | Student Member $299.00 | $399.00 | $199.00

Registration information: https://www.sla.org/attend/2015-annual-conference/register/ (You do not have to attend the entire conference to attend this course. If you are unable to attend the conference, simply choose “Ticket Only for CE Courses” under “Additional Options”.)

SLA New England Hosted Dine Arounds at SLA 2015

The SLA New England Chapter will host several dine arounds on Saturday, June 13th and Tuesday, June 16th. It is a great opportunity to meet fellow attendees and dine at some great restaurants near the convention center. Check out the list of restaurants below along with who to contact to RSVP. Note, we are accepting a limited number of RSVPs per restaurant. Each host will let you know when the limit has been met and we will update this post accordingly. All restaurants are short walks from specified meeting locations.

Sunday June 14

1:30- 3:30 pm **What is Data Visualization? A Science & Engineering 201 Session

Brought to you by Sci-Tech, DTRAN and DPER

Data visualization has become a hot topic across a wide range of disciplines in the last few years. Isn’t it time you learned what it’s all about? Renowned presenters James Manasco and Mary Frances Lembo will take you through the basics, the history, the current landscape and how data visualization applies to libraries and other information professionals in an interactive session. You’ll learn how you can get involved to help your patrons and present your own data in new accessible powerful ways.

1:30-3pm: Asian Chapter Business Meeting, Award Ceremony and Panel Discussion

Panel discussion on “Special Librarians in Asia: Who we are? What we do? How Do We Contribute to the Mission Success of Our Organizations?” Panelists will be:

- Ms. Kay Sook Park, President of KSLA (S. Korea)
- Ms. Brinerdine Alejandrino, Library of Congress Manila (Philippines)
- Ms. Yahsin Hsu, Senior Manager of Asia Pacific Information Services (Singapore)
- Dr. Parveen Babbar, Deputy Librarian of Jawahar Lal University (India)
- Dr. Kishor C Satpathy, Librarian of NIT (India)

7:30 – 9:30 p.m ** SLA Asia Chapter will host an open house evening reception at the 2015 annual conference in Boston, Sunday, June 14, 2015, 7:30 – 9:30 p.m. at the Westin Boston Waterfront Hotel, just steps away from the Convention Center. This is the first open house reception hosted by the Asia Chapter in the history of SLA Annual Conference.

This signature event will bring together information industry leaders and professionals across Asia. The Asia Chapter is one of the fastest growing international chapters in SLA. Many countries in the Asia and Pacific region are important strategic partners to multinational corporations, international organizations and government agencies in the U.S and around the world. The number of special libraries and information professionals in Asia has been growing rapidly over the last decade. They work in diverse and interesting places and make significant contributions to the growth and development in the information profession, society and the economy at large in Asia.

Monday June 15

10 to 11:30 a.m. : “The Experts Are In” -The SLA Fellows are delighted to announce the return of “The Experts Are In”. Do you have a vexing workplace issue and are not sure where to turn? Are you facing a career decision and would like some advice from senior SLA members who have “been there”? Using a speed dating format, you will have the opportunity to run your challenge past some of SLA’s most knowledgeable and experienced members as they act as a sounding board and give you their take on your situation. This is not a resume review or assistance with a job search, but rather a chance to post a question you were afraid to ask and get a helpful answer from some of the most seasoned professionals in our industry.

12:00 – 1:30 p.m: SLA Fellows and Rising Stars Roundtable.

4-5pm: Informal Competencies Task Force Meeting in room 153C

- Links to key resources:

5pm: All Sciences Poster Session

More than two dozen information professionals showing off
the research they’ve done. I’m sure you’ll find something of interest that you can bring back to your institution.

Here’s a small sampling of topics you can learn about:

- Making an exhibition of yourself: Reaching Out and Collaborating Across Your Institution by Dorothy Barr
- Helping Engineering Graduate Students to Become Ethical Engineering Scholars by Susan Wainscott and Julie Longo
- Which Yu is You? ORCID for Researchers by Louise Rubin
- A study of citations to Wikipedia in open access and non-open access articles by Robert Tomaszewski
- Paving the way to equal opportunity and social justice: what can information Literacy Do for Special Needs Populations? by Stan Trembach
- Quantifying the benefits of providing electronic access to required course materials by Jim Martin and Niamh Wallace

5:30 Chapter Cabinet Meeting and Division Cabinet meeting

6:15: Joint Cabinet Meeting

Tuesday

11-12: CI: The good, the bad and the ugly. Your president is speaking!

SLA New England Hosted Dine Arousnds at SLA 2015

The SLA New England Chapter will host several dine arounds on Saturday, June 13th and Tuesday, June 16th. It is a great opportunity to meet fellow attendees and dine at some great restaurants near the convention center. Check out the list of restaurants below along with who to contact to RSVP. Note, we are accepting a limited number of RSVPs per restaurant. Each host will let you know when the limit has been met and we will update this post accordingly. All restaurants are short walks from specified meeting locations.

Wednesday

Wednesday is filled with tours including one to America’s Test Kitchen! There will be a discussion about Julia Child’s papers.

Other events going on in Boston

Of course, check the Boston 2015 website for various happenings around town, but some are listed below.

YouTube

Boston Early Music Festival: The Monteverdi Trilogy Preview


Library Tour: California State Library – Sutro Library

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2015/05/library-tour-california-state-library-sutro-library/ May 31, 2015 Categories: Chapter Programs & Events Tags: events, libraries

The San Francisco Bay Region Chapter of SLA Presents Library Tour California State Library — Sutro Library

Diana Kohnke, Librarian Sutro Library of San Francisco July 14th @ 4pm to 5pm

The Sutro Library (our San Francisco branch) holds the original collection of Adolph Sutro (1830–1898), California businessman and San Francisco mayor. The library has a large collection of publications and items dating from the 13th to the 21st centuries and contains over 90,000 volumes and 10,000 pamphlets. In addition, it also has one of the largest genealogy collections in the United States.

Please join us for our Sutro Library tour on July 14th for a tour and conversation about the collection and the patrons who visit this library.

When
Tuesday, July 14th

Agenda
Tour Time: 4pm to 5pm
Refreshments: 5pm to 5:30pm – location to be determined.

Where
San Francisco State University
1630 Holloway Avenue
Paul Leonard Library, Rm. 610
Cost
$10 for SLA members

Registration Deadline – Please register by July 10th

- Register online with PayPal
- Mail-in registration

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Intersect Alert May 31, 2015

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2015/05/intersect-alert-may-31-2015/

May 31, 2015 Categories: Intersect Alert Tags: libraries, privacy, publishing

Libraries

Libraries on the Offense in the Digital Revolution

“Today, American Libraries magazine launched, Digital Futures a new digital supplement that features articles both on how libraries are innovating and leading, as well as paths ahead for taking the initiative. Digital Futures is the fifth American Libraries magazine supplement on ebooks and digital content.”

http://www.districtdispatch.org/2015/05/libraries-on-the-offense-in-the-digital-revolution/

The Internet Can’t Replace Libraries: Why They Matter More Than Ever in the Age of Google

“Of course, you don’t have to be homeless to use a library, but that’s the point. You don’t have to be anyone in particular to go inside and stay as long as you want, sit in its armchairs, read the news, write your dissertation, charge your phone, use the bathroom, check your email, find the address of a hotel or homeless shelter. Of all the institutions we have, both public and private, the public library is the truest democratic space.”

“The library’s value isn’t lost on us. A Gallup survey from 2013 found that libraries are not just popular, they’re extremely popular. Over 90 percent of Americans feel that libraries are a vital part of their communities. Compare this to 53 percent for the police, 27 percent for public schools, and just 7 percent for Congress, and you’re looking at perhaps the greatest success of the public sector.”

http://www.salon.com/2015/05/28/the_internet_cant_replace_libraries_why_they_matter_more_in_the_age_of_google_partner/

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Publishing

ONEBOOKAZ | Self-Publishing & Libraries

“One book, three differences”

“First, it was a contest. There were three awards: adult, teen, and kids. The authors had to live in Arizona (although the content of the books did not have to be Arizona-focused). All the works were either self-published or unpublished. The books were then judged through three rounds by librarians and invited published Arizona authors. There were 125 submissions — impressive for the short promotional period of three months. Those months involved a lot of packed writing workshops around the state.”

“Second, these were ebooks. The state library oversaw the judging, editing, and reformatting, then distribution through LJ and BiblioBoard’s SELF-e platform. Even the kid’s book was a digital offering. (Some of the books are also available via print on demand through other sources; one is even available as an audiobook.)”


Technology of Books Has Changed, But Bookstores Are Hanging In There

“If the book is dead, nobody bothered to tell the folks at Capitol Hill Books in Washington, D.C. Books of every size, shape and genre occupy each square inch of the converted row house — including the bathroom — all arranged in an order discernible only to the mind of Jim Toole, the store’s endearingly grouchy owner.”

“Visitors are greeted by a makeshift sign listing words that are banned in the store, including ‘awesome,’ ‘perfect’ and, most of all, ‘Amazon.’ The online giant has crushed many an independent bookstore — but not Toole’s. “Hanging in here with my fingernails,” he says with a harrumph.”

http://www.npr.org/2015/05/28/408787099/the-technology-of-books-has-changed-but-bookstores-are-hanging-in/?utm_medium=RSS&utm_campaign=books

Open-Access Books Slowly on the Rise, Says PCG

“Publishers and libraries are increasingly experimenting with open access (OA) books, according to a new survey by Publishers Communication Group (PCG).”

“Books published under the gold open access model with no paywall for readers are expected to slowly grow in importance,
with funding derived from a variety of sources including library budgets, the study reported.”


Elsevier Clashes with Researchers Over Open Access Publishing for Academic Texts

“Academic publishing is a multi-million dollar business dominated by just a few major publishing houses. Many academics and open access advocates believe that’s unfair — publishers simply take researchers’ work and sell it back to them, they say. Stan Correy takes a look at the state of play.”


Privacy

Americans’ Attitudes About Privacy, Security and Surveillance

“The cascade of reports following the June 2013 government surveillance revelations by NSA contractor Edward Snowden have brought new attention to debates about how best to preserve Americans’ privacy in the digital age. At the same time, the public has been awash with news stories detailing security breaches at major retailers, health insurance companies and financial institutions. These events – and the doubts they inspired – have contributed to a cloud of personal ‘data insecurity’ that now looms over many Americans’ daily decisions and activities. Some find these developments deeply troubling and want limits put in place, while others do not feel these issues affect them personally. Others believe that widespread monitoring can bring some societal benefits in safety and security or that innocent people should have ‘nothing to hide.’”

http://www.pewinternet.org/2015/05/20/americans-attitudes-about-privacy-security-and-surveillance/

Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety. The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.

President’s June Message

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2015/06/presidents-june-message/ June 1, 2015 Categories: Bayline, Chapter Leadership Tags: events, President's message, take action

Hello Friends and Fellow Librarians!

I hope you are doing well and have some great summer plans!

Were you able to join us for the Joint Meeting? Our State Librarian, Greg Lucas was great – and hilarious! While, his appointment was a lot more complicated, I am sure, he made it sound like he showed up. Showing up, as we all know, is half the battle. Your Programs Team will have a review coming up soon.

The Team is planning some informal summer events. Please come out and join us.

Annual Conference

Are you excited about the Annual conference? I am and I hope to see you there! If you are not attending, you can still be excited. People will be live tweeting, handouts will be available and I am sure there will be a virtual conference to which to look forward!

I am speaking on Tuesday at 11am in a competitive intelligence session on resources and strategies.

I will also be speaking later this fall at Internet Librarian on relations with vendors. Hope to see you there as well.

Our sister organization, AALL, congratulates the 2014-2015 AALL/Bloomberg BNA Continuing Education Grant Recipients:

- Law Repositories 2015: Shaping the Future Conference Steering Committee
- Law Librarians of Puget Sound
- Northern California Association of Law Libraries
- San Diego Area Law Libraries
- Southeastern Chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries

Great job, California chapters. The AALL/BNA Bloomberg CPE grant is an easy way to support quality continuing education in our region. Keep up the good work!!

Resources and New Sites

Kris Kasianovitz, the Government Documents Librarians at Stanford’s Green Library, let me know that CalPoly San Luis Obispo’s Institute for Advanced Technology and Public Policy has launched Digital Democracy! You can find the new site at:
http://www.digitaldemocracy.org. You can also follow the project and institute via Twitter @DDemocracy_ca and @CalPolyIATPP. Not just law librarians, but anyone interested in democracy or the workings of the state government will find the About page of interest. “This resource makes legislative videos searchable and shareable. One of the coolest features — transcriptions of California Legislative Hearings!!”

As I mentioned in a previous post about the Strategic Plan, we are trying to provide more professional development resources. Are you trying them out? Have you taken a look at the SLA HQ calendar? They have a listing of many, many events going on around the association. Use this calendar to supplement our own events calendar for your professional development needs.

HQ

The Association consultants have generated a report for all of us to consider on the direction that the Association should take in the future. Jill Strand has written an introduction with her thoughts and instructions on how to comment. It is very important that we all read the May 2015 Recommendations to SLA Board and comment.

The webinar that was held earlier this week on the topic above has been posted and is available to review. Please review it, read the report and provide input to your Board.

Other suggestions, such a candidate Dee Magnoni’s Plan are also floating around for discussion.

Past Presidents of our chapter and others are getting together soon to craft a response from the chapter. Please provide input as more brains are better than fewer and your informed opinion counts. Input must be received by June 16.

We will post on this topic after the meeting. I want to reiterate that the Past Chapter Presidents will be helping the Board craft a chapter response. We need your comments and opinions about the future of YOUR organization.

—

HQ is resurrecting the Mentoring discussion list. This is good because mentoring on all levels and in all directions is required. I know I could use some mentoring on coding and HTML, about which some newer librarians have knowledge and skill. Here is the information about subscribing to the list:

How to Subscribe to SLA’s Mentoring Discussion List

E-mail Instructions

Send an e-mail to the subscription address (lyris@sla.lyris.net) in the following format (leave the subject line blank):

Subscribe sla-mentoring your-e-mail_address “FirstName LastName”

(e.g., Subscribe sla-mentoring jdoe@xyz.com “John Doe”)

Unsubscribe Instructions

send an e-mail to the subscription address (lyris@sla.lyris.net) in the following format (leave the subject line blank):

Unsubscribe sla-mentoring e-mail_address

(e.g., Unsubscribe sla-mentoring jdoe@xyz.com)

HOW TO POST TO MENTORING (after you subscribe)

Send an e-mail message to: sla-mentoring@sla.lyris.net

HOW TO REPLY TO A LIST MESSAGE

Select the REPLY button in your e-mail browser, type in your message, and hit the SEND button. NOTE: The message will only go to the author of the message.

If you would like your reply to go to the entire list, select the REPLY button in your e-mail browser, enter the list e-mail address in the TO field (sla-mentoring@sla.lyris.net), type your message, and hit the SEND button.

HOW TO VIEW YOUR LIST MESSAGES ON THE WEB

Go to http://sla.lyris.net/read/login.

Enter the e-mail address you use for your list(s) and click OK. If you are a list administrator, you will be prompted to enter a password.

Once logged in, click the button titled MY FORUMS in the left navigation bar

Select the SLA list you want to read. That’s it!

– See more at: https://www.sla.org/get-involved/wikisdiscussion-lists/tips-for-using-discussion-lists/#sthash.j9vM8igk.dpuf

Finally, your Board and Advisory Council work hard to make the chapter great. Please thank them for their hard work when you see them.

Thank you for reading and I look forward to seeing you soon!

Jaye

Speaking at Conference

Share this:
This Month in Bayline: May 2015

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2015/06/this-month-in-bayline-may-2015/  
June 2, 2015 Categories: Bayline, Chapter Programs & Events  
Tags: events, member highlights, President's message

In this month’s message, our President asks what we think about our new calendar, and invites us to the joint meeting with the SLA-SV chapter.

If you haven’t already, take a look through Intersect’s collected news stories. You’ll find them interesting even if you’re not an information professional.

We have two more neighborhood dinners from April. Chris Orr takes us to Siam Bay, and Craig Cruz shows us Noeteca.

Beginning what I hope will be a good long series, Chris Orr describes a day in the life of a law librarian.

For a grand finish, we have a long list of some of the conference events in Boston. Kinda makes wish I lived there.

That’s this month’s summary. Remember, you don’t need to wait for April to have dinner with your friends and colleagues. Give them an e-mail and see if they’re interested!

There’s a cozy taqueria in my neighborhood if anybody’s interested…

Intersect News 6.07.15

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2015/06/intersect-news-6-07-15/  
June 8, 2015 Categories: Intersect Alert  
Tags: freedom of information, government, libraries, open access, privacy, research, social media, technology

California Government Technology

A New Nonprofit Hopes To Fill A Void In Coverage Of California

This piece reports on the dearth of California news to the rest of the nation. “…The Sacramento-based CALmatters will report exclusively on California state policy and politics and plans to both publish its stories on its own site and distribute them to other publications [http://www.calmatters.org/]…a nonprofit, CALmatters, is planning a July launch and has already made some hires with strong credentials…” The article mentions other California business sources and a couple of new ones launching this summer.

— Biasotti, T., Columbia Journal Review, 6.5.15

http://www.cjr.org/united_states_project/calmatters_statehouse_california.php

Freedom of Information

Freedom of Information Behind The Scenes, Regulators Try To Shape FOIA Bill

Under the FOIA, Greenwire obtained a collection of emails between the staff of the Office of the Comptroller (independent bureau of the Department of the Treasury) and congressional aids regarding changes to S.337 and H.R. 653. These two bills are intended to reform the public records law. The emails refer to the “raised concerns that the FOIA reform measure would lead to banks and other financial institutions to stop sharing confidential information with agencies since they believe the bill could risk disclosure of such secret data.” See the full text for links to the emails and the amendments proposed.

—Bogardus, K., E&E reporter, Greenwire, 6.1.15

http://www.eenews.net/stories/1060019430

Government Technology

Managing Public Records: A Dull and Difficult — but Necessary — Job

“New technologies add to the dilemma of public records management.”

When you consider how much of our information is actually destined for public records, “unstructured data, audio, video and social media…” you gain perspective on the increasingly difficult chore maintaining public records will be. Consider one example, the enormous amount of video law enforcement body cams will produce, that requires a huge amount of storage.

While there isn’t yet a solution, Taylor’s column describes ways he believes this “dull and difficult” chore can be managed so to be accessible.

—Taylor, P, Government Technology, 6.2.15


GSA Releases Tool to Facilitate Adoption of Best Practices for Federal Websites
“GSA launched Pulse.cio.gov – a public dashboard that displays how well all federal domains are performing in accordance with government-wide web policy requirements and best practices. Pulse was created to give agencies and the public access to data on how the Federal government is improving security, safeguarding privacy, and improving citizen experience on Federal websites. All of the data currently on Pulse is gathered from publicly accessible sources, and the site has been developed entirely in the open on Github. For a deeper, more technical look at the development of Pulse…” see full text.


Health Technology

Health And Human Services’ IDEA Lab Just Launched A New Beta Version Of Its Healthdata.Gov Site

The new service is undergoing usability testing with users both experienced in how the data should be used, as well as new users. The upgrade is receiving positive reaction. Important applications for the new site were seen at the sixth annual Health Data Palooza in Washington D.C. Damon Davis, director of the IDEA Lab Health Data Initiative said “There are folks that are very, very focused on genomics; folks that are focused on the cancer patient population and how they can drive people toward trials and research; there’s just such a wide array of positive disruptions.”


Library Technology

New York Public Library CTO Aboyoun On Cloud, Storage, Future Of The Library

Dignan, the Editor-in-Chief of ZDNet, held a conversation with the CTO of the New York Public Library (NYPL), Jane Aboyoun, to discuss the library’s electronic future. During the conversation, Aboyoun demonstrates how libraries need to think like a business. What do the consumers want? A Customer Relationship Management System (CRM) is coming soon to systemize what the NYPL users need. In addition, the library’s internal business will be handled with software like WorkDay. Libraries have become community centers, relied on to teach computer skills, business classes and provide other educational programeing, in addition to the fundamental research and document preservation services expected from libraries. Aboyoun enumerates her thoughts: the solution to these needs “is the cloud.”


Data Reinvents Libraries for the 21st Century

Another article on the way libraries are changing, from Gov.Tech. Jason Shueh cites different libraries around the country who are leading the librarian-as-data-curator effort. “Libraries are proving that they’re more than mausoleums of old knowledge — they’re in a state of progressive reform, rethinking services and restructiring with data.”


Open Access

UCL Launches UK’s First Fully Open Access University Press

“University College London has launched an Open Access press. “UCL is pleased to announce the launch of UCL Press, the University’s in house publishing arm. UCL Press will be the first fully Open Access university press in the UK with all books, journals and monographs freely available online, creating a diverse and accessible global knowledge resource…. All titles published by UCL Press will be made available in Open Access digital form, as well as in print and e-book formats available commercially.” UCL Press Release


Libraries and Librarians

NSA Surveillance: How Librarians Have Been On The Front Line To Protect Privacy

In this positive piece about librarians and efforts to protect patron privacy, Roberts speaks with Emily Sheketoff, head of the ALA’s Washington office. She comments on the strength of the ALA Lobby and the ongoing work. “It is, acknowledges the ALA, the paradox that explains this stereotypically meek profession’s surprisingly kick-ass reputation on civil liberties. “We are fearsome defenders of our patrons,” says Sheketoff. “But we are fearful of government overstep.”


Congress Sends NSA Phone-Records Bill to President

Rand Paul managed to force the Patriot Act into expiration by holding a faux-filibuster defying “fellow Republicans and singlehandedly force the existing law to lapse Sunday at midnight, leading to dire warnings of threats to America.” Senate Leader McConnell wanted the bill to go forward unchanged and tried to persuade the Senate to accept three new amendments including an extension of the phase-out period for the collection of telephone records from 6 months to one year. Surprisingly the House Speaker, John Boehner, did not concur. After the Senate vote (67-32) The bill went to the President who signed it.

Social Media

Eulogy for Politwooops
In 2010, the Open State Foundation of the Netherlands began tracking statements that politicians had tweeted and then deleted. Since 2010, 30 different countries have established the service. These countries helped the U.S. established Politwooops via the Sunlight Foundation in 2012. On June 3 Twitter informed the Sunlight Foundation, that “access to Twitter API for their Politwooops site will not be restored,” while the other international versions run by Open State Foundation continue to run. “Twitter’s decision to pull the plug on Politwooops is a reminder of how the Internet isn’t truly a public square…our goal was to create accountability and a public record for the messages elected officials and candidates for president, vice president, Congress and governor published on social media, particularly those public statements they delete.”
—Gates, C. Sunlight Foundation president, 6.4.15
https://sunlightfoundation.com/blog/2015/06/04/eulogy-for-politwooops/

Chapter Response to Consultants’ Recommendations Report


As Jaye mentioned in her recent blog post, the change consultants hired by HQ have put forth a proposal on the direction that the Association should take in the future that would make several fundamental changes to SLA. These changes will affect all of us and our association as a whole and you are all encouraged to read the Recommendations in full: May 2015 Recommendations to SLA Board.

Several of the chapter’s Past Presidents met with Jaye earlier this month so that we could generate a response on behalf of the chapter. A draft of the response was sent to the chapter Board and Advisory Council for review and feedback.

This morning the final version of the SLA SFBR Chapter

Response to Consultants’ Recommendations Report was sent to the SLA Board for consideration. We hope you will take the time to read this response.

You are welcome to write your own response and send it to Tara Murray, SLA Board Secretary (secretary@sla.org), no later than Tuesday June 16.

Kind regards,
Anne N. Barker
2013 SFBR President

Sunday at the SLA Conference 2015

Intersect, 6.14.15

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2015/06/intersect-6-14-15/ June 15, 2015 Categories: Intersect Alert Tags: archives, intellectual property, internet access, libraries, privacy, public policy, research, social media, technology, transparency

Copyright
ALA President Calls for Digital Transformation of Copyright Office
The ALA protested the efforts to modernize the Copyright Office with the “recently introduced Copyright Office for the Digital Economy Act.” Referring to the recent GAO report about the inadequate attempts of the Library of Congress to become technologically current, the ALA doesn’t believe that this is the time to allow the Copyright Office to become independent. Full text.

E-books
New Data, Same Slow Ebook Market
“Ebooks grew modestly in 2014, a year that saw a 4.6% uptick in revenue overall, according to new full-year figures from the Association of American Publishers (AAP). But while the nearly 1,800 U.S. publishers who participated in the AAP’s latest survey say their ebook sales rose 3.8% on balance last year, the bigger story remains one of mostly flat growth for the format since 2012.”
–Bellis, R., Digital World, 6.11.15
http://www.digitalbookworld.com/2015/new-data-same-slow-
HC Technology: Updates on Federal Health Technology

The lack of interoperability between the health records systems serving veterans “has become notorious.” The VA is attempting to modernize the VISTA health record system and has recently unveiled the Enterprise Health Management Platform (EHMP). The EHMP is web-based and uses modern widgets and apps to compile data on all clinical encounters including medications and lab results. The EHMP will address the critical necessity of caregiver access to their own records, regardless of location. Currently, this isn’t possible with the Computerized Patient Records System, (CPRS). It should be able to share data with the Department of Defense (DOD) and in turn will integrate with the Pentagon’s “new commercial system.” The VA hopes to have a version in place in the later part of 2016 after pilot testing in Hampton, VA and San Antonio, TX. The DOD has completed its third draft of requirements for new the Healthcare Management System Modernization (DHMSM) and is ready to present this Request For Proposal to the industry. This system is an Electronic Health Records Plan (EHR) that will track all active duty military personnel and their dependents and will integrate with the VA’s EHR system. The system is supposed to be available by 2017.

- VA Set To Test New-Look Health Record Interface
  – Mazmanian, A., FCW, Federal Technology, 6.12.15
  http://fcw.com/articles/2015/06/12/va-health-record-system.aspx

- DOD Releases Update To Electronic Health Record Plan
  – Mazmanian, A., FCW, Federal Technology, 6.16.15
  http://fcw.com/Articles/2014/06/16/DOD-electronic-health-records.aspx

Libraries

Librarian of Congress James Billington to Retire in January

“James H. Billington, the brilliant but mercurial head of the Library of Congress, will retire after 28 years at the helm of an institution that has expanded its reach across the country but struggled to stay ahead in a rapidly changing digital world.” This article reported that there is apparently no love lost with his staff. You’ll recall that Billington was chastised for not keeping the LOC technologically advanced. The New York Times has already published suggestions for his replacement. — McGlone, P, Washington Post, 6.10.15

NY Times: “Many Choices for Obama in Replacing Billington at Library of Congress”

The librarians and/or people with library leadership experience mentioned in the article are listed below. Each name is linked to a bio.

- Paul Courant, Former University Librarian and Dean of Libraries, University of Michigan
- David S. Ferriero, Archivist of the United States & Former Director of NYPL
- Carla Hayden, CEO of the Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore & Former President of ALA
- Anthony W. Marx, President of the New York Public Library
- Amy Ryan, President of the Boston Public Library (Recently Resigned)
- Sarah Thomas, Vice President for the Harvard Library

Net Neutrality

FCC Net Neutrality Rules Take Effect Despite Industry Objections

The Net-Neutrality rules took effect on 6.12.15 despite multiple objections from the industry and the House Republicans (and the two FCC Republicans). The FCC has “insured the free flow of Internet data…” While the industry claims to be pro-net-neutrality, they object to “reclassifying broadband as utility-like service subject to potentially onerous regulation…” while “classifying high-speed Internet as a telecommunications service.” This of course means that the FCC can oversee the Internet in a way they haven’t before and is the argument that industry cites when justifying their concerns.
  – Puzzengara, J., LA Times, 6.12.15

There are other pieces about this topic:


- – House Appropriations Bill Threatens to Undo Open Internet Rules Through the Backdoor, Van Schewick, B., Stanford Cyberlaw Blog, 6.11.15
  http://cyberlaw.stanford.edu/blog/2015/06/house-appropriations-bill-threatens-undo-open-internet-rules-through-backdoor

- – Amid Appropriations Challenge, Net Neutrality Rules To Go Into Effect Friday, Holland, E., aall.org, 6.11.15

Security

Second Hack of Government Data May Have Compromised Security Clearance Information

It is believed that a second cyber attack may have been more damaging than the first one reported recently (discovered in April, announced much later). The second attack “may have victimized people holding security clearances and those who have been investigated to obtain such clearances.” In light of
this, the White House has released new emergency procedures
to be completed in 30 days. U.S. Chief Information Officer
Tony Scott has formed a new task force. These new procedures
include:

- “Immediately” deploying so-called indicators
- Patching critical-level software holes “without
delay
- Tightening technological controls and policies for
“privileged users
- Dramatically accelerating widespread use of “
multifactor authentication” or two-step ID checks

–Sternstein, A., Govtech, 6.12.15
http://www.nextgov.com/cybersecurity/2015/06/white-house-
tells-agencies-tighten-online-security-immediately/115216
/?oref=river

Privacy
New Law Would Strengthen Children’s Online Privacy
“The “Do Not Track Kids” Act, introduced this week by
Senator Markey (D-MA), Senator Blumenthal (D- CT), Rep.
Barton (R-TX), and Rep. Rush (D-IL) would strengthen and
expand the privacy protections afforded children in the 1998
Children’s Online Privacy Protection Act, The Act extends
privacy safeguards to children over 13, requires that businesses
collecting information on minors comply with Fair Information
Practices, and establishes a “right to be forgotten,” allowing
parents and minors to remove social media posts, similar to
California’s Eraser Law. EPIC has long advocated for the
privacy rights of children, testifying in Congress 1996 in
support of the Children’s Privacy Law and again before the
Senate in 2010 as new technologies and business practices
emerged. EPIC also urged FTC in 2011 to establish stronger
regulations to protect the data concerning children.”
www.epic.com, 6.12.15
https://epic.org/2015/06/new-law-would-strengthen-child.html

Social Media
Facebook Annual Meeting ‘Very Staid,’’ Needs More Fun,
Investor Says
“…at least one Facebook shareholder thinks Mark Zuckerberg
should try a little harder. “You know, this meeting is very
staid,” the shareholder said toward the end of the social
network’s annual meeting Thursday. “At Berkshire Hathaway’s
stockholder meeting, we have a lot of fun.” An earlier meeting
was more fun, with Zuckerberg introducing the Oculus Rift
Virtual-Reality Headset to be available next year. He discussed
virtual reality; COO Sheryl Sandberg answered shareholder
questions; announced the release of Facebook’s report on
gender and racial diversity within the company, later this month.
–Seetharman, D., WSJ Digital Blog, 6.11.15
blogs.wsj.com/digits/2015/06/11/facebook-annual

Technology
What Your CEO Is Reading: Coding Explained to Non-
Coders; CEO Attempts Millennial-Speak
From WSJ Digits Blog, some snippets. The most useful is a
paul-ford-what-is-code/. It’s worthwhile reading unless you’re
already an expert in code. See further tidbits including one
CEO’s “desperate effort to understand what the “kids” verging
on 30 are talking about.”
–Loftus, T., WSJ Blog, 6.12.15
http://blogs.wsj.com/cio/2015/06/12/what-your-ceo-is-reading-
coding-explained-to-non-coders-ceo-attempts-millennial-
speak/?mod=WSJ_TechWSJD_cioJournal

Technology
The Connected City: Don’t Forget To Tell The Citizen
Salesforce conducts research (Salesforce’s 2015 Connected
City Index) to rank the top 15 connected metropolitan areas
asking 3,075 adults about 30 different digital services. General
city services, such as paying fees or learning about garbage
pick-up times:

- Public safety, including reporting
a crime or receiving notifications
on dangerous weather events
- Transportation, such as real-time
public transportation delays
- Civic engagement, such as
registering to vote
- Energy use, including how
residents and cities better manage
energy usage
- Future vision, including how
cities prioritize technology in
their future plans

The study found that too many citizens are unaware of the
services available. “Only a handful of services were known to
more than half of any city’s respondents, and some — like
online applications for building permits or smart water meters
— were unknown by 80 percent in even the most connected
city…” San Antonio ranks 1st, followed by New York. San
Francisco and Los Angeles rank 13 and 14.
–Major, D., GCN, 6.11.15
http://gcn.com/articles/2015/06/11/connected-cities.aspx

Transparency
Sunlight gets 5-star transparency rating from Transparify
“…we’re proud to share that in a new report on the
transparency of policy advocates,
http://www.transparify.org
Transparify gave the Sunlight Foundation a 5-star rating. Transparify, an organization that
rates financial transparency of major think tanks, examined 34
organizations who participated in the International Open Data
Conference in May, finding Sunlight among the best when it
comes to publicly disclosing sources of funding. “
–Topper, J., 6.12.15.
http://sunlightfoundation.com/blog/2015/06/12/sunlight-gets-5-
star-transparency-rating-from-transparify/
A Story about Monday at the SLA 2015 Conference

HQ Tags: annual conference, events, social media
[View the story “SLA 2015 – Monday” on Storify]

Tuesday at the SLA Annual Conference

HQ Tags: annual conference, social media

503 Service Unavailable

No server is available to handle this request.
I returned from Boston on Wednesday night – ~2am Boston time, 11pm San Francisco time. I am a seasoned enough conference attendee to know the basics about conference attendance:

- comfy shoes
- comfy, but professional wardrobe and bag
- plenty of water
- make dinner dates early
- try to sleep

I also know to go into training the week before, which means eating really well, sleeping as much as possible and drinking plenty of water. Due to circumstances beyond my control, I wasn’t able to follow my own rules this time. I arrived in Boston already exhausted. I don’t believe in whining especially when I felt extremely fortunate to be at the conference at all when so many colleagues were unable to attend. So, I just got on with it.

First off, the conference was fantastic. It was one of the best conferences I have attended in a long time. People were talking to each other about the Change Consultants Recommendations. As difficult as many of those conversations were, they engaged people with each other.

If you have not read the recommendations YOU MUST. You now have until June 23, 11:59 pm EDT (8:59 pm PDT) to provide thoughtful comments that will help ensure the future of the Association. You can certainly read the recommendations later, but if you want to respond, you need to do it now.

While the chapter’s Past Chapter Presidents Council, led by Anne Barker, with the assistance of the Executive Board, drafted the chapter response, everyone’s ideas and perspectives are valuable and necessary. Your personal story is important. Don’t sit home or in your office like a lump. Tell the Association Board what is important to you about the Association and how you want to see it change to be more agile and useful. Send your comments to Tara Murray, Association Secretary at secretary@sla.org

Being at the conference in the midst of this discussion made me think of what things are important to me about being a member of SLA. I am a member of other associations; I am just not as active. Other associations have great people so that is a given. Their missions are also worthwhile. I took the time to catalog the benefits that SLA gives me, so you could think about them. They are:

1. Diversity – there are many different types of libraries and information centers represented in SLA. There are many more diverse titles than “librarian.” If I need to learn something out of my field, there is probably a webinar, conference session or another librarian who can help me. In our chapter alone, so many of the Divisions and Caucuses are represented that walking across town or driving across the Bay can get me started on a new skill or project.

2. Leadership opportunities – Many of you are afraid of being asked to join the Advisory Council or Executive Board or Chair a Committee. I was for a long time, too. (As an aside: There are still vacancies on our Advisory Council, which need to be filled – email me). Leadership opportunities help me in my job and have helped me in all of my past positions. I have been able to find positions within the chapter that fit with my life. When my son was small he needed more care and time, I was on the Nominations Committee, the Nominations Chair, then on the Programs team. Now, as he needs less of my time, I am able to devote some quality time to the Executive Board as President. In these roles I have learned to think more quickly on my feet, run a meeting effectively, make difficult phone calls without being called into HR. I have also gotten practice at taking a breath before I speak. I am better at saving emails as drafts, walking away and editing before I press send. SLA has provided a comfortable space for me to learn these skills.

3. Support – We all go through difficult times in our lives, both personally and professionally. I am not immune. It is clear that others in the chapter and Association care about me. I have gotten help and support with difficult situations. Marlene always asks about my son. Mark takes the time drag me away from the pool of self pity as needed. Cyndi keeps me from protein-deficiency induced snappish behavior. Those acquaintances and friends I only see at conference are glad to see me and find out how the chapter is doing. By participating in SLA, my life has become enriched.

4. Mentorship – not only do I feel like I have been a mentor, but I also feel that I have gained valuable insight from informal mentoring. Cindy can always relied on to gently guide me in the running of a meeting. Mark has taught me more about reference strategy than I could ever have learned on my own. Anne gave me gentle nudges at the
beginning of my term when I did not know what the heck I was doing.

5. Website Resources – member directory, job resources and lists, Association wide calendar, help from staff, chapter presidents list.

6. Fun – having someone with whom to go to lunch, eat gelato (Craig!), explore the town, try a restaurant, have a drink or celebrate my son’s graduation (Mark!) is a benefit beyond all benefits!

7. Professional Development – webinars, in person events, speakers

8. Opportunities to further my career beyond my employer’s reach – I have spoken several times, including this time, at conferences. These opportunities further my career in a way that is outside of my employer’s reach. These are opportunities that are mine alone.

9. Travel – I have been able to go to cities that are important or historic, but probably would not have been on my list of places to visit on vacation. I prefer quiet and a beach to the rigors of vacation time learning. Still, Boston’s Paul Revere house was interesting, especially in its size. The Old North Church has its pews enclosed in boxes with doors! An added bonus is that I also get to visit fabric stories in many different cities in order to feed my quilt habit.

What is valuable to you about SLA??

What is valuable to you about SLA??

Step up and tell the Association Board. Step up to keep those things available to you and others:

- Write a response to the Change Consultants Recommendations
- Volunteer in our chapter
- Come to meetings and events
- Write an article for Bayline
- Attend Professional Development events
- Engage

Thank you,

Jaye

THE INTERNET ARCHIVE WELCOMES THE ALA!

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2015/06/the-internet-archive-welcomes-the-ala/ June 19, 2015 Categories: Chapter Programs & Events Tags: events, libraries

It’s not often that 20,000 of our favorite friends from the library world come to town!
Please join us for drinks, food and some San Francisco fun.

Take a tour the Internet Archive, try some of our newest tools, and at 6 p.m. stay for two fabulous films presented with Harvard University’s metaLAB: “Cold Storage”—an experimental documentary exploring the Harvard Depository, and what it tells us about the future of libraries Plus the film that inspired it: “Toute la memoire du monde” a documentary by Alain Resnais, exploring the priceless treasures of the Bibliothèque Nationale de France and how humanity remembers itself.

When: Friday, June 26, 2015, 4-8 p.m.
Agenda: Refreshments and mingling: 4 – 8 PM
Tours: Intermittent from 4 – 6 PM
Film Showings: from 6 – 8 PM
Where: The Internet Archive, 300 Funston Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94118
Cost: Free
RSVP: reserve your free ticket here https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1A8bVvLhMue3jQgiUqVH6HkJJaj2hX6HXiTpvijJ23po/viewform

Share this:
SLA Annual Conference 2015 pt.2

If you have not read part 1, take a look when you have a chance.

One of the most exciting sessions I attended was called Entrepreneurship and Innovation: Challenges, Opportunities and Trends (6/14/2015, 1:30-3:00pm, Room 204B). I don’t think the title of the session reflected the content, but I loved the program anyway. Lois Kelly and Carmen Median (@RebelsatWork) were fantastic speakers. They have written a book entitled Rebels at Work: A Handbook for Leading Change from Within. There is no audio version as yet, but it is already in paperback.

I liked this session because I saw myself in some of the stories. I saw techniques that managers and non-managers can use right away such as in creating conditions for organizations change. According to Kelly and Medina you must:

- be kind: create safety
- call bullsh**t: be authentic and demand authenticity
- dare to behave differently: create a safe space for creativity

There was also a lot about “rebel thinking” and making mistakes and troublemakers vs. good rebels.

Get the book! We are going to have a virtual book group. We want YOU to engage together. Look for more information soon!

Other sessions were also interesting. Being on the Competencies Task Force made me attend the Competencies Task Force Update and Discussion. I’ll be honest: I wasn’t looking forward to it. I was not just pleasantly surprised, but thrilled at how great the session was. It was well attended. People were engaged.

Best of all I finally have a handle on ‘buckets’ in which competencies we need as Information Professionals can be placed. I am no longer afraid of being on the Task Force. I am actually looking forward to writing up my notes.

The Chapter Cabinet Meeting and Joint Cabinet Meeting were frustrating, but amazingly interesting as well. the Joint Cabinet Meeting is responsible for the extra week for comments. Jill Strand, our Association President, was calm and poised when answering questions over and over.

A brief update in the Exhibitor’s Theater made me worry about the product of another vendor, which is sold separately. The product exhibited in now included in the offerings of vendor #1 without additional fee.

Revolutionize Your Data described tools that we can all use to show the results of data analysis. The session was very academic focused, but gave me a better understand of what data visualization means. A number of free tools were mentioned that may be worthwhile to investigate.

Of course, Taxonomy cannot be ignored in any organization. I went to several sessions about taxonomy or touching on taxonomy. It is clear that we need to help enable our consultants, health professionals, lawyers, engineers and student to retrieve critical information faster and with more precision.

I attended several other sessions, but could not attend all of the sessions in which I was interested. Leading from the Middle, Legal Resources and Research Using Twitter, Genetic Mutations: How Do They Arise & What Do They Do?, Get the Picture: Use Your Taxonomy to Classify Images are a few that I was unable to attend.

The amazing diversity and talent we have in SLA continually astounds me. It makes me stand up straighter and endeavor to up my game.

As you can see, there is a lot of variety in the program offerings. Attendance at the conference is worthwhile. Start throwing change in a jar for next year.

Remember: If you have not read the recommendations YOU MUST. You now have until June 23, 11:59 pm EDT (8:59 pm PDT) to provide thoughtful comments that will help ensure the future of the Association. You can certainly read the recommendations later, but if you want to respond, you need to do it now.
Blogs
Announcing New Blog Series And Homepage From Sunlight
“…officially announce our new series of recurring blog posts. Each day, we’ll focus on a different aspect of sunlight’s approach to making our government and politics more open and accountable.” There will be daily features, e.g. Mondays will be the “opengov voices” featuring different leaders. On Tuesdays Sunlight will offer up “Tech Tuesdays.

–Gates, C., sunlight foundation blog, 615.15
http://sunlightfoundation.com/blog/

Books
A Novel Oasis: Why Argentina is the Bookshop Capital Of The World
There is very little Internet business, there is no Amazon site, and Argentinians apparently prefer visiting the shops. It’s easy to understand when you consider the Ateneo Grand Splendid Bookshop for example, a converted theater with 21,000 square feet and theater boxes! The photos accompanying the story show a few different bookshops – really beautiful. “Buenos Aires alone has more bookstores per person than any other city in the world – just enough for inquisitive Argentinians to indulge their literary cravings, according to a recent study by the World Cities Culture Forum…has at least 734 bookstores – roughly 25 bookshops for every 100,000 inhabitants…A century ago European immigrants poured into Buenos Aires, creating a multicultural environment in which culture and the arts thrived…contemporary economics also plays a role: books are exempt from Argentina’s standard sales tax – a whopping 21% on most goods…”

-Uki Goñi, The Guardian, 6.15
http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/jun/19/argentina-books-bookstores-reading
http://www.yenny-elateneo.com/local/

Library Crimes
Book ‘em: area libraries put up with plenty
The work and responsibilities are much different in a public library. As one librarian explained, a public library draws in the public — and the public brings themselves along. “A review of hundreds of incident reports at the Champaign, Urbana and Danville public libraries reveals that, like many public places, libraries aren’t sanctuaries from theft, rowdy behavior, drug and alcohol abuse, even sexual misconduct. The Champaign public library, for example, had 782 “incident reports” last year that included 133 cases of suspected or proven theft of library property, 80 cases of rowdy juvenile behavior, 55 incidents of verbal abuse, 12 cases of panhandling on library grounds and a host of other problems.”

–Kacich,T., News-Gazette (Illinois), 6.21.15

Net Neutrality
The FCC’s New Open Internet Order Faces the Realities of Implementation
This is a good, somewhat brief (considering the many of Net Neutrality), overview of where we go from here. Herther provides links to other sources for information on both “sides of the aisle” and international efforts to stop Net Neutrality.

–Herther, N., Information Today, 6.16.15

Open Access
Long Before Snowden, Librarians Were Anti-Surveillance Heroes
An article missed over the last two weeks comes from Slate, with a better overview of the way librarians helped influence the Patriot Act outcome. Remember those signs? “… librarians weren’t just fighting in court; they were also making signs to inform patrons that they could no longer guarantee that anyone’s reading habits could be kept confidential. Across the country, librarians were hanging signs that read, “The FBI has not been here. (Look very closely for the removal of this sign,)” “Everybody should have the right to think about, explore and research ideas that affect their community,” said Jessamyn West, the Vermont librarian who first made the printable signs for other librarians back in 2002. “There are precious few public places where that kind of intellectual freedom is not just allowed, but encouraged…. Libraries in Santa Cruz, California, made displays that suggested all questions about the privacy-invasive terms of the Patriot Act “should be directed to Attorney General John Ashcroft, Department of Justice, Washington, D.C. 20530.”

–Glaser, A., Future Tense, Slate, 6.3.15
http://www.slate.com/blogs/future_tense/2015/06/03/usa_freedom_act_before_snowden_librarians_were_the_anti_disclosure.html

Open Records
New Bill Promises An Open Records Upgrade In Massachusetts
“…the advent of electronic records has meant that many new kinds of records are officially available for the public to access — from public datasets to official email records — and yet in many states, it is not altogether clear how the public can effectively and affordably access those records in the formats that leave them most useful…many states are finding the need to update their public records laws…Massachusetts, having not changed the public records law in the state of since 1973, open government groups have teamed together to push for reform of their public records law…”

–Glaser, A., Future Tense, Slate, 6.3.15
http://www.slate.com/blogs/they מרכזי Chỉ Trực Tuyến 2015/06/26/usa_open_records_bill_20150611.html

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2015/06/intersect-alerts-6-21-15/ June 22, 2015 Categories: Intersect Alert Tags: internet access, libraries, open access, technology, transparency
Reference
Could Your Library Answer 1 Million Reference Questions A Year?
“In 1995 the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) started collecting stats on references queries. The top five that year handled over 500,000 questions each…questions have dropped nationally from 20,000,000 in 1995 to just barely 5,000,000 in 2014.” Mathews makes a good point when he writes there may be fewer reference queries, but services at libraries are up. Libraries are providing labs and services (massage during finals week…) that help the library become more of a community center. Libraries are changing as society’s needs change. The graphs illustrating the data are in the two articles cited below.

–Mathews, B Chronicle of Higher Education, 6.19.15
http://chronicle.com/blognetwork/theubiquitouslibrarian
/2015/05/27/the-evolving-expanding-service-landscape-across-academic-libraries/

Security
The Dark Web
Cox spent time researching the dark web, interviewing both those who ply their wares on the dark web and the police who bust them. The dark web is a myth because it is accessible to anyone (including the police) but you are anonymous. Cox points out the dark web is what the WWW was meant to be. “…it’s the World Wide Web as it was originally envisioned: a space beyond the control of individual states, where ideas can be exchanged freely without fear of being censored…”

–Cox , J. ,Wired, 06.18.15
http://www.wired.com/2015/06/dark-web-know-myth/

SLA Annual Conference 2015 pt.3

Have you read part 2?

All Work and No Play?!?

SLAers work hard, including at the conference. I spoke to numerous people about the Change Consultants Recommendations, much to my surprise. I listened intently in sessions for nuggets and tidbits I could use going forward. I questioned presenters, presented a program myself and discussed new ideas with others.

But all work and no play are not our SF Style. There are plenty of opportunities for fun. Our own Western States Reception was a great way to meet up with friends from our coast. Ruth Kneale and her team from the Arizona Chapter did a great job organizing it. I drank rootbeer and socialized with others enjoyed the artisan beer and homemade pretzels.

The parties all overlap so there is a lot of party hopping to do. These are all networking opportunities, so I try to hit as many as I can. Legal Division had a great spread at their Vendor Appreciation Reception. It was great to catch up with colleagues from various vendors.

If you are not an Inmagic/Lucidea customer, find a way to become one! they have a such an awesome reception that I always wheedle my way in one way or another.

The IT Dance Party is an all time favorite. There was a super hero theme this year. There was some harmless shenanigans and much hilarity between Jill Strand and past DC chatper President Christ Vestal, which leaked out to the Twitter feed.

We run in packs

SLA-SFers tend to travel in packs. Even when we are not in packs, if we stop a pack seems to gather. A group of your chapter colleagues supported me during my presentation. We also checked out local restaurants for dinners and lunches together.

It is not just SF in Boston. I was able to have a couple of dinners with colleagues I only see at conference. My eyes were bloodshot. I was sleep deprived and protein deficient, but I had a great time. I learned a lot and can’t wait to attend again next year!
Adolph Sutro Library Tour: by Heather Heen

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2015/06/adolph-sutro-library-tour/  June 26, 2015  Categories: Bayline, Chapter Programs & Events
Tags: events, libraries

I am pleased to write about our first SLA Tour of 2015 with the Sutro Library, part of the California State Library, which is located in the newly renovated and expanded J. Paul Leonard Library on the San Francisco State University Campus.

The History of the Sutro Library

The library holds, and is named after, the original collection of Adolph Sutro (1830–1898), a California businessman and former San Francisco mayor. As part of his legacy, Adolph was committed to building a library in San Francisco that would be free and open to the public. However, he died in 1898 before the plan could take fruition and most of the collection was destroyed in the Great Earthquake of 1906.

In 1913, after extended litigation and several unsatisfactory location changes, the heirs finally agree to donate it to the California State Library with the stipulation that it must remain permanently in San Francisco. For the next 46 years, the collection was moved from two different libraries as the state legislators tried, and failed, pass the funding legislation that would provide it with a permanent home. They even considered returning the collection to the Sutro family but an uproar in the community prevented this from happening.

In 1959, the University of San Francisco offered to house the collection and houses approximately 40% of the original collection. The collection was housed in its own building from 1983 until 2012 where it was moved to the 5th and 6th floor of the J. Paul Leonard Library after extensive and modern renovations were completed. The new building included

The Collection of the Sutro Library

Today the Sutro is a major resource for genealogy research and continues to gather a remarkable list of historical and genealogical publications from the U.S., Latin America, and Europe. The library has a large collection of publications and items dating from the 13th to the 21st centuries and contains over 90,000 volumes and 10,000 pamphlets and one of the largest genealogy collections in the United States. A few of the highlight collections include:

- William Shakespeare’s First, Second, Third and Fourth folios (1623–1685);
- Third and Fourth folios (1623–1685);
- Letters and papers of British explorer and naturalist Joseph Banks (1800s);
- The Mexican Collection: materials on Mexican culture, religion and politics (1540–1889);
- Belgian mapmaker Pieter van den Keere’s World Map (1611).

In addition, there are numerous pieces of Sutro’s voluminous correspondence which is expected to provide insights into the history of this San Francisco legend.

Please feel free to explore this California State Library Foundation Bulletin to learn about the history of Adolph Sutro, the collection, and the new library facilities it is housed in.

The Tour of the Sutro Library

Please join us for our Sutro Library tour on July 14th for a tour and conversation about the collection and the patrons who visit this library.

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2015/05/library-tour-california-state-library-sutro-library/

When: Tuesday, July 14th

Agenda: Tour Time: 4pm to 5pm

Refreshments: 5pm to 5:30pm – location to be determined.

Where: San Francisco State University

1630 Holloway Avenue

Paul Leonard Library, Rm. 610

Cost: $10 for SLA members

Registration Deadline: Please RSVP or register by July 10th. You may use the paypal link or RSVP by email and bring a check to the event.

Please RSVP with heather.heen@thomsonreuters.com

References
Intersect, 6.28.15

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2015/06/intersect-6-28-15/ June 29, 2015 Categories: Intersect Alert Tags: government, librarians, libraries, open access, privacy, technology

**Digital Library**

*Digital Public Library of America makes push to serve all 50 states by 2017 with $3.4 million from the Sloan and Knight foundations*

“The Digital Public Library of America (DPLA) is on the way to connecting online collections from coast to coast by 2017 – an effort boosted by a new $3.4 million investment from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation and John S. and James L. Knight Foundations. These two new awards, coupled with significant earlier support from the Institute of Museum and Library Services and the National Endowment for the Humanities, will allow DPLA to open new Service Hubs that provide a way for all cultural heritage organizations across the country to connect through one national collection.”

–Knight Foundation, 6.26.15

(http://dp.la)

There is also an article in American Libraries – ALA Edition, Empowering Libraries to Innovate.

http://americanlibrariessmagazine.org/2015/06/18/empowering-libraries-to-innovate/

**Librarians**

*Transforming the Library Profession*

At a time when much of the public and the business world believes librarians may be obsolete, library users are expecting a lot of support from librarians in decoding information resources. There is still a great digital divide and well-informed people without real technical skills. The industry needs to attract students who are technologically skilled (depending on their library program, these skills will be or not taught), generally, a more “diverse and creative workforce.” When libraries, regardless of type, join together to influence policy as they did for the Patriot Act and the Electronic Communications Privacy Act, they will gain credibility in policy discussions.


http://americanlibrariessmagazine.org/2015/06/09/transforming-the-library-profession/

**Open Access**

*EPIC Urges California Supreme Court to Protect Open Records Law*

“EPIC has asked the Supreme Court of California to review a lower court decision that prevented public release of information about “automated license plate readers.” The lower court held that information about the system to gather license plate data on all motorists was an “investigative record.” In the amicus letter EPIC stated, “as the government’s ability to collect information about individuals has expanded, open record laws have become an important tool for government oversight.” Documents obtained by EPIC about the FBI’s use of license plate readers showed the agency failed to address the system’s privacy implications.”

–epic.com 6.25.14

https://epic.org/2015/06/epic-urges-california-supreme-.html

**Privacy**

*Introducing The ‘Right To Eavesdrop On Your Things’ [New concept? Communications Transparency]*

“…a good start would be for political leaders and the public to recognize the importance of communications transparency. I’d even suggest that policymakers consider a new consumer right: “the right to eavesdrop on what our Things are saying about us…” Without Communications Transparency, we will: be without the ability to conduct security research; find it difficult to buy and install our own independent checks on security and privacy; be allowing companies to infer things about us even if nothing tells them straight out, as they look for patterns across a whole population of customers; have no recourse when a manufacturer stops supporting a networked device that’s in 30 million homes…

–Winstein, K., Politico, 6.15 (Winstein is part of the Secure Internet of Things Project, a collaboration among computer-science and electrical-engineering faculty at Stanford University, the University of California at Berkeley and the University of Michigan)


**Secure Internet of things Project** – http://iot.stanford.edu/seminar/15w.html

To read some of the papers presented in the Secure Internet of Things seminar in January 2015.

Example of the content includes a Politico Survey of 40 top tech leaders who were attending a conference recently, they confirmed that they trust their devices because of the way their personal data is handled – it’s not secure.

Security
Lawmakers unimpressed with OPM’s cyber action report
The Office of Personnel Management released a “Cybersecurity Action Report” June 24 detailing the actions taken to shore up network security since the agency’s systems were hacked, though legislators aren’t satisfied with the efforts to-date… The Office of Personnel Management released a “Cybersecurity Action Report” June 24 detailing the actions taken to shore up network security since the agency’s systems were hacked, though legislators aren’t satisfied with the efforts to-date… Moving forward, OPM plans on instituting some significant security upgrades — such as continuous monitoring and requiring multifactor authentication across the enterprise — as well hiring a cybersecurity advisor and increasing engagement with the agency inspector general… Committee members weren’t satisfied though, stating that OPM should have done more, sooner to safeguard federal employee data.

–Boyd, A., Federal Times, 6.25.15

Massive Government Data Breach Even Worse than Reported
“A Congressional hearing on the Office of Personnel Management data breach has now revealed one of the worst data breaches in US history. The agency initially reported that the personal information of 4 million government employees was obtained, but news reports suggest the breach was much larger–exposing the social security numbers of more than 18 million people. EPIC has urged the White House and Congress to promote Privacy Enhancing Techniques that minimize or eliminate the collection of personally identifiable information. EPIC has also testified in Congress and the Senate in support of stronger security measures to protect personal data. “ Based on the WSJ article quoted below.
—epic.org, 6.25.15

Officials Masked Severity Of Hack
OPM definition of hack allowed administration to initially deny security records were stolen; FBI suspects China was behind breach
“The Obama administration for more than a week avoided disclosing the severity of an intrusion into federal computers by defining it as two breaches but divulging just one, said people familiar with the matter…”
http://www.wsj.com/articles/hack-defined-as-two-distinct-breaches-1435158334

Full text unavailable

Technology
Why Civic Tech Is The Next Big Thing
Governments have begun to invest in technology, in part to respond to taxpayers cry for more transparency. Technology like the cloud is helping local governments deal with huge data sets – allowing them to actually see into their future and budget accordingly. IDC (technology research company) claims that government will spend “an estimated $25.5 billion on information technology this year.” Governments are also receiving help from venture capitalists. “Andreessen Horowitz led a $15 million investment in OpenGov, a cloud-based software that helps governments visualize and track budgets…” His group has spoken out about the need to help governments deliver to the people.
–Montgomery, M., Forbes, 6.24.15

Study Offers New Evidence That Google Skews Search Results
A new study released dismisses any real doubt that Google is not skewing its local search results in favor of Google-created content. The Wall Street Journal uncovered an FTC report that stated “Google was, in fact, abusing its power in search and that it was causing “real harm to consumers and to innovation in the online search and advertising markets…The FTC ended the investigation in 2013 without bringing legal charges against Google,” (The Wall Street Journal “Inside the U.S. Antitrust Probe of Google, 3.9.15). Yelp took up the investigation of Google independently and those results are in the report from Harvard Business School professor Michael Luca, Columbia Law School Professor Tim Wu with Yelp’s data science team. The consensus is that unless Google users feel slighted the FTC will not intervene and why should they? The European Commission may do it for them as they’ve been “cracking down” on American technology companies.
–Lapowsky, I., 6.29.15
http://www.wired.com/2015/06/google-wu-study/

The Harvard Report
http://www.slideshare.net/lutherlowe/wu-l

This Month in Bayline: June 2015
It’s been a slow month for Bayline. Not only was there the Annual Conference, there was lively debate over the Change Consultants Recommendations. This leads us right to…

- Our President’s June Message has much to say. Most notable are the comments regarding the Recommendations Report. Also, the SLA’s brought back the Mentoring discussion list.
- More news from Intersect: from how librarians protect us from the NSA, to CEOs struggling to understand younger professionals, and more.
- Tweets and retweets from the SLA Annual Conference. Yes, Twitter actually has substance!
- The SLA Annual Conference itself, covered in three parts. Part one goes over the basics for convention-going, the benefits of SLA membership, and the Change

As for me, the Annual conference sounded like fun. If I can go with a friend, I think I’ll attend the next one.

Intersect Alert July 5, 2015

Freedom of Information:

Contrasting Views on Public Release of CRS Reports
Last year, the Congressional Research Service produced more than 1,000 new reports and more than 2,500 updates of previous reports for the use of Congress, according to the latest CRS annual report. Those figures do not include “approximately 62,000 requests for custom analysis and research” for individual members or Committees. “For all public policy issues, Congress could rely on the authoritative, objective, timely, and confidential support that CRS offered at each stage of the legislative process,” the CRS annual report said.

In principle, CRS should be able to release all of its general distribution reports to the public, while maintaining the confidentiality of analyses prepared for individual members at their request. This common-sense distinction is observed, for example, by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), CRS’s sister organization, which releases many reports but withholds others. “CBO makes its work widely available to the Congress and the public by releasing publicly all of its formal cost estimates and analytic reports,” CBO Director Keith Hall said in testimony earlier this month. “In some circumstances, though, the needs of the Congress lead CBO to keep the results of an analysis confidential,” he said. “Such analyses include informal cost estimates and other types of information produced to assist in the development of legislation.”

But some warn that a similarly straightforward, non-neurotic approach to public release of CRS reports could have unintended negative consequences. “Most reports are readily available through FAS, but that does not mean that the seemingly minor step of making them publicly available from the get-go won’t change the culture at CRS and how Congress uses CRS,” wrote Winslow Wheeler, a former GAO analyst who later worked with the Project on Government Oversight (which actually favors public distribution of CRS reports).

Open Access:

With the rise of Wikipedia as a first-stop source for scientific knowledge, it is important to compare its representation of that knowledge to that of the academic literature. This article approaches such a comparison through academic references made within the worlds 50 largest Wikipedias. Previous studies have raised concerns that Wikipedia editors may simply use the most easily accessible academic sources rather than sources of the highest academic status. We test this claim by identifying the 250 most heavily used journals in each of 26 research fields (4,721 journals, 19.4M articles in total) indexed by the Scopus database, and modeling whether topic, academic status, and accessibility make articles from these journals more or less likely to be referenced on Wikipedia. We find that, controlling for field and impact factor, the odds that an open access journal is referenced on the English Wikipedia are 47% higher
compared to closed access journals. Moreover, in most of the worlds Wikipedias a journals high status (impact factor) and accessibility (open access policy) both greatly increase the probability of referencing. Among the implications of this study is that the chief effect of open access policies may be to significantly amplify the diffusion of science, through an intermediary like Wikipedia, to a broad public audience. [http://arxiv.org/abs/1506.07608.](http://arxiv.org/abs/1506.07608)

Libraries:

**CENIC and the City and County of San Francisco Collaborate to Make San Francisco Public Library the First 10 Gigabit Library in the U.S.**

San Francisco Public Library (SFPL), the Corporation for Education Network Initiatives in California (CENIC), and the City and County of San Francisco announced today that they have collaborated to provide unprecedented direct connection at 10 gigabits per second access speed to CENIC’s California Research and Education Network (CalREN) and from there to the world. This unprecedented access to the ultra-high bandwidth CENIC network will provide patrons of the San Francisco Public Library with access to the latest and best resources across a wide array of needs and opportunities in areas such as business, government, science, health care, and education – opportunities to engage, create, invent, and learn. “The ability to access digital information is essential to every Californian and our remarkable libraries are places where access, the expertise of librarians, and a wealth of opportunities are available to all. Bandwidth should never constrain access and innovation in our libraries,” said CENIC President & CEO, Louis Fox. [http://sfpl.org/releases/2015/06/29/cenic-and-the-city-and-county-of-san-francisco-collaborate-to-make-san-francisco-public-library-the-first-10-gigabit-library-in-the-u-s/.](http://sfpl.org/releases/2015/06/29/cenic-and-the-city-and-county-of-san-francisco-collaborate-to-make-san-francisco-public-library-the-first-10-gigabit-library-in-the-u-s/)

Public Policy:

**OpenGov Voices: Top 5 federal opengov efforts**

In recent years there has been a lot of talk about opengov at the state, local and international levels, but when it comes to the federal government people just shake their heads and mutter. That is unfortunate, because a lot is happening at the federal level.

Here are five areas where the federal government is making major strides [details on each in original article].

- Innovative uses of technology
- Open courts
- Improved efforts to provide access to executive branch information
- Publishing federal spending information
- Open legislative information


Open Data:

**Canada launches ambitious research portal**

The Canadian Partnership Against Cancer has launched a research portal—the Canadian Partnership for Tomorrow Project (CPTP)—that includes health and biological data from 300,000 Canadians to help researchers study cancer and related chronic diseases. The data can be used to conduct long-term population health studies, which look at people’s health, lifestyle or health risks. As study participants age, some may develop diseases such as cancer or heart disease. Researchers can then look back at their health data to search for factors that are linked to disease onset. These types of studies have pinpointed links between smoking and lung cancer, for example. CPTP also will accelerate research, improve the competitiveness of Canadian research and provide opportunities for made-in-Canada discoveries.

In addition, the platform’s wealth of information has been collected in a way that researchers worldwide can apply CPTP data to their own work or combine CPTP data with other global cohorts, allowing them to delve into rare cancers and chronic diseases as well. [http://www.clinical-innovation.com/topics/analytics-quality/canada-launches-ambitious-research-portal.](http://www.clinical-innovation.com/topics/analytics-quality/canada-launches-ambitious-research-portal)

**Mapping 7 million gallons of crude oil spills: A thousand pipeline ruptures or spills reported nationwide in the past five years.**

On May 19, a pipeline owned by Plains All American burst near Santa Barbara, California, ultimately spilling more than 100,000 gallons, or some 2,400 barrels, of oil. Tens of thousands of gallons of the oil slid into a storm drain and flowed into the Pacific Ocean.

The spill garnered national coverage for good reason: It killed or injured hundreds of birds, sea lions and other wildlife, sullied a long stretch of beautiful coastline and happened near where the notorious 1969 spill that inflamed a burgeoning environmental movement occurred. But the spill was anything but unique. Over the past five years, there have been over 1,000 crude oil pipeline leaks and ruptures reported to the federal Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration.

Using data from the PHMSA, High Country News put together a map of every one of those spills in the U.S., from January 2010 to May of this year. [http://www.hcn.org/articles/spilling-oil-santa-barbara.](http://www.hcn.org/articles/spilling-oil-santa-barbara)
International Outlook:

Iran is Still Imprisoning Netizens and Blocking Sites After Two Years of ‘Reform’

Iran’s President Hassan Rouhani and a number of members of his cabinet, including foreign minister Javad Zarif and oil minister Bijan Zanganeh, are well-known for using popular social media networks—like Facebook—despite bans on their use in Iran. The moderate positions of many members of Rouhani’s administration have led to speculation over the past few years that the ban on many social media platforms may eventually be lifted.

Yet as Hassan Rouhani approaches the second anniversary of his election to the presidency on August 4, the promise of future reform remains unfulfilled. Iran’s recent treatment of average citizens who use social media suggests an alternative vision. In February, twelve Iranian Facebook users were arrested on charges of “spreading corruption, and [carrying out a] mission to change family lifestyles.” Eight more Facebook users were arrested last year on a variety of charges, including blasphemy, propaganda against the ruling system, and insulting the country’s supreme leader, and given sentences of between seven and 20 years in prison.


Research Shows Internet Shutdowns and State Violence Go Hand in Hand in Syria

EFF has noted and protested when authorities deliberately cut off Internet access in times of unrest. As a restraint on the freedom of expression of those affected, communication blackouts during protests are unconscionable. But recent research by Anita Gohdes, a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Mannheim, suggests that Internet shutdowns are becoming part of a toolkit for more violent repression.

By analyzing the daily documented killings by the government in the Syrian civil war in conjunction with available data on country-wide Internet outages between March 2011 and September 2013, Gohdes found that state violence spiked just before and during periods where connectivity was shut down. She argues that the regime has used the shutdowns as a tactical advantage in the midst of conflict with opposition groups, breaking down opposition communications networks to weaken their ability to respond effectively to attacks.

While these findings draw only from the Syrian conflict, they indicate that Internet outages have a human rights impact that exceeds the deprivation of speech: they can be used to aid state violence.


President’s July Message

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2015/07/presidents-july-message/ July 7, 2015 Categories: Bayline, Chapter Leadership Tags:

President’s message

Hello!

Well, June was crazy! In addition to graduations and other family events, as you read, SLA was a full and immersive experience.

Chapter News

At the last meeting, the Board voted to put the Diversity Committee on hiatus temporarily. Many of us are still looking forward to Coffee+Code, so send Bacilio your best.

We had an Annual Conference Recap on June 24 at Ropes & Gray, thanks to Cyndi Berglez. It was well attended and lively. Thanks to everyone who came. We are looking for someone to host another Annual Conference Recap at lunchtime. Contact me if you can accommodate a group of 12-15. I would love to have an event in the East Bay as well. Let’s spread the love and be engaged!

The Board will be meeting again on July 9. Check for notes later in the month.

I hope to see you at the tour of the Sutro Library on July 14. Registration is open. See the calendar for other events.

On My Mind

I was thinking about small businesses recently. When I shop I try to buy in my town so the sales tax benefits my town and, presumably, me. Then I realized that our profession is made up of a lot of small businesses. Do you support them? Do you encourage your management to hire librarian consultants for projects that are relevant? Do you hire temps from local
agencies? Think about how you can support those in your profession.

**Net Neutrality Rules become Effective**

Thanks to Marlene Harmon, the NOCALL Government Relations Chair. She wrote in a recent newsletter:

“As you may recall, the FCC published new net neutrality rules on April 13, and the two-month waiting period for them to become effective ended on Friday, June 12. The new rules subject Internet providers including cellular carriers to Title II of the Communications Act, the same rules which cover landline telephones, essentially classifying broadband as a utility. Several groups, including the United States Telecom Association, AT&T, and CenturyLink, have since sued the F.C.C. over these new rules, arguing that the F.C.C. exceeded its authority in reclassifying the Internet as a utility. On June 11, 2015, the D.C. Circuit Court denied the request of broadband providers to stay the F.C.C.’s Open Internet rules but agreed to address the issue on an expedited schedule. A full hearing on the issue is scheduled for later this year. You can read more about the ruling [here](http://www.nytimes.com) in the N.Y. Times. Consumers can file complaints against their internet providers [here](http://www.nytimes.com).”

What friend have you called recently? I want to hear about your informal meetings, so, please, make it your business to have lunch and email me with a tidbit for this column. Everything will be anonymous.

Thank you for reading and I look forward to seeing you soon!

**Jaye**

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**Reflections from a First Time Attendee at the SLA Annual Conference, by Rebecca Leung**


“Why are you here?” This question was addressed to me by a new acquaintance, a fellow graduate student. We met at a Simmons College reception for Gail Fairhurst, who had just delivered a thought-provoking speech about framing, a method of engaging in effective communication. Later, we laughed about her question. Taken out of context, it seems jarringly direct. Indeed, in print, I’m sure it appears even more so. However, I was not fazed in the least when she uttered the words. I kept thinking about her question and my reaction.

There are a couple of reasons that her question seemed to be a perfectly natural introduction. First of all, the Fairhurst lecture was a tangential event for the 2015 SLA Annual Conference in Boston. People made the journey from all over the world to attend this meeting of special librarians. Over the course of the conference, I met people from diverse geographic locales such as Switzerland, New York City, and Carson City, Nevada. There must be a reason that all of these people traveled from so far away to spend a few days together. With this in mind, what was my reason?

Secondly, an unusual or straightforward question can be a great way to break the ice. After listening to a speech about how to be conscious of communication style and undertones, this upfront question was playful and authentic. It created an immediate connection between us, two people who were strangers five minutes earlier.

These two factors sum up the epitome of my experience at the SLA Annual Conference. It was all about personal motivation and connections. The connections were of the interpersonal variety, but I am also referring to intellectual inspiration, the connection you feel when you attend a presentation and think, “YES!”

So why was I there? As a student who has just finished my second semester in pursuit of an MLIS degree from San José State University, I am eager to delve into the world of library and information science. This is my second career, the first being in architectural lighting. My first career gave me a background in the business world; it taught me that people are the key to enjoying what I do. I thrive on a dynamic working environment, and continuous education is a part of that. After years of working in the same industry, I decided to pursue a different avenue, one that I have loved since childhood: the library world.

My intention in attending the conference was to meet people that are working in libraries and to learn what they like about their jobs. I anticipated that attending seminars would be a large part of that. In fact, I drew up a comprehensive itinerary, including four pages of seminars I wanted to attend.

Now that you know what my intention was, let’s get down to the reality, the nitty gritty once that ribbon is cut and hundreds of people rush onto the conference room floor. For me, the hard reality was that I could not attend two seminars at once. I didn’t time it, but I would say that it would take at least ten minutes to walk from one side of the Convention Center to the...
other. This created a problem when I wanted to attend a legal research seminar, but it overlapped with a personal branding seminar, which was on the other side of the building. I found that session-hopping left me feeling drained and a little disappointed; it felt as if I missed the essence of both sessions, rather than benefitting from both.

It appeared as though my well-planned list of seminars was backfiring. Then I remembered to do something that I would recommend as absolutely crucial in the conference experience: I took the time to appreciate everything around me. I began to notice the connections that just seemed to happen if I reached out and talked to somebody new, or if I stayed in a session until the absolute end.

Meeting librarians on the Silver Line.

Like any local Bostonian, I commuted on the “T”. Claiming the distinction of the country’s oldest subway line, the “T” crisscrosses underneath the city. I transferred two times to get from my room in the North End to the World Trade Center station near the Convention Center. The last transfer was to the Silver Line, a unique piece of Boston’s transit. On any map, it appears to be a subway; however, in actuality, the Silver Line is a bus. As you can imagine, the uninitiated might be a tad perplexed. The first time I attempted to ride the Silver Line, I must have appeared as confused as I felt. My rescuer? A librarian headed to SLA. It was an unusual way to make an acquaintance, and I felt an immediate closeness in our joined experience. Coincidentally, I completed the karmic circle the next day when I noticed a lost librarian and helped guide him to our mutual destination.

Staying in a session until the last question is asked.

I attended a seminar on grant writing. This is something with which I have no experience and yet, even as a “newbie,” I had a sense that finding money is important for libraries. At the very end of the session, a woman stood up and wanted to know how she could write a grant for her specific situation. Her corporation had stumbled upon a trove of old photographs of New York. She wanted to hire someone to archive this collection. Suddenly, I was very alert! Old photographs and history are my passions. After the seminar, I approached the woman with the suggestion of recruiting a student intern. She was kind enough to offer me her card, and let me know that the project would be mine, if I lived in New York!

A lesson of perspective.

Another seminar I attended was entitled Get the Picture: Use Your Taxonomy to Classify Images. The speaker engaged the audience in a series of exercises to think of metadata that would describe the image on the screen. One of the images she presented was partially obstructed at first. It showed a man, hunched over and not facing the camera. An initial glance left me with a sad, lonely impression. However, once the full photograph was revealed, the audience could see from his shadow that the man was hunched over because he was playing a saxophone. The image went from being one of sadness, to one of joy and creativity. It was a lesson to pay attention to the context when creating taxonomy, a lesson of perspective.

The answer to why I was there is not something I could have anticipated prior to the conference. Upon reflection, I know that I was there for everything I learned about grant writing, digitization, image taxonomy, and how to research legal information on Twitter! But I was also there for those unexpected moments when the pieces of the puzzle came together. I was there to make meaningful connections with people and information.

I would like to sincerely thank the SF Bay Region Chapter of SLA and Anna Fleming at Annual Reviews for enabling my attendance at the conference with the 2015 Travel Stipend Award. I would also like to thank my conference mentors Cindy Hill and Marlene Vogelsang who graciously introduced me to my first library conference!
forward, and they have since been revised by the board based on feedback from SLA members.

When we made the original recommendations report available to SLA members in May, we invited your comments and suggestions. The written comments alone now total nearly 250 pages, and many of you shared your thoughts verbally with us at business and networking events in Boston during our recent annual conference.

The breadth and depth of your comments and suggestions are a testament to the passion you feel for SLA and the value it provides you in your work and career. So, on behalf of the entire Board of Directors, I want to say thank you to each and every one of you who weighed in on the recommendations report, and also to the chapters, divisions, and other units who shared their comments. You have provided the board with a wealth of ideas that will serve SLA well as we move forward with implementing changes that we all know must be made.

I also want to thank the two change consultants, Cindy Shamel and Ulla de Stricker, for developing a report that was sweeping in its scope and bold in its purpose. Their report started a conversation within SLA—a conversation that was long overdue—about charting a new direction for all of us and making SLA even more valuable and necessary to special librarians in the years ahead.

The conversation we have been having has revealed some differences among us, but it has also made clear that we agree on some critical points. One is that we must make far-reaching changes—to our business model, our program and service offerings, our headquarters operations, and so on. Another, equally important point is that SLA's strength and vitality lie in our diversity and specifically in the divisions, chapters and caucuses through which we share and express our interests.

These two points of agreement will drive the process of implementing the changes we will make over the next couple of years. Working together—members, units, the board, and SLA staff—we will put into place revised processes and procedures that will further invigorate our diverse chapters and divisions while also strengthening the ability of SLA as a whole to meet the professional needs of the global special librarian community.

The first step in this process is the board meeting on July 14. At that meeting, the board will actually take as many as three votes:

1. First, the board will vote on whether to receive the “Board-Revised Recommendations.” (For those unfamiliar with board actions, “Receive” means the board has read the report and acknowledges the work done, but has not taken any action on it.)

2. If the board members agree to receive the board-revised recommendations report, we will then vote on whether to accept a high-level document called the “Road Map for the Future of SLA.” Prepared by the board and SLA staff, the Road Map offers a summary of the steps the board intends to follow in moving SLA forward. These steps include a focus on short-term actions we can take now to add value for members and ensure that SLA can become more nimble in responding to trends and market shifts in the future. (“Accept” means the board approves the content/direction of the document and will now work toward implementation.)

3. If the board votes to accept the Road Map and receive the board-revised recommendations, we will then vote to direct the change consultants to work with the board and SLA staff to prepare a multi-phase implementation plan. That plan will be shared with you on the SLA Website.

From that point forward, the board will be working with SLA members and staff on each phase of the implementation plan. We will draw on the recommendations report, the ideas you shared with us during the comment period, and any new suggestions that come forward as we proceed. Together, we will chart a new direction for SLA, one that celebrates and strengthens our diversity while also revitalizing our core operations that serve our common interests.

On behalf of the entire Board of Directors, I want to encourage you to continue participating in this critical process of transformation. The energy and passion you have shown during the past two months have been empowering to us. You have convinced us that while we may disagree about some of the details, we all believe that SLA can and will be an even more essential and positive voice for our community in the future.

Thank you for your time, your ideas, and your continued commitment to SLA. I look forward to working with you in the months ahead.

Jill Strand
2015 SLA President

If you have any questions or comments about this e-mail, we would like your feedback. Please share your comments with dnewcomb1@sla.org.

Share this:
Privacy:

Hacking Team Breach Shows a Global Spying Firm Run Amok

Few news events can unleash more schadenfreude within the security community than watching a notorious firm of hackers-for-hire become a hack target themselves. In the case of the freshly disemboweled Italian surveillance firm Hacking Team, the company may also serve as a dark example of a global surveillance industry that often sells to any government willing to pay, with little regard for that regime’s human rights record. On Sunday night, unidentified hackers published a massive, 400 gigabyte trove on bittorrent of internal documents from the Milan-based Hacking Team, a firm long accused of unethical sales of tools that help governments break into target computers and phones. The breached trove includes executive emails, customer invoices and even source code; the company’s twitter feed was hacked, controlled by the intruders for nearly 12 hours, and used to distribute samples of the company’s hacked files. The security community spent Sunday night picking through the spy firm’s innards and in some cases finding what appear to be new confirmations that Hacking Team sold digital intrusion tools to authoritarian regimes. Those revelations may be well timed to influence an ongoing U.S. policy debate over how to control spying software, with a deadline for public debate on new regulations coming this month.

One document pulled from the breached files, for instance, appears to be a list of Hacking Team customers along with the length of their contracts. These customers include Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kazakhstan, Morocco, Nigeria, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, and several United States agencies including the DEA, FBI and Department of Defense.

Open Access:

Birkbeck awarded $741,000 grant for new humanities open-access model of publishing

Birkbeck, University of London has been awarded a three-year grant of $741,000 from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to cement and expand a new model for open-access publishing in the humanities disciplines. The Open Library of Humanities platform, directed by Dr. Martin Paul Eve and Dr. Caroline Edwards – both faculty members in Birkbeck’s School of Arts – will allow access to peer-reviewed scholarly journal articles without requiring readers to pay. Unlike many emerging “gold” open-access models, the Open Library of Humanities does not charge authors to publish. Instead, it is funded by an international library consortium whose members recognise that the greatest benefit for the academy and society will only be realised when access to scholarly work is not based on an exclusionary pay-to-read system.

Dutch universities start their Elsevier boycott plan

“We are entering a new era in publications”, said Koen Becking, chairman of the Executive Board of Tilburg
University in October. On behalf of the Dutch universities, he and his colleague Gerard Meijer negotiate with scientific publishers about an open access policy. They managed to achieve agreements with some publishers, but not with the biggest one, Elsevier. Today, they start their plan to boycott Elsevier.

State secretary Sander Dekker of Education wants all publications by Dutch scientists to be available through Open Access in 2024. He wants this to happen through the ‘Gold Open Access’ route: the university or the financier of the research pays to get published. This way, there are no costs for subscriptions, and other parties can access the content. At the moment, the content of most scientific journals can currently be found behind publishers’ paywalls. Universities pay annual subscription fees for access.

Gerard Meijer, who handles the negotiations with Elsevier, says that the parties have not been able to come close to an agreement. As a first step in boycotting the publisher, the Association of Universities in the Netherlands (VSNU) has asked all scientists that are editor in chief of a journal published by Elsevier to give up their post.


Open Data:

Open Data Bills Move Forward in California

While California may be home to some of the most aggressively forward-thinking tech companies in the world, that enthusiasm for innovation hasn’t carried over to the public sector. State and local governments have been frustratingly slow to make public data available online. There hasn’t been anything close to a statewide standard, leaving individual agencies to voluntarily develop open data policies, often in an inconsistent and piecemeal fashion, or not at all. That would change if the California legislature passes two bills, S.B. 573 and S.B. 272, which would put state and local government bodies respectively on the path to open data.

The general philosophy behind open data is that datasets maintained by the government agencies are public records and should be, by default, machine-readable and downloadable from public websites. Open data allows for greater analysis and oversight by citizen watchdogs, researchers, and journalists, and creates many opportunities for civic-minded coders to create new tools for interacting with the government. While these bills aren’t quite as robust as transparency zealots like us would prefer, they do put California on the right track to greater transparency, accountability, civic engagement, and innovation by expanding public access to government data.


Internet Access:

Why City Libraries Are Lending WiFi Hotspots to Low-Income Residents

Libraries have always played a critical community role in offering low-income residents access to information. Although most libraries offer free public internet access, computers are in high demand and often have time limits. Coupled with the fact that one in four households do not have internet access at home, this may explain why many library patrons often gather outside libraries to access public WiFi after normal operating hours.

In response, libraries are developing innovative programs to help close the digital divide. Hotspot Lending Programs offer low-income patrons access to devices that provide wireless broadband internet access at home; these hotspot devices are pocket-sized, easy to use, and connect multiple devices. While the borrowing requirements differ among the different libraries operating these programs, borrowers are generally eligible if they don’t have their own broadband access and are registered in library educational programs.


Pew Study: Low Income and Rural Populations Less Likely to Have Internet Access

The Internet has become an integral part of American life. Indeed, according to the latest Pew Internet demographics study, 84 percent of Americans have internet access. While the percentage of Americans with Internet access has remained largely the same since 2012, an analysis of 15 years of historical data indicates that the digital divide is still a reality, particularly among low-income and rural populations. The young, college educated and affluent are all more likely to use the Internet. In fact, more than 90 percent of those surveyed in the 18-49 age range reporting regular Internet use.

According to the report, household income and community type are also indicators of how likely someone is to use the
internet. Urban communities are more connected than suburban and rural communities. Likewise, those with an income of $75,000 or more are more connected than those making less than $30,000 annually. Full report, http://www.adweek.com/socialtimes/pew-study-low-income-and-rural-populations-less-likely-to-have-internet-access/623238.

Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety.

The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.

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State Librarian Visits Joint Chapter Meeting, by Craig Cruz Jr.


May 28, 2015

California State librarian Greg Lucas spoke to members of SLA-San Francisco Bay Region and SLA-Silicon Valley on May 28, at the annual joint meeting of the two chapters. Despite a delay in the arrival of food at the venue, the members gathered at Fattoria e Mare in Burlingame were eager to hear from the state’s top librarian, who was appointed, with neither an MLIS or MLS, by Governor Jerry Brown. (He is currently earning his MLIS through the program at San Jose State’s School of Information.)

Lucas gave a wide-ranging talk that touched on many topics, including the state’s ethnic and linguistic diversity, the library’s robust services to blind patrons, and librarians’ efforts to decrease the high rate of illiteracy and low literacy in California. He mentioned Mari Riddle, whose work with the Centro Latino for Literacy earned her a 2014 James Irvine Foundation Leadership Award. Ms. Riddle and the organization she leads help adult non-English speaking Latinos learn to read in Spanish so they can improve their professional skills. Their new literacy in their native language serves as a base from which they can acquire English language fluency.

However, Riddle isn’t a librarian, which underlines a theme that emerged from Lucas’s talk: he is outward-looking, seeking to learn from and partner with people and organizations that are not attached to libraries, but from which librarians can learn. At another point, in response to a question, Lucas said that he would consider seeking private funding or sponsorships to pay for the preservation of rare items in the state library’s collection. Among the items needing such work is a double elephant folio of Audubon’s Birds of America.

Over his five year term, Lucas said he’d like to start a podcast from the state library, perhaps hosting it himself. He’d also like to better publicize the depth of the library’s collection, taking prized items, like the Audubon folio, the First, Second, Third, and Fourth folios of Shakespeare, and a first edition King James Bible, on the road, especially to rural areas and other parts of the state that have been historically overlooked by many traveling cultural exhibits.

A short question-and-answer period led to discussions of the difficulty in attracting prison librarians – a particular problem in decreasing the 70% low literacy rate among the state’s incarcerated, and separately, of the need to increase the number of teacher librarians (Lucas said there are currently 807 teacher librarians for California’s six million public school K-12 students). A broader conversation about the need for librarians – in all settings – to continually promote their value to their patrons was cut short by the late hour of the meeting’s end.

Links to Summer Reading Lists, by Jan Keiser

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2015/07/links-to-summer-reading-lists/ July 18, 2015 Categories: Bayline, Chapter Programs & Events Tags: books and reading
Intersect Alert July 19, 2015


Freedom of Information:

CFPB releases new database of consumer complaints
The Consumer Finance Protection Bureau (CFPB) recently announced that it was releasing consumer complaints filed with the bureau against financial institutions – more than 400,000 complaints sent to nearly 3,000 companies, to be exact. Here at Sunlight, we were excited not only by the fact that these data were being released, but also by the multiple easy-to-use formats – you can search, get bulk data and pull from an API – and the variety of data being made available. This newfound information is a great avenue for the CFPB to amplify the voice of consumers and open up useful data in a useful way. The full text of complaints is available from the CFPB’s data source starting in 2015. If it were available earlier, we could use a text classification algorithm to attempt to reclassify complaints into debt collection and other new categories (credit reporting and payday loans were also added since the portal was launched).

How Microsoft Bing Censors the Middle East
Shortly after Microsoft Bing launched in 2009, researchers at the Berkman Center for Internet & Society found that the search engine was enforcing “safe search” in a number of countries, including across the whole of the Middle East and North Africa. The researchers claimed that Microsoft was filtering “Arabic and English keywords that could yield sex- or LGBT-related images and content.” As a result of the paper, Microsoft pulled back the censorship in certain places and corrected their laughable mislabeling of the region.

Six years later, it seems the censorship is back. Users in some Arab countries – as well as a handful of other locales—who attempt to search for such a keyword receive a message that reads: “Your country or region requires a strict Bing SafeSearch setting, which filters out results that might return adult content. To learn more about SafeSearch requirements in your country or region, see How Bing Delivers Search Results.” Microsoft is going above and beyond the legal requirements of at least some of the countries in the region. Neither Egypt nor Lebanon, for example, block most sexual content or require intermediaries to do so. What Microsoft appears to be doing is blocking content based on the requirements of the strictest countries in the region.


Pilot program will publicize all FOIA responses at select federal agencies

Last week, the Obama administration quietly announced it is trying a new policy that will increase public disclosure of government information requested under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). During a six-month pilot period, seven executive departments and agencies will start publishing all responses to FOIA requests – a promising shift from present practice. Currently, federal agencies are only required to publicly share released records that are requested three or more times. The new policy, known as “release to one, release to all,” removes this threshold for some agencies and instead requires that any records released to even one requester also be posted publicly online. If successful, the pilot could be implemented more broadly across the executive branch and increase public access to important information about government activity. The results of the pilot will be made public and participating agencies plan to be transparent throughout their implementation of the program. Members of the public are also invited to submit feedback, ideas, comments or suggestions to the Justice Department’s Office of Information Policy.


Groups Say EPA Can Require the Pesticide Industry to Disclose All Hazardous Ingredients to Safeguard Our Health

A new lawsuit is urging the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to require pesticide companies to disclose all of the hazardous ingredients each product. The case, filed by the Center for Environmental Health, Beyond Pesticides, and Physicians for Social Responsibility, points out that the EPA already has the authority to require industry to disclose hazardous pesticide additives, even if they’re not designated as the main, “active” ingredients in a product. In order to make pesticides easier to use, manufacturers almost always mix additives with the product’s active ingredient (the one designed to kill weeds or pests). These additional ingredients can make pesticides easier to spray, more readily stick to plant leaves, less likely to wash off in the rain, and last longer in storage. Often referred to as “inert” or “other” ingredients, additives can make up as much as 80 percent of a pesticide product. The EPA usually doesn’t require companies to study these ingredients when registering pesticides for sale, so they are often included in products without being tested for safety. This lack of safety testing can have significant consequences. A number of scientific studies have shown that the mixture of “inert” ingredients with active pesticide ingredients can cause health problems that the active ingredients do not cause on their own. These mixtures can damage the nervous system, heart and blood vessels, and genetic material like our DNA. Pesticide companies regularly claim that disclosing specific inert ingredients on a product label would lead to unfair competition because their formulations are “trade secrets.” EPA rarely challenges those claims, and companies only list the overall percentage of additives in a product, not the names and percentages of each individual ingredient.


Privacy:

OPM Officials: Database Breach Exposed Information of 21.5M

On Thursday, the Office of Personnel Management announced that 21.5 million individuals were affected by a data breach targeting the agency’s security clearance database, which contains personal information including health history. According to a government official who asked to remain anonymous, investigators uncovered the breach while determining the extent of a separate incident that officials disclosed on June 4. The affected database contains copies of Standard Form 86, a questionnaire filled out by applicants for national security positions. The forms can include health data, such as treatments or hospitalizations for “an emotional or mental health condition,” among other information. In addition, the forms include information on applicants’ contacts and relatives; and Social Security numbers. Security experts and some officials say evidence from the two incidents suggest the cyberattacks were carried out by Chinese hackers. Individuals who are affected by the breach will be eligible for no-cost credit and identity theft monitoring. In addition, senators from Maryland and Virginia and Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-D.C.) have introduced legislation that would offer $5 million in identity theft insurance and provide no-cost

lifetime identity protection to those affected.

US to begin talks on drone privacy standards
A U.S. government agency will start its third attempt to develop voluntary privacy standards for an emerging area of technology, this time with a series of meetings on drone privacy scheduled to begin Aug. 3. The U.S. National Telecommunication and Information Administration has already hosted similar discussions on mobile app privacy and facial recognition privacy but with mixed results. Privacy groups pulled out of the facial recognition discussions in June, saying the process wouldn’t lead to enough protections for consumers. It’s unclear how many privacy and consumer groups will take part in the discussions about drones.
One critic of the NTIA’s past privacy efforts said the Obama administration is “flying blind when it comes to privacy.” With the privacy groups walking out of the facial recognition talks, the intended multistakeholder discussions have become “uni” stakeholder, with only industry represented, said Jeffrey Chester, executive director of the Center for Digital Democracy, one of the groups that walked out.

Open Access:

National Archives To Open Additional Rosenberg Grand Jury Transcripts
The National Archives will make available four additional formerly secret grand jury testimony transcripts of two witnesses from the trial of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg. The opening of these records consists of 105 pages of transcripts of grand jury proceedings from August 1950 through March 1951.
One transcript of the testimony of David Greenglass and two transcripts of Max Elitcher are being opened in full. One additional transcript of Max Elitcher contains redactions on three pages to protect the personal privacy of other persons who may still be living. These additional records are being opened now in response to a court order (dated May 19, 2015) ordering their release because the witnesses are now deceased.

Libraries:

The calamity of the disappearing school libraries
From coast to coast, elementary and high school libraries are being neglected, defunded, repurposed, abandoned and closed. The kindest thing that can be said about this is that it’s curious; the more accurate explanation is that it’s just wrong and very foolish.
A 2011 survey of 25 separate statewide studies shows that students who attend schools with libraries that are staffed by certified librarians score better on reading and writing tests than students in schools without library services. And it is lower-income students who benefit the most. This clear empirical evidence has had little impact on budget cutters, however. They act – mistakenly – as though there is no link between libraries and educational achievement.
Here are the numbers and the arguments to which they need to pay attention.
The number of school libraries in New York City has dropped from nearly 1,500 in 2005 to around 700 in 2014. Over a recent five-year period, 43% of school librarian positions in the Houston Independent School District evaporated. Ohio has lost more than 700 school library positions over a decade.
California has hemorrhaged school librarians to the point where it now has the worst ratio – 1-to-7,000 librarians-to-students – of any state in the nation. At work in the minds of budget cutters may be the hoary falsehood that the internet has made the need for libraries obsolete. But those who think that the internet replaces a library must think it is okay to use WebMD instead of going to a doctor.
Until now, federal education policy and legislation have neglected to support the role of school librarians. That needs to change. We need a national agenda and our elected officials to take a stand and ensure equity of library services and certified school librarians to teach the next generation to find and apply information to solve problems, think critically, and develop innovations.

Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety.
The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.

Public Policy:

U.S. House votes to ban state GMO food labeling laws in overwhelming vote

The U.S. House voted overwhelmingly Thursday to ban state laws that force food makers to place labels on products that contain genetically modified organisms (GMOs). Passage of the bill is a victory for the food and chemical industries, including many of Minnesota’s major food companies, which had lobbied for the ban. GMO labeling opponents had lost a court battle to stop state labeling laws before turning to Congress.

Opponents of GMO labeling outspent supporters $30 million to $10 million in an aggressive lobbying effort, according to the open records group MapLight. The vote was 275 to 150 with six of Minnesota’s eight representatives voting against labeling requirements.

The industry complained that individual state standards would be costly and confusing. But many in the food business also said any kind of mandatory GMO labeling requirement – even a single federal standard – was unfair, because it suggested that GMOs are not as safe or healthy as conventional food.

Supporters of labeling decried the bill’s passage as a blow to consumer choice and a usurpation of states’ rights.


Reporters Committee launches interactive online map of police body camera laws and policies

The Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press has launched an interactive, online map charting the policies of more than 100 police departments and laws in nearly every state regarding public access to police body camera videos. “In the past year, we’ve seen dramatic growth in the number of police departments implementing bodycam programs. Unfortunately, not all police departments and lawmakers appreciate the importance of ensuring public access to bodycam video and other public records that are generated by those programs,” said Reporters Committee Litigation Director Katie Townsend. “Compiling bodycam policies, laws and regulations into one user-friendly database will make it easier to identify best practices to achieve the transparency and accountability these programs are intended to promote,” Townsend added. The online map is made possible by a grant from the Sigma Delta Chi Foundation of the Society of Professional Journalists.

Built with Google Maps, the map shows which states have passed bodycam legislation, which are considering action and which have nothing on the books. Clicking on a state will bring up links to legislation and other materials, if available.

Similarly, by clicking on individual cities users can quickly see police department policies regarding the release of bodycam video to the public. Also included are court decisions, as relevant.


Obama administration OKs Arctic drilling, but imposes big constraints on Shell

Shell is set to launch a new round of Arctic drilling within days, after receiving critical federal permits that could force the company to halt work thousands of feet above potential oil deposits. Under the limited Interior Department drilling permits, Shell can only focus on one well at a time, and it cannot penetrate potential oil- and gas-bearing zones some 8,000 feet underground, at least until a damaged company-contracted icebreaker returns from repairs in Oregon. That ship, the MSV Fennica, is meant to keep ice from encroaching on Shell’s drilling operations and is designed to install critical equipment on top of a damaged well in an emergency.

Federal regulators insist that emergency capping stack must be on hand and ready to deploy within 24 hours of an incident. But they decided to follow the same approach used during Shell’s last attempt at Arctic exploration in 2012 when other emergency equipment was unavailable, by allowing initial top hole drilling only. Three years ago, that meant Shell’s wells stopped about 1,300 feet down. The permits illustrate again the Obama administration’s struggle to balance oil and gas development on land and at sea with a green agenda, including strengthening environmental protections and combating climate change. The drilling approval disappointed some advocates of Arctic oil exploration as well as environmentalists who say it is too risky.

http://fuelfix.com/blog/2015/07/22/obama-administration-oks-shell-drilling-but-imposes-big-constraints/#34370101=0.

Throwing a Wrench in the Revolving Door

Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) and Rep. Elijah Cummings (D-MD) recently introduced the Financial Services Conflict of Interest Act, which takes aim at the “reversing door.” This term refers to people who move from the private sector, to public agencies or Capitol Hill offices, and back to private companies, often bringing undue corporate influence along for the ride.

Sens. Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) and Brian Schatz (D-HI) cosponsored the legislation. The problem is especially significant in the financial services industry. Former employees of the biggest banks – who were directly responsible for the Great Recession – are making decisions that could enrich their past colleagues, Warren recently noted. “No more paying people off to remember their Wall Street friends while they run our government,” she said during a keynote address to the annual Netroots Nation conference on July 18. The Baldwin-Cummings bill targets employees of banks, financial management firms, credit rating agencies, insurance companies, and others in the financial industry.


Despite Obamacare Promise, Transgender People Have Trouble Getting Some Care

Transgender people are still fighting for access to crucial health services despite the Affordable Care Act’s requirement that insurance companies not deny coverage based on gender or
health history. The issue stems from the fact that enrollees must check a single gender box when they sign up for a plan sold on the individual or small group markets, according to advocates and health care providers.

“What happens is that the health insurance companies have specific codes and they put you in as female or male; you only get services that go with that code,” said Robin Maril, senior legislative counsel at the Human Rights Campaign, an advocacy group for lesbian, bisexual, gay and transgender people. Medicare already has codes that allow providers to identify the person getting, say, a pap smear or a mammogram, as transgender, which allows the claim to be processed, according to the AAPC, a trade group representing physician-based medical coders. Transgender advocates and the AAPC (a trade group representing physician-based medical coders) say the same can be done with private insurers. Though there’s no reliable data quantifying the relationship between the coding issues and denials, Sarah MacCarthy, a RAND Corporation health researcher said, “there’s a lot of anecdotal evidence that it’s challenging to access services, and if even if they are accessed, they continue to be of low quality.” Some plans and providers say they are committed to changing that. http://khn.org/news/despite-obamacare-promise-transgender-people-have-trouble-getting-some-care/.

Privacy:

Tech leaders want privacy – but only for themselves
A growing number of technology companies are taking an increasingly brazen attitude toward customer privacy, gathering information on unsuspecting customers – even when customers are not actively using a company’s app or software. Personal privacy can survive in the digital age. It is more than a quaint notion of a bygone era – it is a fundamental right that remains one of the pillars of our democracy. But it will require vigilance to protect our personal privacy.

The latest transgression comes from the ride-hailing company Uber, which has revamped its privacy policy to effectively say it intends to track users of the service wherever they go, even after they have arrived at their Uber destination. Even users who turn off their GPS location finder could still be tracked through their phone Internet Protocol address, which the privacy policy says offers a “unique identifier” for each user. Uber will also access your contact list and market Uber to all your contacts. This is the new policy from the company where a senior vice president recently floated the idea of spending $1 million to dig up damaging information that would discredit journalists who are critical of the company. http://www.sfchronicle.com/opinion/article/Tech-leaders-want-privacy-but-only-for-6402062.php.

Is there a reasonable expectation of privacy when you “pocket-dial” someone?
Ever get a call when a friend accidentally dialed your number from their pocket? Ever make the mistake yourself: “pocket-dialing” (aka “butt-dialing”) a friend? Such calls can be annoying when you are on the receiving end, and potentially exposing when you’re the one making the call. As a legal matter, does someone who pocket dials an acquaintance have a reasonable expectation of privacy in the content of the call? Does the recipient of such a call violate laws against intercepting electronic communications if they stay on the line and record its contents? The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit confronted some of these questions in Huff v. Spaw.

The relevant statute (“Title III”) make it unlawful to “intentionally intercept[] . . . any wire, oral, or electronic communication.” For purposes of this provision, “intercept” means “the aural or other acquisition of the contents of any wire, electronic, or oral communication through the use of any electronic, mechanical, or other device,” and a covered communication consists of “any oral communication uttered by a person exhibiting an expectation that such communication is not subject to interception under circumstances justifying such expectation.” Title III also makes it unlawful to intentionally disclose the contents of a communication that was unlawfully intercepted. https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/volokh-conspiracy/wp/2015/07/25/is-there-a-reasonable-expectation-of-privacy-when-you-pocket-dial-someone/.

Freedom of Information:

Increasing Number of Americans Support Banning Books
An early 2015 poll of more than 2,000 Americans has revealed a disturbing trend: Since 2011, the percentage of Americans who believe that there are books that should be banned has increased from 18% to 28%. Perhaps even more disturbing, only 48% of Americans stated that books should never be banned. The poll, which was conducted in March 2015 by The Harris Poll, asked 2,244 adults about their views on movies, television, video games, and books. In particular, the poll asked respondents whether they felt any of these media should ever be banned. Books were the primary target of the respondents who support bans; video games came in second, with 24% of respondents supporting bans. Only 16% of respondents supported bans for movies or television. The poll doesn’t speak to why the urge to ban books is on the rise. It’s a complex issue that can be difficult to define. Some people challenge books because it’s a way to exert control over a life they otherwise have little sway over. Other people challenge books because of deeply held religious and political beliefs. Comics are especially vulnerable to challenges because of fundamental misunderstandings about the format and because it’s easy to target a comic over a single image. http://cbldf.org/2015/07/increasing-number-of-americans-support-banning-books/ and http://www.theharrispoll.com/health-and-life/Censorship_2015.html.
Libraries:

**App could turn America’s poor into lifelong readers**

American publishers are teaming up with charities and libraries to give away thousands of ebooks to low-income students. This spring, the Obama administration announced an ambitious project to create a free digital book collection for four- to 18-year-olds from poor families. Publishers have donated $250m worth of popular and award-winning titles, which will be made available for a three-year period on a specially designed app, produced with the New York Public Library. Public domain titles, spruced up with new art and typography, will be accessible for students from all backgrounds. The app will have to be pretty enticing to lure teenagers off Snapchat, but it’s certainly a laudable scheme: the White House talks of reading for pleasure, learning outside the classroom and “encouraging kids to become lifelong readers”. It’s part of a $10bn publicly and privately funded digital learning initiative called ConnectEd, one of the aims of which is to get 99% of students connected to high-speed broadband within five years. Libraries and nonprofit organisations have been enlisted to make sure the service reaches the people it needs to.


Internet Access:

This search engine saves the environment while it finds your info

Some people prefer Google when exploring the Web. Some like Yahoo or Bing. But now more than 2.5 million people a month are using Ecosia, because every time they click “Search” they help plant a tree. Ecosia donates an impressive 80 percent of its income, after expenses, to programs that sows trees in Africa. The money, up to $75,000 a month (most of it from ads), is responsible for four new trees every minute, according to Ecosia spokesperson Jacey Bingler. That’s up from one tree a minute just two years ago. Ecosia’s goal is to sprout 1 billion trees by 2020. Originally it hoped to reach that level by this year, but planting costs were high and users did not quickly flock to the search engine. That is all picking up steam today. “We celebrated our first million trees in November 2014, the second million already in May 2015,” Bingler noted.

http://www.salon.com/2015/07/26/this_search_engine_saves_the_environment_while_it_finds_your_info

President’s August Message

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2015/08/presidents-august-message/

President's message

Hello!

I have been thinking lately about value. Note that the kind of “what is the value of librarians” messaging with which we have been bombarded for the past several years is NOT what I am talking about today. That is a conversation for a whole different post and I am probably not the person to write it.

I am talking about day to day value. I recently was prescribed a splint to wear as my doctor and PT try to figure out a problem I am having with my elbow. On the good side, my elbow feels A LOT better when I wear the splint. On the bad side, I have to wear it as much as possible, especially on the computer and it slows me down. This new body configuration has made me think about the value of this body of mine. It has also made me think about the value of my typing speed. While I am no Tammy Super Typist, I can hold my own, which gets me quickly through the reams of emails I receive daily. Now email and other typing is taking me much longer.

Recently I received a GREAT report from one of my Advisory Board Liaisons. She simply sent me an email, but it was a very complete and I appreciated her efforts, because I didn’t have to hound her about details.

What do you value and what would you do if you lost it or if the functionality was reduced?

Membership

At our recent Board meeting, we received a report that since June of 2014 we have lost 9% of our members. This was depressing since we have worked hard to provide you will programming and services you have requested. We have added exceptional new members, but we have lost more. That 9% is NET after the gains of the new members. If you are reading this and are not a member, please email our President-Elect and tell us why. We want a vibrant, tight and successful chapter.

Competencies
I am on the HQ Competencies Task Force. We are revising the Competencies that were developed and revised in 2003 and 2014. These competencies inform curricula at Library Schools, job descriptions and department structures. WE NEED YOUR HELP!!! The task force has developed an 8 question survey where we ask for your opinion. Don’t you love to give your opinion? Please give it by clicking the link above. Pass the survey link to your friends as well.

The following message about this was posted to the Leadership list:

“The SLA Competencies Task Force was formed to “refresh and revamp” the 2003 competencies document, and to make the competencies more useful and accessible to members. A revised version of the competencies was submitted to the Board for review in June 2014, and is a work in progress.

The task force wants to hear your thoughts about info pro competencies, ways to use competencies, and more.

Please take this brief survey we’ve developed. It should take you fewer than 10 minutes to complete.

Don’t forget to forward this message to your unit members!

Thank you for your participation. Please contact Dave Shumaker with any questions.”

Chapter News

In the Strategic Plan, you asked for more professional development. Marlene and her fabulous PD team have worked hard to provide some excellent opportunities for you to expand your horizons. They have organized some webinars in conjunction with other SLA Units for you at a very reasonable rate. We will cosponsor the remaining two webinars in the series hosted by NYC and Solo Division. There is a cost to the chapter, which allows chapter members can register for reduced rate of $5.

Thursday, September 10, 2015 – 5 to 6 pm ET
Improving Information Exchange in Workplaces

Tuesday, November 12, 2015 – 5 to 6 pm ET
How to Manage Your Local Node In a Global Workplace

You may think that these topics are not for you, but for $5 and an hour of your time, you can expand your horizons and perhaps use the information in a future project or position. Look for more information soon directly from Marlene and her team.

1470 Musical Score

The tour of Sutro Library, organized by our fabulous Tour Director, Heather Heen, was amazing. Not only was it interesting, but we had 17 people, which was incredible.

I saw the first musical score ever published. It was published in 1470. 1470!!! That is before Columbus even thought of setting sail. We saw the vault were precious things like one of the Sutro Bath Swimsuits and elephant folios are housed. I saw a book called the History of Furniture, which I was dying to look at! There is a lot of interesting stuff there. The Sutro Library at San Francisco State has a lot of opportunities for volunteering especially in the metadata application department. I am sure you read the review and were intrigued as well.

Programs and Surveys

Every time we have a program, we send out a very short survey. After the Joint Program in May, we only received 9 responses to our survey. We send out the survey so we can serve YOU better. Please take the time, even if you didn’t attend, to fill out the survey. Your assistance is appreciated.

Book Group

The book group is started and you can join any time. If you have not joined, please click on the link and join in. You must buy your own copy of the book, Rebels At Work.

Thank you for reading and I look forward to seeing you soon!

Jaye

Intersect Alert August 2, 2015

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2015/08/intersect-alert-august-2-2015/ August 2, 2015 Categories: Intersect Alert Tags: intellectual property, international outlook, open access, open data, privacy, public policy, social media, take action
Take Action:

Stop CISA: Join EFF in a Week of Action Opposing Broad “Cybersecurity” Surveillance Legislation
How do you kill a zombie bill like CISA? Grassroots action. That’s why EFF and over a dozen other groups are asking you to join us in a Week of Action to Stop CISA. The Senate is likely to vote on the Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act (CISA) in the coming weeks, and only you can help us stop it. We keep hearing that CISA and the other “cybersecurity” bills moving through Congress are “must-pass” legislation. But just like the original version of CISA, the Cyber Intelligence Sharing and Protection Act (CISPA), we think grassroots activism can stop this legislation in its tracks.

CISA is fundamentally flawed because of its broad immunity clauses for companies, vague definitions, and aggressive spying powers. Combined, they make the bill a surveillance bill in disguise. The bill may even make things worse for Internet users in several ways. That’s why we’re launching a week of action to make sure Congress is getting the message loud and clear: CISA must not pass.

CISA allows companies to monitor their information systems for broadly-defined threats. Moreover, and equally alarming, the bill authorizes companies to launch countermeasures against perceived attackers, without any safeguards. Not only does CISA grant companies more power to obtain “cyber threat indicators” and to disclose that data to the government without a warrant—it requires real time sharing of that information to military and intelligence agencies, including the NSA. In other words, cyber threat indicators shared with any agency would be automatically shared with the NSA—all without requiring companies to strip out personally identifying information.

To make matters worse, CISA grants the government too much discretion in how to use the information for non-cybersecurity purposes. It also contains exemptions to the Freedom of Information Act, which will keep the public in the dark about what information is being collected, shared, or used. Finally, CISA would create incredibly broad immunity for companies that engage in any of the activities authorized by the bill.

TAKE ACTION AT: https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2015/07/stop-cisa-join-eff-week-action-opposing-cyber-spying-0.

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Open Data:

Mass Shootings in America Spatial Database Project
Over the past few years, mass shootings in the United States have shaped national debates such as gun laws debates, law enforcement, school safety, and mental health debates. The Stanford Geospatial Center contributes to these debates by providing additional research that can lead to a better understanding of mass shootings in the United States. The center’s Mass Shootings in America project has produced a spatial database that houses records of mass shooting incidents in the United States over a span of five decades. In hopes of further contributing to the study of mass shooting phenomena, we also present the data in cartographic and graphical form. We will continue to build out these pages with state and federal regulatory information related to firearms, adding to the database to make it more complete. The data, maps, and graphics are free and may be embedded on any website with proper attribution.


CDPH Partners with St. Joseph Health in Cancer Data Registry
The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) announced a first of its kind partnership with St. Joseph Health to track cancer trends around the state of California. The historic program, announced in a press release on July 27, is the first to directly and securely transmit data from a private healthcare practice to a public research entity.

CDPH officials are excited about this opportunity to partner with St. Joseph Health systems to make new strides in cancer research, saying that the new collaboration will allow for efficiency that will improve the research. The project aims to improve patient care outcomes and to create more opportunities to increase the quality of life for cancer patients. By allowing physicians to report real-time diagnostic information to the California Cancer Registry, a program of the CDPH, project officials hope to accomplish those goals.


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Intellectual Property:

Law Librarians May Have Killed World’s Biggest Copyright Troll
If anyone out there harbored lingering doubts over the importance of a top-notch law librarian, know that the most abusive copyright troll on the planet may have just gone down due to the diligent work of a law librarian. Not bad for a day’s work.

To set the scene, back in 2013, documentary filmmaker Jennifer Nelson filed a putative class action against Warner/Chappell Music, a subsidiary of Warner Music Group, and the killjoy trolls who claim to own the rights to “Happy Birthday to You,” the most recognized English language song in the world. For years, Warner/Chappell has zealously pursued every public performance of the song – up to and including stoking fears of taking down children’s party clips posted on YouTube – and demanded onerous licensing fees ranging from $500 to six-figure sums for the right to sing the song. If anyone out there harbored lingering doubts over the importance of a
top-notch law librarian, know that the most abusive copyright troll on the planet may have just gone down due to the diligent work of a law librarian. Not bad for a day’s work. And Warner Music Group manages to rack up around $2 million every year enforcing their copyright… except experts don’t think the company actually holds a valid copyright!
The fourth edition of The Everyday Song Book was published in 1922 and contains lyrics for “Happy Birthday To You” without any copyright notice, which predates Warner/Chappell’s 1935 copyright registration. According to The Hollywood Reporter, the plaintiffs discovered evidence of the book, a blurry photo in Warner/Chappell’s own files, which they were given access to only three weeks ago. University of Pittsburgh law librarian Linda Tashbook retrieved Pitt’s rare copy and delicately scanned the relevant pages for the attorneys as fast as possible. Nelson’s attorneys immediately filed an ex parte motion to supplement the record in the pending summary judgment motions with the previously unknown evidence.

http://abovethelaw.com/2015/07/law-librarians-may-have-killed-worlds-biggest-copyright-troll/.

Open Access:

FASTR zooms out of Senate Committee
Today, after many years of effort by our members and the open access community, the Fair Access to Science and Technology Research Act of 2015 (FASTR) was approved by unanimous voice vote of the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. It now goes to the full Senate for consideration as early as this September. ALA thanks Committee Chair Ron Johnson (R-WI) and his staff for their hard work and wishes again to express its deep gratitude to Senator John Cornyn (R-TX) for his leadership and his staff’s tireless efforts toward ensuring that tax-payer funded research be and remain accessible to the public.
As ALA’s press release states, “FASTR would require federal departments and agencies with an annual extramural research budget of $100 million to develop a policy to ensure that researchers submit an electronic copy of the final manuscript accepted for publication in a peer-reviewed journal. Additionally, the bill would also require that each taxpayer-funded manuscript be made available to the public online and without cost, no later than twelve months after the article has been published in a peer-reviewed journal.”


Public Policy:

Congress continues to intervene in Dietary Guidelines
Let’s review where we are on the 2015 Dietary Guidelines for Americans. The Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee (DGAC) filed its scientific report in February. More than 25,000 people filed comments. Now, USDA and Health and Human Services staff must deal with the comments and write the actual dietary guidelines, the policy document scheduled for release later this year. Recall that the DGAC report caused much controversy when it linked agricultural to health policy by recommending a diet that promotes health and protects the environment—one that is largely plant-based. Lobbyists for food companies affected by such recommendations went straight to Congress. The result? Congress used the appropriations process to set limits on what the guidelines could say.


Privacy:

Man shoots down neighbor’s drone: Where’s the privacy line?
William Merideth of Hillview, Ky., is getting his 15 minutes of fame – or infamy, depending on your opinion of personal drones. Mr. Merideth was arrested on August 26 after shooting down a hobby drone that he alleges was flying over his yard and sun-bathing daughters. “You know, when you’re in your own property, within a six-foot privacy fence, you have the expectation of privacy,” he told Fox affiliate WDRB on Tuesday. “We don’t know if he was looking at the girls. We don’t know if he was looking for something to steal. To me, it was the same as trespassing.” Opinions aside, what are the actual laws governing this situation? Where is the line between innocent drone piloting and invasions of privacy? Right now, it’s hard to tell. Though the rules for the commercial use of drones are still in development, the Federal Aviation Administration has fairly simple rules for amateur drone pilots … The pilot in Kentucky seems to have obeyed each of these rules.


International Outlook:

Peru Adopts Data Retention Decree: Declares Location Data No Longer Protected
The Peruvian President today adopted a legislative decree that will grant the police warrantless access to real time user location data on a 24/7 basis. But that’s not the worst part of
the decree: it compels telecom providers to retain, for one year, data on who communicates with whom, for how long, and from where. It also allows the authorities access to the data in real time and online after seven days of the delivery of the court order. Moreover, it compels telecom providers to continue to retain the data for 24 more months in electronic storage.

Adding insult to injury, the decree expressly states that location data is excluded from the privacy of communication guaranteed by the Peruvian Constitution.

The decree was adopted with no public consultation by the Executive Branch on the basis of a mandate from the Peruvian Congress to legislate on general public safety and the fight against crime.


German regulator orders Facebook to allow pseudonyms
Facebook may not prevent its users from using fake names, a German privacy watchdog said on Tuesday, in the latest privacy setback for the U.S. company in Europe.

The Hamburg data protection authority, which is responsible for policing Facebook in Germany, said the social network firm could not unilaterally change users’ chosen usernames to their real names, nor could it ask them for official ID. The German order comes after the Belgian privacy watchdog took Facebook to court in June over the way it tracks the activities of its users. The two authorities are working with their Spanish, Dutch and French counterparts to investigate Facebook’s new privacy policy.


Twitter can tell which states love jogging and which are eating hot dogs
What does Twitter say about your diet? According to an analysis of 50 million tweets, Mississippi loves cake, Virginia can’t get enough bacon, and Colorado likes chocolate bars. And how do we burn off those calories? Judging by those same tweets, Colorado runs a lot, Virginia swims a bit, and Mississippi likes to dance.

A new online, interactive instrument built by researchers at the University of Vermont is using Twitter to count how many calories Americans consume and expend. Their tool, dubbed the Lexicocalorimeter, looks through tweets for food and exercise-related words, like doughnut and treadmill, and runs them through a basic algorithm that ranks the words by their frequency and caloric implications. The algorithm then uses a simple ratio of calories consumed to calories burned to calculate each state’s caloric balance. Based on tweets made from the continental states during 2011 and 2012, the researchers found that Mississippi expended the fewest calories, with Colorado burning the most.

Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety; attribution would be nice.

The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.

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Social Media:

This Month in Bayline: July 2015

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2015/08/this-month-in-bayline-july-2015/ August 3, 2015 Categories: Bayline, Chapter Programs & Events Tags: books and reading, events, internet access, librarians, President's message, privacy

Here’s what happened this month for the San Francisco Chapter of the SLA:

- Our president talks about net neutrality and other concerns in her monthly message.
- Proof we live in the world of the future in spite of no jetpacks? We have news stories of spy drones here and here in Intersect.
- Rebeca Leung, a 1st time attendee to the SLA Annual Conference, graces us with her reflections of the event.
- Missed Greg Lucas’ visit? Craig Cruz Jr. wrote up a recap. Learn about what the California State Librarian has planned for us.
- Looking for something to read? Jan Keiser not only gives us a reading list, she points out which ones made multiple lists. Great job!
- I also visited the Sutro Library along with several colleagues. I’m looking forward to that recap and photos from the event!
Search

Google Chemtrails: A Methodology to Analyze Topic Representation in Search Engine Results

“Search engine results influence the visibility of different viewpoints in political, cultural, and scientific debates. Treating search engines as editorial products with intrinsic biases can help understand the structure of information flows in new media. This paper outlines an empirical methodology to analyze the representation of topics in search engines, reducing the spatial and temporal biases in the results. As a case study, the methodology is applied to 15 popular conspiracy theories, examining type of content and ideological bias, demonstrating how this approach can inform debates in this field, specifically in relation to the representation of non-mainstream positions, the suppression of controversies and relativism.”

Privacy

Library Privacy Guidelines for E-book Lending and Digital Content Vendors

“Protecting user privacy and confidentiality has long been an integral part of the intellectual freedom mission of libraries. The right to free inquiry as assured by the First Amendment depends upon the ability to read and access information free from scrutiny by the government or other third parties. In their provision of services to library users, librarians have an ethical obligation, expressed in the ALA Code of Ethics, to preserve users’ right to privacy and to prevent any unauthorized use of patron data[1]. Librarians and libraries may also have a legal obligation to protect library users’ data from unauthorized disclosure.”

“Libraries enter into licenses or agreements with commercial vendors in order to provide library users access to digital information, including e-books, journals, and databases. Access to these resources is most often provided via networks and the internet. In the course of providing these services, most e-book and digital content vendors collect and use library patron data for a variety of reasons, including digital rights management, consumer analytics, and user personalization. Libraries and vendors must work together to ensure that the contracts and licenses governing the provision and use of digital information reflect library ethics, policies, and legal obligations concerning user privacy and confidentiality.”

“These guidelines are issued to provide vendors with information about appropriate data management and security practices in respect to library patrons’ personally identifiable information and data about their use of digital content.”

Copyright

The Next Great Copyright Office

“While Congress considers whether to update U.S. copyright law through the House of Representatives’ copyright review hearings, there appears to be a growing consensus that it is time to modernize the Copyright Office. This article reviews the developments that led to the last major revision of the Copyright Act, including similarities between that process and the review process today. It discusses Congress’s focus since 1976 on narrower copyright bills, rather than a wholesale
revision of U.S. copyright law, and the developments that have led to the review hearings. Finally, it considers the growing focus on Copyright Office modernization, with particular emphasis on the hearing ‘The U.S. Copyright Office: Its Functions and Resources.’”


Twitter is Deleting Stolen Jokes on Copyright Grounds

“Let’s face it: coming up with a grade-A tweet isn’t easy. That’s why some people just copy good tweets from other people and act like they came up with the 140-character witticism on their own. This has been going on since the beginning of Twitter.”

“It now appears Twitter is using its legal authority to crack down on these tweet-stealers. A number of tweets have been deleted on copyright grounds for apparently stealing a bad joke.”

Libraries and Librarians

A Quiet Culture War in Research Libraries – and What it Means for Librarians, Researchers and Publishers

“There is a growing rift between those who believe the library’s most fundamental purpose is to support and advance the goals of its host institution and those who believe the library’s most important role is as an agent of progress and reform in the larger world of scholarly communication. Although these two areas of endeavor are not mutually exclusive, they are in competition for scarce resources and the choices made between them have serious implications at both the micro level (for the patrons and institutions served by each library) and the macro level (for members of the larger academic community). The tension between these two worldviews is creating friction within librarianship itself: as tightening budgets increasingly force us to choose between worthy programs and projects, there is growing conflict between those whose choices reflect one worldview and those who hold to the other. How this conflict plays out over the next few years may have significant implications for the scholars who depend on libraries for research and for the publishers and other vendors for whom libraries are a core customer base.”

http://insights.uksg.org/articles/10.1629/uksg.230/

Re-Envisioning the MLS: Findings, Issues, and Considerations

“The last several years have been marked by a number of societal challenges and changes that include the evolving nature of our economy; the workforce skills needed to succeed in a shifting job market; advances in technology; the changing nature of information; transformations in education and learning approaches; and rapid demographic shifts occurring in our communities (ALA, 2014). As we consider the future of our information organizations such as libraries, archives, and museums, we need to simultaneously focus on the future of the Master of Library Science (MLS) degree (and its variants) and how we prepare information professionals for their careers.”


Advice for Academic Librarianship: Think Like Ford

“Even if things are going well at your library, it may be a good exercise to question what would happen if things change even more radically than they already have and what we’ve always done is no longer what people want or need.”

“It has been a long time since the U.S. car industry has done so well. The cars expected to sell in 2015 number around 17 million, or some similar record-setting figure. That would be the most cars sold in 14 years. With an improving economy, lower gas costs, and many families needing to replace long-owned vehicles, it is boom time for General Motors and Ford. That makes it seem like a rather odd time to think about what will happen when people no longer buy cars. That is unlikely to happen for many years, yet Ford is in the midst of figuring out that exact thing because they wait until it actually happens, it will be too late to make the type of monumental shift needed to transition to meet future transportation needs. To trot out that old cliché about railroads not realizing they were in the transportation business, well, Ford’s hoping to avoid making that same mistake. While huge automakers are hardly models to emulate, higher education and academic libraries may find some lessons in how Ford is thinking about what comes next.”


University of Michigan Reopens Medical Library Without Books

“ANN ARBOR, Mich. (AP) — The University of Michigan has reopened its Taubman Health Sciences Library after a $55 million overhaul and rethinking of how a library for medical students should function.”

“Hundreds of thousands of books were moved to an offsite location and are available on demand for delivery, and by becoming ‘bookless’ the school said that frees up space for medical student education. The facility on the school’s Ann Arbor campus officially reopened over the weekend.”

SLA to Engage Services of Association Management Company


The following was received via email today by all members on the HQ list. I am reproducing it here to provide wider access and dissemination. This is a follow up to my post about charting SLA’s new direction. If you are not on the HQ list or did not receive this email (check spam filters!), please see my February post about reviewing your HQ options.

Jaye

Fellow SLA Members,

On July 14, after our monthly meeting, the SLA Board of Directors met in executive session to discuss personnel matters and specifically the hiring of an executive to manage the association’s day-to-day affairs. Upon the recommendation of the Transition Committee, the board agreed to engage the services of an association management company (AMC) rather than hire a new executive.

During the course of its work, the Transition Committee had concluded that hiring a new executive was not the best option for SLA to pursue at this time. We are entering a period when we will be implementing many changes to create more value for SLA members, and the skills we will need in an executive and in staff may change during this period. Engaging an AMC to provide executive leadership and targeted staff support will give us the flexibility and expertise needed as we implement these changes.

The Transition Committee is developing a request for proposal (RFP) that will specify the services required from the AMC. The committee expects that the transition to the selected AMC will occur in early 2016. Once the AMC is in place, the board will provide strategic direction to ensure implementation of the “Road Map” approved in July.

The board will continue to share information about the transition to an AMC and the implementation of the Road Map over the course of the next several months. In the meantime, you may wish to review the following sites to learn more about AMCs:

http://www.amcinstitute.org/
http://www.asaecenter.org/Resources/content.cfm?ItemNumber=16048

Sincerely,

Jill Strand
2015 SLA President
jillstrand@gmail.com

Rebels at Work Book Group

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2015/08/rebels-at-work-book-group/  August 14, 2015 Categories: Bayline, Chapter Programs & Events Tags: events
Rebels at Work

The Rebels At Work book group is starting over in the book group forum on Google Groups. Information will be posted here periodically, but not each post.

The group will read one chapter each week or one chapter every other week. The new chapter discussion points will be posted on Monday.

The introductory discussion of the preface is below, followed by directions on joining. The discussion information will be on the book group as well.

PREFACE

I don’t often read the prefaces of books, but, then again, most of the books I read are fiction and don’t have prefaces. I decided to read every page and start the discussion with the words that jumped out at me.

The first ‘chapter’ is the preface, which starts with “If you’re reading this book, you’re an idea person. When you see something that isn’t right at work, your mind starts thinking about what could work. You want to make things better.”

I attended the session at SLA 2015 led by the authors. Between that session and the line I above I knew I had met my people. I enjoy my work and want to do a good job. I think many librarians are the same.

There are several problems with creating effective change. People, in general, don’t understand what we do beyond handing out books. Stereotypes of buns and shushing are still pervasive. We are often on the quiet side in terms of personality type, which makes our intelligence and good ideas difficult for us to communicate. People don’t want to change. If something isn’t broken, why fix it?

The new few paragraphs talk about common responses to proposals of change, fear of presenting ideas and jeopardizing your career. How many times have any of these happened to you?

The authors state that this book is written for people who want to do the work without it being anti-management. I think management would benefit from opening their eyes to new ways of changing from within. This approach makes sense to me because if you are the one doing a job day in and day out, don’t you know the nuances best?

It is made clear that the authors want this book to be practical. At the end of our discussion, you will have had the benefit of “practical ideas, useful checklists and valuable questions (pg.vi)”. They also lay out what will be in each chapter (pg.vii). If you need to know something right away, then skip straight to that chapter.

The authors promise to give readers:

- achieve more success and less frustration
- Earn a reputation for having great ideas versus a reputation for being difficult
- Advance your career and avoid being sidelined (or thrown under the bus)
- Help your organization do more meaningful work
- Be authentically who you are versus trying to fit your work style to someone else’s style
- Find more meaning and joy in your work

These are lofty goals and I hope **I** can get them out of this book.

Next Chapter; Good Rebels, Great Work

Steps to participating in the SLA-SF Rebels at Work book group:

1. Acquire book. Local libraries have the book or you can purchase it.
2. Join the group by clicking on the link and asking to join. Adjust your settings to suit your needs and schedule.
3. Read the week’s chapter.
4. Take notes on things you want to discuss.
5. Read the posts each week, comment and participate.
6. Take a look at the Rebels at Work website.
7. This is a professional group with your professional colleagues. Be kind and positive. Respectful disagreement will be the norm. No flames or name calling.
8. Sign your contribution.

Optional:

- News article by Forbes
- Listen to the talks from the June 26 Rebel Jam
- Follow @RebelsatWork, @LoisKelly and/or@milouness
A Student and New Member Happy Hour!

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2015/08/a-student-and-new-member-happy-hour/ August 14, 2015 Categories: Bayline, Chapter Programs & Events Tags: events

Wednesday, September 2, 2015. 5:30-7:30 PM
Patriot House Pub
2 Embarcadero Center, San Francisco

The event will be free for new and prospective members, students, and for current members who bring along one or more prospective member. The fee for all others is $10.

Come and join us for an evening with friends and find out just what SLA in the Bay Area is all about. The first drink is on us! We hope to see you there.

To register as a FREE attendee, please email Anne Barker at annenb@platypi.com with your name, current SLA membership status, and who you’re going to bring. If you’ll be paying $10 for this night of drinks and frivolity, you can send a check made out to San Francisco Bay Chapter of SLA to me at:

Anne Barker
417 Woodland Ave.
San Rafael, CA 94901

Or you can pay by cash or check the night of the event. Either way, please email me to let me know you’re coming.

Please RSVP by August 28.
Can’t wait to see you!!

Anne Barker, Academic Relations Chair
Hilary Schiraldi, President-Elect

Intersect Alert August 16, 2015


Copyright

Envisioning Copyright Education

“I have been an ALA employee for a while now, primarily on copyright policy and education. During that time, I have worked with several librarian groups, taught a number of copyright workshops, and appreciate that more librarians have a better understanding of what copyright is than was true several years ago. Nonetheless, on a regular basis, librarians across the country, primarily academic but also school librarians, find themselves tasked with the assignment to be the ‘copyright person’ for their library or educational institution. These new job responsibilities are usually unwanted, because the victims recognize that they don’t know anything about copyright. The fortunate among them make connections with more knowledgeable colleagues, or perhaps have the funding to attend a copyright workshop here or there that may be, but often is not, reliable. In short, their graduate degree in library and information science, accredited or not, has not prepared them for the assignment. Information policy course work in library school is limited to a discussion of censorship and banned books week.”

http://www.districtdispatch.org/2015/08/envisioning-copyright-education/

Research

Content Volatility of Scientific Topics in Wikipedia: A Cautionary Tale

“Wikipedia has quickly become one of the most frequently accessed encyclopedic references, despite the ease with which content can be changed and the potential for ‘edit wars’
surrounding controversial topics. Little is known about how this potential for controversy affects the accuracy and stability of information on scientific topics, especially those with associated political controversy. Here we present an analysis of the Wikipedia edit histories for seven scientific articles and show that topics we consider politically but not scientifically “controversial” (such as evolution and global warming) experience more frequent edits with more words changed per day than pages we consider “noncontroversial” (such as the standard model in physics or heliocentrism). For example, over the period we analyzed, the global warming page was edited on average (geometric mean ±SD) 1.9±2.7 times resulting in 110.9±10.3 words changed per day, while the standard model in physics was only edited 0.2±1.4 times resulting in 9.4±5.0 words changed per day. The high rate of change observed in these pages makes it difficult for experts to monitor accuracy and contribute time-consuming corrections, to the possible detriment of scientific accuracy. As our society turns to Wikipedia as a primary source of scientific information, it is vital we read it critically and with the understanding that the content is dynamic and vulnerable to vandalism and other shenanigans.”

http://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0134454

Knowledge Vault: A Web-Scale Approach to Probabilistic Knowledge Fusion

“Recent years have witnessed a proliferation of large-scale knowledge bases, including Wikipedia, Freebase, YAGO, Microsoft’s Satori, and Google’s Knowledge Graph. To increase the scale even further, we need to explore automatic methods for constructing knowledge bases. Previous approaches have primarily focused on text-based extraction, which can be very noisy. Here we introduce Knowledge Vault, a Web-scale probabilistic knowledge base that combines extractions from Web content (obtained via analysis of text, tabular data, page structure, and human annotations) with prior knowledge derived from existing knowledge repositories. We employ supervised machine learning methods for fusing these distinct information sources. The Knowledge Vault is substantially bigger than any previously published structured knowledge repository, and features a probabilistic inference system that computes calibrated probabilities of fact correctness. We report the results of multiple studies that explore the relative utility of the different information sources and extraction methods.”


Is Biblioleaks Inevitable?

“In 2014, the vast majority of published biomedical research is still hidden behind paywalls rather than open access. For more than a decade, similar restrictions over other digitally available content have engendered illegal activity. Music file sharing became rampant in the late 1990s as communities formed around new ways to share. The frequency and scale of cyber-attacks against commercial and government interests has increased dramatically. Massive troves of classified government documents have become public through the actions of a few. Yet we have not seen significant growth in the illegal sharing of peer-reviewed academic articles. Should we truly expect that biomedical publishing is somehow at less risk than other content-generating industries? What of the larger threat—a “Biblioleaks” event—a database breach and public leak of the substantial archives of biomedical literature? As the expectation that all research should be available to everyone becomes the norm for a younger generation of researchers and the broader community, the motivations for such a leak are likely to grow. We explore the feasibility and consequences of a Biblioleaks event for researchers, journals, publishers, and the broader communities of doctors and the patients they serve.”

Librarians and Libraries

Law Firm Librarians Feel Underused and Underpaid

“Last month, Bloomberg Law surveyed 80 librarians from large and medium sized law firms about their respective roles. The result? Law firm librarians feel underutilized as analysts and underpaid for the analytical work they’re already doing.”

“Ninety-three per cent of respondents said their library resources and training could be put to greater use servicing their firms’ business development functions, and 77 percent felt their compensation was not commensurate with analysts in similar industries.”


The Path a Book Takes

“Between the time a book is published and a library user reads it, as many as a dozen Library staff members will have handled the volume. They will have made a series of crucial decisions about its acquisition for the collection, analyzed and described it in the Library of Congress Online Catalog and preserved and shelved it so it can be made accessible to readers. To track the path a book takes from arrival to the reading room, we will follow “Crónicas Cuauhtemenses” by Rodolfo Torres González, a volume received from the Mexican book dealer México Norte.”

“The book arrives at the loading dock in the Library’s James Madison Memorial Building on Capitol Hill. This is not the first stop the book has made in greater Washington. To ensure that books are not contaminated with chemical or biological substances, the packages have already been opened, inspected and resealed at an off-site mail-handling facility in suburban Maryland–like all mail that is delivered to the Library on
Capitol Hill. The Library’s mail contractors load the packages of books into upright mail cages near the loading dock and push them to the acquisitions mail room on the basement level of the Madison Building, where Library staff sort them by country of origin.”

http://blogs.loc.gov/loc/2015/08/the-path-a-book-takes/

**Brooklyn Public Library To Sell Branch to Real Estate Developer**

“A controversial proposal to turn a Brooklyn Public Library (BPL) Brooklyn Heights branch into condos with a branch on the bottom floor cleared a hurdle in late July, when the local Community Board approved BPL’s proposed sale. Next, the deal goes before Borough President Eric Adam at a meeting scheduled for Tuesday, August 18. If it passes that hurdle, it still needs to move through the City Planning Commission and New York’s City Council before becoming final.”

“If plans continue apace, the system will sell its Brooklyn Heights location to real estate developer Hudson Companies for upwards of $50 million. A 36 story residential tower of condos will be built on the site of the branch, in one of the borough’s toniest neighborhoods, and the ground floor will host a new library.”


**How Transparent Is Your State’s Lobbying Disclosure?**

“Back in 2011, Sunlight, through the work of Daniel Schuman, Melanie Buck and Eric Dunn, examined the various aspects of lobbying disclosure at the state level throughout the United States. After reading legislation about who has to report, when a lobbyist must register, what needs to be included in the necessary forms and how much lobbyists must pay to register, they concluded that states could easily offer more data to their citizens.”

“An update of that database with an emphasis on lobbyist disclosure requirements, facilitated with informational support from State Integrity and the National Institute on Money in State Politics, reveals that many states fail to address the legislative flaws that create unfortunate loopholes, do not provide citizens with easily accessible information and navigable websites, and lack stringent transparency policies. Check out our full scorecard, with rankings of how each state performed, here. Our methodology and scoring criteria can be found below.”

http://sunlightfoundation.com/blog/2015/08/12/how-transparent-is-your-states-lobbying-disclosure/

Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety. The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.

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**Journey Back in Time to 1915 and the Panama-Pacific International Exposition!**


NOTE CORRECTED LOCATION: Pacific Energy Center, 851 Howard Street, San Francisco, CA

**Journey Back in Time to 1915 and the Panama-Pacific International Exposition!**

**SF Bay Region Chapter**

**Thursday, September 17, 2015, 5:30 – 8:00 pm**

Join us on Thursday, September 17, 2015, when historian Laura Ackley, author of *San Francisco’s Jewel City: The Panama-Pacific International Exposition of 1915*, gives a presentation on technology that was new at the exposition. Awards of Merit were to be given only to products or processes that were invented after the previous world’s fair, the 1904 Louisiana Purchase Exposition. You’ll learn about such areas as the Palace of Food Products, the Palace of Liberal Arts, the Palace of Horticulture, and the Joy Zone (!). Ms. Ackley will take us on a ride on the Strauss Aeroscope, lead us on a visit to the Panama Canal in miniature, and walk us through a model mine before showing us the Secrets of Mental Telepathy.

**Agenda for Thursday, September 17, 2015**

5:30 – 6:30 : Registration, networking, and appetizers

6:30 – 6:50 : SLA-SF Announcements

6:50 – 8:00 : Presentation by Laura Ackley with Q&A following

**Menu**
A variety of delicious foods for your enjoyment

**Registration is closed**

$35 for members

$55 for non-members

$30 for student/retiree/between jobs members

**NOTE CORRECTED LOCATION:**

Pacific Energy Center, 851 Howard Street, San Francisco, CA

Thank you to our generous sponsors!

Lex Machina

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**Intersect Alert August 24, 2015**

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2015/08/intersect-alert-august-24-2015/ August 24, 2015 Categories: Intersect Alert Tags: intellectual property, international outlook, libraries, open access, professional development, publishing, research, technology who has been sanctioned by a medical board, the website provides direct links to the relevant details and disciplinary actions”

http://www.medpagetoday.com/PublicHealthPolicy/Ethics/53164

**The Smithsonian Institution’s Plan for Increased Public Access to Results of Federally Funded Research**

The Smithsonian Institution’s Plan for Increased Public Access to Results of Federally Funded Research was developed based on the principles in the Office of Science and Technology Policy’s February 2013 memo calling for increased public access to publications and data resulting from federally funded research. The Smithsonian’s Public Access Plan is effective on October 1, 2015 and applies to manuscripts in all major Smithsonian research areas – science, history, art, and culture – that are subject to the plan and that are submitted to publishers on or after that date. The plan promotes the following objectives:

– Reaffirm the Smithsonian’s commitment to increasing public access to federally funded research materials.
– Support the governance of and best practices for managing federally funded research materials across the Smithsonian.
– Ensure effective access to and reliable preservation of federally funded research materials for research, development, and education.
– Preserve and increase the use of federally funded research materials to enhance discoveries

http://interdisciplinary.si.edu/collaboration-highlights/public-access/
Did Technology Kill the Book or Give it New Life?

“Digital technology has certainly had a profound effect on the traditional book publishing and retailing industries, but has it also given the book a new lease of life?”

“At one point it looked as if the rise of e-books at knock-down prices and e-readers like Amazon’s Kindle and Barnes & Noble’s Nook posed an existential threat to book publishers and sellers.”

“Literature found itself at war with the internet,” as Jim Hinks, digital editor of Comma Press, succinctly puts it.”

But contrary to expectations, the printed book is still surviving alongside its upstart e-book cousin, and technology is helping publishers and retailers reach new audiences and find new ways to tell stories.


International Outlook

Up From The Ashes, A Public Library In Sri Lanka Welcomes New Readers

“Rising two stories and capped by three domes, the Jaffna Public Library looks a bit like a stately wedding cake. Gleaming white under the Sri Lanka sun, the building’s classical lines and beautiful proportions make it one of the architectural standouts of the South Asia region.”

“That it survived at all is a testament to resilience. The fact that it was restored to such pristine condition, including its lush gardens, and modernized (it now offers Wi-Fi) makes it all the more remarkable.”

“The library’s renovation is as exquisite as its history is turbulent. The building sits in the heart of the provincial capital that was wracked not so long ago by battles and bullets.”


Book Ban in Venice Ignites a Gay Rights Battle

“VENICE — As subversive books go, many of the 49 children’s tales hardly seem seditious.”

“There is the story of the male dog who aspired to be a ballerina. The one about the little boy who wanted to be a princess, and a princess who wanted to be a soccer player. The tale of the penguin egg hatched and adopted by two male penguins (based on a real story at the Central Park Zoo in New York). And another about a little boy who learns to live with a physical disability, metaphorically depicted as a little saucepan that bangs around in his wake.”

“Yet one of the first formal acts of Venice’s new conservative mayor, Luigi Brugnaro, was to announce that he would ban them from the city’s preschool libraries.”


Copyright

Archived Webinar on University Copyright Services Now Available

“An archived copy of the CopyTalk webinar ‘University Copyright Services’ is now available. Originally webcasted on August 6th by the Office for Information Technology Policy’s Copyright Education Subcommittee, presenters were Sandra Enimil, Program Director, University Libraries Copyright Resources Center from the Ohio State University, Pia Hunter, Visiting Assistant Professor and Copyright and Reserve Librarian from the University of Illinois at Chicago, and Cindy Kristof, Head of Copyright and Document Services from Kent State University. They described the copyright services they offer to faculty, staff, and students at their respective institutions.”

“Plan ahead! One hour CopyTalk webinars occur on the first Thursday of every month at 11am Pacific/2 pm Eastern Time. It’s free!”

http://www.districtdispatch.org/2015/08/archived-webinar-on-university-copyright-services-now-available/

Libraries

A Library Writes Its Own Story

“The public library in Redlands, California is much more than a steward of books and information. It is an exemplar of the history of the town and a living legend of its spirit of generosity, a hallmark of Redlands since its first days.”

“Redlands, longtime a citrus town and at the edge of the sloping foothills of the San Bernardino Mountains, was founded in 1881 by Frank Brown, a Yale-educated civil engineer and Edward Judson, a former Wall Street broker, who donated more than 10,000 trees to help settle the town in its earliest days. One of the first things you notice today, if you take a break from the I-10 between L.A. and Palm Springs to exit at Redlands, are the tall, elegant Washingtonia palms lining the broad streets of century-old Victorian, Colonials, and California Craftsman houses.”
Meet the Candidates for Cabinet Webinar Summary


If you don’t know what any of the candidates are saying, you won’t be able to tell them apart. You likely don’t have time to listen to what they’re saying. Since a quick and easy guide is what you need, I’ve taken it upon myself to provide one!

I’ve written terse summaries of the Meet the Candidates Q&A webinars, focusing on the main points of each answer. At a glance, you can tell what each candidate represents; letting you best determine who’s best for your enlightened self-interest.

For more on the candidates, visit the Candidate Resource Center. For the Webinar, click on the “Meet the Candidates for Cabinet” tab in the Leadership Webinars.

First up will be the candidates for the SLA Chapter and Division cabinets. Good voting!

—Matthew Woods, Bayline Editor

* * *

Why have you accepted the call to run for the board. Why now in your career? And at this time in the life of the association?

Barbara Fullerton

- Exciting time because of changes happening: huge talent of info pros who can look at SLA’s future.
- Looking for new networking opportunity.

Mary Talley

- “Serial volunteer.”
- Wants collaboration with fellow members.
- Wants easy way to tap in to chap leader knowledge.
- Sees chapters working in isolation, and wants to build a more collaborative network.

Debora Keller

- Also “serial volunteer.” Considers it responsibility to represent divisions at a higher level.
- Felt like it’s time to pave own path, comfortable enough

Tom Nielsen

- To share with the SLA what’s been done in the NYC library & archives community.
- Important the SLA has a high-level representative for local library schools.
- Most important, we’re facing a time of change: we need flexible, experienced, and collaborative people who can bring together different groups in the library community.

What kind of programming planning/leadership experience do you bring to the job?

Tom

- Program planning for Metropolitan New York Library Council.
- Leadership training at “Metro.”
- Currently in Support Center for Nonprofit Management certificate program.

Debora

- For SLA: Lead team that planned Military Library’s Workshop for 2010. Planner for Knowledge Management division’s 2014 conference programming.
- Through personal work: Leadership development: part of two curriculum development teams for training intelligence agents.
- Chair of Knowledge Management division

Mary

- Started library management business during mid 1980’s, elevated staff to key management positions by mid-90’s.
- Most of 25 years of SLA work has been in professional development and mentoring.
- 2016 Annual Conference advisory council.
- 2011 SLA Rosie Award; for DC-SLA programs.
- Produced Library Leaders series of programs for DC-SLA, which had great participation.
Barbara

- Started with law library programs: organizing, marketing, PR
- Helping with program for helping city association law libraries
- Organized annual meetings in TX chapter, worked with head of CI Division.
- President of Richardson, TX home association; meet with city council and mayor to discuss issues and how to develop community leadership
- Just finished 5 years as board member of the University of North Texas College of Information, developing programs for students.

What’s your vision of the role of divisions and chapters in the new, re-envisioned SLA of the future?

Mary Talley

- Divisions and chapters are heart and soul of SLA, and active chapters should be nurtured and sustained.
- Important work of SLA should be within chapters, but professionals should coordinate planning.
- We need to flatten out hierarchy, they keep us from networking. Let divisions and chapters loosen up leadership requirements.

Barbara Fullerton

- Add community involvement/relationship manager for social media, more tools to help chapters and divisions, a go-to person for suggestions for each chapter.
- Chapter leadership day in middle of year; maybe before Annual Meeting, or by webinar; to share best practices, help struggling chapters, maybe with chapters or divisions adopting them.

Tom Nielsen

- Speaking more towards divisions, primary candidate interest.
- There’s a synergy between divisions and vendors, especially when vendors are subject-specific.
- Maybe bring leaders and vendors together to increase involvement of vendors and make place for vendors that doesn’t bother people about commercialism.
- Chapter/Division leadership is training for SLA leadership, and should stay that way.
- Chapter/division leaders should be involved in changes, that’ll get them invested in the SLA.

Debora Keller

- Job is to reflect opinions and needs of division members; spent a lot of time talking with people about consultant’s report.
- Chapters help with socialization, divisions help with deep knowledge.

- Chapters and divisions are training places for leadership, people don’t want opportunities to go.
- We need to be more flexible with how chapters and divisions are executed, so that when units are in trouble, board members communicate with them and help them reduce responsibilities.
- Look out for troubled units, give options for reducing troubles while letting them keep their membership and stay in SLA family.

Mary

- Agrees with previous,
- Meetings can be great forums. However, nothing was done at some meetings.
- Liked discussion during meeting in Annual Conference, wants meetings to be more dynamic and participatory.
- Meeting setup promotes “us v them” dynamic, should be more user-friendly.

What do you see in the value of cabinet meetings, and what we could change or improve with them?

Deborah

- They get leaders from chapters and divisions to share experiences, particularly problems; if one unit has a problem, others likely do as well. They can either figure out a solution, or work on one collectively.
- It’s critical for leaders to feel they’re not alone, that they’re heard by SLA, and to get their problems solved rather than have their leadership handicapped.
- Communications: cabinet meetings are how chapter and division members communicate with board or HQ about unit needs and concerns.
- The needs of one unit are often mirrored in others. For example: one unit wanted to know membership demographic stats, but so did others.

Barbara

- Overwhelmed, didn’t know how it work, felt lost.
- Processes should be easier for units and members to present ideas to cabinets.
- We should create a community to ease newcomers in.
- Meetings should be more open and user-friendly.
merge and forced to become caucuses?

Barbara

- We should look at what plans the chapters have.
- It should be easier to join additional chapters, perhaps through discounts.
- Highly successful chapters should help struggling chapters by adopting them; joint meeting/webinars, face-to-face visits, constant communication, etc.
- Doesn’t like forced merging, but feels it may be necessary sometimes.

Mary

- We should be facilitating mutual problem solving among chapters and divisions, and we need a way for them to network
- The more flexible we can be with chapter structure, the better. Chapters should find structure that works for them, but can’t be one size fits all.
- Pairing strong and weak chapters could cause inequality dynamics for the weak and burdens for the strong; prefers collaborative networks, they give each chapter an opportunity to both contribute and receive, and lets each chapter create a customized solution.
- We should use social media to create these networks.

Tom

- Opposed to units being forced into actions; speaks from experience in Solo Division, which has become smaller over the years.
- Likes Barbara’s chapter adoption idea, and suggests co-sponsorship.
- Larger chapters could have community outreach: coaching units, boosting infrastructure, and especially enacting plans.

Deborah

- Opposed to units being forced into actions.
- Small does not equal struggling, and we should look into why we think so. For example, the Chemical Division survives and thrives because it connects outside of SLA.
- We should ask, “What should we do with struggling units?” (As opposed to simply small.)
- Colleagues ideas were great.
- Board liaisons have deepened connections with units over past couple of years, especially with getting critical (esp. financial) documents to SLA HQ on time.
- We ease burden of liaisons and HQ personnel by creating checklists of documents due. SLA site has been getting better about this, but it’s still difficult for SLA leaders to identify requirements and due dates.
- Provide management tools to leadership: checklists, board liaisons who help identify struggling units without prejudging.
- Struggling units should self-identify and collaborate, make connection with units similar in size or situation. Board liaisons can help with this.

You’re chairing a cabinet meeting and things get argumentative. How do you ensure that all sides have their say, and that a reasonable outcome is arrived at without things getting acrimonious or way off-topic?

Tom

- Tap into experience facilitating meetings at workplace, which keeps things from getting bad.
- Acknowledge there’s a lot of emotion; clarify the sides of the argument; establish an order of when people speak their sides

Deborah

- Robert’s Rules work in this case: limiting time (about 2 minutes) for hot topic, letting people know they need to make their words count, and that people not involved won’t feel stuck, then formally discuss what action to take on the hot topic.

Mary

- Would also use Robert’s Rules; there is an art to running a meeting, making people feel heard, restate what they said.
- If someone goes off-topic, acknowledge it’s interesting but talk later.
- Heated discussion isn’t always bad, it’s democracy in action.

Barbara

- All starts with respect, people who share their opinions want to be heard.
- If off-topic is working for everybody, go with it.

Imagine you just finished your 3-year term: what have you accomplished?

Mary

- Be an advocate for chapters and solve their issues.
- We struggle to focus as a community, while chapters focus inward.
- We need to be a whole stronger than the sum of our parts.

Barbara

- Leadership summit evolves, wants to see more students get involved, mentors making leaders.
- Revamping of SLA website: more graphics, more tools, and better search engine.
- Have a state of the industry report; get the word out of what information professionals do, with each chapter having readable yearly reports.
- More focus on international chapters.
Tom

- “Able to direct unit leaders on path based on SLA roadmap moving forward, though with some sacrifices, with a new and pivotal role in the future success of the association.”
- Able to take template of virtual leadership summit so leaders are more involved in creating programming
- Have session at annual conference just for best of unit programming.

Deborah

- Reinvigorated division cabinet, so we’re discussing meaty issues and not getting bogged down in rules.
- Leadership training program, online summit, all levels, have all learning available anytime in online vault.
- Bring in broader range of vendors, to offer more products for SLA members
- Continue transparency, and provide more of it.

Horizon Award (New Member Award)

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2015/08/horizon-award-new-member-award/

August 27, 2015 Categories: Bayline, Honors & Awards
Tags: awards, member highlights, take action

Here are a series of posts describing chapter awards. Please keep in mind that we will be selecting and awarding some or all of these awards for 2015.

Purpose: recognizes Chapter member of five (5) years or fewer who has shown promise of becoming an outstanding member of the profession. This award represents an evaluation of an individual’s work and participation in professional and chapter activities. Particular attention should be given to involvement and contributions to the San Francisco Bay Region Chapter.

Frequency: annual

Criteria for recipient: Chapter member in good standing for 5 or fewer years. Nominees should excel in one or more areas:

- Leadership in the Chapter, at meetings, and in committee work.
- Special or notable service to the Chapter, such as participation in special projects.
- Participation in seminars, teaching courses, and public speaking activities.
- Publication or editorial contributions to the professional literature.
- Innovations at the work site.
- Mentoring activities or student sponsorship.

Procedure: chapter member fills out and sends in nomination form.

Award gift: Certificate and gift certificate to an upcoming chapter professional development workshop presented at a chapter meeting.

Past Recipients:

- 2014 = Erin Megyessy
- 2013 – Lisa Ngo
- 2012 – Sarah Cook
- 2011 – [no recipient]
- 2010 – Judy Bolstad
- 2009 – Anne Hall
- 2008 – Heather Gambrel

Who do you know who deserves to receive this award?

Intersect Alert August 30, 2015


August 30, 2015 Categories: Intersect Alert
Tags: international outlook, libraries, research, social media, values

Access to Information

Twitter Axes Accountability Projects, Sparing Politicians

Embarrassment

“Accountability projects that track deleted tweets from politicians and public officials suffered a critical setback this
week when Twitter killed their ability to collect that information. This move comes a few months after the service shut down the U.S. version of Politwoops, the best known of these projects, and extends the ban to some 30 other jurisdictions."

“It would be a disappointing move by any platform so popular among politicians, but especially so for Twitter—which as a company has fought vociferously for its users’ rights, and made its stance as the “free speech wing of the free speech party” a component of its corporate culture, and a selling point for new sign-ups around the world.”

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2015/08/twitter-axes-accountability-projects-sparing-politicians-embarrassment

International Outlook

Russia Briefly Bans Wikipedia Over Page Relating to Drug Use

“Russian authorities briefly banned the entire Wikipedia site over a page relating to drug use which the site had refused to edit or delete.”

“The ban was quickly lifted on Tuesday, before it had even gone into effect for most Russian internet users but not before the news had created a wave of panic in the country’s online community. There is increasing concern in Russia about a crackdown on internet freedom.”

“A court in a small town in southern Russia ordered that a Wikipedia page about charas, an Indian form of hashish, be banned as it contained harmful information. Because Wikipedia uses secure https protocol, some internet providers would have to ban the entire website. Late on Monday night, some Moscow internet users found Russian-language Wikipedia banned entirely, while for others it was still working, with a message from the website explaining how to circumvent a ban if it did come into place.”


Speech that Enables Speech: China Takes Aim at Its Coders

“The maintainer of GoAgent, one of China’s more popular censorship circumvention tools emptied out the project’s main source code repositories on Tuesday. Phus Lu, the developer, renamed the repository’s description to ‘Everything that has a beginning has an end.’ Phus Lu’s Twitter account’s history was also deleted, except for a single tweet that linked to a Chinese translation of Alexander Solzhenitsyn’s ‘Live Not By Lies.’ That essay was originally published in 1974 on the day of the Russian dissident’s arrest for treason.”

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2015/08/speech-enables-speech-china-takes-aim-its-coders

Research

New Study Suggests Cellphone Data Can Effectively Track Spread Of Infectious Diseases

“A group of researchers suggested that the cell phone data may help to track down the spread of infectious diseases seasonally.”

“The diverse patterns enveloping the manner with which humans gather and interact are said to have an impact on the seasonal and annual occurrence of infectious disease outbreaks. However, the foundation of this assumption has not been firmly established because information regarding the travel behavior and population fluctuation over time is scarce. With this, experts have not been given the opportunity to obtain quantitative data regarding this matter. At present, scientists rely on travel times, surveys and road networks to determine actual population movements, particularly those who belong to the low-income bracket. Cell phones may supply innovative data about human travels; however, its contribution to epidemiology in terms of determining population density is not well understood.”


Libraries and Librarians

An Idiosyncratic Library Squirreled Away in SoMa

“It’s difficult, very likely even impossible, to explain the Prelinger Library without also discussing its founders, Megan and Rick Prelinger. In so many ways, the library is them. ‘It is a map of our shared consciousnesses,’ Rick says. Each object is a reflection of their interests, the organizing principals follow their own streams of consciousness, even the way the library exists — quietly, almost hidden, but open to all — is a direct representation of their ‘punk ethos.’”


Arapahoe Libraries Seeking $6 Million Tax Increase This Fall

“The Arapahoe Library District will ask voters this fall to approve an annual tax increase of nearly $6 million to support updates to the district’s book selection, technology, literacy-based programs and numerous other services, the district announced this week.”
“The district’s Board of Trustees voted to place the initiative on the November ballot at its Aug. 18 meeting.”

“The resolution seeks a mill levy increase equivalent to an additional $2.39 per month on homes valued at $300,000, according to the district. The increase is expected to raise an additional $5,997,279 annually to put toward maintaining and upgrading a host of district services, including increasing services to the area’s aging population and building connections with home-bound people.”

Colombian Garbage Collector Rescues Books for Children

“BOGOTA, Colombia — A second-grade education has not stopped garbage collector Jose Gutierrez from bringing the gift of reading to thousands of Colombian children.”

“Gutierrez started rescuing books from the trash almost 20 years ago, when he was driving a garbage truck at night through the capital’s wealthier neighborhoods. The discarded reading material slowly piled up, and now the ground floor of his small house is a makeshift community library stacked from floor to ceiling with some 20,000 books, ranging from chemistry textbooks to children’s classics.”

This Librarian Bicycles Around San Francisco Towing a Miniature Library With Free Books

“School librarian Alicia Tapia is on a mission to spread the love of reading. Knowing the important influence books can have on literacy and learning she started towing a miniature library around San Francisco in 2013. She calls her creation Bibliobicicleta.”

“With the goal of instilling ‘a love of reading, of learning, and bicycling in people of all ages and backgrounds, BibLibicicleta got its start after it was 241% funded on Kickstarter. Now Tapia spends her free time pedalling around the city giving out free books at beaches, parks, community events and in areas frequented by the city’s homeless. Her tiny custom trailer can hold up to 100 books at a time, which is quite a load to haul up the notoriously steep hills of the city.”

Librarians Furious as Berkeley Tosses Thousands of Books

“Librarians, normally a sedate bunch, were more steamed than a romance novel in Berkeley on Wednesday over efforts to cull the city collection without consulting them first.”

“About 100 people, joined by more than a dozen librarians and a city councilman, gathered on the front steps of the downtown main library to shout and holler in voices that surely would have gotten them booted from inside the landmark 85-year-old building.”

Meet the Candidate for Treasurer Webinar Summary

Welcome to the second of three summaries of the Meet the Candidates webinars. For this one, the plural is a misnomer: Juanita Richardson dropped out of the campaign for SLA Treasurer, so Nicholas Collison will run unopposed. While determining who the best choice would be isn’t relevant here, knowing what we’re getting certainly.

For more on the candidates, visit the Candidate Resource Center. For the Webinar, click on the “Meet the Candidates for Cabinet” tab in the Leadership Webinars.

With no further adieu, here’s what Nicholas will do as SLA treasurer.

—Matthew Woods, Bayline Editor

* * *
leadership level.

What financial management skills do you bring to this office?

- 20 years of various hands-on business experience, at various different levels, with a number of mid-sized businesses.

What have you learned from Finance Committee meetings?

- The Financial Committee put in a lot of work.
- Our money’s been well looked after, particularly regarding cost reduction.
- Challenging time over past few years, and Financial Committee has been very forward-thinking.

How will you balance the needs for transparency and discretion regarding our financial troubles?

- Current formats for transparency already good:
  - Treasurer’s discussion list
  - Occasional blog and update
  - Governance list
  - Monthly treasurer’s report to the board
  - Monthly Finance Committee meetings, which are open to observers who sign an NDA.
- Would like a column in Information Outlook.
- Will welcome any new ideas.

Thoughts on roadmap for the future of the SLA?

- I fully support roadmap, and board’s decision on taking that forward.
- Appreciates board opening up discussion.
- Reengineering is a must in any organization or business.

How can SLA bring in more revenue, or diversify our revenue stream?

- We need to look at other organizations within our sphere, particularly library schools.
- Look at smaller, struggling orgs, bring them into SLA family
- Welcomes ideas from membership

How comfortable are you with making tough decisions? Give an example.

- Very comfortable, had to do them all the time.
- In NY chapter, we had an event which was big market, but didn’t get much response. Canceled event, saved $5K.

What do you feel is the top financial issue for SLA? How would you influence that issue?

- Our biggest challenge is getting consensus about the roadmap; we need common goal, being longevity of SLA.
- People need to accept change, or go bust from lack of financial support.
- We need to cut costs at major events.

How would you improve communication among SLA board, unit leaders, and association members?

- We have all tools there; people just need to be shown them. We’re not using them.

What is your assessment of the adequacy of investment services and reporting provided by Wells Fargo? Will you commit to revealing this relationship, and if so, how?

- Depends on current finance committee, and will be a board decision from Wells Fargo.

Describe a time you’ve had to communicate a complicated issue?

- Currently doing it day-to-day in contract management, explaining to procurement professionals how content is so much more diverse as a commodity.

Being treasurer means balancing what members want to hear, what you want to say, and what you’re legally allowed to say. How will you manage?

- “With great care.”
- There is a set of rules you have to comply by, both legally and ethically.
- Important to listen to what membership has to say.
- Have to cut self away from having an open discussion.

How will you and the Finance Committee work with units for the financial health of the SLA?

- Discuss with financial committee first to see current practice, then figure out new ways to work with units.
- Would welcome open discussion from units about how they want to communicate.

The Annual Conference is large revenue stream for SLA. What are your thoughts on the Annual Conference and further changes to it?

- Very much for the Conference: it’s educational, and a revenue generator.
- Really look at planning events, possibly downsize conferences to the membership, bring in more business partners.
- Hopeful for conferences and how they’ll be planned out.
- Feels Financial Committee will take more of a lead with planners in the future, particularly looking at costs.

How would you incorporate student members into the SLA’s financial plan?

- Would like to see:
  - More scholarships
  - More marketing to library schools
More activity to get students involved.
- Student members are our future.
- There should be a nationwide SLA effort, but we haven’t been looking for students.

Did you attend treasury meet at the Boston conference? What were your take-aways?
- I didn’t attend the Treasurer’s Meeting.

Tell us about the SLA accomplishment you’re proudest of.
- Being nominated for SLA treasurer
- Winning President’s Award for NY chapter for sponsorships and fundraising.

President’s September Message

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2015/09/presidents-september-message/ September 1, 2015 Categories: Bayline, Chapter Leadership Tags: President's message

Hello, Colleagues!

Happy September! As you read this I am on my way back from taking my son to college. I am so excited for him and this new adventure in his life. To what adventures are you looking forward?

Chapter News and Events

Oh my goodness! We have so many fun events in September: the new member/student social was on the 2d and the September Program meeting is on the 17th. I hope you were able to make the New member/student social. We are also having a Board and Advisory Council meeting on the 10th. Gear up for some fun!

SLA HQ

Edit Membership

In my February message, I asked you to take a look at your membership information. Did you do it?

If not, please take a look NOW and make sure all of your information is correct. This is the way you control what information you get, when and where. If your email is old, you will miss out on end of the year updates, special notices as well as webinars and other benefits of your membership. You can update your listing from the comfort of your computer in your pajamas! Head over to SLA.org and login with your membership number and password, then choose ‘Access your Membership’. All the fields are there for your editing convenience.

Venues for Meetings

The Programs Team needs your help in identifying venues for our dinner meetings. Prices for hotel venues, like residential real estate in the City have skyrocketed or been taken off the market. The Board wants to keep the meeting prices affordable, but we also don’t have a money tree in our backyard, so we need some creative thinking. We need an updated list of venues from which to draw. Will you assist? If your company or firm has a room that will hold 60-75 people that they are willing to offer on occasion, please email our Assistant Program Director, Craig Cruz. If you know of a restaurant with a similar sized room, please also contact Craig. We appreciate your help.

Book Group

Rebels at Work

Are you reading along? We are doing a chapter a week or every
two weeks depending on my schedule. Everyone is welcome. Find the Google Group, which is named SLA-SF Book Group, join or email me to be added. You will need to buy your own copy, if not copies are available at your local library. I wrote a post about joining and participating and included the discussion information about the first chapter.

Articles and Information

I have heard Pat Wagner of Siera speak a couple of times at conferences. She is very good – positive, providing actionable information, etc. In her recent newsletter she shared an article from College Online about why librarians are NOT obsolete. I encourage you to read this article and share it with your boss and other managers. She provides information that you can incorporate into your elevator speech. What parts struck you as useful and relevant to your work situation?

If you have been following the Reddit…issues you may be interested in this article from Bloomberg, which looks at their development over the past 10 years. (found on ResearchBuzz)

Thank you for reading and I look forward to seeing you soon!

Jaye

This Month in Bayline: August 2015

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2015/09/this-month-in-bayline-august-2015/ September 2, 2015 Categories: Bayline, Chapter Programs & Events Tags: books and reading, events, member highlights, President's message, technology

Time for another monthly recap, and at an exciting time as well! We’re having our SLA elections this month; be sure to learn more at our Candidate Resource Center.

But first, this month’s articles:

• Our President’s Monthly Message asks us what we value about ourselves (for me, it’s my legs), discusses chapter membership, wants to know how we feel about the Competencies, and mentions the Sutro Library Tour. I’m still looking forward to submitting an article about it, or at least looking at all those pictures!
• Remember when conspiracy theories were fun, X-files stuff? Intersect brings some of that back with a news about Google analyzing chemtrails discussion. Of course, there’s serious news as well, because information professionals are completely serious people. Seriously.
• We’ve got a new book group set up, reading and learning how to be Rebels at Work. “Stereotypes of buns and shushing are still pervasive.” You want to fight that, don’t you?
• Finally, we’ve got election coverage courtesy of yours truly. I’ve been transcribing the Meet the Candidates Q&A webinars, so you can know what the your SLA candidates are for at a glance, snap-snappy. I’ve covered the candidates for Cabinet and Treasury, while Meet the Candidates for President-Elect hasn’t come out yet; I’ll transcribe it as soon as it does!

That’s the news about the news this month. Don’t forget to vote!

Professional Achievement Award

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2015/09/professional-achievement-award/ September 4, 2015 Categories: Bayline, Honors & Awards Tags: awards, member highlights, take action

This is the second in a series of posts describing chapter awards. Please keep in mind that we will be selecting and awarding some or all of these awards for 2015.

Purpose: to recognize one or more members for notable and enduring contributions to the Chapter and the profession. The Award represents a cumulative evaluation of an individual’s career and emphasizes local activity and leadership of an exemplary nature. The Award is named “The San Francisco Bay Region Chapter Professional Achievement Award.”

Frequency: The Award review process takes place annually. However, there is no requirement that the Award be given every year.

Criteria for recipient(s): To be eligible for the Award, the nominee(s) must be a current Chapter member, active or
retired, in good standing.

The Award honors Chapter members who achieve distinction in areas of professional concern and activity. Particular attention should be given to local involvement and Chapter contributions.

Nominees may excel in one or more areas:

- Outstanding leadership in the Chapter, at meetings, and in committee work. Special and notable service to the Chapter, such as participation in special projects.
- Participation in seminars, teaching courses, and public speaking activities.
- Publication and editorial contributions to professional literature.
- Innovations at the worksite.
- Mentoring activities, which encourage others in the profession.
- Extracurricular activities, which provide the profession and/or the Chapter with commendable publicity and acclaim.
- Other achievements indicating noteworthy dedication to the profession of special librarianship/information science.

**Procedure:** Award nomination announcements

- Should be placed in the June/July and August/September issues of the Chapter Newsletter, Bayline, along with a Nomination Form, alerting the membership to the nomination process.
- Public announcements should also be made at the Summer and Fall Chapter meetings to encourage nominations and to remind members of the nomination deadline.
- Email should be sent to the Chapter email reflector and listserv twice.
- Final deadline for receipt of all nominations will be September 1.
- The Past President will notify the recipient immediately after the Executive Board approval has been given.
- The Chapter President will present the Award at the first Chapter meeting of the year. The President will write the speech for the President’s presentation. The Chair will write an article to the newsletter editor for inclusion in the next issue of Bayline.

**Award gift:** certificate and gift or gift certificate relevant to the awardee’s interests such as garden tools, books, tennis lessons, etc. and dinner for recipient and a guest at the meeting where award is presented.

**History:** Proposals to establish a Chapter award recognizing outstanding professional service achievements date back to 1980, when Association President, Joe Dagnese made the suggestion. The idea germinated through various phases of discussion and draft over several years, but no formal action was taken until July 1984, when the Executive Board created an Ad Hoc Committee to Establish a Chapter Award. The Ad Hoc Committee’s recommendations were accepted by the Board, and the first Award Selection Committee was named in Fall, 1984. The first award was presented in May, 1985. The form of the award (an 8- or 9-inch silver-plated Revere bowl) and the wording of the engraving on it (SLA/San Francisco Bay Region Chapter/Award for Professional Achievement/Year /Recipient’s name) was chosen by the first Award Selection Committee, but the bowl has been replaced by a gift relevant to the recipients’ interests such as garden tools, books, tennis lessons, etc.

**Past Recipients**

- 2014 – Catherine Ghent
- 2013 – Monica Ertel
- 2012 – June Malloy
- 2011 – [no recipient]
- 2010 – **Chris Orr**
- 2009 – **Jaye Lapachet**
- 2008 – **Elyse Eisner**
- 2006 – Wess-John Murdough
- 2005 – Rita Evans
- 2004 – Karin Zilla
- 2003 – Marlene Vogelsang
- 2002 – Debbie Hunt
- 2001 – Linda Vida
- 2000 – Cris Campbell
- 1999 – Debbie Jan
- 1998 – Tim DeWolf
- 1997 – Terry Dean
- 1996 – Richard Geiger
- 1995 – Angie Brunton
- 1994 – Bob Britton, Zoreh Imam, Marie McKenzie
- 1993 – Louise Addis and Janet Vratny
- 1992 – Mary Wawrzones
- 1991 – [no recipient]
- 1990 – Marie Tilson
- 1989 – Jack Leister
- 1988 – [no recipient]
- 1987 – Barbara Ivantcho
- 1986 – Bill Petru
- 1985 – Betty Roth

What members do you know who exemplify excellent service to the chapter over their career and would deserve this award?

Share this:
Libraries

Embattled Berkeley Library director resigns

Berkeley Library Director Jeff Scott resigned after a two-month campaign, led by former librarian Pat Mullan, leveled against his collection weeding practices, leadership abilities and his “poor fit” in a Berkeley setting. The staff felt Scott ignored their input, was unable to collaborate and specifically, reduced the number of collection librarians from a committee of 35 down to two librarians consulting with four others (he apparently locked out the other librarians from Baker and Taylor). The staff and the public seemed somewhat split on Scott’s collection and leadership abilities – “He’s just not a Berkeley type of guy,” said the board member. The interim director is Sarah Dentan, who was promoted from manager of the library’s children’s and neighborhood services to acting deputy director of the library about an hour before Scott’s resignation.”

–Berkeleyside, Dinkelspiel, F., 9/4/15
http://www.berkeleyside.com/2015/09/04/berkeley-library-director-jeff-scott-was-not-a-good-fit/comment-page-2/

The Library Design Showcase

This issue focuses on the winners of the American Institute of Architects library building awards. These libraries represent not just new buildings but also the repurposing of vacant space. A good example is the Pikes Peak Library in Colorado Springs, creating a hands-on learning facility with 3D printers, sewing machines, video game development capabilities, a 400-seat venue for presentations, audio and visual recording studios, and an e-help center.” The issue also includes information explaining the best way to plan space for a proposed move and insuring security for the library.

–American Libraries, Morehart, P., 9-10.15
http://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/magazine/issues/septemberoctober-2015/

Social Media

The American Library Association Lost Control Of Their Facebook Page This Weekend

“Getting hacked is bad news… unless you’re a bunch of librarians. For three days “hackers” took over the American Library Association’s Facebook page and posted an endless stream of clickbaity articles and spam. The hackers had control of the page for three days and everything was returned to normal on Monday. The librarians made the best of a bad situation by posting jolly responses to the articles including call numbers for various books on esoteric topics including the female soldiers above and the odd differences in style of dress in Dubai.”

–Techcrunch, Biggs, J., 9/6/15
http://techcrunch.com/2015/09/07/the-american-library-association-lost-control-of-their-facebook-page-this-weekend/?ncid=rss

Technology

Library Of Congress’ Latest Tech Stumble: Copyright System Down For A Week

After the scathing report from the GAO regarding the Library of Congress’ weak technology, another incident occurred to remind the public of their problems. During building maintenance an outage occurred and the Library has been unable to access the online registration system used to register materials for copyright protection. “Anyone wanting to submit preliminary copyright claims will have to wait until access is restored. Or they will have to use the office’s paper form version, the processing of which could take up to 13 months — almost twice as long as the online forms, according to the office’s website.”

–Nextgov.com, Golden, H., 9/4/15
http://www.nextgov.com/cio-briefing/2015/09/copyright-offices-online-registration-system-goes-dark/120326/

Who’ll Put Out Company Fires When Tech Workers Are at Burning Man?

“A little off topic, but interesting.

“[Burning Man]…is no joke for a number of Silicon Valley startups, whose staff disappears once a year for Burning Man. Tech firms, make contingency plans before their “burner” employees embark for the desert in case of server failures, hacks or other startup maladies. Some ask their workers to check email every day, others plan for last-minute caravans back to the Bay Area or make do with the non-burner staffers.”

From the Burning Man Website, “you’re heading to the middle of the desert, and there is no guarantee that we’ll be able to deliver a message in an emergency; it’s important to weigh that before you leave home. If you are awaiting news, you can actively check in at Playa Info, and in truly dire circumstances, you can take the bus into Gerlach to use the pay phone there.”

See the video following the article.

–Wall Street Journal, Wells, G., 9.3.15

Transparency

AG Harris Launches Data-Driven OpenJustice Initiative

Attorney General Harris announced the availability of crime statistics that include these data sets: (1) Law Enforcement
Officers Killed or Assaulted in the Line of Duty; (2) Deaths in Custody, including arrest-related deaths; and (3) Arrests and Bookings. These raw data are fed through an open data portal and will appear on a dashboard as a “user-friendly visualization tool.”


Lessons From Ukraine: Improving Civic Tech With Human-Centered Design PolicyTechnology
This is a remarkable story about how U.S. “Sunlighters” and the country of Ukraine joined together to bring information and access to a confused and possibly misinformed population during this period of building a democracy. Four projects are discussed, such as “ Transparency International Ukraine: The initiatives on which we consulted with TI Ukraine focused on its whistleblower efforts, both in encouraging whistleblowing as well as providing legal and other support to whistleblowers.” Each project provides a link to the specific website. The Sunlighters also shared their methods for building technology in order to meet user needs, what we might call User Experience or User Design.


Special Project Award

This is the third in a series of posts detailing the awards given out by the chapter.

**Purpose:** to recognize a member or committee that has exhibited outstanding, unique or beyond the call of duty service to the Chapter.

**Frequency:** as appropriate.

**Criteria for recipient:** completing a special project that benefits the chapter in unique ways – e.g. chapter website redesign, indexing of chapter newsletter, Bayline, etc.

**Procedure:** chapter member fills out and sends in nomination form.

**Award gift:** certificate(s) and appropriate gift(s) presented at a Chapter meeting.

**Past Recipients:**
2014 – Jonathan Leff and Cathy Salomon for the Bayline digitization project
2011 – David Grossman
2011 – Cynthia Matano
2011 – Marie Tilson
2009 – Linda Yamamoto

Who deserves this award, in your opinion?

Intersect News, 9.14.15

**Copyright**
**EFF Pushes Back Against State Law Copyright Expansion in California**
“…EFF filed a friend-of-the-court brief in the Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, pushing back against a district court decision that expanded state law copyrights in pre-1972 sound recordings… a company called Flo & Eddie has convinced district courts that state copyright law restricts public performances of pre-1972 sound recordings, even though such a restriction has never before been recognized…these cases arise out of a quirk of copyright that leaves pre-1972 sound recordings out of the reach of federal law, allowing the states to set copyright rules.”

–Ranieri, V., EFF, 9/10/15
https://www.eff.org/document/eff-amicus-flo-eddie-v-pandora-9th-cir
Copyright
Appeals court strikes a blow for fair use in long-awaited copyright ruling
In 2007, EFF sued Universal for the “takedown” notice used against a mother who had uploaded a video of her baby dancing to a Prince tune. EFF claimed it violated the Digital Millennium Copyright Act. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit found that “Universal Music Group’s view of fair use is flawed.” Now Universal Music needs to face a trial over whether it wrongfully used a “takedown” message over the video. The mother, Stephanie Lenz had sought pro bono counsel from EFF.

—Mullin, J., ARS Technica, 9/14/15

Data Security
Why You Should Think Twice Before You Click on That Link
“In response to data breaches at the Office of Personnel Management and other agencies, the Office of National Intelligence this week rolled out the first in a series of public awareness communications aimed at teaching computer users… ‘There have been 500 known breaches in recent years affecting 47 percent of adult Americans,’ Bill Evanina, the National Counterintelligence Executive, said as he unveiled sample videos of the campaign…at teaching contractors and their families “to not click on a link,” that, on closer examination via a hovering mouse, can be shown to not come from the source with which it is labeled…”

—Clark, C., GovExec, 9/11/15

Data Security
Rogers Outlines Cyber Challenges Facing DoD, U.S.
Navy Admiral Michael, S. Rogers, the commander of U.S. Cyber Command, spoke about the challenges facing the country, particularly “the problems of defending against cyber enemies, and “operationalizing” cyber capabilities in the Defense Department.” The American people along with the government agencies will need to work together using their different skills and different perspectives while government legislation is required to govern the cyber world. Rogers discussed the two major themes of deterrence, “convincing the enemy they will fail in their efforts,” secondly, convince the enemy that even if they manage to disrupt U.S. systems “the cost they would pay would far outweigh any value that would be generated.” Rogers also underscored a familiar message, “It’s ‘not ‘if,’ it’s ‘when.’”

—Garamone, J., Department of Defense, 9/9/15
http://www.defense.gov/News-Article-View/Article/616569/rogers-outlines-cyber-

Drones
California Gov. Vetoes Drone Restrictions; Win For Amazon, Google
“California Gov. Jerry Brown vetoed a bill late Wednesday that would have effectively banned drone flights over private property without permission, a major victory for companies such as Google and Amazon that want to use the devices to deliver small packages… while “drone technology certainly raises novel issues that merit careful examination,” the bill would have exposed drone users “to burdensome litigation and new causes of action.” The bill proposed making flying a drone lower than 350 feet above private property without permission akin to criminal trespassing.”

— Nicas, J., WSJ, 9/10/15

Federal Legislation
Federal Tech Legislation to Watch
From GovTech a summary of pending legislation that is relevant to technology affecting us all. Included is legislation regarding both smart cars and drones but also Data Security.

- The Data Security and Breach Notification Act of 2015 (H.R. 1770: would establish consumer protection requirements for companies and nonprofits that handle sensitive, unencrypted personal data. As part of the legislation, data handlers would be required to notify affected customers who might be at risk of financial harm or identity theft following a data breach. The Consumer Drone Safety Act (S. 1608): Their pilots have forced the grounding of firefighting aircrafts, caused dangerous situations with passenger planes and owners have even found ways to install firearms. On the balance, it’s no surprise lawmakers are taking a stab at new rules for the estimated 1 million hobby drones buzzing around in American skies. Under the proposed law, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) would be charged with outlining new guidelines for the devices. These rules would include the establishment of a maximum altitude, restricted areas and conditions, and new manufacturing rules. If the proposal becomes law, the FAA would have 18 months to publish the final rule for domestic and imported drone manufacturers. “

—Eyragon, E., GovTech, 9/11/15

FOIA
State Hires FOIA Czar, Reassigns Employees and Begs for More Time on Clinton e-mail Release
The State Department has hired Ambassador Janice Jacobs out of retirement to oversee the operation, handling the backlog of
FOIA requests due to the number of employees helping with the “thousands of pages of Hillary Clinton emails.” When it was found that Janice Jacobs had made the maximum donation of $2700 to Clinton’s presidential campaign, the State Department, while saying it was unaware of the donation, believed the donation wasn’t relevant to this project. “…admitted that there was no conflict of interest.” Finally, the State Department spokesperson did not know how much this operation would cost taxpayers.

—Itkowitz, C., Washington Post, 9/9/15

Government Website Awards
If you are interested in web design: MANY awards distributed to various government groups for excellence in web design.

—http://www.govtech.com/cdg/

Libraries
Under the Dome | Library by Design, Fall 2015
This is an interesting article – especially if you are involved in decisions on library spacing. Library by Design discusses “fundamental questions in any library construction or renovation project is what size the library should be to serve its community best and how that space should be allocated.” Ideas include, “…using acoustics to create isolated sound patterns, outdoor adjacencies, glass accordion doors, and furniture to signal the age ranges different areas are targeting…the basics for making the most of an existing space: declutter, shrink service desks, lower shelving height, and add daylight. Collaboration is important, sharing or collocating space, “or hosting partnered programs within the space.” A most effective message was to frame the design around economic generators: “framing it around the patrons instead of the library and as an economic generator rather than a social service. Continuing the theme of economic impact, when addressing elected officials especially, presenting “almost academic studies” such as those conducted by Pew or the Urban Libraries Council can be very important.” Includes photos of the libraries mentioned.

—Schwartz, M., Library Journal, 9/14/15

OnLine Education
How Massive Open Online Courses are maturing into useful tools.
The author argues five reasons why, based on current studies, we should believe in the future of MOOCs. Although Gartner predicted that MOOCs would begin in the “hype cycle,” pass into to “peak of inflated expectations” and finally end up in the “trough of disillusionment,” Harris believes MOOCs will eventually succeed. The biggest surprise was that people signing up for these free courses were highly educated, already degreed. See the five categories for the rationale.

1. MOOCs as teaching laboratories
2. Enhancing careers
3. Adding value to courses on campus
4. Making learning more engaging
5. Opening up education access

—Harris, L., Center Digital, 9/11/15

Privacy
Library Suspends Tor Node After DHS Intimidation
The Kilton Public Library in Lebanon, New Hampshire was selected by the Library Freedom Project and The Tor Project as the pilot location for a program to install Tor relays, and eventually exit nodes, in public libraries all over. “Libraries and Tor are a great match: Tor’s software can help provide the technological underpinnings for the privacy and intellectual freedom that libraries seek to foster, and libraries can provide the institutional support that can make long-lived high-bandwidth nodes possible.” A regional Department of Homeland Security office contacted the local police “to spread fear, uncertainty, and doubt about Tor,” and the library board suspended the program until they could vote on it on September 15.

Higgins, P., EFF, 9/11/15
https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2015/09/library-suspends-tor-node-after-dhs-intimidation

Share this:

Election of Chapter Officers for 2016: Meet your Candidates and, Please, Vote
http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2015/09/election-of-chapter-officers-for-2016-meet-your-candidates-and-please-vote/ September 16, 2015 Categories: Bayline, Chapter Leadership Tags: events, member highlights, take action

Here are your candidates for the offices of President-Elect, Assistant Director of the Program Committee, and Treasurer for the coming term. Please take a moment to get to know them and please do vote. Voting will begin on Monday, September 21 and run through Sunday, October 11. We’ll
repeat the link and will also push it out on the Reflector so you have multiple opportunities to cast your ballot, and the Chapter thanks you very much for your support.

PRESIDENT-ELECT: KENDRA LEVINE

Kendra K. Levine is a librarian at the Institute of Transportation Studies Library at UC Berkeley. She earned a Masters of Library and Information Science and Masters of Information Systems from Drexel University in 2008. She was named an SLA Rising Star in 2013 and was chair of the SLA Transportation Division in 2013, an annual conference planner for the Academic and Transportation divisions. She has also served on the 2014 Nominations Committee, the 2015 Annual Conference Planning Council, and is now on the Professional Development Advisory Council. She is currently co-chair of the Library and Information Science for Transportation committee at the Transportation Research Board. In addition to her day job, Kendra manages the library at KALX radio where she’s also a DJ.

TREASURER: JOHN BERTLAND

John Bertland is currently overseeing library services and records management for the Presidio Trust, the federal agency responsible for managing the Presidio of San Francisco. He received his MLIS from San Jose State University. While doing that, he established a library for a non-profit center, The Thoreau Center for Sustainability, and subsequently he has worked on several projects with the Presidio Trust, including providing research and digital asset management for the development of the historical exhibits in the recently renovated Officers’ Club. He is a lifelong Doctor Who fan, makes excellent brownies, and has Christopher Lee’s autograph.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, PROGRAM COMMITTEE: REBECCA LEUNG

Rebecca is enthusiastically embarking on a second career in library science after spending over a decade in the architectural lighting industry. This fall marks the start of her second year of library school at SJSU’s iSchool, with a focus on special libraries, archives, and historical research. It is fitting that Rebecca will serve as the Assistant Program Director since the chapter’s programs are what originally drew her to be more involved in SLA.

In addition to her involvement with the SF Bay Region Chapter, Rebecca serves as the Webmaster for SJSU’s student chapter of SLA, volunteers at the San Leandro Library History Room and the Bancroft Library. Rebecca received the 2015 Travel Stipend Award from our chapter to attend the SLA Annual Conference in Boston, where she learned about the endless possibilities of special librarianship.

In her free time, Rebecca enjoys reading graphic novels and spending time outside with her husband and two cats. It also takes only the slightest suggestion to get her to travel, especially to see interesting art or architecture. Her latest adventure was a library seminar in Prague, where she was fortunate enough to visit many different libraries, including one from the 12th century!

VOTE ****** VOTE **************** VOTE

–Sandy Malloy

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NLZLWTT
Student Award

This is the fourth in a series of posts about chapter awards.

**Purpose:** recognizes student Chapter member for notable activities and contributions to the Chapter and the profession. The Award represents an evaluation of an individual’s career potential and emphasizes local activity and leadership of an exemplary nature.

**Frequency:** The Award review process takes place annually. However, there is no requirement that the Award be given every year.

**Criteria for recipient:** must be an SLA-SF student chapter member and a student in an information professional program who achieves distinction in areas of professional concern and activity. Particular attention should be given to local involvement and Chapter contributions.

**Procedure:** Chapter member fills out and sends in nomination form. Additionally, requests for nominees will also be posted to the San Jose State University SLIS and University of California Information School listservs and coordinated with the academic relations representative at each school. Self nominations are acceptable.

**Award gift:** Certificate and one year membership in SLA and the San Francisco Bay Region Chapter and one division to be redeemed within 3 years. Presented at a chapter meeting.

**Past Recipients:**
- 2014 – Jessica Neaves
- 2013 – Lauren Reid
- 2012 – Shelli Owens
- 2010 – Alys Tryon

Do you know of a student who deserves this award because of their excellent contribution to the chapter?

Intersect News, 9/20/15

**Drones**

**California Drone Bill Passed by Legislature, Rests with Gov. Brown**

After Gov. Brown vetoed a drone regulation last week, Senate Bill 168 has passed the legislature and is on its way to Brown for signature. This piece would increase fines for drone actions that interfered with fire fighters and any other first responders, granting immunity to firefighters, etc. that may “damage or destroy unmanned aircraft. “

–Nelson, J., San Bernardino County Sun, 9.15.15

**Government Technology**

**Can the Pentagon do business with Silicon Valley?**

The Department of Defense (DOD) and the government generally have earned their reputation for being unmovable hunks that unable to move agilely as the information age requires. This article provides a look at how that’s changing with the establishment of something “called Hacking for Defense that’s searching for new ways for the military to identify promising Silicon Valley technologies.” Peter Newall, retired Army, has started a service, BMNT Partners, to help the U.S. respond to the rapid changes occurring in war, “rebels in Syria are using iPads to aim mortars-ISIS is using hobby-style drones for reconnaissance.” The U.S. is no longer technically superior and Newall hopes to engage Silicon Valley and the DOD in partnerships, phasing out the general contractors of old who need too much lead time. “”…I learned about the fallacy of the Pentagon’s model when it comes to Silicon Valley,” Newell says. Defense companies hire themselves out. Tech companies don’t. They look for a problem that a lot of people have, develop a product that solves the problem, and then take it to market. “


**The Internet**

**The Ad Blocking Controversy, Explained**

With the introduction of Apple ’s new operating system, Apple News and Facebook’s “Instant Articles,” the ongoing controversy over ad blocking has increased. For those who read their news online there is the mistaken belief that ad blockers will prevent ads from interrupting content. Since most online
Native advertising does not look like an ad to the browser and therefore won’t be blocked. For example, “Casey Johnston’s ad blocker think piece for The Awl http://www.thewawl.com/2015/09/welcome-to-the-block-party, an ongoing series of articles on the subject by Jean Louis-Gassé published on the First Monday blog, http://www.mondaynote.com/2015/08/03/what-the-ad-blocker-debate-reveals/ Ben Thompson’s “Why Web Pages Suck,” https://stratechery.com/2015/why-web-pages-suck/ and many others, discuss the gamut of online reading and browser tracking as we use the web-software disputes – media dollars spent – publisher’s ad revenue earned – native ads (sneaky), etc. An interesting topic and Yglesias provides a summary of sorts. The comments, however, continue all over the web and Twitter as of this writing.
–Yglesias, M., VOX, 9.18.15
http://www.vox.com/2015/9/18/9351759/ad-blocking-controversy

Libraries and Librarians
Questions Your Local Librarian Will Not Be Answering for You
This librarian compiled a list of questions received from patrons. The list indicates that the public believes us to be very intelligent, they obviously trust us and based on the questions, they need us.

–Kay, L. DOL, 9.17.15
http://blog.dol.gov/author/leo-kay/

“People are increasingly aware that they can borrow e-books at their public library. Some 38% say their public library has e-books, compared with 31% who said this in 2012…Use of computers, the internet or Wi-Fi connections at libraries is also down slightly since 2012. Among those who have visited a public library in the past 12 months, 27% say they used a computer, Internet connection or Wi-Fi there. This compares with the 31% figure recorded in November 2012…65% of Americans ages 16 and older say that closing their local public library would have a major impact on their community. Low-income Americans, Hispanics and African Americans are more likely than others to say that a library closing would impact their lives and communities….A trend in the other direction is that mobile access to library resources has taken on more prominence. Among those who have used a public library website, 50% accessed it in the past 12 months using a mobile device such as a tablet computer or smartphone – up from 39% in 2012. 45% say that libraries should “definitely” purchase new digital technologies such as 3-D printers to let people explore how to use them. Another 35% say libraries should “maybe” do this…”
–Price, G., InfoDoc, 9.17.15
http://libraries.pewinternet.org

Privacy
Agencies Say They Need Access to Americans’ Emails Without a Warrant
A bipartisan bid to reform an electronic privacy law has the support of the tech community and the White House, but federal law enforcement officials tell Congress the changes would hamper civil prosecution. Civil law enforcement
agencies like the FTC and the SEC would not be able to obtain critical information if the law were changed to require criminal warrants for access to data stored on cloud services…”
–Waddell, K., National Journal, 9.19.15
http://www.govexec.com/defense/2015/09/agencies-say-they-need-access-americans-emails-without-warrant/121460/?oref=river

**Transparency**

**EFF Urges Department of Justice Not to Fund LAPD’s Body Cameras**

The EFF is recommending to the Department Of Justice (DOJ) that the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) be denied their purchase of 700 body-worn video cameras. According to the EFF the selected body cameras “hide almost all camera footage from the public…” The EFF identifies four main objections:
1) LAPD will not release video footage unless required by the court.
2) LAPD requires officers to view the footage before writing up their incident reports.
3) LAPD officers will not suffer consequences for failing to turn on their body videos.
4) LAPD has no clear rules to prevent officers from wearing the body videos to “surveil the public at large…doesn’t address the use of back-end analysis tools such as facial recognition on footage…” Overall, the LAPD policies run counter to ACLU and Policy Executive Research Forum (PERF) recommendations and may threaten the civil rights of the public.

–Lynch, J., EFF.org, 9.16.15
https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2015/09/eff-urges-department-justice-not-fund-lapds-body-cameras

**Why Are States Replacing Email With Flawed Web Forms For Contacting Lawmakers?**

The Open States organization provides the public with information to the public on contacting their legislative representatives and how to locate the status of bills. Apparently, many states are moving away from email addresses and asking constituents to use web forms instead. “Email use is a more basic skill than navigating a website, and it isn’t buggy.” States don’t always test forms for compatibility of different web formats/browsers. For example, South Carolina forms don’t work with Google Chrome and South Dakota forms are not easy for visually impaired constituents to use. Open States asks for help from the public in providing email addresses from state legislators personal web pages in the following states: CA, ID, GA, NJ, IN, OH, PA, SC, SD, TX, WA

–Shorey, R., Sunlight Foundation, 9.15.15
http://sunlightfoundation.com/blog/2015/09/15/why-are-flawed-web-forms-replacing-email-for-contacting-state-lawmakers/

**Meet the Candidates for President-Elect Webinar Summary**

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2015/09/meet-the-candidates-for-president-elect-webinar-summary/ September 22, 2015 Categories: Bayline, Chapter Programs & Events Tags: events, member highlights, take action

The final days of the SLA election are upon us, and with that the final Meet the Candidates webinar. Check the Candidate Resource Center for more on who you’re voting for, and then do exactly that; vote!

–Matthew Woods, Bayline Editor

***

*What do you see as SLA’s most pressing challenge in the coming three years, and how would you remedy it?*

**Karen Reczek**

- We need a better process to reach consensus, which we haven’t been very good at.
- Town halls and discussion lists don’t help us reach conclusions.
- SLA membership has a shared sense of purpose.

*See personal post for Change Equation.*

*Vision of what’s possible is greater than our resistance to change.*

**Dee Magnoni**

- See blog posts for answers.
- We need to get our financial house in order. Financial committee is working on that.
- We need to pull in pilot projects from other divisions and chapters.
- Look at different economic models. Our traditional model isn’t working.
- Members, staff, business partners, and other external must be engaged in conversation.
- We need to add communication channels (e.g., Twitter).
- Take engagement, create excitement, and include strong, inclusive vision for our future.
- “MLK Jr. did not say ‘I have a strategic plan.’”
- We need a dreamer’s passion as much as hard-core practicality.
What are your thoughts regarding the roadmap for the future of SLA released by the Board in July?

Dee

- Simple and easy to read, but has a lot of information that needs to be thought through.
- Has the same knowledge of it as every other member. Doesn’t have the knowledge of the conversation that went into hiring the change consultants for the implementation, and “I’m not quite sure I would have made that part of the roadmap.”
- Likes Marketing Opportunities, but is a little cautious about the message of “one association.” Diversity is mentioned, but “one association” sets off alarms in some units. We need to highlight our diverse membership, and not have people feel like mere market opportunities.
- Would prefer a hybrid approach to business partnerships, rather than a unifying and streamlined approach. Allow units to continue strong relationships (e.g., Pan-Division) without penalties. Offer assistance and expertise for people who do need help.
- Regarding New Products and Services, we should also outsource partnerships and offer member discounts with partners.
- Training outside traditional information areas is great. We should learn lessons from other industries. We should be on top of not just information practices but also hot technology.
- Conference Model is good, but we should consider others. A peer-review system would be nice. Current staff is great.
- Flip “Learn-Do-Direct” to “Do-Learn.” Instead of learning first, we learn best when we do.
- Hope we consider benefits and costs of 3-year leadership trial, maybe experiment with hybrid model in year 2 or 3.
- Beyond included suggestions, we need to evaluate our basic business model. We should consider a many-to-many business model (e.g., Uber, E-Bay); microbusinesses using a central platform. SLA is already close to this.
- For Membership, we should expand our levels. Have discounts for joining multiple chapters. Have a “golden ticket” that allows joining everything. Further benefits for the unemployed: 1-year discounts, skills training. Should institutional membership be reconstructed?
- Board revised recommendations were a bit ambiguous, will need a “conversation.”

Karen

- Document was well put together and needed.
- It’s a high-level framework, more strategic than specific.
- We need specific implementation plans, actions, and metrics for each item.
- We need prioritization; one thing at a time.
- Delegation engages members in the units; have units test out ideas.
- Plans have to be continually refined or else abandoned.

How do you see your role as president, and what impact do you hope to have?

Karen

- Primary role is to bring strong leadership to Association and Board.
- Role includes unity and consensus.
- Role is to set strategic direction, assure specific strategies.
- Continually communicate, communicate with all groups. You cannot over-communicate.
- Instill a more rigorous business mindset into the organization. SLA should be run like a business. We have financial data, but lack other business-critical data. We should collect that data, and implement a way to track it, within a year. We should respond to downturns immediately.

Dee

- Role is to be open, collaborative person who reaches out.
- Presidential roles are defined by the times.
- Today’s president must build bridges: within the SLA, outside of it, and into the future.
- Patterns self after FDR: not only listening, but checking the details.
- Getting feedback, understanding finances.

What specific actions would you advocate to bring the voice of individual members into the Board and the change process?

Dee

- Communication is so, so very critical. We need as many voices as possible
- Believes in power of road trips (visiting libraries, events, board meetings, etc.) to listen to voices. They’re worth the cost. Perhaps we can come up with a hybrid of association/unit/presidential costs.
- Use all social media channels we have in place, collecting and providing feedback.

Karen

- Use cabinet officers more. There used to be much more back and forth between cabinets and boards in the form of referrals from the board to the cabinets and recommendations from the cabinets to the board. Revitalize this.
- Digest of key decisions made by Board. Board minutes are often unclear.
- There should be feedback and questions toward Board decisions. Debate should be encouraged. Everybody should ask questions and get answers.
● Establish VR common space where can map or share ideas and suggestions; it’s better for understanding than just listening.

*What are your short-term plans for the encouraging and developing membership in less-represented areas (e.g., the Caribbean)?*

**Karen**

- Answered in blog posts.
- Partner with sister organizations in underrepresented areas.
- More virtual communities to deal with time zone challenge.
- Have webinars at other times (such as evenings).

**Dee**

- Create a virtual caucus.
- Record webinars, and store them in an easily found central location.
- Link to an international mentoring program.

*Imagine you have just finished your 3-year term on the SLA Board of Directors: what did you accomplish?*

**Dee**

- Focus on our finances, evaluate our business models, do pilots with our units.
- We need to look at how our environment is different than in the past.
- We need to kick off a purposes process: look at SLA’s heart and not just its strategic plan.
- Leverage our business model to be agile and responsive. Make SLA be where everyone goes for critical career development.

**Karen**

- SLA’s brand and messaging will be well-defined.
- We’ll have an updated roadmap for the future, which will include implementation plans, actions, and metrics for evaluations of success.
- Reexamined our business and revenue models, including sunsetting some products/services while introducing new ones.
- Mechanism to talk to members and pilot ideas.
- Poised to instantly react to changing trends.
- Retain members and provide value.

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**Quarter Century Club / Special Lifetime Achievement Award**

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**Award:** certificate and dinner for recipient and a guest at the meeting where award is given, and a small token of appreciation.

2014 – Deb Hunt
2013 – George Plosker

Who has mentored you? Who has added to the chapter? We need your nominations!

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**Intersect News 9/27/15**


**Big Data**

*What Big Data Means For Human Subjects In Federal Research*
Several federal groups — including the departments of Homeland Security, Energy, Agriculture, Health and Human Services and Education — are proposing that regulations surrounding human test subjects be revised to reflect new research methods. The risks for human subjects involved in such studies are “largely informational, not physical. Relatively recent developments in scientific research — including the use of analytics services on human specimens and the increasing use of large volumes of electronic health data — have changed patients’ expectation of privacy, the proposal said. “Yet, these developments have not been accompanied by major change in the human subjects research oversight system, which has remained largely unchanged over the last two decades…” –Ravindranath, M., Next Gov., 9.25.2015


Government Standards for Web Design
FYI: U.S. Federal Government Introduces Web Design Standards

“These new standards (currently in alpha) are the result of a collaboration between 18F (GSA) and U.S. Digital Services (The White House). From an 18F Introductory Blog Post: The U.S. Web Design Standards are the U.S. government’s very own set of common UI components and visual styles for websites. It’s a resource designed to make things easier for government designers and developers, while raising the bar on what the American people can expect from their digital experiences. In the Web Design Standards, you will find: A visual style guide, Common UI components and patterns. Make the best thing, the easiest thing, Be accessible out of the box, Design for flexibility, Reuse, reuse, reuse…” –Price, G., InfoDocket, 9.28.15


Intellectual Property
Big Tech Has Become Way Too Powerful

Conservatives and liberals interminably debate the merits of “the free market” versus “the government.” Which one you trust more delineates the main ideological divide in America. In reality, they aren’t two separate things. There can’t be a market without government. Legislators, agency heads and judges decide the rules of the game. The important question, too rarely discussed, is who has the most influence over these decisions and in that way wins the game…Now information and ideas are the most valuable forms of property. Such “intellectual property” is the key building block of the new economy. Without government decisions over what it is, and who can own it and on what terms, the new economy could not exist. Big Tech’s sweeping patents, standard platforms, fleets of lawyers to litigate against potential rivals and armies of lobbyists have created formidable barriers to new entrants….In 2012, the staff of the Federal Trade Commission’s Bureau of Competition submitted to the commissioners a 160-page analysis of Google’s dominance in the search and related advertising markets, and recommended suing Google for conduct that “has resulted — and will result — in real harm to consumers and to innovation.” But the commissioners chose not to pursue a case…a plausible reason has to do with Google’s political clout. The real question is how government organizes the market, and who has the most influence over its decisions. We are now in a new gilded age similar to the first Gilded Age, when the nation’s antitrust laws were enacted. As then, those with great power and resources are making the “free market” function on their behalf. Big Tech — along with the drug, insurance, agriculture and financial giants — dominates both our economy and our politics.” -Reich, R., New York Times, 9/19/15

http://www.nytimes.com/2015/09/20/opinion/is-big-tech-too-powerful-ask-google.html?r=0

Internet of Things
TechCrunch Disrupt: Startups in Health, Virtual Reality and Internet of Things Take the Stage

“The industry event, held Sept. 21-23, has become a popular meet up for ambitious entrepreneurs and strategizing investors… startups representing services in health, agriculture, the Internet of Things, and yes, virtual reality. More than 60 VR and augmented reality startups arrived to present various twists on the technology. A few of these: The Agrilyst is an Internet of Things solution for greenhouses. The startup pairs temperature, CO2, light and moisture-detecting sensors within an analytics dashboard that offers users real-time insights. The Stampery is an app that lawyers and government types will love. It’s essentially an online notary. The platform lets users drag and drop documents into its Web app to certify them for legal use. It does this with the help of bitcoin’s blockchain technology. Hydroswarm is a small underwater autonomous vehicle (UAV) that collects information with sensors. The drone, which is equipped with sensors, can be leveraged by oil and construction companies for underwater inspections, by port authorities to detect intrusions, or in “swarms” to monitor the ocean’s larger geographies…” –Shueh, J., Gov. Tech, 9.25.15


Internet Accessibility
This is Cuba’s Netflix, Hulu, and Spotify – all without the Internet

“El Paquete Semanal” (The Weekly Package) is a weekly trove of digital content —everything from American movies to PDFs of Spanish newspapers — that is gathered, organized, and transferred by a human web of runners and dealers to the entire country. It is a prodigious and profitable operation. There are two Paquete king pins in Havana: Dany and Ali. These two compete to develop the best collection of weekly digital content and in the fastest turnaround time possible for their subscribers. It’s a competitive market playing out in the shadows of a tightly controlled communist economy. Paquete subscribers pay between $1 and $3 per week to receive the
collection of media. It’s either delivered to their home or transferred at a pickup station, usually in the back of a cellphone repair shop, a natural cover for this type of operation. relies on data traffickers to deliver the files, but said he didn’t know how those sources obtained the content in the first place. “Everybody has their responsibility,” Dany told me. “Everyone gathers a certain type of content, and they bring it to me. I organize it, edit it, and get it ready for distribution. And then we send it through our messengers.”

–Harris, J., Vox, 9.21.15

Privacy

FBI Collecting Fingerprints, Photos, and Other Data on Millions

“Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF) is citing an FBI Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) from February, finds that the agency now plans to retain indefinitely in its database fingerprints and other biographical information — soon to include photos — submitted as part of routine criminal background checks. These will be merged with data on criminals and criminal suspects. Then, whenever a law-enforcement agency searches the database — EFF says this happens “thousands of times a day” — the fingerprints and other personal data of millions of innocent people will be included in the query. The fingerprint and biographical data is expected to be stored in the FBI’s Next Generation Identification (NGI) database, that collects and stores fingerprints, iris scans, palm prints, voice data, photographs, and any other biometric identifiers the agency desires in the future. Having all that data about a person in one place makes it far easier for the government to keep tabs on that individual at all times.”

–Tennant, M., New American, 9.25.15

Privacy

Defending Your Rights In The Digital World: CalECPA

President’s October Message

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2015/10/presidents-october-message/

President's message

Hello!

Hope you are all doing well!!

I took advantage of the offer of a limited free ticket to Dreamforce, the Salesforce.com conference. It is mostly a sales event, as opposed to an educational event, like the SLA Annual Conference. The biggest difference was the excitement of people who attended. I saw very few dour and unhappy faces. People seemed genuinely excited to be there and I was excited to be a part of it. Although many of you probably did not attend, I would like to see that excitement about our chapter and our Association. We have a strategic plan, but what else would make you excited about being part of the chapter?

Chapter News

The Programs Team needs your feedback from the most recent meeting. Please tell us your experiences from the meeting with Laura Ackley, author of “San Francisco’s Jewel City: The Panama-Pacific International Exposition of 1915,” which took
place on September 17, 2015. Please fill out the survey NOW.

SF BAY REGION CHAPTER ELECTIONS are NOW: Please vote between 9/21 and 10/11. We have three great candidates for the open positions on the Board:

- Kendra Levine for President-Elect,
- John Bertland for Treasurer
- Rebecca Leung for Assistant Director, Program Committee.

We would like you to show your support by voting during the balloting period from Monday 9/21 through Sunday October 11. Candidates’ profiles are in Bayline and you can find the ballot on SurveyMonkey. Sandy Malloy, Chair, Nominating Committee and her team have worked hard to bring you this slate. As members of the chapter it is your right and privilege to vote, so vote! Thank you all very much.

Our chapter year is winding up and we have one more big event at which I hope I see you: the Holiday Party. The Programs and Hospitality Team are working hard to firm up the date and place. More details and reservations for that event will be posted soon.

Cindy Hill is taking nominations for chapter awards, which are announced at the Holiday Party. Contact Cindy for more information and look for a blog post.

I am pleased to report that the San José State University Special Libraries Association Student Group is proud to announce that, for the second year in a row, they have been recognized by the Special Libraries Association’s Student and Academic Affairs Advisory Council (SAAAC)! This year the group is the recipient of the SLA SAAAC award for Innovative Programming. We are honored to have been selected! Take a look at the press release.

SLA HQ

Election results for the upcoming board were announced and Dee Magnoni (president-elect), Nick Collison (treasurer), Tom Nielsen (division cabinet chair-elect), and Mary Talley (chapter cabinet chair-elect) were all elected to serve on the Board. These fine people will continue the work of the current Board and help take our association into the future. Take a look at the press release and show your support for these new officers. On behalf of the chapter, I would like to thank these members for their service.

The Board has announced a new dues structure, which will take effect 1 January 2016. It will standardize dues rates for full members at $200, regardless of salary. Only full members who live outside North America and make less than the equivalent of US$ 18,000 will be exempted from this rate—they will pay $50.

The dues restructuring will also affect the following dues categories:

- **Student member** dues will rise from $40 to $50;
- Dues for **retired members** will increase from $40 to $100 (retirees with 45 years of continuous membership will continue to pay no dues); and
- A new dues rate of $100 will be available to **unemployed members**, but it is for one year only.

Visit the SLA Career Center to build your job-seeker profile, and apply to the latest job announcements.

I thought the recent SLA Connections newsletter was particularly good. If you missed it, take a look at some of the articles. I think the first time managers article is a particularly good reminder for all of us who manage others and those of us who are managed.

I have just sent my “parenting issues” off to college. I am reveling in my ‘freedom’ and, though, I miss my son a lot, I am not eager to take on that role day to day again. Sadly, I have found myself in that role in our chapter, having been forced to remind members that we are a professional organization and we should behave professionally towards each other. One of the reasons I am active in the chapter is that the people are great and friendly. We get our stuff done and have a good time doing it. It is important to remember that we are part of a professional organization and we need to behave that way towards each other.

Conferences and Events

**3:15 - 4:00**

**Success Strategies for Working With Vendor Partners**

**IL 2015 session**

I hope to see some of you at Internet Librarian. I will be speaking there on relations with vendors, Monday October 26, 2015 at 3:15.

The AALL Business Skills Clinic will be held in Chicago on October 16-17. It is a two-day intensive learning experience designed to teach the fundamentals of six core business areas that support the achievement of individual, team, and organizational goals. While it is sponsored by a law library association, the learning outcomes are transferable. Participants will learn:

- Basics of managerial finance to inform financial decision making
- Best practices in personnel management
- Methods to evaluate, effectively communicate, and market services
- Performance measures
- Key principles of strategic planning
- Skills and strategies for negotiating
For more information, contact Celeste R. Smith, AALL director of education, at esmith@aall.org or 312.205.8032 or register now.

Jane Dysart and Ken Haycock are sponsoring an event in Southern California that sounds good as well. Outcomes, Value & Impact: Metrics for Library Success
https://cllm.usc.edu/fall-conference/, which will be held Thursday & Friday, October 1st & 2nd at the University of Southern California

Out in the Library World

Thanks to Marlene Harmon, the Governement Relations Chair for NOCALL, we learn that David Mao Becomes Acting Library of Congress Librarian of Congress James Billington announced that he will retire on September 30. Deputy Librarian of Congress David Mao will serve as Acting Librarian of Congress until a presidential appointment is made and is confirmed by the Senate.

Mao served as the treasurer of the American Association of Law Libraries from 2007-2010, and has served on numerous AALL committees. More information about David Mao, including past interviews, can be found here.

Thank you for reading and I look forward to seeing you soon!

Jaye

Share this:

This Month in Bayline: September 2015

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2015/10/this-month-in-bayline-september-2015/ October 2, 2015 Categories: Bayline, Chapter Programs & Events Tags: events, librarians, member highlights, President's message, take action

How was your election month, Bayline readers? Here’s how Bayline’s was.

- This month, our President asks us to all check our membership information, because you’ll miss out on updates and events if it isn’t. Also let her know if you know of any good venues for future events. Oh, and don’t forget to keep reading along with the SLA-SF book group!
- More news from Intersect. Read about how librarians deal with hackers, the many questions librarians actually won’t answer, and more. Please don’t ask if we’re single.

- The election’s old news, but that makes it current history and so still worth reading. Read the last Meet the Candidates summary and find out what Dee has planned.
- The election for 2016 chapter officers, however, isn’t old news! You have until Sunday, October 11 to read about the candidates and Vote!

That’s it for this month. Congratulations to the candidates who won the election!

Share this:

News from Bayline: October


It’s been a while, but News from Bayline is always worth the wait. Treat yourself to a beautifully formatted full of news that will interest you. I’d say more, but this is something that speaks for itself.

Share this:

Not tempting enough? What if I told you that Wikipedia’s up
Intersect Alert October 4, 2015


Internet Access:

**FEC to hackers: We’re ready this time if government shuts down**

Two years ago, when the federal agencies last shut down because Congress failed to fund them, Chinese hackers successfully attacked the Federal Election Commission’s computer and information technology systems. The nation’s political campaign and election regulator found itself powerless to the worst act of sabotage in its history: It had furloughed almost every employee at the federal government’s behest. Since then, the agency has apparently learned its lesson. If, on Thursday, the government again shuts down, the FEC will have nearly three dozen staffers available to, in large part, defend against cyber threats. Congress, in the meantime, is attempting to advance a last-minute, temporary spending measure ahead of Wednesday’s 11:59 p.m. deadline. “There will absolutely be a skeleton crew this time to avoid a repeat of the situation in 2013,” FEC Chairwoman Ann Ravel told the Center for Public Integrity. “We understand it’s extremely important for crucial IT staff to be available to ensure the information we maintain is kept safe and not hacked.” http://www.publicintegrity.org/node/18094.

Privacy:

**Researchers wrestle with a privacy problem: The data contained in tax returns, health and welfare records could be a gold mine for scientists – but only if they can protect people’s identities.**

In the past few years, administrative data have been used to investigate issues ranging from the side effects of vaccines to the lasting impact of a child’s neighbourhood on his or her ability to earn and prosper as an adult. Proponents say that these rich information sources could greatly improve how governments measure the effectiveness of social programmes such as providing stipends to help families move to more resource-rich neighbourhoods. But there is also concern that the rush to use these data could pose new threats to citizens’ privacy. “The types of protections that we’re used to thinking about have been based on the twin pillars of anonymity and informed consent, and neither of those hold in this new world,” says Julia Lane, an economist at New York University. In 2013, for instance, researchers showed that they could uncover the identities of supposedly anonymous participants in a genetic study simply by cross-referencing their participants in a genetic study simply by cross-referencing their

France’s Government Aims to Give Itself-and the NSA- Carte Blanche to Spy on the World

The United States makes an improper division between surveillance conducted on residents of the United States and the surveillance that is conducted with almost no restraint upon the rest of the world. This double standard has proved poisonous to the rights of Americans and non-Americans alike. In theory, Americans enjoy better protections. In practice there are no magical sets of servers and Internet connections that carry only American conversations. To violate the privacy of everyone else in the world, the U.S. inevitably scoops up its own citizens’ data. Establishing nationality as a basis for discrimination also encourages intelligence agencies to make the obvious end-run: spying on each other’s citizens, and then sharing that data. Treating two sets of innocent targets differently is already a violation of international human rights law. In reality, it reduces everyone to the same, lower standard. Now France’s government is about the make the same error as US practice with its new “Surveillance des communications électroniques internationales” bill, currently being rushed through the French Parliament. As an open letter led by France’s La Quadrature du Net and signed today by over thirty civil society groups including EFF, states, France’s legislators’ must reject this bill to protect the rights of individuals everywhere, including those in France. By legalizing France’s own plans to spy on the rest of the world, France would take a step to establishing the NSA model as an acceptable global norm. Passing the law would undermine France’s already weak surveillance protections for its own citizens, including lawyers, journalists and judges. And it would make challenging the NSA’s practices far more difficult for France and other states. https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2015/09/frances-government-aims-give-itself-and-nsa-carte-blanche-spy-world.

Employer Wellness Programs Raise Privacy Issues, Advocates Say

Privacy advocates have raised concerns about a lack of regulations and standards to protect employee data, as more employers adopt wellness programs Kaiser Health News reports. IBISWorld, a market research firm, predicts that between 2011 and 2020, employer wellness programs will grow six times in size, to become a $12 billion industry. According to KHN, companies administrating wellness programs charge employers a per-person fee to measure employees’ health metrics. Meanwhile, employers encourage participation by providing incentives for those who opt in, and
some penalize those who opt out. The National Committee for Quality Assurance, a group that certifies health care organizations, recognizes about 30 wellness vendors out of hundreds. It asks accredited wellness vendors and third parties it contracts with to comply with HIPAA regulations. According to KHN, wellness contractors often:
– Are not required to adhere to HIPAA;
– Share de-identified data of group health results with employers, researchers and others; and
– Share identifiable data with unidentified third parties and agents that aim to improve employee health.
However, researchers have shown that de-identified data can be linked to the individual by cross-referencing it with databases of credit card or public records.


Freedom of Information:

Generals Sought More Positive Coverage on Head Injuries, Document Shows
Two top Army generals recently discussed trying to kill an article in The New York Times on concussions at West Point by withholding information so the Army could encourage competing news organizations to publish a more favorable story, according to an Army document. The generals’ conversation involved a Freedom of Information Act request that The Times made in June for data on concussions resulting from mandatory boxing classes at the United States Military Academy. The Times also requested similar data from the Air Force Academy in June, and from the Naval Academy this month.

During a Sept. 16 meeting at the Pentagon, the Army surgeon general, Lt. Gen. Patricia D. Horoho, recommended to the superintendent at West Point, Lt. Gen. Robert L. Caslen Jr., that the Army delay responding to The Times’ request, according to the document. General Horoho then suggested trying to get The Wall Street Journal or USA Today to publish an article in The New York Times on concussions at West Point.


Open Access:

An Interview with Peter Suber on Open Access
Peter Suber is the Director of the Harvard Office for Scholarly Communication (OSC), Director of the Harvard Open Access Project (HOAP), a Faculty Fellow at the Berkman Center for Internet & Society, and Senior Researcher at the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC). He holds a Ph.D. in philosophy and a J.D., both from Northwestern University, sits on the boards of many groups devoted to open access (OA) and scholarly communication, and has been active in promoting open access for more than a decade through his research, speaking, and writing. His most recent book is Open Access (MIT Press 2012), which Choice named an Outstanding Academic Title for 2013.

I had the chance to hear Suber speak about open access here in the library not long ago, and I came away wanting to hear him say more about it. So I asked if I could interview him for this column, and he said yes, and I set up an appointment for the interview and then did a little research about him.

Here are paraphrased summaries of his answers to my questions.


‘Predatory’ open access: a longitudinal study of article volumes and market characteristics

A negative consequence of the rapid growth of scholarly open access publishing funded by article processing charges is the emergence of publishers and journals with highly questionable marketing and peer review practices. These so-called predatory publishers are causing unfounded negative publicity for open access publishing in general. Reports about this branch of e-business have so far mainly concentrated on exposing lacking peer review and scandals involving publishers and journals.

There is a lack of comprehensive studies about several aspects of this phenomenon, including extent and regional distribution. After an initial scan of all predatory publishers and journals included in the so-called Beall’s list, a sample of 613 journals was constructed using a stratified sampling method from the total of over 11,000 journals identified. Information about the subject field, country of publisher, article processing charge and article volumes published between 2010 and 2014 were manually collected from the journal websites. For a subset of journals, individual articles were sampled in order to study the country affiliation of authors and the publication delays.

Despite a total number of journals and publishing volumes comparable to respectable (indexed by the Directory of Open Access Journals) open access journals, the problem of predatory open access seems highly contained to just a few countries, where the academic evaluation practices strongly favor international publication, but without further quality checks.


Intellectual Property:

How the Trans-Pacific Partnership Jeopardizes Fair Use

Earlier this week, Public Knowledge and 15 other global civil society groups sent a letter to the officials of the various...
governments that will meet and finalize the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) provisions next week, urging them to rewrite parts of the trade agreement’s current intellectual property chapter. This is Public Knowledge’s latest effort to warn governments and the public of the harmful aspects of the TPP, which has been secretly negotiated among government officials behind closed doors.

We particularly urge the governments to adopt provisions in the TPP that encourage flexible exceptions and limitations (like fair use) to copyright. Only a flexible approach will give each country the opportunity to write domestic laws that best suit the needs of its citizens as consumers of intellectual property and as users of communication technologies.

The current intellectual property chapter of the TPP is the epitome of such overbroad protections, laying out restrictive provisions that weaken U.S. exceptions and limitations. We are chiefly concerned with the following provisions:

1) The retroactive extension of copyright terms that robs culture of 20 years of public domain works.
2) A ban on circumvention of technological protection measures, which threaten people’s autonomy over legitimately purchased digital content and devices.
3) Heavy-handed criminal penalties and civil damages in cases where the parties were not involved in large-scale or financially motivated infringement.
4) Overbroad trade secret rules that could criminalize the work of journalists or whistleblowers who report on corporate wrongdoing.


Open Data:

Why should cities have an open data policy?

At this year’s iteration of our annual open government unconference, TransparencyCamp, I had the pleasure of leading a session on the role of policy in the open data movement, and a particular question seemed to strike a chord with participants: Just how relevant and important is an open data policy to a successful open data program? What does it actually accomplish, not just symbolically, but functionally? Or, to put it more bluntly, why have an open data policy?

A recent trip to New Orleans showed me how necessary and effective an open data policy can be in the context of bringing about those very same ingredients for open data success we identified at TCamp. Here are four of the concrete reasons discussed with New Orleans describing why an open data policy is needed to advance an existing open data program without one:

1. Codifying and advancing existing open data practice
2. Building internal buy-in
3. Communicating an executive’s strong open data commitment as an invitation to public engagement
4. Building a legal framework for accountability and enforcement both in the present and in the future

http://sunlightfoundation.com/blog/2015/10/01/why-should-cities-have-an-open-data-policy/.

Public Policy:

SEC: Announcement of New Rulemaking Database

Strong regulations are central to the Commission’s mission. For more than 80 years, we have used rulemaking to establish a comprehensive framework for our securities markets that protects investors, enhances market integrity, and promotes capital formation. The rulemaking process is the means through which the Commission responds to the ever-changing securities markets, targets and attacks harmful practices in those markets, and meets the goals mandated by Congress. Our rules provide important standards against which we assess compliance in our examinations and hold wrongdoers accountable in our enforcement actions.

I am therefore pleased to announce the launch of a new database on our website that will provide enhanced transparency into this vital activity, available at www.sec.gov/rules/rulemaking-index.shtml. This online resource, which will be updated regularly, will bring together information about our rules in a single site where the public can more easily follow specific rules or rulemaking programs. The objective is to give the public “one-stop shopping” for better understanding the development of new rules.


Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety.

The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.

Business Partner Appreciation Award

Intersect Alert October 11, 2015


Privacy:

No Safe Harbor: How NSA Spying Undermined U.S. Tech and Europeans’ Privacy
The spread of knowledge about the NSA’s surveillance programs has shaken the trust of customers in U.S. Internet companies like Facebook, Google, and Apple: especially non-U.S. customers who have discovered how weak the legal protections over their data is under U.S. law. It should come as no surprise, then, that the European Court of Justice (CJEU) has decided that United States companies can no longer be automatically trusted with the personal data of Europeans. The court, by declaring invalid the safe harbor which currently permits a sizeable amount of the commercial movement of personal data between the EU and the U.S., has signaled that PRISM and other government surveillance undermine the privacy rights that regulates such movements under European law. I

Public Knowledge Urges Wireless Industry to Protect Personal Data of Low-income Americans
Today, Public Knowledge and 11 other consumer advocacy groups filed an Opposition to the CTIA – The Wireless Association’s petition asking the Federal Communications Commission to reconsider its authority to safeguard sensitive information of Lifeline program participants. The FCC’s June 2015 Order permits telephone providers to copy and store highly sensitive personal data of Lifeline applicants, including social security numbers, tax records and addresses. Public Knowledge argues in this Opposition that failure by carriers to protect this extremely personal data would expose Lifeline applicants to identity theft and predatory marketing practices. The organizations further explain that CTIA’s arguments are procedurally flawed and without legal merit. https://www.publicknowledge.org/press-release/public-knowledge-urges-wireless-industry-to-protect-personal-data-of-low-income-americans.

New Research Finds Excessive Stock Option Compensation Leads CEOs to Ignore Product Safety Problems
When CEOs receive a large quantity of stock options in their pay packages, they are more likely to ignore safety problems with the products they market, concludes a new study, Throwing Caution to the Wind, by a trio of professors at Notre Dame.
Dame’s Mendoza School of Business – Adam Wowak, Michael Mannor, and Kaitlin Wowak.

Stock options give corporate executives the right to buy shares of stock at a set price. If the stock rises after the option is granted, the executive can realize huge amounts of income. If the stock declines in price, the executive isn’t penalized, since he or she paid nothing for the stock option.

Growing evidence suggests there are perverse impacts on firms and markets when stock options play a large role in compensation. It can lead CEOs to focus on short-term market gains, and unwise cost-cutting. It may make them more willing to entertain mergers and acquisitions that push up prices but don’t make good business sense. And now we find that it may make them more willing to recall a product it produces, according to the report. They that use stock options most widely are more likely to have to make then more willing to cut corners on safety. Corporations don’t make good business sense. And now we find that it may

It doesn’t have to be this way. Laws and policies support these perverse incentives. They can be changed. Here are three fixes.


Open Access:

The Right of No Sale: Academic Publishing is Broken and Librarians are to Blame

The Open Access movement (cf. arXiv, PLOS, OERs) has disrupted, to varying degrees, the economic models of traditional publishers by providing unfettered access to scholarly literature. Just as with the vanity presses of old, the system is subject to abuse in the form of sham publishing houses, but nowadays the moniker “predatory publisher” is best suited to commercial entities with obscene profit margins who capitalize their market share and place content behind a paywall. Open Access holds promise for helping libraries endure the crunch of budget cuts and spiraling journal costs. Which is why it’s so disheartening to see academic authors act more like Lars Ulrich than scholars who want their results to be seen and their ideas to be read. Rather than advancing research and expanding discourse, they willfully embargo their content and practice other forms of self-censorship by donating their work not to the public, but institutions which limit access in the name of turning a profit.

What’s astounding is how the same academic librarians who have no qualms about telling students wanting to be handed five articles on their topic that they must instead do their own research themselves have no such sense of tough love in applying equitable service policies when treating faculty members’ demands for journal subscriptions from profiteering publishers as unquestionable gospel.

https://medium.com/@hubbard/the-right-of-no-sale-academic-publishing-is-broken-and-librarians-are-to-blame-c7ebfad4a0f

Freedom of Information:

Making the Grade: Access to Information Scorecard 2015

We conducted our second annual analysis of the performance of the 15 federal agencies that consistently receive the most Freedom of Information Act requests. Most agencies have improved, but scores are once again low overall. The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requires federal agencies to promptly respond to public requests for information unless disclosure of the requested information would harm a protected interest. But implementation of the law since its passage in 1966 has been uneven and inconsistent across federal agencies. This is the second year we have conducted a very detailed comparative analysis of the performance of the 15 federal agencies that consistently receive the most FOIA requests. Combined, these 15 agencies received over 90 percent of all information requests for each of last two years. We examined their performance in three key areas:

– The establishment of clear agency rules guiding the release of information and communication with those requesting information;
– The quality and “user-friendliness” of an agency’s FOIA website; and
– The timely, complete processing of requests for information.

The results of our analysis: eight out of 15 agencies improved their overall scores this year, and in each of the three performance areas, more agencies received the highest grades (A). But only two agencies improved their FOIA policy guidelines, and processing scores actually declined in eight agencies. Ten of the agencies failed to achieve a satisfactory overall grade.

http://www.foreffectivegov.org/access-to-information-scorecard-2015

Libraries:

Need a wolf fur? A puffin pelt? All you need is a library card and a visit to the ARLIS library

Need to borrow a polar bear fur? Or a walrus skull complete with tusks? Or how about a beluga whale vertebrae or piece of baleen? All you need is a library card and a trip to the Alaska Resources Library and Information Services on the University of Alaska Anchorage campus. The library — better known as ARLIS — is home to the furs, mounts and skulls collection.
It’s where hundreds of animal specimens from wolverine furs to stuffed puffins are available for checkout by the general public. The collection is housed in a staff-only section of the library, but search the catalog for realia — the library classification for real, 3D objects — and any object can be yours. For two weeks at a time, as long as you have an ARLIS, UAA or Anchorage library card.


International Outlook:

Syria: Disclose Whereabouts of Detained Freedom of Expression Advocate

EFF has joined with organizations around the world in calling for Syria to reveal the whereabouts of detained technologist Bassel Khartabil. Khartabil’s arbitrary detention and treatment by the Syrian authorities have been cause for concern since his initial arrest three and a half years ago. Fears have grown for his safety after he was taken from civil prison to an unknown destination on Saturday.

Here is [a portion of] the joint press release from our coalition:

Release Bassel Khartabil, held unfairly since 2012
(October 7, 2015) – Syria’s authorities should immediately reveal the whereabouts of Bassel Khartabil, a software developer and defender of freedom of expression, 31 organizations said today. Syrian authorities transferred Khartabil, who has been detained since 2012, from ‘Adra central prison to an undisclosed location on October 3, 2015. Khartabil managed to inform his family on October 3 that security officers had ordered him to pack but did not reveal his destination. His family has not received any official information but believe based on unconfirmed information they received that he may have been transferred to the military-run field court inside the Military Police base in Qaboun.

“There are real fears that Khartabil has been transferred back to the torture-rife facilities run by Syria security forces,” a spokesperson for the groups said. “Khartabil should be on his way out of jail rather than being disappeared again.”

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2015/10/syria-disclose-whereabouts-detained-freedom-expression-advocate

Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety.

The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.

Special Awards and Presidential Citations


The post details the last of the chapter awards.

On occasion, the Awards Committee or the Chapter President may present a special award for extraordinary service to the chapter, the association, or the profession.

Past recipients include:

2012 – Heather Gamberg: Above and Beyond the Call of Duty (ABCD)
2007 – Above and Beyond the Call of Duty (ABCD) Award, presented to 2006-07 Chapter Executive Board and Advisory Council for 18 months of service. Read about it in the February/March 2008 issue of Bayline
2004 – Phyllis Waggoner: President’s Special Recognition Award – Read about it in the November/December 2004 issue of Bayline
1999 – Sue Rugge: Special Lifetime Achievement Award

Does anyone deserve this award for 2015?

Intersect Alert October 18, 2015


Intellectual Property:
Second Circuit Affirms Fair Use in Google Books Case
On October 16, 2015, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit unanimously affirmed the lower court’s fair use in Authors Guild v. Google, also known as the “Google Books” case. Google, through its Library Project, made digital copies of tens of millions of books submitted to it by libraries. It then included these copies in a search index that displayed “snippets” in response to search queries. The Second Circuit held that the copying of the books and the display of snippets is transformative and a fair use. Furthermore, Google’s provision of digital copies to its partner libraries that submitted the particular work is not an infringement. This decision follows directly from last year’s positive fair use decision in Authors Guild v. HathiTrust. There were two main differences between the two cases. Google is a commercial party, while HathiTrust is non-profit; and Google displays snippets, while HathiTrust just provides page numbers. Judge Leval, the federal judiciary’s foremost expert on fair use who developed the concept of transformative use, carefully explained why these differences did not affect the fair use analysis. … The court notes that the snippet provides “just enough context” for a user to evaluate whether the book is responsive to her interests, but does not reveal enough to threaten the copyright interest.

The Second Circuit rejects the argument that Plaintiffs have a derivative right over the search and snippet view functions, stating that “there is no merit to this argument.” The court points out that copyright “does not include an exclusive right to furnish the kind of information about the works that Google’s programs provide to the public. For substantially the same reasons, the copyright that protects Plaintiffs’ works does not include an exclusive derivative right to supply such information through query of a digitized copy.” The court similarly dismisses the argument that Google Books harms the existence or potential for paid licensing schemes. 

This story was picked up all over the place, such as: here, and here.

Privacy:
Web design plays a role in how much we reveal online
How many people read online privacy warnings? Few probably do. Long, detailed and technical privacy notices are the current answer to one of the greatest privacy issues of our time: websites collect information about us all the time and we frequently allow it without really knowing or understanding the conditions. JRC scientists have found that web design, and the information shown on the screen, does influence how and whether a user discloses personal data.
A JRC study, “Nudges to Privacy Behaviour: Exploring an Alternative Approach to Privacy Notices”, used behavioural sciences to look at how individuals react to different types of privacy notices. Specifically, the authors analysed users’ reactions to modified choice architecture (i.e. the environment in which decisions take place) of web interfaces. Two types of privacy behaviour were measured: passive disclosure, when people unwittingly disclose personal information, and direct disclosure, when people make an active choice to reveal personal information. After testing different designs with over 3 000 users from the UK, Italy, Germany and Poland, results show web interface affects decisions on disclosing personal information. The study also explored differences related to country of origin, gender, education level and age.
A depiction of a person’s face on the website led people to reveal more personal information. Also, this design choice and the visualisation of the user’s IP or browsing history had an impact on people’s awareness of a privacy notice. If confirmed, these features are particularly relevant for habitual and instinctive online behaviour.

California Adopts Statewide Data Breach Notification Laws
In the wake of several recent large-scale data breaches, such as the UCLA Health System, California Governor Jerry Brown recently signed a law that would provide statewide regulations for data breach notification. The law, which comes as a three-bill package, describes standards for data encryption, the language with which an entity provides data breach notification, and standards for defining personal information. The first portion of California’s new laws clarifies the definition of data encryption. According to Assembly Bill 964, properly encrypted data is “rendered unusable, unreadable or indecipherable to an unauthorized person through a security technology or methodology generally accepted in the field of information security.”
The second portion discusses the language with which all data breach notifications are to be given. Assembly Bill 570 states that all notifications must be titled “Notice of Data Breach.” Furthermore, each data breach notification must include

There’s No DRM in JPEG—Let’s Keep It That Way
If you have ever tried scanning or photocopying a banknote, you may have found that your software—such as Adobe Photoshop, or the embedded software in the photocopier—refused to let you do so. That’s because your software is secretly looking for security features such as EURion dots in the documents that you scan, and is hard-coded to refuse to let you make a copy if it finds them, even if your copy would have been for a lawful purpose. Now imagine if you had the same problem with any image that you found online—that your computer wouldn’t let you make a copy of Gene Wilder when making a image macro, or would stop you from reposting photos from an online catalog to your Pinterest account, or would prevent an artist from using a digital photograph as the basis for a new artwork. That’s essentially what the JPEG Committee is discussing today in Brussels, when considering a proposal to add DRM to the JPEG image format.
https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2015/10/theres-no-drm-jpeg-
subheadings titled “What Happened,” “What Information Was Involved,” “What Are We Doing,” “What You Can Do,” “Other Important Information,” and “For More Information.” This is notable because it creates a standard for how affected individuals are informed of data breaches and the information with which they are provided.

Last, the bill package includes details regarding personal information. Assembly Bill 34 increases the scope of personal information, and now includes data captured by automated license plate recognition (ALPR) systems. The bill states that all ALPR users must take reasonable measures to protect the information collected by such systems, and must create standards under which ALPR data is collected and used.


Freedom of Information:

Rushdie warns of new dangers to free speech in West

Violence against writers and a misplaced sense of political correctness pose new dangers to freedom of speech in the West, writer Salman Rushdie said on Tuesday. Rushdie, the subject of an Iranian death threat in 1989 for his book “The Satanic Verses”, which was deemed blasphemous by many Muslims, said he had not expected freedom of expression to come under attack again to this extent in the western world. “It seems to me the battle for free expression was won 100 years ago,” the 68-year-old told an audience at the opening of the Frankfurt Book Fair, under heavy security. “The fact that we have to go on fighting this battle is the result of a number of regrettable, more recent phenomena.”

After Islamist gunmen killed 12 people in January in an attack at the office of French satirical weekly Charlie Hebdo, which had mocked religions including Islam, Rushdie defended the murdered cartoonists. He still faces criticism from his religious opponents: the Iranian Ministry of Culture canceled its national stand at this year’s book fair because of Rushdie’s appearance, and Saudi Arabia protested against a new Czech translation of “The Satanic Verses” only last week. Rushdie criticized restraints on freedom of expression at universities, referring to recent examples in Britain and the United States. “The idea that students should not be intellectually challenged at universities is exactly what we should fight,” he said.


Open Access:

GPO to Digitize Two Million Pages of the Federal Register

The U.S. Government Publishing Office (GPO) partners with the National Archives’ Office of the Federal Register (OFR) to make every issue of the Federal Register digitally available to the public. A total of 14,587 individual issues, which go back to 1936, will be digitized. GPO employees will hand pack and catalogue every issue. The project is expected to be completed in 2016.


Government Information:

GAO Posts Titles of Restricted Reports

The Government Accountability Office this week quietly published a list of titles of its restricted reports that have not been publicly released because they contain classified information or controlled unclassified information. A new link to “Restricted Products” appears at the bottom of the GAO homepage (under Reports & Testimonies).

“This list is intended to keep Congress, federal agencies, and the public informed of the existence of these products. The list consists of all such classified or controlled products issued since September 30, 2014 and will be updated each time a new report is issued,” the GAO webpage says. “We did not issue a statement or announcement” concerning the new listing, said Timothy L. Minelli of GAO Congressional Relations. A congressional staffer said the move was prompted by concerns expressed by some Members of Congress and staff that they were unaware of the restricted reports, since they had not been indexed or archived by GAO.

Publication of the titles of restricted GAO reports “was not necessarily universally desired by everyone in Congress,” the staffer said, and “it took about a year” to resolve the issue. But “GAO deserves a lot of credit. They decided it was the right thing to do, and they did it.”

Although primarily aimed at congressional consumers, the new webpage also serves to inform the public. GAO is not subject to the Freedom of Information Act, but will usually entertain requests for records anyway. However, GAO is not authorized to release information that has been classified or controlled by an executive branch agency.


Internet of Things:

CRS – The Internet of Things: Frequently Asked Questions

“Internet of Things” (IoT) refers to networks of objects that communicate with other objects and with computers through the Internet. “Things” may include virtually any object for which remote communication, data collection, or control might be useful, such as vehicles, appliances, medical devices,
electric grids, transportation infrastructure, manufacturing equipment, or building systems. In other words, the IoT potentially includes huge numbers and kinds of interconnected objects. It is often considered the next major stage in the evolution of cyberspace. Some observers believe it might even lead to a world where cyberspace and human space would seem to effectively merge, with unpredictable but potentially momentous societal and cultural impacts. Two features makes objects part of the IoT — a unique identifier and Internet connectivity. Such “smart” objects each have a unique Internet Protocol (IP) address to identify the object sending and receiving information. Smart objects can form systems that communicate among themselves, usually in concert with computers, allowing automated and remote control of many independent processes and potentially transforming them into integrated systems. Those systems can potentially impact homes and communities, factories and cities, and every sector of the economy, both domestically and globally. Although the full extent and nature of the IoT’s impacts remain uncertain, economic analyses predict that it will contribute trillions of dollars to economic growth over the next decade. Sectors that may be particularly affected include agriculture, energy, government, health care, manufacturing, and transportation. The IoT may also pose increased risks to privacy, with cyberattacks potentially resulting in exfiltration of identifying or other sensitive information about an individual.

Watch us explain the Internet of Things with a jellyfish
What do a smartphone, a Nest thermostat, and a Fitbit all have in common?
If you guessed that they’re all products of our cultural obsession with gadgets, then yes — you’re correct. But more specifically, all of these devices are part of the Internet of Things. If you’ve never heard of it, don’t worry — many people who have heard of the Internet of Things don’t really know what it is. But what if you care more about, say, trees than Silicon Valley-born electronics? You may be surprised to learn that the Internet of Things can do just as much for saving the planet as it can for tracking your heart rate during SoulCycle. In the right hands, it could be a powerful tool to fight climate change, reducing greenhouse gas emissions by as much as nine gigatons by 2020. Watch our video to learn how!

Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety.
The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.

SLA Virtual Conference Coming Soon!

Dear Colleague,

Don’t miss the excitement this November!

Participate LIVE in THREE of the most popular sessions from this year’s conference! Yes, we’re bringing back our speakers and hosting a LIVE Virtual Conference to give you the best of SLA 2015.

These informative sessions were carefully selected to give you content that will increase your value and your knowledge base.

Follow SLA: What you’ll see and hear on Thursday, November 12:

ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND INNOVATION: CHALLENGES, OPPORTUNITIES AND TRENDS

LEADING FROM THE MIDDLE: STRATEGIES, ADVICE AND PERSPECTIVES FROM SENIOR LEADERS

ANALYTICAL TOOLS THAT DELIVER VALUE: WARGAMING

Expand your knowledge and become a LEADER.

Check out the full conference schedule and sign up NOW!

If anything in this email doesn’t work, go to the SLA virtual conference webpage for another source.

Share this:
Meet the Members of the New Board

Thank you all for voting for YOUR chapter leadership! I am pleased to announce the winners of the election for the offices of President-Elect, Treasurer and Assistant Director, Programs.

**PRESIDENT-ELECT: KENDRA LEVINE**

Kendra K. Levine is a librarian at the Institute of Transportation Studies Library at UC Berkeley. She earned a Masters of Library and Information Science and Masters of Information Systems from Drexel University in 2008. She was named an SLA Rising Star in 2013 and was chair of the SLA Transportation Division in 2013, an annual conference planner for the Academic and Transportation divisions. She has also served on the 2014 Nominations Committee, the 2015 Annual Conference Planning Council, and is now on the Professional Development Advisory Council. She is currently co-chair of the Library and Information Science for Transportation committee at the Transportation Research Board. In addition to her day job, Kendra manages the library at KALX radio where she’s also a DJ.

Kendra’s term will run from January 2016- December 2018. She will take over as President-Elect in January 2016, President in January 2017 and Past President in January 2018.

**TREASURER: JOHN BERTLAND**

John Bertland is currently overseeing library services and records management for the Presidio Trust, the federal agency responsible for managing the Presidio of San Francisco. He received his MLIS from San Jose State University. While doing that, he established a library for a non-profit center, The Thoreau Center for Sustainability, and subsequently he has worked on several projects with the Presidio Trust, including providing research and digital asset management for the development of the historical exhibits in the recently renovated Officers’ Club. He is a lifelong Doctor Who fan, makes excellent brownies, and has Christopher Lee’s autograph.

John’s term will run from January 2016 – December 2017.

**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, PROGRAMS : REBECCA LEUNG**

Rebecca is enthusiastically embarking on a second career in library science after spending over a decade in the architectural lighting industry. This fall marks the start of her second year of library school at SJSU’s iSchool, with a focus on special
libraries, archives, and historical research. It is fitting that Rebecca will serve as the Assistant Program Director since the chapter’s programs are what originally drew her to be more involved in SLA.

In addition to her involvement with the SF Bay Region Chapter, Rebecca serves as the Webmaster for SJSU’s student chapter of SLA, volunteers at the San Leandro Library History Room and the Bancroft Library. Rebecca received the 2015 Travel Stipend Award from our chapter to attend the SLA Annual Conference in Boston, where she learned about the endless possibilities of special librarianship.

In her free time, Rebecca enjoys reading graphic novels and spending time outside with her husband and two cats. It also takes only the slightest suggestion to get her to travel, especially to see interesting art or architecture. Her latest adventure was a library seminar in Prague, where she was fortunate enough to visit many different libraries, including one from the 12th century!

Rebecca’s term will run from January 2016 – December 2017 and she will take over the position of Director, Programs in January of 2017.

Please express your thanks to all of these fabulous members for agreeing to run and for serving the chapter.

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**SF Bay Region Chapter Awards Nominations**


October 22, 2015 Categories: Bayline, Honors & Awards  
Tags: events, take action  
The SF Bay Region Chapter is seeking nominations for its annual awards. Nominations are due by **Friday, November 19th!**  
The chapter gives awards each year to honor members who provided exceptional support for our membership. You’ve been a part of our organization, and you know your fellow members, so we need you to tell us who deserves special recognition. There are award categories for people at all stages of their career and their time in the chapter, so we want to hear about students who have made an exceptional contribution, and new members who have stepped up to the plate, and long-time contributors who’s efforts deserve recognition. Who helped you this year? Help us find those special Special Librarians, so we can thank them.  
The award ceremony is held at our holiday party, which is coming up quickly, so get your nominations in right away. Categories for awards are:  
1. Professional Achievement Award  
2. Special Project Award  
3. Horizon Award (New Member Award)  
4. Student Award  
5. Quarter Century Club/Special Lifetime Achievement Award  
6. Business Partner Appreciation Award  
You’ll find more detailed descriptions of each of the award categories on the chapter website: [http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/award-descriptions/](http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/award-descriptions/). There is a formal nomination form on the website ([http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/nomination-form/](http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/nomination-form/)), and we’d love to have that detailed level of information for your nomination. If you don’t have that level of detail but would like to recommend someone for an award, you can still reach out to the Awards Committee. You can reach us at awards@sanfrancisco.sla1.org. And self-nominations are welcome!  
Note that we don’t necessarily give every award every year. But we do want to recognize everyone’s effort. Remember, nominations must be received by **November 19th.**  
Mimi Calter, Cyndi Berglez, & Rebecca Leung 2015 Awards Committee

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**Intersect Alert October 25, 2014**


October 25, 2015 Categories: Intersect Alert  
Tags: freedom of information, libraries, open access, privacy, public policy, publishing, research, take action, values  
**FASTR Ensures that Publicly Funded Research Belongs to the Public**  
When taxpayers pay for research, everyone should have access to it. That’s the simple premise of the Fair Access to Science and Technology Research Act of 2015 (S.779, H.R.1477), or

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FASTR. If enacted, FASTR would keep federally funded research where it belongs, in the hands of the public. Under FASTR, every federal agency that spends more than $100 million on grants for research would be required to adopt an open access policy. Although the bill gives each agency some leeway in adopting a policy appropriate to the types of research it funds, each one would require that published research be available to the public no later than six months after publication.

FASTR was first introduced in 2013. Shortly after that, the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy released a memo requiring agencies to develop public access policies. We applauded the directive then, while noting that it was not as strong as FASTR—most notably, the White House directive sets the embargo period for making federally funded research available to the public at 12 months and frames it as a “guideline.” FASTR would lock the policy into law and reduce the embargo to six months, a win for public access.

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2015/10/fastr-ensures-publicly-funded-research-belongs-public.

Open Access:

Museum Specimens Find New Life Online

In a brightly lit room on the third floor of the Museum of Natural History here [Berlin], stacks of wooden drawers are covered in glass, some panes so dusty that it is difficult to discern exactly what’s inside. When the glass is removed, rows of carefully pinned insects are revealed, gleaming in brilliant colors like precious jewels. The biologist Alexander Kroupa plucks an amethyst-colored beetle from the drawers with metal pincers. “Amazing, right?” he said. “As beautiful as the day they were collected.”

Mr. Kroupa and 14 colleagues are in the midst of a vast undertaking: digitizing and publishing online the museum’s entire collection of insects, including high-definition 3-D images of thousands of particularly important specimens. The researchers here are not alone. Museums around the globe are trying to harness the power of digital technology to make available collections that have long lay dormant on shelves and in dusty cabinets. For years, scientific institutions have scanned images of specimen drawers or individuals in their collections. But technical advances provide new opportunities to create extraordinarily detailed images and data that may be critical to answering some of the biggest questions in conservation biology, experts say.

http://www.zoosphere.net/

Digital History:

How Wikipedia Is Hostile to Women

She got into the habit of Googling her username, just in case. That’s how, earlier this year, a Wikipedia editor who goes by the username Lightbreather discovered that someone was posting images on a pornographic website and falsely claiming they were her. (The images were linked to her username; Lightbreather has been careful to make sure that no one on Wikipedia knows her real name.) A Google search of the poster’s username led her back to one of her fellow editors. The photos were only the latest of several incidents of harassment. In 2014, Lightbreather made a request to the Wikipedia administrators: a space on the site to discuss ways to enforce Wikipedia’s civility policy, one of the site’s “five pillars” which says editors should always “treat each other with respect and civility.” In a page set up to discuss Lightbreather’s request, the user Eric Corbett, who was then an administrator, told her, “The easiest way to avoid being called a cunt is not to act like one.”

In 2011, an internal study estimated that less than 10 percent of Wikipedia editors are female. The disparity is even starker among more experienced editors: Another study from 2011, out of the University of Minnesota, showed that only 6 percent of contributors with more than 500 edits are women. The gender disparity among editors, in other words, has led to serious issues with Wikipedia’s content. One longtime editor, the

How Trade Agreements Harm Open Access and Open Source

Open access isn’t explicitly covered in any of the secretive trade negotiations that are currently underway, including the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), the Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP), and the Trade In Services Agreement (TISA). But that doesn’t mean that they won’t have a negative impact on those seeking to publish or use open access materials.

First, online publishers sometimes apply TPM (Technological Protection Measures, which implement DRM) to works that have been published under open access licences, or place such works behind paywalls, thereby frustrating the intention of the author that the works should be made freely available. In both cases, circumventing the TPM or paywall block, in order to gain access to the work as the author intended, can be a civil or criminal offense.

As for those who distribute publicly-funded works from behind paywalls, the charges brought against both the late Aaron Swartz, and also Colombian Diego Gomez are cautionary tales. The “trade secrets” provision of the TPP raises the prospect of further such unjust prosecutions. Although so described, the provision is not really about trade secrets in the traditional sense (namely, those who knowingly assume and breach an obligation of confidence), but is targeted at hackers who access information on a computer system in excess of their authorization to do so, even if they had never agreed to keep any information confidential.

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2015/10/how-trade-agreements-harm-open-access-and-open-source
Chicago-based college student Emily Temple-Wood, said she’s identified almost than 4,400 female scientists who meet Wikipedia’s standards for notability, but don’t have a page. And in 2013, a New York Times reporter discovered that all female novelists had been removed from the list of American novelists and relegated to their own list, “American woman novelists.” (The pages have since been combined back into one.) As a study by researchers in Germany and Switzerland found earlier this year, the pages that do exist about notable women are more likely to mention their gender and relationship status than articles about men.


Public Policy:

IRS petitioned to punish politically active nonprofit
Political watchdog group Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington wants the Internal Revenue Service to punish a nonprofit group that spent millions of dollars on advertisements boosting Sen. Thom Tillis, R-N.C., ahead of his election victory last year. The IRS complaint follows a Center for Public Integrity investigation into Carolina Rising’s political activities, which CREW cites several times. Carolina Rising provided “a vehicle for donors to make unlimited secret contributions to benefit candidates, and that is not permitted under the law,” the organization’s Executive Director Noah Bookbinder argues. “While the public is kept in the dark, the candidate or official almost certainly knows who made the often-large contributions.” In the complaint, Bookbinder asks the IRS to consider stripping Carolina Rising of its nonprofit status, hitting the group with excise taxes and treating it as a taxable corporation or political group.

http://www.publicintegrity.org/node/18649.

Schock fallout: Sweeping changes proposed to [House] members’ spending
A key House committee is proposing sweeping restrictions on how members of Congress spend taxpayer dollars, tightening the rules on reimbursement for automobile mileage, private aircraft use and office decoration. The proposed rules, which are expected to pass the Committee on House Administration on Wednesday and take effect immediately, are just the initial set of changes under consideration, said Rep. Rodney Davis (R-Ill.). He and Rep. Zoe Lofgren (D-Calif.) have been leading a task force focused on reviewing rules for office spending. The proposed rules come on the heels of a series of Politico stories detailing former Rep. Aaron Schock’s (R-Ill.) alleged misspending of taxpayer dollars. A grand jury in Illinois has been investigating how Schock spent taxpayer and campaign money. Most notably, members of Congress would be prohibited from using taxpayer dollars to pay for “private or charter aircraft” from Washington. If a lawmaker wants to spend more than $7,500 on a private flight, “written approval must be obtained from the Committee on House Administration,” the proposed rules state. Schock flew on a private plane from Washington to Illinois for events and a Chicago Bears football game.


New Report Finds Chemical Industry Is “Blowing Smoke” When It Claims Self-Regulation Works
In a new report and interactive map released today, Blowing Smoke, the Center for Effective Government finds that a significant number of chemical manufacturing facilities are endangering workers and our environment, despite what the chemical industry tells policymakers, regulators, and the American public.

“Every two days, there is a reportable leak or explosion at a U.S. chemical plant,” said Katherine McFate, president and CEO of the Center for Effective Government. “But the chemical industry keeps telling us companies can regulate themselves and no new oversight is needed.” The chemical industry spends tens of millions of dollars a year fighting bills and standards designed to better protect the workers in their facilities and the communities nearby. For more than a quarter century, the industry’s trade association, the American Chemistry Council (ACC), has operated a voluntary program that it claims can improve industry performance and safety without new requirements to shift to safer substances and production processes when they are available. Twelve large chemical companies own 89 chemical manufacturing facilities with multiple serious workplace safety and environmental violations; together, they were responsible for 644 serious violations of workplace or environmental rules. (58 percent of manufacturing facilities were not inspected during this time, so these numbers are very likely an undercount of actual violations.)


Privacy Issues:

EFF To California Supreme Court: Warrantless Searches of California’s Controlled Substance Prescription Database Threaten Patient Privacy
The Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF) is urging the California Supreme Court to rule that law enforcement agents need a warrant to search records revealing which Californians were prescribed controlled substances to treat conditions such as anxiety, pain, attention disorders, and insomnia. In an amicus brief filed today, EFF told the state’s highest court that law enforcement agencies should be required to seek a judge’s approval to access such records. Controlled substance prescription records contain highly sensitive information about patients’ medical history and should be afforded the same
degree of privacy as any other medical records.

Freedom of Information:

Former CRS employees put heat on Congress to make reports public
Earlier today, a letter was delivered to a group of lawmakers with the power to push the Congressional Research Service (CRS) toward the sunlight. The letter urged them to make nonconfidential CRS reports available to the public. Signed by former employees of the CRS who together represent more than 500 years of experience at the agency, the letter calls for “timely, comprehensive free public access to CRS reports.”
Currently, the CRS reports are widely available to congressional staff and lobbyists, and members and committees can disseminate CRS products on their websites. The CRS also provides reports by request to journalists, the judicial branch and the executive branch. They often make their way online, but not in a comprehensive manner. Those able to pay can access the reports through a number of third-party subscription services. The reports are useful to the public because of their nonpartisan essence, rare in a world of spin, and because they cover the wide range of issues that Congress cares about. Not to mention that taxpayers pay more than $100 million annually for this service to exist and operate.
http://sunlightfoundation.com/blog/2015/10/22/crs-reports-public/.

Libraries:

Digital Inclusion Survey documents libraries transforming
This week marks the release of one of the most powerful tools ALA and public libraries have to make our case in the digital age—the 2014 Digital Inclusion Survey. Not only does it provide the most current and granular data available on library technology and programming resources, but the Information Policy & Access Center team at the University of Maryland is doing more with the data than ever before.
So what did we learn this year?

– Helping people identify health insurance resources was the top health and wellness program offering from public libraries at 59.4 percent. Programs related to helping patrons local and evaluate free health information (57.7%) and use subscription health and wellness resources (56.2%) were right behind.
– Digital content offerings continue to climb, with more than 90 percent of public libraries offering e-books, online homework assistance (95%) and online language learning (56%), to name a few.
– For the first time, the survey also looked at the age of library buildings and found 1970 (!) was the average year that library locations opened. The report also finds a correlation between building renovations and increased service offerings.

MSU debuts largest U.S. media collection in country
Feeling like Netflix has nothing left to offer? Worn out the latest and greatest playlists on Spotify?
Fear not, Michigan State University Libraries now hosts the largest collection of U.S. media, including CDs, DVDs and video games in the country. The donation came courtesy of the analytics and media monetization firm Rovi Corporation, which previously stored the collection in Ann Arbor. Unveiled Monday afternoon at the MSU Main Library, the collection is comprised of approximately 681,000 albums, 163,000 films and 17,000 video games spanning the past 35 years of popular culture. Everything from little-known Commodore 64 titles to Super Mario Bros. is now available at MSU, said Clifford Haka, director of MSU Libraries.
While the collection will have immense recreational interest, the opportunity for studying the past three decades of media is significant, he said. “We have an obligation to ensure these materials are used and we fully intend to make sure that happens,” he said.

Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety.
The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.

Sept 9 Association Board Meeting Minutes Summary
The Sept 9 Board Meeting minutes are now available at the Meeting Information page. It’s an easy-to-read three pages long, but for the very busy I’ve written up a 30-second
The meeting began at 3:02 p.m. EDT.

There were no announcements or special guests.

After agendas were approved, President Strand shared a quote from Seth Godin’s blog, reminding us that avowed experts are often wrong and that we should take initiative with good ideas.

The Finance Committee is planning meetings, and has invited Nick Collison to join as a non-voting member to bring him up to speed and make for a smoother transition.

Change consultants Shamel and de Stricker are working on a 2-year plan based on the Road map, promising something by the December meeting. Board and staff members will be able to participate in development.

In August, the board approved adjusting the consultants’ invoices. This was also when Juanita Richardson resigned from her candidacy for treasurer.

The Transition Committee has developed and finalized an RFP and a shortlist of AMC candidates to receive it. There should be a final decision by Nov. 15.

The SLA received an offer for their building far below their asking price, and have not responded. Another prospective buyer has toured the building.

The board passed a motion to realign the SLA’s dues structure effective January 2016.

There were no other announcements, and the meeting adjourned at 4:19 p.m. EDT.

Privacy Issues:


Earlier this month, the Grand Chamber of the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) issued its judgment in Schrems v. Data Protection Commissioner, in which it struck down the legal underpinnings of the EU-US Safe Harbor Agreement—the arrangement that enabled thousands of US companies to transfer EU users’ data to the US for processing and storage. Although the Court’s decision to invalidate the basis for Safe Harbor has placed a serious burden on transatlantic trade, the judgment makes clear and persuasive findings about the protections EU residents’ data must enjoy when transferred to the US. In doing so, it has provided a major impetus for reforms to Section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) – a law the NSA uses as the basis for some of the most egregious warrantless surveillance activities revealed by Edward Snowden, including PRISM and “upstream” collection.

Naturally, the CJEU cannot strike down US laws, nor did it seek to do so. In the absence of reforms to Section 702, however, any new data transfer agreements between the EU and the US are very likely to be invalidated by the Court. In order to avoid this and ensure that the US respects the human rights of people both within and outside its borders, Congress urgently needs to make thorough reforms to Section 702.


The $24 Billion Data Business That Telcos Don’t Want to Talk About

U.K. grocer Morrisons, ad-buying behemoth GroupM and other marketers and agencies are testing never-before-available data from cellphone carriers that connects device location and other information with telcos’ real-world files on subscribers. Some services offer real-time heat maps showing the neighborhoods where store visitors go home at night, lists the sites they visited on mobile browsers recently and more.

Under the radar, Verizon, Sprint, Telefonica and other carriers have partnered with firms including SAP, IBM, HP and AirSage to manage, package and sell various levels of data to marketers and other clients. It’s all part of a push by the world’s largest phone operators to counteract diminishing subscriber growth through new business ventures that tap into the data that showers from consumers’ mobile web surfing, text messaging and phone calls. Insiders say phone carriers exploring data-sharing businesses are tight-lipped because they don’t want to reveal too many details to competitors, but fear of consumer complaints is always lurking in the background.

“The practices that carriers have gotten into, the sheer volume of data and the promiscuity with which they’re revealing their customers’ data creates enormous risk for their businesses,” said Peter Eckersley, chief computer scientist at the Electronic Frontier Foundation, a privacy watchdog. Mr. Eckersley and others suggest that anonymization techniques are faulty in many cases because even information associated with a hashed or encrypted identification code can be linked back to a home address and potentially reidentified by hackers.

Open Access:

Groundbreaking University of California policy extends free access to all scholarly articles written by UC employees

Today the University of California expands the reach of its research publications by issuing a Presidential Open Access Policy, allowing future scholarly articles authored by all UC employees to be freely shared with readers worldwide.

Building on UC’s previously-adopted Academic Senate open access (OA) policies, this new policy enables the university system and associated national labs to provide unprecedented access to scholarly research authored by clinical faculty, lecturers, staff researchers, postdoctoral scholars, graduate students and librarians – just to name a few. Comprising ten campuses, five medical centers, and nearly 200,000 employees, the UC system is responsible for over 2% of the world’s total research publications. UC’s collective OA policies now cover more authors than any other institutional OA policy to date.

The Presidential OA Policy represents the culmination of significant effort among UC faculty and staff to support increased access to their research publications, from the adoption of the first UC senate OA policy (UCSF) in 2012, to the establishment of the more comprehensive UC-wide Academic Senate policy in 2013. “Until now, tenure-track faculty have had the privilege of passing such policies to govern themselves, but at most universities, such faculty are a fraction of the people who do research and publish articles,” explains Christopher Kelty, professor of Information Studies and Anthropology at UCLA and chair of the Presidential Open Access Policy Task Force. “Extending the same rights to those who aren’t part of a faculty governance system is an important and difficult step—I’m thrilled we have accomplished it.”


Social Media:

In Tracking Outbreaks Of Food Poisoning, Can Yelp Help?

When a Shigella outbreak at a San Jose, Calif. seafood restaurant sickened dozens of people last weekend, Yelp reviewers were on the case – right alongside public health officials. “PLEASE DO NOT EAT HERE!!!!” Pauline A. wrote in her Oct. 18 review of the Mariscos San Juan #3 restaurant. “My sister-in-law … and brother-in-law along with his parents ate here Friday night and all four of them ended up in the hospital with food poisoning!!!”

That same day, the Santa Clara County Public Health Department shut down the restaurant. Two days later, officials announced that more than 80 people who had eaten there had become acutely ill, with many requiring hospitalization. Twelve diners went to intensive care units.

Public health workers in New York, aided by Columbia University researchers, scanned thousands of Yelp reviews in 2012 and 2013 to find previously undetected food-borne illness, unearthing nearly 900 cases that were worthy of further investigation by epidemiologists. Ultimately, the researchers found three previously unreported restaurant-related outbreaks linked to 16 illnesses that would have merited a public health investigation if officials had known of them at the time.

Follow-up inspections of the restaurants found food-handling violations.


Internet Access:

Women’s Rights Online: Translating Access into Empowerment

New research by the Web Foundation shows that the dramatic spread of mobile phones is not enough to get women online, or to achieve empowerment of women through technology. The study, based on a survey of thousands of poor urban men and women across nine developing countries, found that while nearly all men and women own a phone, women are still nearly 50% less likely to access the Internet than men in the same communities, with Internet use reported by just 37% of women surveyed. Once online, women are 30-50% less likely than men to use the Internet to increase their income or participate in public life.

Lack of know-how and high cost are the two main barriers keeping women offline. Women are 1.6 times more likely than men to report lack of skills as a barrier to Internet use, while one gigabyte of data costs as much as 76% of monthly poverty line incomes in the countries in the study.

http://webfoundation.org/about/research/womens-rights-online-2015/.

Public Policy:

New strategic bomber contract awarded after millions of dollars worth of lobbying

The U.S. Air Force has awarded an initial $21.4 billion contract for a new stealth bomber to be equipped with nuclear weapons, following years of ardent lobbying and generous campaign donations by the victorious military contractor, Northrop Grumman, to 224 key members of Congress. The firm’s task will be to construct at least 21 Long Range Strike bombers, Air Force Assistant Secretary William LaPlante announced at a late afternoon Pentagon press conference on Oct. 27. It will be the second largest military program in 14 years, exceeded only by the Joint Strike Fighter, manufactured by Lockheed Martin.
Lobbyists and officials at Northrop Grumman have spent years greasing the wheels on Capitol Hill to ensure congressional support for the program and for the firm’s central role in it, according to the Center for Public Integrity’s review of lobbying and campaign contributions by the contractor and its employees.

http://www.publicintegrity.org/node/18701.

International Outlook:

Director of Ukrainian Library Detained in Moscow
Russian police on Thursday detained the director of a Ukrainian library in Moscow on suspicion of inciting ethnic hatred in the latest twist of the ongoing stand-off between the two nations. The Russian investigative committee said in a statement that it has asked a court to arrest 58-year old Natalya Sharina after the investigators found books in the library that allegedly disseminate “anti-Russian propaganda.” The investigators said the library’s director is suspected of breaking the law on extremism since her library stocked books by nationalist activist Dmytro Korchynsky, which are banned in Russia.


Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety; attribution appreciated.

The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.

President’s November Message

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2015/11/presidents-november-message/ November 2, 2015 Categories: Bayline, Chapter Leadership Tags: President's message

Hello!

I am just back from Internet Librarian, which is a great conference. I spoke on relations with vendors and was pleased that the session went well. There were a lot of interesting topics. I was pleased that gamification is still around in a new and updated format. I also heard about a number of technologies and programs that were new to me including Scoop.it, Fedora and GameSalad. Guess what’s on my To Do list?

Chapter News

Sarah, Craig and their hardworking team have nailed down a date for the always fantastic Holiday Party and Annual Awards Ceremony (have you nominated anyone?). It will be held on December 10, so mark your calendars. The registration forms have been posted. Sign up. We have a limited amount of space.

Needed: someone to help out Hospitality at the Holiday Party. Contact Sarah or Craig if you are interested.

I am so pleased to announce that Paul Kaidy Barrows, our chapter’s Director of Technology and Innovation, has made an improvement to our blog. He has added a subscribe box to the sidebar (right). Enter your email and you will be notified each time the blog is updated. It will save you from having to wonder if something new has posted. Please take advantage of this fabulous new functionality.

Subscribe Box

Thanks to Paul for his hard work on making this change!

We are in the process of selecting award winners for all of the chapter awards. Read about those awards on the Awards page.

We need you! Hilary will soon be sending out a request for volunteers to fill a few last positions on the Advisory Council. We want your point of view. When you see that email or blog post, please consider volunteering. Volunteering could put you in line for one of the awards in years to come.

SLA HQ News

The minutes of the SLA Board September 9 meeting, which were approved at the October 14 meeting, have been posted to the SLA Board page. You can also view minutes of past meetings and agendas of upcoming meetings on this page.

Matthew, your Bayline editor, has done a great summary.

The board’s next regularly scheduled meeting is November 10
Around the Association

Silicon Valley is excited to announce the appointment of their newest Executive Officers. Their nominations have been confirmed, and the officers will assume their respective roles in 2016 – apart from the Treasurer, who will finish the previous treasurer’s term starting immediately. The officers are:

- President-Elect (President-Elect/President/Past-President): Bridget Thrasher (3-year term)
- Secretary: Valerie Sweeley (2-year term)
- Treasurer: Kimberly Carle (remainder of 2015/2016)

Thank you for reading and I look forward to seeing you soon!

Jaye

Holiday Party and Annual Awards Ceremony

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2015/11/holiday-party-and-annual-awards-ceremony/ November 2, 2015 Categories: Bayline, Chapter Programs & Events Tags: events

**SF Bay Region Chapter Holiday Party and Annual Awards Ceremony**

*Thursday, December 10, 2015, 5:30 – 9:00 pm*

Thirsty Bear Brewing Co.
661 Howard St, SF
http://www.thirstybear.com

Please join us as we celebrate the season, another year of terrific Chapter events, and the contributions of some of our distinguished members.

**Agenda**

5:30 – 6:30      Party!
6:30 – 7:00      Awards!
7:00 – 9:00      More Party!

**Menu**

A variety of foods for your consumption, including vegetarian options.

One drink ticket is included.

**SLA Program Cost**

SLA Members $30
Non-Members $50.00
Student / Retired / Unemployed $25.00

Location

Thirsty Bear Brewing Co. is a half a mile walk from Montgomery BART and MUNI. There are a variety of parking garages within blocks of the space.

Registration

Registration has closed for this event. If you have any questions, contact the Director of Programs, Sarah Cook, sarah.rae.cook@gmail.com

Thanks go to our generous sponsors:

This Month in Bayline: October 2015

The San Francisco chapter must have been a busy trick-or-treater, because Bayline got a lot last month:

- Among other things, our President's October Message talks about increased dues.
- The Intersect team continues to provide amazing news from and for the library world. Telcos are using cell phones to spy on people like Batman did, and Women are underrepresented in Wikipedia. I'm not sure what to do about the phone spying, but since anyone can edit Wikipedia, I'm sure you know what to do there.
- After a long hiatus, News from Bayline is back!
- We're having three virtual conferences this November. Check them out now!
- Congratulations to the new board members! Read all about them (again).

We got a nasty trick, but a lot of treats this month. Here’s hoping this month will be a filling Thanksgiving mean, and don’t forget to send nominations!

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It’s Still Awards Season! Nominate Now!


The SF Bay Region Chapter is seeking nominations for its annual awards. Nominations are due by Friday, November 19th!

The chapter gives awards each year to honor members who provided exceptional support for our membership. You’ve been a part of our organization, and you know your fellow members, so we need you to tell us who deserves special recognition. There are award categories for people at all stages of their career and their time in the chapter, so we want to hear about students who have made an exceptional contribution, and new members who have stepped up to the plate, and long-time contributors who’s efforts deserve recognition. Who helped you this year? Help us find those special Special Librarians, so we can thank them.

The award ceremony is held at our holiday party, which is coming up quickly, so get your nominations in right away.

Categories for awards are:
1. Professional Achievement Award
2. Special Project Award
3. Horizon Award (New Member Award)
4. Student Award
5. Quarter Century Club/Special Lifetime Achievement Award
6. Business Partner Appreciation Award

You’ll find more detailed descriptions of each of the award categories on the chapter website: http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/award-descriptions/. There is a formal nomination form on the website (http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/nomination-form/), and we’d love to have that detailed level of information for your nomination. If you don’t have that level of detail but would like to recommend someone for an award, you can still reach out to the Awards Committee. You can reach us at awards@sanfrancisco.sla1.org. And self-nominations are welcome!

Note that we don’t necessarily give every award every year. But we do want to recognize everyone’s effort. Remember, nominations must be received by November 19th.

Mimi Calter, Cyndi Berglez, & Rebecca Leung
2015 Awards Committee

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Tour of the Learning Commons at the San Francisco Exploratorium


SLA-SF is pleased to announce our Winter SLA Tour of 2015 hosted at the Learning Commons at the San Francisco Exploratorium. Located in its new location on Pier 15, The Learning Commons (formerly the Library/Learning Studio) tour will focus on the “Study of Adaption” hosted by Megan
Bury, Media Archivists at the Exploratorium Learning Commons.

**Learning Commons:**

The Learning Commons is the Exploratorium’s library and information hub. They support the educational, professional development and information needs of Exploratorium educator program alumni and museum staff by providing access to a variety of electronic, multimedia, and print-based learning resources and technology.

**The Tour of the Learning Commons:**

Please join SLA-SF on December 3rd for a tour and conversation about the Learning Commons as a “Study of Adaptation” since the move to Pier 15 in 2013 with focus on a tour of the Media Archive catalog.

**After Tour/After Dark:**

Our host also would like to let our guest’s know the Exploratorium will be hosting their After Dark: Glow event on this day and encourages everyone to attend. It begins at 6pm and is open to the public and not a SLA-SF hosted event.

**When:**
Thursday, December 3rd

**Agenda:**
Tour Time: 4pm to 5pm
Refreshments: 3:30 to 4pm – The Seismic Joint Cafe

**Where:**
Pier 15, The Embarcadero (at Green Street)

**Cost:** $10 for SLA members/Non-SLA Members

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**November 10, 2015 Board of Directors Meeting**


Listen in on the SLA Board of Directors meeting! SLA uses the GoToWebinar application for monthly calls. Please be sure to visit their system requirements page. You may also use the GoToWebinar app on your smartphone, please visit your app store. When registering for this meeting, you are automatically registered for remaining meetings this year.

[Click here to register.](http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2015/11/november-10-2015-board-of-directors-meeting/)

**AGENDA**

3:00-3:05

1. Call to Order and Welcome (Strand)
2. Roll Call (Murray)
3. Announcements and Recognition of Special Guests (Strand)
4. Consent Agenda (Strand)

4.1 [OM1115-A05](http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/1115-a05-om1115-a05) October 14, 2015 Meeting Minutes
5. Approval of Agenda (Strand)

3:05-3:20

6. President’s Remarks (Strand)
7. [OM1115-B01](http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/1115-b01-om1115-b01) Treasurer’s Report (DiGilio)

3:20-3:50

8. Consultant Check-in and update on the Road Map for the Future of SLA (Shamel/de Stricker)

9. Old Business

9.1 Summary of October 14, 2015 board meeting executive session (Murray)
9.2 Transition Committee Update (Rink)
9.3 Building Subcommittee Update (Arnold)
9.4 Higher Logic update (Diaz)
9.5 Update on Leadership Boot Camp (Silk)

3:50-4:00

10. New Business
10.1 [OM1115-A01](http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/1115-a01-om1115-a01) Two-Year Implementation Plan
10.2 [OM1115-A02](http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/1115-a02-om1115-a02) 2016 SLA Staff Goals & Objectives
11. Announcements

12. Questions from members (via the question box)
13. Adjournment (Strand)

Should you have any questions, you may email the [Board of](http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2015/11/november-10-2015-board-of-directors-meeting/).
Intersect Alert November 9, 2015

Firefox Now Offers a More Private Browsing Experience

“We’re releasing a powerful new feature in Firefox Private Browsing called Tracking Protection. We created this feature because we believe in giving you more choice and control over your Web experience. With the release of Tracking Protection in Firefox Private Browsing we are leading the industry by giving you control over the data that third parties receive from you online. No other browser’s Private Browsing mode protects you the way Firefox does—not Chrome, not Safari, not Microsoft Edge or Internet Explorer.”

Librarian of Congress Now Term Limited

“With the stroke of a pen, the President has established for the first time a set term of office for the Librarian of Congress. Rather than serve for life, the next and all future Librarians will enjoy a 10-year term of office renewable for the same length of time upon reconfirmation by the Senate. Legislation authorizing the change, the Librarian of Congress Succession Modernization Act of 2015 (S. 2162), was both introduced in and passed in the Senate by unanimous consent on October 7. It was again approved by unanimous consent of the House less than two weeks later. The Librarian’s position remains vacant in the wake of James Billington’s resignation on September 30th. A successor has not yet been named. ALA has urged the President to appoint a credentialed librarian.”

Copyright

U.S. Says It’s OK to Hack Cars and Medical Devices (Sometimes)

“On Tuesday, the Librarian of Congress, who makes final rulings on exemptions to copyright rules, granted several exceptions to Section 1201 of the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA), which prohibits the circumvention of the technological methods that are used to protect copyright works. The U.S. Copyright Office is a department of the Library of Congress”

Books

Amazon Opening Its First Real Bookstore — At U-Village

“Bookstore owners often think of Amazon.com as the enemy.”

“Now it’s becoming one of them.”
At 9:30 Tuesday morning, the online retail giant will open its first-ever brick-and-mortar retail store in its 20-year life, in University Village.

The store, called Amazon Books, looks a lot like bookstores that populate malls across the country. Its wood shelves are stocked with 5,000 to 6,000 titles, best-sellers as well as Amazon.com customer favorites.


Search

LawLibe – A Law Library – on Your iPhone, iPad, or iPod Touch.

“This app comes preloaded with the U.S. Constitution. Then you can download additional legal content directly into the app, including the U.S. Code, Code of Federal Regulations, State Statutes, the M.P.E.P., and more!”

Features:

• Fully offline – just download and go!
• Download additional content directly into the app!
• Lightning-fast speed.
• Full-text search and in-text highlighting.
• Page through content just like a book.
• User preferences – adjust the font and font-size for easier reading.
• GoTo Button – know the exact section you want? It’s one touch away.
• Includes Advisory Committee Notes where available
• Updated frequently to ensure you have the most current edition.


The Yale MeSH Analyzer

“Two of our librarians, Lei Wang and Holly Grossetta Nardini, have developed a web-based tool to simplify search design and refinement for major, comprehensive database searches. This tool was released at NAHSL’15 in Providence this past October and is primarily for those involved in comprehensive database searching and systematic review research teams.”

“At Yale, based on work by Jan Glover, we have a “best practice” for major searches: creating a MeSH analysis grid. A MeSH analysis grid helps us identify problems in a search strategy by showing how key articles are indexed in the MEDLINE database in an easy-to-scan tabular format. Creating a MeSH analysis grid manually is useful for search validation but time-consuming.”

http://library.medicine.yale.edu/blog/yale-mesh-analyzer

How to Build a Search Engine for Mathematics

“On the average summer Saturday, the mathematician Neil Sloane woke up to a crisis. ‘There are always crises,’ he said—albeit crises of the teapot tempest variety. One Saturday over breakfast, he faced an inbox message titled ‘edits from outer space.’ Without authorization, a contributor in France had deleted an entry in Sloane’s Online Encyclopedia of Integer Sequences, which, like Wikipedia, is powered by volunteer contributors and editors”

“But everyday, tending his encyclopedia like a garden, weeding and pruning and planting, Sloane also delights in the more pleasant surprises. On that same Saturday morning, for instance, a nice new sequence arrived. This specimen was governed by a rule that, as Sloane explained with signature bouncy exuberance, ‘gives you a list of numbers, only 16 numbers, and the biggest is 999,999,000. Six nines and six zeroes. Which is pretty amazing! Out of the blue we end up with this number.’”

http://nautil.us/issue/29/scaling/how-to-build-a-search-engine-for-mathematics

https://oeis.org/

Awards Committee Needs Your Nominations NOW!

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2015/11/awards-committee-needs-your-nominations-now/ November 12, 2015 Categories: Bayline, Honors & Awards Tags: take action

The SF Bay Region Chapter is seeking nominations for its annual awards. Nominations are due by Friday, November 19th!

The chapter gives awards each year to honor members who provided exceptional support for our membership. You’ve been a part of our organization, and you know your fellow
members, so we need you to tell us who deserves special recognition. There are award categories for people at all stages of their career and their time in the chapter, so we want to hear about students who have made an exceptional contribution, and new members who have stepped up to the plate, and long-time contributors who’s efforts deserve recognition. Who helped you this year? Help us find those special Special Librarians, so we can thank them.

The award ceremony is held at our holiday party, which is coming up quickly, so get your nominations in right away.

Categories for awards are:
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You’ll find more detailed descriptions of each of the award categories on the chapter website: [http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/award-descriptions/](http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/award-descriptions/). There is a formal nomination form on the website ([http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/nomination-form/](http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/nomination-form/)), and we’d love to have that detailed level of information for your nomination. If you don’t have that level of detail but would like to recommend someone for an award, you can still reach out to the Awards Committee. You can reach us at [awards@sanfrancisco.sla1.org](mailto:awards@sanfrancisco.sla1.org). And self-nominations are welcome!

Note that we don’t necessarily give every award every year. But we do want to recognize everyone’s effort. Remember, nominations must be received by [November 19th](http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/). Mimi Calter, Cyndi Berglez, & Rebecca Leung

2015 Awards Committee

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**SLA Advocacy Toolkit: Introduction, & Developing Mission and Vision Statements**


Categories: Bayline, Chapter Programs & Events

Tags: professional development

If you’re a member of the SLA then you should be getting these in the mail. However, we feel this is important enough to post in Bayline so you don’t miss this.

–Bayline Editor

**Dear Colleague,**

It’s no secret that the last few years have been a precarious time for librarians and information professionals. It has become more important than ever for SLA members to take proactive measures to demonstrate their value to the stakeholders in their organizations.

In 2014, the SLA Membership Preferences Task Force surveyed SLA members and found many members wanted practical tools to help them communicate their impact to stakeholders in their organization.

Based on that feedback from members, a [new task force](http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2015/11/sla-advocacy-toolkit-introduction-developing-mission-and-vision-statements/) was formed this year by SLA President Jill Strand, and it was charged with the development of such a toolkit. Earlier this year, we surveyed members about strategies and tactics they were already using and those they’d like more information about. The survey results and feedback we received at the SLA 2015 Annual Conference have helped task force members develop a toolkit that covers 5 different domains—

- Developing Mission and Vision Statements;
- Communicating through Storytelling;
- Working with Disengaged Management;
- Using Impactful Metrics; and
- Engaging in External Benchmarking.

Over the next several weeks–see below for the first installment on mission and vision statements—you’ll receive e-mails that explore each of these domains with practical tips and tactics you can adapt to your individual organization. Information in these messages will be distilled from a variety of sources, and will contain links to additional resources for members who want to explore the topic in more depth. These materials will also be posted on the SLA Website.

We hope you’ll invest a few minutes each week in your own sustainability and experiment with some of these curated strategies. We know how critical library and information professionals are to our organizations’ success, and through these strategies we’ll be better able to illustrate how essential we are to people outside the profession.

Chris Vestal, Chair
Lois Ireland
Ray Maxwell
Toby Pearlstein
Stephen Phillips
**Developing Mission and Vision Statements**

Mission statements are often confused with vision statements. They are different but serve complementary purposes. Both types of statements are meant to be concise and clearly communicate the purpose, direction, and values of an organization. These statements have been shown to improve organizational performance by motivating the team or the organization as a whole.

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**Reminder: Holiday Party and Annual Awards Ceremony**


**SF Bay Region Chapter Holiday Party and Annual Awards Ceremony**

*Thursday, December 10, 2015, 5:30 – 9:00 pm*

**Thirsty Bear Brewing Co.**

661 Howard St, SF

[http://www.thirstybear.com](http://www.thirstybear.com)

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**Agenda**

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- 6:30 – 7:00   Awards!
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**Menu**

A variety of foods for your consumption, including vegetarian options.

One drink ticket is included.

**SLA Program Cost**

- SLA Members $30
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- Student / Retired / Unemployed $25.00

**Location**

Thirsty Bear Brewing Co. is a half a mile walk from Montgomery BART and MUNI. There are a variety of parking garages within blocks of the space.

**Registration**

Registration has closed for this event. If you have any questions, contact the Director of Programs, Sarah Cook.

sarah.rae.cook@gmail.com

**Thanks go to our generous sponsors:**

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**Intersect Alert November 16, 2015**

International Outlook

Hong Kong Bookstore Disappearances Shock Publishing Industry

“In a frenetic commercial district of Hong Kong, sandwiched between shops selling vitamins and clothing to tourists, the Causeway Bay Bookstore touts itself as the authority on Chinese politics.”

“The tiny shop specialises in selling gossipy paperbacks that are highly critical of China’s leadership. They are particularly popular with mainland Chinese visitors who cannot buy the banned books at home.”

“But two weeks ago, four men who work for the bookstore and its affiliated publishing house went missing. Their colleagues believe they have been detained by Chinese officials because of their work.”


Privacy Issues

Cell Phone Location Tracking Laws By State

“Location records can reveal an enormous of information about a person, especially with the proliferation of smartphones that constantly track our whereabouts. Because privacy laws haven’t kept up with advances in technology, police have long claimed the authority to access this information from cell phone companies without warrants.”

“That’s changing. While Congress and the Supreme Court haven’t yet weighed in on whether a warrant should be required for location information, little by little, state legislatures and lower courts are expanding privacy protections for more and more Americans.”

https://www.aclu.org/map/cell-phone-location-tracking-laws-state

Building Trust and Protecting Privacy: Progress on the President’s Precision Medicine Initiative

“Today, the White House is releasing the Privacy and Trust Principles for the President’s Precision Medicine Initiative (PMI). These principles are a foundation for protecting participant privacy and building trust in activities within PMI.”

“PMI is a bold new research effort to transform how we characterize health and treat disease. PMI will pioneer a new model of patient-powered research that promises to accelerate biomedical discoveries and provide clinicians with new tools, knowledge, and therapies to select which treatments will work best for which patients. The initiative includes development of a new voluntary research cohort by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), a novel regulatory approach to genomic technologies by the Food and Drug Administration, and new cancer clinical trials by the National Cancer Institute at NIH. In addition, PMI includes aligned efforts by the Federal government and private sector collaborators to pioneer a new approach for health research and healthcare delivery that prioritizes patient empowerment through access to information and policies that enable safe, effective, and innovative technologies to be tested and made available to the public.”


Open Access

Find Open Access Dissertations and Theses

“PQDT Open provides the full text of open access dissertations
and theses free of charge. You can quickly and easily locate dissertations and theses relevant to your discipline, and view the complete text in PDF format.”

http://pqdtopen.proquest.com/search.html

What Open-Access Publishing Actually Costs

“In academe, ideas cost money. But how much?”

“Advocates for open-access journals say that academic research should be free for everyone to read. But even those proponents acknowledge that publishing costs money — the disagreement is over the amount.”

“The issue was highlighted last month, when all six editors and all 31 editorial-board members resigned from Lingua, a prominent linguistics journal, after a disagreement with the journal’s publisher, Elsevier, over how much libraries and authors should pay.”


LAST CHANCE! Nominate Your SLA Colleagues for Awards.


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Mimi Calter, Cyndi Berglez, & Rebecca Leung

2015 Awards Committee

Share this:

SLA Advocacy Toolkit: Communicating via Storytelling

Second in the Advocacy Toolkit series. The introduction and first toolkit can be found [here].

–Bayline Editor

Advocacy Toolkit: Communicating via Storytelling

“Tell me a story” is a common refrain from children, and we continue to enjoy stories as adults. Do stories have a place in the work environment? Absolutely.

Numbers and statistics provide important details, but it’s often the stories behind those numbers that provide the connection. Rational arguments about the importance of a new initiative can fall on deaf ears without any sense of emotion. It’s one thing to talk about how knowledge management can be useful; it’s another to talk about how knowledge management can provide health workers in Zambia with answers to malaria treatment questions, as Stephen Denning did in the 1990s when he began to use storytelling to help World Bank staff and managers envision a new future for their organization.

Intersect Alert November 22, 2015


Open Access

Open Access Meets Discoverability: Citations to Articles Posted to Academia.edu

“Using matching and regression analyses, we measure the difference in citations between articles posted to Academia.edu and other articles from similar journals, controlling for field, impact factor, and other variables. Based on a sample size of 34,940 papers, we find that a paper in a median impact factor journal uploaded to Academia.edu receives 41% more citations after one year than a similar article not available online, 50% more citations after three years, and 73% after five years. We also found that articles also posted to Academia.edu had 64% more citations than articles only posted to other online venues, such as personal and departmental home pages, after five years.”

https://www.academia.edu/12297791/Open_Access_Meets_Discoverability_Citations_to_Articles_Posted_to_Academia.edu

Copyright

A Step Toward Protecting Fair Use on YouTube

“More than 400 hours of video are uploaded to YouTube every minute. Some of those uploads make use of existing content, like music or TV clips, in new and transformative ways that have social value beyond the original (such as a parody or critique). In the U.S., this activity is often protected by fair use, a crucial exception to copyright law which can help discussion and creativity across different mediums to continue flourishing.”

“YouTube will now protect some of the best examples of fair use on YouTube by agreeing to defend them in court if necessary.”


Search

MeSH Linked Data (beta) Technical Documentation

November 19, 2015

“MeSH RDF has been updated to include the 2016 MeSH data. See MeSH vocabulary changes for 2016.”

http://id.nlm.nih.gov/mesh/2016/ This graph will stay in sync with the http://id.nlm.nih.gov/mesh/ graph until 2017 MeSH data is released.”


https://hhs.github.io/meshrdf/release-notes.html

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http://id.nlm.nih.gov/mesh/2016/ This graph will stay in sync with the http://id.nlm.nih.gov/mesh/ graph until 2017 MeSH data is released.”


https://hhs.github.io/meshrdf/release-notes.html

Copyright
Why Is Facebook Inspecting Your Private Videos?

“In general, Facebook has some pretty decent copyright policies. If you upload content to Facebook and it’s removed because of a bogus takedown request, you can file a counter-notice via a form on Facebook’s website. If the claimant doesn’t take action against you in a federal court in 14 days, your content is restored. That’s how it’s supposed to work, and Facebook usually does it right. Unlike some platforms, it also doesn’t ding users as “repeat offenders” based on multiple phony claims.”

“But Facebook has recently introduced a new system for automatically recognizing copyright infringement in videos, and the way it works could raise a few eyebrows. In some circumstances, the new copyright bot actually requires Facebook users to share their private videos with a third party. While arguably well-intentioned, the system could threaten not only users’ free expression online, but also their privacy.”

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2015/11/why-facebook-inspecting-your-private-videos

December CopyTalk Webinar Scheduled

“The next CopyTalk webinar will be on December 3, 2015 (the first Thursday of the month) at 2:00 pm Eastern/11:00 am. The topic will be the triennial 1201 rulemaking proceeding, this year’s announced exemptions, and proposals for changing this regulatory nightmare.”

“For those not familiar with the 1201 rulemaking process, be ready to step into DC wonk-land. The Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA) of 1998 mandated that it is a violation to hack digital rights management (DRM) employed by rights holders to protect access to digital works. The objective was to prevent unauthorized users to access digital content. But Congress understood that sometimes hacking DRM is necessary to make a lawful use of a work. The rulemaking proceeding is used to identify those lawful uses that are exempt from the 1201 provision.”

http://www_districtdispatch.org/2015_11_december_copytalk_webinar-scheduled

Libraries

Are There Critters and Germs in My Library Books?

“Books are no better hosts for bacteria and viruses than many other objects. All pathogens need a critical mass for an exposed person to become infected. Chances are you won’t bring home any unwanted guests.”

“An outbreak of bedbugs at the library in a fictional correction facility in ‘Orange is the New Black’ prompted officials on the TV show to burn all its books. That might seem extreme, but infestations in real-life libraries pop up in the news cycle as well. Last week, a Delaware library had the critters rear their tiny heads. Alicia Leytem, pesticide specialist at the National Pesticide Information Center at Oregon State University, and Michael Z. David, an assistant professor of medicine, specializing in infectious disease, at the University of Chicago, explain what other unwanted guests might hitchhike home from your local reading room on ‘The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy.’

http://www.wsj.com/articles/are-there-critters-and-germs-in-my-library-books-1447700280

Beneath New York Public Library, Shelving Its Past for High-Tech Research Stacks

“As they skate or snack in Bryant Park, visitors might dismiss the stately New York Public Library next door as a dog-eared relic in an age of digital information.”

“But unbeknown to most of them, 17 feet below ground, in a concrete bunker worthy of the White House, the library is expanding and updating one of the most sophisticated book storage systems in the world.”

“Since March, after abandoning a much-criticized plan to move the bulk of its research collection to New Jersey, the library has been working instead to create a high-tech space underground for the 2.5 million research works long held in its original stacks.”


Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety. The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.

More Celebration Ahead: Holiday Party and Annual Awards Ceremony

SF Bay Region Chapter Holiday Party and Annual Awards Ceremony

Thursday, December 10, 2015, 5:30 – 9:00 pm
Thirsty Bear Brewing Co.
661 Howard St, SF
http://www.thirstybear.com

Please join us as we celebrate the season, another year of terrific Chapter events, and the contributions of some of our distinguished members.

Agenda

5:30 – 6:30      Party!
6:30 – 7:00      Awards!
7:00 – 9:00      More Party!

Menu

A variety of foods for your consumption, including vegetarian options.

One drink ticket is included.

SLA Program Cost

SLA Members $30
Non-Members $50.00
Student / Retired / Unemployed $25.00

Location

Thirsty Bear Brewing Co. is a half a mile walk from Montgomery BART and MUNI. There are a variety of parking garages within blocks of the space.

Registration

Registration has closed for this event. If you have any questions, contact the Director of Programs, Sarah Cook. sarah.rae.cook@gmail.com

Thanks go to our generous sponsors:

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Intersect Alert November 30, 2015


Privacy

Google – European Privacy Requests for Search Removals

“In a May 2014 ruling, Google Spain v AEPD and Mario Costeja González, the Court of Justice of the European Union found that individuals have the right to ask search engines like Google to remove certain results about them. The court decided that search engines must assess each individual’s request for removal and that a search engine can only continue to display certain results where there is a public interest in doing so.”

https://www.google.com/transparencyreport/removals/europeprivacy/?hl=en

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Search

Data Enriched Research, Data Enhanced Impact: The Importance of UK Data Infrastructure.

“The UK Data Service is trusted to manage the UK’s largest collection of UK and international social and economic research data, spanning major UK government-sponsored surveys, cross-national surveys, longitudinal studies, UK census data, international aggregate data banks, business microdata and qualitative and mixed methods data.”

“The data in our collection reflect the issues that affect all our lives and experiences, both close to home and internationally, covering every continent, from birth through education, employment and on to old age. The data cover a wide range of topics, such as housing, the economy, quality of life and people’s attitudes to their work, health and finances and many more. Users can browse the data online and register with us to analyse and download them and download our Open Data collections without registration.”
LexisNexis Acquires Premier Legal Analytics® Provider Lex Machina

“November 23, 2015 — NEW YORK – LexisNexis® Legal & Professional today announced that it has acquired privately held Lex Machina, Inc., creator of award-winning Legal Analytics®, a next-generation technology platform that transforms how law firms and companies excel in the business and practice of law. Terms of the transaction were not disclosed.”

“Lex Machina, based in Silicon Valley, delivers a Software as a Service platform that helps lawyers predict the behaviors and outcomes of different legal strategies by mining, tagging, categorizing and enhancing millions of Federal court dockets and documents. The technology allows lawyers to make strategic, data-driven decisions and develop winning litigation strategies using competitive intelligence on opposing parties and counsel, track records and key decisions by presiding judges, as well as reveal trends by case outcomes.”

The Future Of Libraries Is Collaborative, Robotic, And Participatory

“To look at the state of many libraries after the recession, facing cuts and closures and fundamental questions about ‘relevance,’ you could be forgiven for being gloomy about their future. But gloomy is not the predominant tone of a terrific new report from Arup, the well-regarded design consultancy. It shows that some libraries, at least, are undergoing a ‘renaissance,’ and that the future could be good for others.”

“Arup organized workshops in four cities, bringing together a range of people interested in libraries. The report collects ideas from existing projects, as well as ideas for future spaces. There are four main themes, as summarized below. Despite a lack of funding and the threat of online alternatives, ‘trends shaping the future of libraries have the potential to reshape and reinvigorate the role they play in public, academic and corporate settings,’ the report says.”

Copyright

Copyright Looks Different from Jamaican Eyes

“Jamaicans produce mass street dances where individuals can become celebrities by dancing or singing with no expectation of compensation. Their version of royalties is being mentioned in a song. They openly use copyrighted music and record their own versions over instrumental tracks. Creating an original work as we conceive of it in the dominant copyright paradigm is meaningless because harkening back to works that have already been created and that link to their culture is the value they embrace. Mann’s presentation was fascinating and pointed out that (once again) official policy is far removed from behavior on the ground.”

Libraries and Librarians

With All This Technology, What Do We Need Librarians For?

“Advocates say in the information age, school libraries are more important than ever.”

“A Slippery Number: How Many Books Can Fit in the New York Public Library?

“As New York mysteries go, it hardly competes with ‘Who’s buried in Grant’s tomb?’ or ‘How many pigeons live in the five boroughs?’ But for devotees of the New York Public Library, the question of how many books can be stored in the majestic central stacks on Fifth Avenue is far from academic. They say it goes to the heart of the library’s mission to keep as many research books as possible within arm’s reach of scholars.”

“In just the past decade, vexingly different figures have been reported — 1.8 million in The New York Times in 2009, four million by The Associated Press in 2013. The library and its current president, Anthony W. Marx, seemed content until two years ago to put the number at about three million, although the figure of 3.5 million had long been used, and appears in the lead paragraph of a Times article from Oct. 1, 1905. (Puzzlingly, the headline says 4.5 million.)”
President’s December Message

December 1, 2015

Categories: Bayline, Chapter Leadership
Tags: President’s message

Some stats and info:

- As of this writing, I have received and sent over 1,300 emails related to chapter business.
- I have attended over 30 events related to chapter business.
- I have met countless people, including chapter members with whom I never had the opportunity to chat.
- I have worked with countless dedicated chapter members in their capacity as volunteers.
- I have been sought out by leaders in the Association, other Chapters and Divisions for my thoughts and opinions. I was shocked to find that people know who I am!
- I was NOT shocked to find that our Chapter is very well regarded.

I hope that more of you will come forward and offer your services, expertise and experience for the benefit of the chapter. Even a small contribution can help make our chapter better. One phone call, one blog post, a few hours of your time can make a difference. In this time of so many in need, make a difference.

Chapter News

The fabulous and very popular Holiday Party is coming up soon. The Programs Team has done a lot of work to make this a nice event. We are returning to an ever popular favorite, the Thirsty Bear! We will be handing out chapter awards, but other than that will provide you with the opportunity to socialize with your colleagues. If you have not marked December 10 on your calendar and bought your ticket, please do so as it is always a great event.

Quatrove from Topaz Research has donated a Knowledge Base to the chapter for use by the Executive Board, and, possibly, for the Advisory Council. We hope that this will get us out of using email as a Knowledge Management system. This doesn’t affect most of you except peripherally. We are excited that Sarah Kavanaugh thinks enough of our chapter to allow us to give their system a try. Take a look at their website and send them a thank you.

I have been working closely with Hilary, your 2015 President—
Elect, and I have been sharing more and more information with her to make the transition as smooth as possible for the chapter. We still need volunteers. Hilary will be sending out a call for specific tasks, but if you have a skill you want to exercise in service to the chapter, please contact Hilary. Even writing one Bayline article one time or sitting at the Hospitality table at one event is helpful and appreciated.

HQ

Jill Strand, our dedicated Association President, sent out an announcement for a webchat, which included other Association news. I hope you were able to join in. The Association Board is working on making these chats more frequent and Tom Rink will continue them next year.

The 2017 Annual Conference Advisory Council will present a 2017 conference planning kick-off webinar on Wednesday, January 20, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. ET. There will be an additional planning webinar held on Wednesday, February 3 at 3:00 p.m. ET to review available planning tools and additional conference details. Please save the dates! More information (including registration instructions) for both webinars will be released once it is available. Check your HQ related email or the SLA website.

The SLA 2016 conference in Philadelphia will be an amazing one, and SLA HQ and the organizers are excited to invite you to join us June 12-14, when some of the world’s top information professionals will gather to network and learn. This is your chance to make important connections while acquiring extremely valuable information designed to help you improve your skills and knowledge.

If you are looking for a place to donate, we all know there is much need. One way to help yourself and fellow information professionals is to donate to SLA’s Loyalty Club. Contributions to the SLA Loyalty Club help expand and improve the Association’s education services, technology, and more. For a donation of $50 dollars or more, we will send you a framed SLA Loyalty Club Certificate you can frame and hang on your wall or display on your desk. Additionally, all Loyalty Club members will receive a mention in an issue of Information Outlook.

Take advantage of 2015’s Super Saver rate of $565 for the entire conference. Registration is open, and the Super Saver rate will be available through December 31st. I hope to see you in Philly.

In that vein, the Philly local arrangements committee is already communicating with you. Be sure to check their website periodically, as they will be updating it in the weeks and months to come. Also, tons of great information about our area is being sent out from the @SLAconf Twitter account.

- Website: http://philly2016.sla.org/
- Twitter: @SLAconf
- Instagram: @SLAhq

Finally, Bethan Ruddock, one of the Association Directors is stepping back while she works on some life projects. She wrote a really nice blog post about the whole situation. I hope you will read it and take to heart that YOU are one of the good people she mentions. The Association and the the Chapter need your talent, time, points of view, so please step up and volunteer by contacting Hilary. She will tell you the open positions that are available.

See you soon,

Jaye

Holiday Party and Annual Awards Ceremony


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Dee Magnoni: Leveraging Your Professional Activities and Relationships

Categories: Bayline, Chapter Programs & Events Tags: events, professional development

December 9th at 6pm PT

Dee Magnoni
Leveraging Your Professional Activities and Relationships

The San Jose State University student chapter of SLA would like to invite you to join them for a presentation by the incoming SLA President-Elect, Dee Magnoni.

You’ve heard the advice before: get involved with a professional association. Why is this important? What are the synergies? How do you determine your association fit? What about finding a mentor, then cultivating that relationship? Dee Magnoni started her professional involvement while in grad school, and grew her career while seeking opportunities to learn, grow and give back. In this practical session Dee will share tips, stories and potential paths.

Bio: Dee Magnoni is the Research Library Director at Los Alamos National Laboratory, where she leads open access and data initiatives. Dee previously worked in both business and engineering libraries within corporate America and academia. She received her MLS from SUNY-Albany and her BA from Lehigh University. Dee is an active member and Fellow of the Special Libraries Association. She has served in several leadership roles. Dee is on the board of the National Science Communication Institute, focusing on nSCI’s Open Scholarship Initiative.

Link to online session: https://sas.elluminate.com/d.jnlp?sid=2011274&password=D.6DB4059B5816A65D1EF8A1CCF8DFBB

This presentation will be recorded and the recording accessible at: https://ischoolgroups.sjsu.edu/slasc/

This Month in Bayline: November 2015

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2015/12/this-month-in-bayline-november-2015/ December 4, 2015 Categories: Bayline, Chapter Programs & Events Tags: events, intellectual property, President's message, privacy, professional development

I hope you’ve had a happy Thanksgiving, Bayline readers. I certainly enjoyed my time off. The holidays aren’t over yet, though.
• Our President’s November Message announces the ability to subscribe to Bayline, and requests volunteers for the last positions in the Advisory Council.
• Whether it’s Firefox’s improved privacy settings, or how copyright works in Jamaica, Intersect covers all walks of life for news on information.
• If you’re an SLA member then you’ve already been e-mailed information about the Advocacy Toolkit, designed to help you communicate your value to fellow stakeholders (i.e., why they shouldn’t cut the library’s funding). We’ve felt it so important that we’re cross-posting it on Bayline. This month, we’ve had Developing Mission and Vision Statements and Communicating through Storytelling.
• Finally, we’ve our annual Holiday Party and Annual Awards Ceremony! Go there! Meet people! Find job opportunities like I did!

And that’s the last update of the year. See you next year, and next month as usual. Happy Holidays!

Last Reminder!: Holiday Party and Annual Awards Ceremony


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sarah.rae.cook@gmail.com

Thanks go to our generous sponsors:

Intersect Alert – 12.06.15

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2015/12/intersect-alert-12-06-15/ December 7, 2015 Categories: Intersect Alert Tags: government,
Artificial Intelligence
Artificial Intelligence Aims to Make Wikipedia Friendlier and Better
“The nonprofit behind Wikipedia is turning to machine learning to combat a long-standing decline in the number of editors.” This effort hopes to stem the losses of active contributors to Wikipedia of up to 40% in the last eight years. Research scientists at the Foundation have developed algorithms that will “score the quality of new changes to Wikipedia and judge whether an edit was made in good faith or not.” Called ORES (“Objective Revision Evaluation Service”), the software was invented by Aaron Halfaker of the Wikimedia Foundation, “ORES can allow editing tools to direct people to review the most damaging changes. The software can also help editors treat rookie or innocent mistakes more appropriately.” ORES can read English, Portuguese, Turkish, and Farsi so far.
Source: Simonite, T., MIT Technology Review, 11.30.15

California Technology
California Gov.’s Long Tradition of Environmentalism Comes To Culmination in Paris
California Gov. Jerry Brown attended the US Summit on global climate change in Paris. “Throughout his political career, Brown has displayed a desire to minimize society’s footprint on the Earth…the governor will tout California’s policies, rub shoulders with corporate executives, sign agreements with foreign leaders and be feted at the U.S. ambassador’s residence for his efforts to urge a stronger international accord at the summit.” California environmentalists believe there is still work to do “as Gov. Brown has refused to ban fracking. “We’re going to take out the oil in the most efficient way possible,” he said. In another apparent irony, Brown still relies on a gas-guzzling Crown Victoria to get around.”
Source: Megerian, C., Los Angeles Times, 12.02.15

California Considers Launching a Data and Civic Innovation Lab
Chris Cruz, Chief Deputy Director of Operations for the California Department of Technology spoke during a panel discussion at the State of Technology Industry Forum in Sacramento. He discussed some of the good ideas that evolved from the Green Gov Challenge code-a-thon that was hosted by California agencies. He would like to create a “sandbox-style environment where state government entities can experiment together on new approaches to open data management, application development and security solutions…a challenge around open source because you have different folks in different sandboxes trading or transitioning data or code back and forth. So how do you ensure that folks aren’t leaving open-ended traces in their code and how do you manage and secure that?”
Source: Williams, M., Gov Tech, 12/3/15

Copyright
Strategic Plan 2016-2020 Positioning the United States Copyright Office for the Future Meta details “…The Copyright Office’s Strategic Plan, setting forth the Office’s performance objectives for the next five years…” is available. Comments received following the typical thirty-day comment period have been incorporated. Register of Copyrights, Maria A. Pallante described the new plan as “re-envisioning almost all of the Copyright Office’s services, including how customers register claims, submit deposits, record documents, share data, and access expert resources.”

Digital Publications
The San Francisco Chronicle, Once Imperiled, Is Profitable — And Growing Its Digital Business
This article provides a good business case for print publications to add digital services in order to keep print publications alive. The SF Chronicle is changing the newspaper industry by incorporating marketing agencies under the newspaper’s umbrella, offering current advertisers full-service marketing-media services. “This means consultation on everything from their client’s brand identity (read: logos, color palette, other insignia) to its plan for finding and reaching customers.” Hearst is responsible and is building such services in their other newspaper towns.
As a result, ‘The Chron,’ is now profitable, with additional earnings from their digital subscribers.
Source: Mullin, B., Poynter Org, 12.02.15

Legal Data
Data, Lawyers, And IT: How They’re Connected
This article covers new ways that law firms are incorporating actual data rather than using ”instinct, intuition, and judgment” into trial preparation. The information is broken down into four key segments,
• What role data plays before trial;
• How it’s changing things in the courtroom;
• How data is improving the way law firms operate;
• and how new tools, such as natural language search.
For example, Paul Hastings “established a data science team a little over two years ago. The team helps with investigations, litigation, regulatory compliance and enforcement matters…” Wonder if there are any librarians involved??
Source: Morgan, L., Information Week, 11.27.15

Library Skills
What Technology Skills Do Developers Need? A Text Analysis of Job Listings in Library and Information Science (LIS) from Jobs.code4lib.org

Abstract: “Technology plays an indisputably vital role in library and information science (LIS) work; this rapidly moving landscape can create challenges for practitioners and educators seeking to keep pace with such change. In pursuit of building our understanding of currently sought technology competencies in developer-oriented positions within LIS, this paper reports the results of a text analysis of a large collection of job listings culled from the Code4lib jobs website. Beginning over a decade ago as a popular mailing list covering the intersection of technology and library work, the Code4lib organization’s current offerings include a website that collects and organizes LIS-related technology job listings. The results of the text analysis of this dataset suggest the currently vital technology skills and concepts that existing and aspiring practitioners may target in their continuing education as developers.”

http://ejournals.bc.edu/ojs/index.php/ital/article/view/5893

Net Neutrality
What to Expect When You’re Expecting Oral Arguments for Yet Another Appeal of FCC Open Internet Rule
Another appeal is before the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals The Open Internet Order of 2015 was not acceptable to the ISPs and they sued the FCC. This is a lengthy piece for those interested in Net Neutrality. Forscey breaks down the issues into understandable chunks, e.g. the Judges, the Petitioners, their respective corners and the number of rounds expected along with “post-match analysis.”
Source: Forscey, K., Public Knowledge, 12.03.15

Privacy
Privacy and the Internet
“In decisions with far-reaching implications on both sides of the Atlantic, European courts and regulators have ruled that Google and other search engines must delete links to Europeans’ unwanted personal information from the Web, reinforcing a “right to be forgotten” that has a long legal tradition on the continent. A French regulator’s order applying that doctrine to the Google.com search page used by Americans is widely seen as conflicting with the U.S. Constitution’s guarantee of free expression…”
Source: From the EEF, 12.04.15
http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/Subscription required to access full report.

SLA Advocacy Toolkit: Working with Disengaged Management
Categories: Bayline, Chapter Programs & Events Tags: professional development

Dealing with disengaged management is a challenge many special librarians face. This disengagement can result from many causes: a lack of understanding of information work and its value, competing interests, or even fear. Whatever the cause, here are a few pieces of advice for improving communication and developing relationships with managers so they recognize that your knowledge and support are critical to their success and that of the organization.

Advocacy Toolkit: Working with Disengaged Management

Intersect Alert 12.13.15
Artificial Intelligence
Artificial Intelligence Non-profit Open AI Launches with Backing from Elon Musk And Sam Altman
A non-profit artificial intelligence research company, “OpenAI” was announced. Ilya Sutskever, a scientist from Google will direct the company. “Our goal is to advance digital intelligence in the way that is most likely to benefit humanity as a whole, unconstrained by a need to generate financial return… the organization is being funded by Altman, Brockman, Musk, Jessica Livingston, Peter Theil, Amazon Web Services, Infosys and YC Research. Those funders have contributed $1 billion thus far. Musk has been donating money to make sure that AI doesn’t go the way of Skynet, so it’s nice to know that his involvement will have a safety-lens on it.”


California Fiber-Optics
San Francisco Looks to Catalog, Map Fiber-Optic Resources
San Francisco Supervisor Mike Farrell has introduced legislation to upgrade the 29 miles of fiber optics that deliver the information for the county. There is a name to this system, the City Fiber and each agency and private company has it’s own map – there is no overall map of the system available. The San Francisco Public Utilities has been directed to catalog and develop a map of the City Fiber so that the network can be properly maintained and upgraded. Apparently some agencies even keep paper records and “static engineering diagrams,” preventing efforts to compile a single map. A report from San Francisco’s budget and legislative analysts claim that major agencies such as Dept. of Technology, the PUC (they have their own 29 miles of fiber optics cables) and the Municipal Transportation Agency do not adhere to best practices,” even the SF International Airport monitors a network separate network.


Digital History
Reclaiming Conversation in the Digital Age
A newly published book, Reclaiming Conversation: The Power of Talk in a Digital Age is reviewed. The book, authored by Sherry Turkle, a sociologist and a MIT professor is an expert in this area, “a solid and longtime resident of the tech world.” We all consider this problem and may not realize that we are avoiding a conversation because an email is quicker. This book focuses on those who don’t remember communication any other way but by using smart phones. “Turkle identifies a growing loss of empathy among young people as a major side effect of their online relationships. She points out that the psychological markers for empathy among current college students are down 40 percent from 20 years ago. No surprise, when young people script their communications with friends through texting and social media, the absence of eye contact and body language leaves them desensitized to the power of their words.”


Digital Book Publishing
Faber Boss Says Future Of Book Publishing Is Mobile
Stephen Page, the CEO of the publishing house Faber & Faber spoke about the industry’s response to the increase in smartphone use by young readers. He notes the publishing industry isn’t providing enough reading material for younger people, nor, are publishers considering the employment of younger people and “ethnic minorities.” Page also said the industry should consider exploring the “not book” world of digital products and real-world experiences, citing as examples the Pelican Books online-reading website as an example of the former, and Faber’s own membership scheme that includes events and courses.


Government Information
The Unrealized Potential of Interagency Total Information Sharing
Since the 9/11 event, the U.S. has been trying to establish a way to share information between agencies referred to as Total Information Sharing (TIS). Now as security breaches continue there are questions about whether TIS is going too far. This article is a good overview of the data privacy/security issue and the use of TIS, presenting the problems such as the misuse of data with their identity theft possibilities. Often the data is shared so anonymously or the data changes the identity of real events and names to protect the participants, rendering the data ineffective. This piece discusses the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency’s Brandeis Program that provides suggestions for assuring usable data with privacy intact.

Source: Archer, D., GCN.com, 12.10.15 https://gcn.com/articles/2015/12/10/security-privacy.aspx

FOIA
Three Steps Forward, Two Steps Back as FBI Launches “eFOIA”
The FBI announced the new “eFOIA” system, establishes a new procedure for making Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests. “The announcement asserted that the use of the online form will allow the FBI to process more requests, faster, at a lower cost. This sounds great. There is, however, a catch: the FBI has created several obstacles for those who wish to use the portal.” There are two obstacles. 1) A copy of the requester’s government-issued ID must be attached to the request; 2) the
FBI has restricted the number of requests to only one per person per day. According to the Sunlight Foundation these new requirements are unnecessary—not present in current FOIA law and not adopted by other agencies, and will discourage the request of material under the FOIA.

Source: Van Schooten, D., POGO.com, 12.07.15  
http://www.pogo.org/blog/2015/12/three-steps-forward-two-steps-back-for-fbi-efoia.html

FOIA  
“The federal FOIA Ombudsman informed EPIC that an investigation into the open government practices of the Department of Homeland Security won’t be finished until March 2016. In 2014, EPIC and other open government advocates urged the Office of Government Information Services to investigate “still interested?” letters. The DHS has sent these letters to FOIA requesters to prematurely terminate open government requests. EPIC objected to the practice and explained that “no provision in the FOIA allows for administrative closures. This is the full text.

Source: epic.org, 12.10.15  
https://epic.org/2015/12/-report-on-still-interested-le.html

Library Technology  
Policymakers: 3D printing in libraries advances education and entrepreneurship  
“Toward A More Printed Union: Library 3D Printing Democratizes Creation”  
Is a new report from LA and highlights the multifaceted 3D printing leadership of libraries…library 3D printing yields benefits across a gamut of disciplines—from education, to entrepreneurship and economic development. At the David C. Barrow Elementary School in Athens Georgia, third graders used their library’s 3D printer to design and build their own jewelry as part of a geology lesson on rocks and minerals; at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and the W.E.B. Dubois library has opened a facility devoted to encouraging entrepreneurship through 3D printing; and in public libraries across the country, classes and tutorials on 3D modeling and scanning help people of all ages build cutting-edge skills for the innovation economy.”

Source: American Library Association, Press Release, 12.11.15  

Library Materials  
PubMed and PubMed Central Add New Filters to Limit Results to Only Creative Commons Licensed Materials  
“Creative Commons (CC) licenses are types of copyright licenses that allow free distribution of a work. PubMed Central (PMC), the NLM archive of full text journal articles, includes articles that have a Creative Commons license or are in the public domain. The latter covers those articles authored by staff of U.S. government agencies. NLM now offers a filter for both PubMed Central and PubMed to find articles with unrestricted Creative Commons or public domain (CC0) licenses: These filters are based on license information that is provided to PubMed Central by publishers. There are many more articles cited in PubMed but not deposited in PMC that have CC0 licenses, but that information is not part of PubMed.

Direct to PubMed Central Open Access Subset Info Page”  
Source: Price, G., InfoDocket, 12.11.15  

Library Materials  
Local Business Data Now Available for Entire Nation and Every Industry as 2012  
“The 2012 Economic Census completed the Geographic Area Series today for the final three sectors of the economy, thereby concluding the entire series.

Business statistics are thus now available on all 18 sectors and each industry therein for all 50 states and the District of Columbia, as well as every county, metropolitan statistical area and economic place nationwide. The files contain statistics on the number of establishments, receipts/revenue, payroll, number of employees and other data items. The series was completed today for the following sectors:

Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services—Includes statistics for office administrative services, investigation and security services and waste collection, treatment and disposal.

Educational Services—Includes statistics for business schools and computer and management training, technical and trade schools and educational support services.

Health Care and Social Assistance—Includes statistics for ambulatory health care services, hospitals, nursing and residential care facilities, and social assistance services.”

Source: Price, G., InfoDocket, 12.11.15  
http://www.infodocket.com/author/gprice/

Security – Federal  
IG Report Highlights IT Shortfalls at State  
“According to the inspectors, 11 U.S. overseas missions and one domestic bureau had information security and management deficiencies. They said they also found “significant program challenges with the department’s security program for wireless networks.” Furthermore, information systems security officers do not “perform their duties adequately,” and that failure “leaves a system vulnerable to a wide range of threats, such as spear-phishing attacks,” according to the report. The OIG issued more than 42 recommendations to fix issues related to IT management, cybersecurity, access controls, configuration
management and encryption.”

Source: Chowdhry, A., FCW Business of Federal Technology, 12.11.15

Technology Industry Legislation

Senator Ted Cruz Wants Minimum H-1B Wage of $110,000
A lengthy article describes the new legislation put forth by U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas), who has morphed from a vocal supporter of the H-1B program to a leading critic of it. The H-1B reform bill designed to raise the cost of hiring temporary visa workers. This bill sets a minimum wage of $110,000 for H-1B workers, who currently can be paid well less than half that amount in some U.S. regions under prevailing wage rules...The bill also eliminates the Optional Practical Training Program (OPT), which provides a means to work via a student visa in the U.S. for at least 12 months...”Eliminating OPT puts this bill at odds with the administration of President Barack Obama. Administration officials are now working to finalize regulations to give science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) students the ability to work in the U.S. under their student visas from the current 29 months to 36 months... See the full text to understand the differences between the Cruz and Sessions bill and two other H-1B reform bills put forward, one from Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) and Dick Durbin (D-III.), and another from Sen. Bill Nelson.”

Source: Thibodeau, P., ComputerWorld, 12.11.15
http://www.computerworld.com

SF Bay Region SLA 2015 Awards, by Mimi Calter


SF Bay Region SLA

2015 Awards

The chapter held its annual awards ceremony at its holiday party on December 10th. Awards were given in five different categories, as listed below, and awardees received a plaque and a floral bouquet. Congratulations, and thank you, to all our winners!

Professional Achievement: Anne Barker

The award recognizes notable and enduring contributions to the chapter and the profession. Anne Barker’s efforts on behalf of the chapter and SLA certainly merit this recognition. Her long-time service on the chapter board is an example of this, but she has also made key contributions to the profession, including her work for SLA at a national level, and her extensive efforts on the Intersect Alert. We also congratulate her on her recent personal success in her new job at Genentech.

Horizon Award: Christi Weindorf

The Horizon Award, formerly known as the New Member Award, is given to an individual who has been a member of the chapter for five years or fewer, and has made notable contributions to the chapter. Christi was nominated in large part for her exceptional work as Networking Chair, which have advanced our chapter’s capacity for outreach.

Student Award: Paul Kaidy Barrows

The Student Award recognizes student member for notable activities and contributions to the chapter and the profession. Paul has done outstanding work on the chapter website and other technologies that the chapter maintains, like our electronic archives. The whole chapter is better informed, and better connected, because of his hard work.

Quarter Century: Sandy Malloy

This award is given only occasionally, and only to chapter members who have been members of SLA for at least 25 years. Sandy is richly deserving of membership in the very small club of awardees in this category. Through many of those 25 years, she has been not only a member but a board or advisory council member, including a term as President. Her service has continued well beyond her time as president, though. This award recognizes the consistent support she has personally shown the chapter over many years.

Business Partner Award: Institute (Deb Hunt)

The award is given to an organization that has provided ongoing support for the chapter in a variety of ways. This year, the chapter is pleased to honor Mechanics Institute. The Mechanics Institute has partnered with the chapter on a number of efforts, often serving as a meeting location for special events and workshops, and hosting tours. We look forward to a continued successful relationship with them.
Cybersecurity
Surveillance Bill Slipped Into Federal Spending Budget
The spending bill that was announced buries the Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act of 2015 that has passed the Senate. This is the bill that allows private sector companies to share their user information with the government. The version of the Act “removes the restrictions on using information for surveillance activities, gets rid of the limitations that required the government to use only information for cybersecurity purposes, and ditches the requirement to scrub personal information unrelated to a cybersecurity threat before sharing that information.” The ALA also released a comment from ALA President Sari Feldman “…to expose and oppose the latest legislative attempt to advance a new mass surveillance law.”
Source: Loeb, L., InformationWeek Government, 12.18.15
ALA Press Release

Free Speech
Tina Fey On Internet Outrage: “There’s A Real Culture Of Demanding Apologies, And I’m Opting Out Of That”
“Steer clear of the Internet and you’ll live forever…there’s a real culture of demanding apologies, and I’m opting out of that.” This is in response to the reaction to the “Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt” episode where in which Jane Krakowski plays a Native American.
Source: Framke, C., Vox, 12.18.15

Libraries
Why James Billington’s Retirement is a Wake-Up Call for Librarians
While critical of Billington and his failure to bring the LOC into the digital age, this author details how Billington did try to do so in earlier years. A lack of leadership – one that also hangs over librarians – was the cause.
Source: Brantly, P., Publishers Week, 12.18.15

Libraries, International
British Librarians Are Suing Government Over Library Closings
“The Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (Cilip) has launched a new campaign to push the UK government to think twice before shutting down libraries and to take better care of those that remain. The My Library By Right effort aims to champion “the public’s right to libraries” by leaning on a 1964 British law, the Public Libraries and Museums Act, to provide quality public library services to citizens across the country.”
Source: Dilworth, D., Adweek, 12.17.15
http://www.adweek.com/galleycat/british-librarians-are-suing-government-over-library-closings/113981

Libraries, Prison
Yes, Chief Justice Roberts, A Prison Library Can Be A ‘Very Good Library’
The Chief Justice “When reminded that prisons maintain libraries, “Roberts then shot back, presumably sarcastically, ‘I’m sure they are very good libraries, too.’ ” Schultz who works in a California Prison library, defends the library and the “three inmate library assistants, who, five days a week, work harder than a lot of people on the outside but whose wages top out at 24 cents an hour.” She describes their efforts, which include book groups, tutoring, book reports and “parole preparation resources and a quarterly newsletter written and compiled by the members of a writers group that meets weekly
Source: Schultz, V., Washington Post, 12.17.15

Marketing, Books
Big-Box Bookstores Don’t Have to Die
An interesting article with ideas that can be/are applied to libraries, the story of British Waterstones and U.S. Barnes & Noble. Waterstone’s Managing Director, James Daunt, has survived near bankruptcy by refusing to “sell” space to publishers who could dictate placement of titles (like food retailers who sell desirable shelf space to Lay’s Potato Chips). While he controls the inventory, Daunt believes in stocking books that sell to the buyers in each shop’s marketplace. Daunt only buys titles that are “ browsable” rather than reference or legal texts while allowing shopkeepers to handle autonomously all interior and exterior store placement, displays, etc.
Meanwhile, Barnes & Noble is doing poorly and has been reduced to changing direction away from books and towards adult coloring books and 3D printing.
Source: Heyman, S., Slate, 12.15.15
Patent Law
These Aren’t the Patent Remedies You’re Looking For (No, Really)
“In either case, the reason that the threats work is that they are backed by fear of patent lawsuits. Those lawsuits are incredibly expensive, and losing one could mean paying out millions in damages. That’s already a frightening prospect for small companies. If those millions in damages could now suddenly be tripled at will, the fright factor would increase proportionately.”
Source: Duan, Charles, PublicKnowledge.org, 12.17.15
https://www.publicknowledge.org/news-blog/blogs/these-arent-the-patent-remedies-youre-looking-for-no-really

Privacy
Changes to Facebook’s “Real Names” Policy Still Don’t Fix the Problem
Facebook announced changes to its current policy that users must use their “authentic identity,” even allowing other users to report those who register with an alias. The changes include require any person report another must provide context and authority for their objection to the “alias.” Should the user need to register with an alias, Facebook will request that the user “verify their identity and be asked to let the social network know that they have a “special circumstance, and give more information about their unique situation.” This is to be attained through a new tool being tested. While EFF applauds the efforts of Facebook, “No amount of tweaking will address the fact that it leaves the most vulnerable—those who cannot be open with friends and family due to real-life threats—out to dry. A victim of domestic abuse will want to use anything but a “real name.”
Source: Hassine, W., Galperin, E., EFF.com, 12.18.15
https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2015/12/effs-2015-holiday-wishlist

Transparency
Visualizing 20 Years of Contractor Misconduct
“The Project On Government Oversight is celebrating the holiday season by sharing a colorful display of federal contractor misconduct over the last twenty years. Using the new download feature on our Federal Contractor Misconduct Database (FCMD), data visualization developer Tamara Tershakovec created a JavaScript graph of the FCMD. The graph lists contractors in order of number of misconduct instances. Every instance is represented with a dot, the size of which correlates with the penalty amount. The dots fall along horizontal lines from earliest resolved instances (January 1995) on the left to the most recent on the right. Details about the instance pop up when you move the cursor over the dot. The gadget on the right side of the screen allows you to filter the graph by misconduct type.”
Source: Tershakovec, T., POGO.org, 12.14.15
http://www.pogo.org/blog/2015/12/visualizing-20-years-of-contractor-misconduct.html

Transparency
In The Race To Open Congress’s Secretive Think Tank, A New Trove Of Confidential Research Goes Public
Most of us are familiar with Congressional Research Service (CRS). According to this piece, the reports that are always written by a request from Congress’ lawmakers are automatically deposited for the public to access. Apparently, the lawmakers can “keep it secret unless they choose to release it themselves.” In order to get these reports available to the public, CRSReports.com is culling the Internet for copies of any CRS Report and uploading to the site calling it the “largest free and public collection of” CRS Reports.

2016 Predictions / Wishes
EFF’s 2015 Holiday Wish List (Selected)
• Social media companies should institute better appeals processes for use grievances.
• Governments should stop pushing for tech companies to give them backdoor access to end-to-end encrypted data, either through legislation or through “voluntary cooperation.”
• Verizon should end their smartphone super cookie program once and for all.
• More websites would adopt our Do Not Track Policy and make a strong commitment to not tracking their users.
• More unencrypted websites should turn on SSL by default (perhaps by using Let’s Encrypt).
• Google should stop mining the data they collect from students using Chromebooks for advertising.
Source: Galperin, E., EFF.com, 12.18.15
https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2015/12/effs-2015-holiday-wishlist

Looking Back, Looking Ahead
Changes in the industry and selected predictions for 2016:
“–Under the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals, libraries will increasingly focus on how they can contribute to their community’s challenges, inclusion, and access to opportunity. There will be a need to show connections between library services and movement towards achieving these goals.
–Under the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals, libraries will increasingly focus on how they can contribute to their community’s challenges, inclusion, and access to opportunity. There will be a need to show connections between library services and movement towards achieving these goals.
–Physical space will become less important for traditional services (bookshelves) but more valued for what it contributes to a community.
–Emphasis on innovation and entrepreneurship.”
Source: Jaeger, Bertot and Hines, Emerald Publishing


Forth in the Advocacy Toolkit series. The introduction and first toolkit can be found here.

–Bayline Editor

One of the guiding principles of specialized libraries and information services is to provide services that are aligned with the mission and goals of our employer. You might think, then, that simply collecting and reporting statistics about the services you deliver is sufficient to reflect that alignment. But you would be wrong and, more importantly, you would miss a very important opportunity to make the connection between what you are doing and how it contributes to the organization’s success.

Intersect Alert December 28, 2015


Government Information:

Bill in MI Would Limit Info to Voters; Librarians Protest
In Michigan, a new law that if signed by the governor will restrict the sharing of ballot information prior to voting has alarmed librarians and allies, who are calling for action. In a surprising last-minute vote on December 16 in Lansing, the Michigan house and senate acted in concert to send several bills to Gov. Rick Snyder (R-MI). Among them was an amended version of Senate Bill 571, a finance reform measure, which included new language prohibiting libraries and other public resources from transmitting information about local ballot initiatives for 60 days prior to an election. On its final page, Item 3 of Section 57 reads:
A public body, or a person acting for a public body, shall not, during the period 60 days before an election in which a local ballot question appears on a ballot, use public funds or resources for a communication by means of radio, television, mass mailing, or prerecorded telephone message if that communication references a local ballot question and is targeted to the relevant electorate where the local ballot question appears on the ballot.


Open Data:

Making the case for open human rights data
Within issue areas where impact is easily quantifiable, the case for open data is clear. It’s possible to measure how much money is saved by governments when contract data is open,
and to use these results as evidence for opening up data on
government services. However, as citizens across the world
demand better government data on police brutality and
corruption, we are reminded that the task of government is
more than service delivery, but also the protection and
enhancement of human rights for its citizens. Although it’s
clear that data-driven human rights monitoring efforts would be
enhanced by more or better datasets that can be used to make
conclusions about human rights violations or the overall human
rights landscape in a particular context, the question of how
open data can positively impact human rights monitoring is a
much more sensitive area that has not been fully explored.
Despite a seeming wealth of relevant data for monitoring
human rights, the existing data is marred with myriad of
problems and mechanisms to collect human rights data by
governments and international institutions are weak. Existing
data is often incomplete, inconsistent and unreliable. At the
national level in the U.S., for example, data relating to police
shootings and deaths in police custody is practically non-
existent, with some media outlets (like the Guardian and the
Washington Post) and civil society groups resorting to
crowdsourcing the data from local media reports, making the
chances of creating a complete national dataset nearly
impossible.

http://sunlightfoundation.com/blog/2015/12/21/making-the-
case-for-open-human-rights-data/.

Privacy:

Health data breaches occur in 90% of industries
Cybercriminals are targeting medical data more than ever
before. Technology firm Verizon has recorded many as 392
million records breached and 1,931 incidents across 25
countries. However, hackers have not gained access to health
records from the health sector alone – patient data breaches are
occurring across 90% of industries. Stolen medical information
is a much more widespread issue than previously thought,
affecting 18 out of 20 industries examined, the company says.
Organisations outside the healthcare sector are often unaware
even that they hold this type of information (personally
identifiable health information, or PHI) – leaving it
inadequately protected. Common sources of protected health
information are employee records (including workers’
compensation claims) or information for wellness programs.
Protected health information is highly coveted by today’s
cybercriminals, comments Verizon Enterprise senior analyst
and lead author of the report Suzanne Widup.

http://www.misco.co.uk/blog/news/03580/health-data-
breaches-occur-in-90-percent-of-industries.

Public Policy:

Anti-Transgender Ballot Initiative Fails in California
A coalition of California civil rights and LGBT organizations
announced today that supporters of a proposed anti-transgender
ballot initiative announced that they have failed to submit the
signatures necessary to qualify it for the November, 2016
ballot.

“Privacy for All”, the group behind the failed measure, needed
to submit 365,880 valid signatures to the California Secretary
of State’s office to qualify for the ballot. “Privacy for All” is
backed by the right-wing, Sacramento-based Pacific Justice
Institute and other supporters of Proposition 8. The so-called
“Personal Privacy Protection Act” would have prohibited
transgender people from using facilities in government
buildings and requiring the government to monitor bathroom
use. Supporters of similar efforts elsewhere fought ugly,
divisive and deceitful campaigns that preyed on voters’
ignorance of what it means to be transgender. To educate
California voters about their transgender neighbors and to
forestall similar, future efforts to target them at the ballot box,
Equality California and the Transgender Law Center are
leading a separate statewide public education campaign to
combat widespread public misunderstanding about transgender
and gender nonconforming people and the issues they face. The
separate campaign includes other LGBT and civil rights
organizations as well as groups serving communities of color
and the faith community.

http://www.hrc.org/blog/anti-transgender-ballot-initiative-fails-
in-california.

Trends:

15 striking findings from 2015
Every year, we look back at our research to select the most
memorable facts that illustrate important trends shaping our
world. At Pew Research Center, the topics we analyze range
from the specific subjects of video gaming and family
caregivers to broader areas like political attitudes, global
climate change and religious affiliation. It’s a hard task to
select just 15, but here are some of our most striking findings of
2015:

1. Just 19% of Americans say they can trust the federal
government always or most of the time
2. The American middle class is shrinking
3. For the first time since the 1940s, more immigrants from
Mexico are leaving the U.S. than coming into the country
4. There’s a substantial rise in the share of Americans who
say the country needs to continue making changes to give
blacks equal rights with whites
5. Millennials surpassed Baby Boomers in sheer numbers to
become the largest U.S. generation
6. For news about politics and government, social media
may be for the Millennial generation what local TV is for the Baby Boomer generation
7. For American teens, it’s not just a Facebook and Instagram world
8. People in countries with significant Muslim populations express overwhelmingly negative views of ISIS
9. Islam will grow faster than any other major religion in the world over the next four decades
10. Christians are declining as a share of the U.S. population, while the number of U.S. adults who do not identify with any organized religion is growing
11. Nearly 59 million immigrants have arrived in the U.S. in the past fifty years
12. Multiracial Americans account for 6.9% of adults, and they are growing at a rate three times as fast as the population as a whole
13. Scientists and the American public are often far apart when it comes to views about science-related issues
14. A global median of 54% consider climate change a very serious problem
15. Reporters for niche outlets now fill more seats in the Senate press gallery than do journalists who work for daily newspapers


Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety.
The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.

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President’s December #2 Message

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2015/12/presidents-december-2-message/

Dear Colleagues,

Well, this is it. This is my last President’s message as your President for the 2015 chapter year. It has been a privilege to ‘lead.’ It has been fun and hard and a great learning experience.

Thank You and My Mentors

First and foremost, thank you, my colleagues and the members of our chapter. Thank you for showing up at meetings. Thank you for volunteering to help and thanks to those volunteers who did their jobs without me asking, cajoling, reminding. Thanks to those who went above and beyond.

Whatever is the equivalent of ‘first and foremost’ without being second is next. I would like to thank the amazing Anne Barker who has been behind me this entire year holding my hand, encouraging me and admonishing me at appropriate times.

Thank you to my Executive Board who shared their opinions, wisdom and good sense. Thanks, especially to Sarah Cook, who took on an extended period of service as Program Director without complaint. Sarah also took on a couple of very difficult tasks, which lightened my burden.

I also want to thank the fantastic Cyndi Berglez and the wonderful Mimi Calter, who stepped up to take over the chapter awards. If you were fortunate enough to attend the Holiday Party, you saw the fruits of their labor. There would be no awards without Mimi and Cyndi.

There is no least in this chapter. Everyone who volunteered made an exceptional contribution. I couldn’t have done it without you, so thank you.

Hilary is up next and she needs you to continue volunteering and get your friends and colleagues to volunteer. Many hands make light work.

Regards,

Jaye

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This Month in Bayline: December 2015


This Month in Bayline: December 2015
Happy New Year, everyone! While we recover from last year’s holiday season, let us look back on the last Bayline articles of 2015:

- Jaye Lapachet reflects on her year as SLA-SF President in her monthly message.
- Every time I look at Intersect, I know we live in the future. When else would we have articles about artificial intelligence? Intersect’s not all tech, though; of personal interest to me is an article about an anti-transgender ballot.
- The next two parts of the SLA Advocacy Toolkit, on management and metrics, are up for members to use.
- Lastly, the SLA Bay Region Awards for 2015. Congratulations to the winners!

This post marks the end of my first year as Bayline chair and editor, and my first year out of graduate school. I’ve learned a lot, and I’m continuing to learn even more. In the span of a year, I’ve gotten five volunteer jobs in my CV, with a sixth on the way. Maybe I should write about them sometime…

Here’s to a productive 2016!

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Intersect Alert January 3, 2016


Privacy Issues:

Measuring Privacy: Using Context to Expose Confounding Variables

Past privacy surveys often omit important contextual factors and yield cloudy, potentially misleading results about how people understand and value privacy. We revisit two historically influential measurements of privacy that have shaped discussion about public views and sentiments as well as practices and policies surrounding privacy: (1) Alan Westin’s series of surveys establishing that people in their valuations of privacy persistently fall into three categories: fundamentalists, pragmatists, and unconcerned and (2) Pew Foundation’s survey of individuals’ ratings of ‘sensitive’ information. We find, first, the relative importance of types of sensitive information on meeting privacy expectations is highly dependent on the contextual actor receiving the information as well as the use of information. Respondents differentiate between contextual, appropriate use of information and the commercial use of information. Second, Westin’s privacy categories were a relatively unimportant factor in judging privacy violations of different scenarios. Even privacy unconcerned respondents rated the vignettes to not meet privacy expectations on average, and respondents across categories had a common vision of what constitutes a privacy violation. While groups differed slightly, contextual factors explained the tremendous variation within Westin’s groups. In sum, respondents were highly nuanced in their judgments about information by taking into consideration the context, actor, and use as well as the type of information. In addition, respondents had common concerns about privacy across Westin’s privacy categories. Significant for public policy we demonstrate that teasing out confounding variables, reveals significant commonality across respondents in their privacy expectations. For firms, our work reveals that respondents’ judgments of privacy violation are highly sensitive to how the information is shared and used after disclosure.


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Digital History:

Wikipedia fails as an encyclopedia, to science’s detriment

For all its flaws, Wikipedia is an amazing resource. Despite the vandalism, edit wars, and arguments over what constitutes a point of view, it provides key information about a dizzying variety of topics. I’ve relied on them for a lot of information. Most entries have the basics—who, what, when, where, and why—and a long list of references if going beyond the basics is required. Most entries, but not all. Disturbingly, all of the worst entries I have ever read have been in the sciences. Wander off the big ideas in the sciences, and you’re likely to run into entries that are excessively technical and provide almost no context, making them effectively incomprehensible. This failure is a minor problem for Wikipedia, as most of the entries people rely on are fine. But I’d argue that it’s a significant problem for science. The problematic entries reinforce the popular impression that science is impossible to understand and isn’t for most people—they make science seem elitist. And that’s an impression that we as a society really can’t afford. One problem with all of these [scientific entries] is that they’re structured in a way that requires you to already have advanced knowledge of a topic in order to understand nearly anything on the page. In other words, they’re probably only useful for people who would never have to read them anyway.

**Internet Access:**

Lack of broadband can be a key obstacle, especially for job seekers
People without broadband at home can face substantial challenges navigating key life events, with difficulties looking for work or applying for a job among the most prominent. Despite a number of state and federal initiatives promoting increased broadband adoption, a significant share of U.S. adults (33%) say that they still do not subscribe to high-speed internet service. Pew Research Center surveys have found that Americans view trouble in finding work or advancing one’s career as the most significant impediment facing those without broadband. Some 52% of Americans believe that those without broadband service at home are at a “major disadvantage” when it comes to finding out about job opportunities or gaining new career skills. Those who rely on mobile devices for online access face job-seeking challenges, ranging from data caps on a smartphone plan to attempting to craft a resume or apply for a job on a device that was not built for extensive text entry.


**Open Access:**

Harvard Launches “Free the Law” Digitization Project
It took Harvard Law School (HLS) nearly 200 years, since its founding in 1817, to amass its collection of United States case law reporters – one of the world’s largest collections of legal materials. It will take the HLS Library about three years to scan and digitize that collection and, in partnership with legal technology startup Ravel Law, make it freely available to the public online. If all goes according to plan, by early to mid-2017, the “Free the Law” project will have digitized the “official print versions of all historical U.S. court decisions,” according to the HLS Library blog. This will encompass the contents of 40,000 books—approximately 40 million pages of law—with publication dates from the 1700s to the present day.


**Open Data:**

EITI Report Shows Impact of Resource Extraction on Taxpayers
For the first time, U.S. residents will have access to data that documents how much individual companies are paying for the extraction of natural resources from public lands, as well as a more accurate picture of job creation and economic impact in the 18 states with the most drilling and mining activity in the U.S. The data, much of it previously unavailable to the public or scattered among dozens of different agencies, is part of a groundbreaking report (PDF) released this morning by the U.S. Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (USEITI), a federal advisory committee created three years ago to help bring the United States in line with international standards. The committee comprises industry, government, and civil society representatives. POGO’s executive director, Danielle Brian, serves as chair of the civil society sector, representing the interests of taxpayers, labor unions, environmental organizations, tribal communities, academics, and other non-governmental stakeholders. The new information in the report includes the amount of royalties paid by companies for extracting oil, gas, and coal from federal lands, production volumes of natural resources being extracted on an annual basis, the impact of tax breaks and other subsidies, and details about the fiscal impact on featured communities. Users can access the USEITI report via a new website, which includes interactive and downloadable data that allows the public to take a deep dive into the information.


**Public Policy:**

Diversity, Inclusion, and Equal Opportunity in the Armed Services: Background and Issues for Congress
Diversity, inclusion, and equal opportunity are three terms that are often used interchangeably; however, there are some differences in how they are interpreted and applied between the Department of Defense (DOD) and civilian organizations. DOD’s definitions of diversity and equal opportunity have changed over time, as have its policies toward inclusion of various demographic groups. These changes have often paralleled social and legal change in the civilian sector. The gradual integration of previously excluded groups into the military has been ongoing since the 19th century. However, in the past few decades there have been rapid changes to certain laws and policies regarding diversity, inclusion, and equal opportunity in the Armed Forces. Since 2009, DOD policy changes and congressional actions have allowed individuals who are gay to serve openly and recognized their same-sex spouses as dependents for the purpose of military benefits, opened all combat assignments to women, and initiated a review of existing policies prohibiting transgender servicemembers.

Military manpower requirements derive from National Military Strategy and are determined by the military services based on
the workload required to deliver essential capabilities. Some argue that to effectively deliver these capabilities a workforce with a range of backgrounds, skills and knowledge is required. In this regard, DOD’s pursuit of diversity is one means to acquire those necessary capabilities by broadening the potential pool of high-quality recruits and ensuring equal opportunities for advancement and promotion for qualified individuals throughout a military career. DOD has used diversity and equal opportunity programs and policies to encourage the recruitment, retention, and promotion of a diverse force that is representative of the nation.

Intellectual Property:

Stupid Patent of the Month: Microsoft’s Design Patent on a Slider

For the first time ever, this month’s Stupid Patent of the Month is being awarded to a design patent. Microsoft recently sued Corel for, among other things, infringing its patent on a slider, D554,140, claiming that Corel Home Office has infringed Microsoft’s design. The design patent, as detailed by Microsoft in its complaint, is titled “User Interface for a Portion of a Display Screen.” Microsoft’s patent claims against Corel are unsurprising in light of how much money is potentially at stake. If Corel is found to infringe even one of Microsoft’s design patents through even the smallest part of Corel Home Office, current Federal Circuit law entitles Microsoft to all of Corel’s profits for the entire product. Not the profits that can be attributed to the design. Not the value that the design adds to a product. All of the profit from Corel Home Office.

Student Stipend Award Application and Information


This award may be granted to a student member of the chapter who demonstrates interest in and involvement with the SLA organization and particularly the SF Bay Region chapter to support them in attending the SLA Annual Conference, which will be held in Philadelphia in June. This award has been updated to cover for of the costs.

Award

One awardee will be granted a stipend of up to $1500 to cover costs associated with attending the SLA Annual Conference. Those costs are understood to include conference registration, airfare, and hotel. The Board will consider other expenses with written documentation. Awardee will be granted the stipend on award, but will be required to document relevant expenses with receipts, per the post-award requirements. The awardee will be required to return the stipend in the event they are unable to attend the conference or fulfill any of the post-award requirements.

Application

Applicants must complete the form found 2016 SF Bay Region Chapter Conference Travel Stipend Application  Application must include their résumé and an essay of not more than 1000 words describing the applicant’s reasons for wanting to attend the SLA Annual Conference, and their expectations for professional advancement related to attending. Essay should include detailed descriptions of their volunteer work with the Chapter.

Applications must be received by February 29th, 2016 for review by the Awards Committee, which is chaired by the chapter’s Past President, Jaye Lapachet. The committee will recommend an awardee to the President, and the President will select an awardee no later than March 30th.

Eligibility

Applicants must be:

• a member in good standing of the SF Bay Region chapter
• be a current student
• be able to attend the conference in the year in which they are applying
• be willing to complete the post-award requirements
Post-Award Requirements

1. At the conference, the awardee will be required to attend the Western States Chapters reception, where they will be recognized for their award.
2. Within one month of the close of the conference, awardees will submit receipts documenting their conference-related expenses. Expenses submitted after this date will not be reimbursed.
3. Within one month of the close of the conference, awardees will write a brief article (approximately 1,000 words) on the conference experience for the chapter newsletter, Bayline and submit it to the Bayline editor.
4. In the year following their award, the awardee will be required to serve on the Awards Committee, and assist in selecting the following year’s winner.

Annual Reviews

The 2016 Student Conference Travel Stipend is generously sponsored by Annual Reviews.

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This award may be granted to a student member of the chapter who demonstrates interest in and involvement with the SLA organization and particularly the SF Bay Region chapter to support them in attending the SLA Annual Conference, which will be held in Philadelphia in June. This award has been updated to cover for of the costs.

Award

One awardee will be granted a stipend of up to $1500 to cover costs associated with attending the SLA Annual Conference. Those costs are understood to include conference registration, airfare, and hotel. The Board will consider other expenses with written documentation. Awardee will be granted the stipend on award, but will be required to document relevant expenses with receipts, per the post-award requirements. The awardee will be required to return the stipend in the event they are unable to attend the conference or fulfill any of the post-award requirements.

Application

Applicants must complete the form found 2016 SF Bay Region Chapter Conference Travel Stipend Application

Application must include their résumé and an essay of not more than 1000 words describing the applicant’s reasons for wanting to attend the SLA Annual Conference, and their expectations for professional advancement related to attending. Essay should include detailed descriptions of their volunteer work with the Chapter.

Applications must be received by February 29th, 2016 for review by the Awards Committee, which is chaired by the chapter’s Past President, Jaye Lapachet. The committee will recommend an awardee to the President, and the President will select an awardee no later than March 30th.

Eligibility

Applicants must be:

- a member in good standing of the SF Bay Region chapter
- be a current student
- be able to attend the conference in the year in which they are applying
- be willing to complete the post-award requirements detailed below
- and must not have received the award in a past year.

Current chapter Board members are not eligible.

Post-Award Requirements

1. At the conference, the awardee will be required to attend the Western States Chapters reception, where they will be recognized for their award.
2. Within one month of the close of the conference, awardees will submit receipts documenting their conference-related expenses. Expenses submitted after this date will not be reimbursed.
3. Within one month of the close of the conference, awardees will write a brief article (approximately 1,000 words) on the conference experience for the chapter newsletter, Bayline and submit it to the Bayline editor.

4. In the year following their award, the awardee will be required to serve on the Awards Committee, and assist in selecting the following year’s winner.

Annual Reviews

The 2016 Student Conference Travel Stipend is generously sponsored by Annual Reviews.

Intersect Alert January 10, 2016


Privacy Issues:

How ‘Do Not Track’ Ended Up Going Nowhere
Back in 2010, the Federal Trade Commission pledged to give Internet users the power to determine if or when websites were allowed to track their behavior. With just a few clicks, the FTC’s Do Not Track initiative promised to let consumers opt out of having any of their online data hoovered up by just about anyone on the Internet. It would be easy for consumers to find and use, be persistent (and not be overridden when consumers update their browsers), apply universally to anyone who tracks consumer activities online and be enforceable, according to former FTC Chairman Jon Leibowitz’s Senate Commerce Committee testimony in 2012.

But five years out, the same agency whose Do Not Call initiative failed to stop unwanted telemarketing calls once again has little to show for its efforts, this time to control tracking on the Web. The strategy was flawed from the start. By tapping the World Wide Web Consortium, an organization that sets standards for the Web, to work out the details for implementing Do Not Track, the FTC relied on a group dominated by powerful Internet companies. These companies included Google, Facebook and Yahoo, whose businesses depend on online advertising, which require precision tracking of users. To put it another way, that’s like Sony Pictures inviting the North Koreans to run vulnerability tests on its computer networks.

http://recode.net/2016/01/04/how-do-not-track-ended-up-going-nowhere/.

New student database slammed by privacy experts
The U.S. Education Department’s new planned system of records that will collect detailed data on thousands of students — and transfer records to private contractors — is being slammed by experts who say there are not adequate privacy safeguards embedded in the project. The system will contain personally identifying information on approximately 12,000 students, 500 teachers, and 104 principals from 104 schools in 12 school districts. The Electronic Privacy Information Center, a Washington D.C.-based non-profit public interest research group that focuses on civil liberties issues and the First Amendment, has sent the department a formal objection to the system. The proposed database exposes students to privacy risks by collecting and students’ personally identifiable information, including but not limited to “individualized education plan status” and “discipline records.” Because the Department can still achieve its research goals by collecting aggregate data, the Department should not collect, use, or disclose student personally identifiable information. Moreover, the Education Department has recently faced criticism for failing to safeguard student data. In November, a congressional scorecard on how well federal agencies were implementing four key areas of the Federal Information Technology Acquisition Reform Act, or FITARA, gave the Education Department three Fs and one D.

Court rules Shutterfly may have violated privacy by scanning face photos
A federal judge has has denied a motion to dismiss a civil case against photo-sharing site Shutterfly that claims the company violated users’ privacy by collecting and scanning face geometries from uploaded images without consent. The first of its kind ruling could open the door to future class-action lawsuits against Shutterfly and other social networks that use facial recognition technology without an opt-in policy. The civil lawsuit, brought by the law firm Carey Rodriguez Milian Gonya LLP on behalf of Brian Norberg, alleges that Shutterfly violated the Illinois Biometric Privacy Act (BIPA) by collecting and scanning face geometry in photos uploaded on Shutterfly’s website without the consent of those featured in the images. In addition to the case against Shutterfly, the law firm is also leading separate claims against other companies on biometric data, including one against Facebook. http://www.computerworld.com/article/3020457/data-privacy/court-rules-shutterfly-may-have-violated-privacy-by-scanning-face-photos.html.

Libraries:

This article is not new, justly newly discovered by me! -ed.

Abstract
Objective – The term “best practice” appears often in library and information science literature, yet, despite the frequency with which the term is used, there is little discussion about what is meant by the term and how one can reliably identify a best practice.

Methods – This paper reviews 113 articles that identify and discuss best practices, in order to determine how “best practices” are distinguished from other practices, and whether these determinations are made on the basis of consistent and reliable evidence. The review also takes into account definitions of the term to discover if a common definition is used amongst authors.

Results – The “evidence” upon which papers on “best practices” are based falls into one of the following six categories: 1) opinion (n=18, 15%), 2) literature reviews (n=13, 12%), 3) practices in the library in which the author works (n=19, 17%), 4) formal and informal qualitative and quantitative approaches (n=16, 14%), 5) a combination of the aforementioned (i.e., combined approaches) (n=34, 30%), and 6) “other” sources or approaches which are largely one of a kind (n=13, 12%). There is no widely shared or common definition of “best practices” amongst the authors of these papers, and most papers (n=94, 83%) fail to define the term at all. The number of papers was, for the most part, split evenly amongst the six categories indicating that writers on the subject are basing “best practices” assertions on a wide variety of sources and evidence.

Conclusions – Library and information science literature on “best practices” is rarely based on rigorous empirical methods of research and therefore is generally unreliable. There is, in addition, no widely held understanding of what is meant by the use of the term. http://ejournals.library.ualberta.ca/index.php/EBLIP/article/view/20021/15939.

Internet Access:

It’s 2016 already, how are websites still screwing up these user experiences?!
We’re a few days into the new year and I’m sick of it already. This is fundamental web usability 101 stuff that plagues us all and makes our online life that much more painful than it needs to be. None of these practices – none of them – is ever met with “Oh how nice, this site is doing that thing”. Every one of these is absolutely driving the web into a dismal abyss of frustration and much ranting by all. And before anyone retorts with “Oh you can just install this do-whacky plugin which rewrites the page or changes the behaviour”, no, that’s entirely not the point. Not only does it not solve a bunch of the problems, it shouldn’t damn well have to! How about we all just agree to stop making the web a less enjoyable place and not do these things from the outset? Allow me to totally lose my cool for a bit and tell you just what’s wrong with the web today… Surveys and other crap – anything that takes over my screen … The back button – let it do its job! …

Public Policy:

Paper Box Chemicals No Longer Considered Safe by FDA for Contact With Food
The U.S. Food and Drug Administration Monday announced it plans to publish a final rule banning three chemicals used in many pizza boxes and other food packaging. In response to a petition filed by the Natural Resources Defense Council, the Center for Food Safety, the Breast Cancer Fund, the Center for Science in the Public Interest, Children’s Environmental Health Network, Environmental Working Group, and Improving Kids’ Environment, FDA said it was going to ban three specific perfluoroalkyl ethyl types. The perfluoroalkyl ethyl is used in food contact substances (FCSs) that act as oil and water repellants for paper and paperboard, which comes in contact with aqueous and fatty foods. FDA says new data is available that shows the toxicity of substances structurally similar to these compounds that demonstrate there is no longer a reasonable certainty of no harm from the food-contact use of these FCSs.
EPA Releases the First of Four Preliminary Risk Assessments for Insecticides Potentially Harmful to Bees
The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced a preliminary pollinator risk assessment for the neonicotinoid insecticide, imidacloprid, which shows a threat to some pollinators. EPA’s assessment, prepared in collaboration with California’s Department of Pesticide Regulation, indicates that imidacloprid potentially poses risk to hives when the pesticide comes in contact with certain crops that attract pollinators. “Delivering on the President’s National Pollinator Strategy means EPA is committed not only to protecting bees and reversing bee loss, but for the first time assessing the health of the colony for the neonicotinoid pesticides,” said Jim Jones, Assistant Administrator of the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention. “Using science as our guide, this preliminary assessment reflects our collaboration with the State of California and Canada to assess the results of the most recent testing required by EPA.” The preliminary risk assessment identified a residue level for imidacloprid of 25 ppb, which sets a threshold above which effects on pollinator hives are likely to be seen, and at that level and below which effects are unlikely. These effects include decreases in pollinators as well as less honey produced. For example, data show that citrus and cotton may have residues of the pesticide in pollen and nectar above the threshold level. Other crops such as corn and leafy vegetables either do not produce nectar or have residues below the EPA identified level. Additional data is being generated on these and other crops to help EPA evaluate whether imidacloprid poses a risk to hives. In 2015, EPA proposed to prohibit the use of pesticides that are toxic to bees, including the neonicotinoids, when crops are in bloom and bees are under contract for pollination services. The Agency temporarily halted the approval of new outdoor neonicotinoid pesticide uses until new bee data is submitted and pollinator risk assessments are complete. [Link to EPA document]

Wash. Governor Calls for Better Data Sharing To Improve Gun Safety
On Wednesday, Washington Gov. Jay Inslee (D) signed an executive order (EO 16-02) launching a statewide public health initiative that relies on improved data sharing to reduce gun violence. Inslee’s order comes just days after President Barack Obama unveiled gun control-related executive actions. As part of Obama’s proposals, HHS finalized a rule to modify HIPAA to allow certain entities to disclose the names of individuals barred from owning firearms for mental health reasons to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, or NICS. Inslee’s order calls for:
– Improved data analysis on the effectiveness of current firearm safety efforts;
– Identifying failures in the state’s current data sharing methods among state agencies, law enforcement and other entities (AP/Modern Healthcare); – Strengthening of background check laws approved in 2014.
Inslee’s executive order also requires the departments of Health and Social and Health Services to work with the University of Washington and other state and local agencies to collect, review and share data on firearm related deaths and hospitalizations. [Link to Inslee’s executive order]

International Outlook
Your Apps, Please? China Shows how Surveillance Leads to Intimidation and Software Censorship
Xinjiang, home of the China’s muslim Uighur minority, has long been the world’s laboratory for Internet repression. Faced with widespread local unrest, and online debate, China has done everything it can to enforce its vision of the Net in the region, from imprisoning bloggers and online publishers, to quarantining the entire Xinjiang network from the rest of the Internet for over ten months in 2009. Nonetheless, Xinjiang residents still circumvent censorship and surveillance in the pursuit of privacy and free expression. They use virtual private networks and other methods to get around the Great Firewall. They use popular messaging apps that they have heard could defend them against surveillance, like WhatsApp and Telegram.
Now China has taken the next step. In November, a select group of Xinjiang residents found their mobile phone service abruptly terminated. Their phone service providers told them to visit their local police station to have the service restored. When contacted, the police told them that they had been detected using a VPN, or downloading foreign messaging software. Remove the software, the police said, and you’ll get your connection back. Faced with being unable to spy on every conversation, China has set upon outlawing not just the content of particular communications, but the use of particular general purpose applications. Censorship has expanded from certain speech acts, to any software that enables free speech. In Xinjiang, there are no innocent users of certain programs, because that software is itself a crime. [Link to China censorship]

Digital Preservation:
How Chemistry Is Rescuing Our Audio History from Melting
Our cultural history is crumbling. Not because of bad education...
—though one might make that argument—but because of chemistry. Between the late 60s and the late 80s, much of our culture—from the Nixon trials on television to unreleased music from famous artists like the Beatles—was recorded on magnetic tape, and this tape is starting to disintegrate. Some of the audio and visual data has already been safely adapted to digital storage, but the majority hasn’t—and it’s a problem of massive proportions. The Cultural Heritage Index estimates that there are 46 million magnetic tapes in museums and archives in the U.S. alone—and about 40 percent of them are of unknown quality. (The remaining 60 percent are known to be either already disintegrated or in good enough condition to be played.) What’s more, in only about 20 years we won’t be able to digitize them. This is partly because digitization machines that can handle the tapes have ceased production. On Sept 30th, for example, Sony stopped taking orders for videotape machines, and in June 2015, the last audio reel-to-reel machine went out of production.

Letting these tapes just disintegrate would be akin to idly watching millions of books fall into a pit of fire. So Steve Morgan, an analytical chemist at the University of South Carolina, and Eric Breitung, a senior research scientist at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City, decided to help prevent that outcome. They combined a laptop-sized infrared spectrometer with an algorithm that uses multivariate statistics to pick up patterns of all the absorption peaks. As the tapes go through the breakdown reaction, the chemical changes give off tiny signals in the form of compounds, which can be seen with infrared light—and when the patterns of reactions are analyzed with the model, it can predict which tapes are playable. In a test of 133 quarter-inch audiotapes belonging to the Library of Congress, containing various media, the researchers identified which ones were unplayable with 92 percent accuracy.

http://nautil.us/blog/how-chemistry-is-rescuing-our-audio-history-from-melting.

Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety. Attribution appreciated.

The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.
Diablo Valley College Library Technology (LT) Program seeking instructors

The Diablo Valley College library is looking for dedicated, creative and knowledgeable instructors to teach one or more courses in our library technology career education program. The program trains library support staff through a comprehensive curriculum on library services and technology. These teaching positions are on a part-time and hourly basis. Instruction will begin summer or fall 2016.

The general course subjects available include:

- Technical and access services
- Acquisitions
- Reference Services
- School library and media centers
- Storytelling (using print and electronic materials)
- Introduction to library technology, and
- Cataloging and classification

Hourly Rate: $59.70 – $ 84.36 (depending on education and experience)

Minimum Qualifications:

- Any bachelor’s degree and two years of related professional experience, or
- Any associate’s degree and six years of related professional experience.

An additional position is available serving as program coordinator on a part-time hourly basis.

To apply complete application with cover letter and resume at: http://www.4cdcareers.net:80/postings/3294

The DVC Library Technology program has been on a two-year hiatus to retool its curriculum. The program is re-starting in mid-2016 with a cohort of students currently employed at Oakland Unified School District.

If you have any questions about this opportunity you are encouraged to call or email Andy Kivel. akivel@dvc.edu or call 925-969-2586.

More information about DVC’s Library Technology program can be found at: http://www.dvc.edu/academics/cte-pdfs/librarystudies-info.pdf

When applying, please mention that you found this position listing on SLA SV/SF Jobline. Thank you!

Intersect Alert January 18 2016


Reading:

Remembering David Bowie through his 100 favorite books

Although David Bowie was best known for his music, he also made countless contributions to the worlds of art, fashion and film. But the singer, who died Sunday, was also devoted to literature. In 2013, Bowie left the world something other than his groundbreaking albums to remember him by – a list of his 100 favorite books. Bowie’s favorite books list was featured in an exhibit honoring the musician at the Art Gallery of Ontario in Toronto.

Bowie’s list is as eclectic and surprising as he was. He paid tribute to the classics, including Homer’s “Iliad,” F. Scott Fitzgerald’s “The Great Gatsby,” George Orwell’s “1984” and D.H. Lawrence’s “Lady Chatterley’s Lover.” But he also had a love of contemporary authors. He listed among his favorites Michael Chabon’s “Wonder Boys,” Sarah Waters’ “Fingersmith” and Junot Diaz’s “The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao.”

Bowie was known for his sense of humor; he had memorable turns as a comic actor in the film “Zoolander” and the television series “Extras.” His book list reveals his love of comedy with novels such as Spike Milligan’s “Puckoon,” Keith Waterhouse’s “Billy Liar,” John Kennedy Toole’s “A Confederacy of Dunces” and Evelyn Waugh’s “Vile Bodies,” which Bowie credited as influencing his song “Aladdin Sane.”


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Public Policy:

Arkansas Governor Wants Civil War Icon Separated From MLK Holiday
U.S. civil rights hero Martin Luther King Jr. and Civil War Confederate commander General Robert E. Lee will share a common holiday on Monday in three southern states, but perhaps for the final time in one of them, Arkansas. The state’s Republican governor is pushing to separate the joint celebration after critics said it is an insult for the man who fought to end racial segregation to share a day with a man who fought to preserve slavery. “They need to be distinguished and separate,” Governor Asa Hutchinson told a news conference this month about the remembrances. Arkansas State Representative Fred Love, a Democrat who led the unsuccessful campaign in 2015 to separate the joint holiday, said passing the measure would be a winner in terms of race relations.


Digital History:

Wikipedia celebrates 15 years of free knowledge
This Friday marks the 15th anniversary of Wikipedia, the world’s free encyclopedia that anyone can edit. This week, we celebrate not just Wikipedia, but the birth of an idea: that anyone can contribute to the world’s knowledge. Globally, readers and editors are coming together to celebrate, with nearly 150 events across six continents. From editing marathons in Bangladesh and lectures in Switzerland, to picnics in South Africa and a conference in Mexico, the world is celebrating the joy of knowledge.

Wikipedia launched on January 15, 2001 with a bold vision: a world in which every single human being can freely share in the sum of all knowledge. At the time, the idea that people around the world would collaborate to build an encyclopedia for-free seemed unbelievable. Since then, Wikipedia has grown to more than 36 million articles in hundreds of languages, used by hundreds of millions of people all over the world. Wikipedia and its sister projects are still built by volunteers around the world: each month, roughly 80,000 volunteer editors contribute to Wikimedia sites.


Libraries:

14 million fewer books available in libraries than when David Cameron took office
Fourteen million fewer books are available in British public libraries today than when David Cameron became Prime Minister in 2010, official statistics have revealed. Funding cuts and library closures mean that around one in every seven books available on library shelves six years ago have now gone. Campaigners said Tory ministers had taken an “abysmal and appalling” approach to Britain’s libraries and demanded they act to stop councils closing any more. In 2010/11 there were more than 96 million books on Britain’s library shelves, but in 2014/15 there were just 82 million. Since Mr Cameron entered Number 10 more than 400 full-time libraries have closed in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland – with spending dropping by around £180 million.


Privacy Issues:

You are not what you read: librarians purge user data to protect privacy
Last week, with little fanfare, the Graduate Center at the City University of New York did something very few private companies would ever do to protect its users’ privacy: it quietly began to purge its interlibrary loan records. “This policy change is motivated by the idea that libraries should not keep more information about their users’ requests than necessary,” wrote Beth Posner, head of library resource sharing at the school. Recently, it’s become more common to try to force librarians to turn over user information and compel their silence simultaneously. Multiple librarians have pushed back against “national security letters” that would do just that in the name of public safety – a dangerous order to resist, since those letters include a gag order. But in 2005, when the FBI served a national security letter to Connecticut’s Library Connection demanding reading records and hard drives, the librarians resisted with such force that the government capitulated.

Libraries continue to develop ways to keep patron privacy at the forefront of the services they provide, including material accessed through library computers. Macrina’s group encourages libraries to operate “exit nodes” that aid the operation of difficult-to-trace web browser Tor – the Department of Homeland Security attempted to enlist the help of local law enforcement to shut down the project at a New Hampshire library last year, but was thwarted.


Automated Comparisons of Ambiguity in Privacy Policies and the Impact of Regulation
Website privacy policies often contain ambiguous language that undermines the purpose and value of privacy notices for site users. This paper compares the impact of different regulatory models on the ambiguity of privacy policies in multiple online sectors. First, the paper develops a theory of vague and ambiguous terms. Next, the paper develops a scoring method to compare the relative vagueness of different privacy policies. Then, the theory and scoring are applied using natural language processing to rate a set of policies. The ratings are compared against two benchmarks to show whether government-mandated privacy disclosures result in notices less
ambiguous than those emerging from the market. The methodology and technical tools can provide companies with mechanisms to improve drafting, enable regulators to easily identify poor privacy policies and empower regulators to more effectively target enforcement actions. 

Publishing:

Scholastic pulls George Washington book over slave cake controversy

Scholastic is pulling a controversial new picture book about George Washington and his slaves, the publisher said on Sunday. A Birthday Cake for George Washington was released on 5 January and had been strongly criticized for its upbeat images and story of Washington’s cook, the slave Hercules, and his daughter, Delia.

“While we have great respect for the integrity and scholarship of the author, illustrator and editor, we believe that, without more historical background on the evils of slavery than this book for younger children can provide, the book may give a false impression of the reality of the lives of slaves and therefore should be withdrawn,” the publisher said in a statement. The trade publication School Library Journal called the book “highly problematic” and recommended against its purchase. Another trade journal, Kirkus Reviews, labeled the book “an incomplete, even dishonest treatment of slavery”.

Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety.
Attribution appreciated.

The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.

January 2016 President’s Message

http://sunfrancisco.sla1.org/2016/01/january-2016-presidents-message/

January 22, 2016 Categories: Bayline, Chapter Leadership
Tags: President's message

Happy new year, SLA-SF! I’m so pleased to be Chapter President this year. My first task started in the fall, while I was still President-Elect: recruiting an Advisory Council. Here are your 2016 committee chairs:

- **Academic Relations**: Grace Kim
- **Archives**: Jessica Neaves
- **Awards**: Jaye Lapachet
- **Bayline**: Matthew Woods
- **Government Relations**: Michael Sholinbeck
- **Hospitality**: VACANT
- **Jobline**: Erin Meggyesy
- **Listserv/Reflector/Discussion List**: Linda Yamamoto
- **Networking**: Christi Weindorf
- **Nominating**: Sandy Malloy
- **Professional Development**: Marlene Vogelsang
- **Public Relations**: Heather Gamberg
- **Sponsorship**: Chrystelle Browman
- **Technology & Innovation**: Paul Kaidy Barrows
- **Tours**: Heather Heen
- **Western States Chapters Reception**: Anne Barker

The Board would like to extend our sincerest thanks to Ginny Woodis for her years of service as Mailing Chair. Now that so much of our communication has gone digital, the Chapter has decided to retire our post office box, and thus the position. Ginny diligently paid for and checked our PO Box for at least as long as I’ve been a chapter member. Thank you, Ginny!

Our other position that’s going on hiatus in 2016 is Strategic Planning. Mimi Calter, assisted by Jessica Neaves and Cyndi Berglez, researched and wrote our chapter’s strategic plan in 2014. It was a 3-year plan, and ordinarily we’d now be looking for a new Strategic Planning char to work on the next one. However, due to current uncertainty about the direction of the larger SLA organization, our chapter is putting strategic planning on hold for now.

I first joined SLA in 2002 as a student member of New York chapter. I knew that attending local events would be a good way to network with other librarians, but I didn’t really understand how to get involved, or how the organization worked at a local or international level. Soon after I moved to San Francisco and joined San Francisco Bay Region chapter, I volunteered to be Tours Coordinator, an Advisory Council position. Later I was asked to serve on the chapter’s Executive Board as Programs Chair. And now I’m Chapter President, responsible for making sure all those Advisory Council positions are filled. Along the way I’ve learned more about how SLA’s local chapters operate, particularly our chapter. Next month I’ll write a little bit about how our chapter relates to the larger international organization and SLA Headquarters.

Before then, I hope to see you all at our first speaker event of 2016, which has been rescheduled for February 9. It’s our annual joint event with BayNet, featuring science journalist John Bohannon. He’s the controversial writer who fooled millions into thinking chocolate helps weight loss. He’s given a
TED talk, now he’ll be giving an SLA-SF talk — don’t miss it!

Sincerely,

Hilary Schiraldi

President, SLA-SF

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**Intersect Alert January 24, 2016**


**Take Action!**

**In New Artwork, Wafaa Bilal Enlists the Public to Rebuild a Destroyed Baghdad Library**

(Kickstarter campaign link [here](http://www.artslant.com/ew/articles/show/44856))

During the invasion of Iraq in 2003, the College of Fine Arts at the University of Baghdad lost its entire library collection—some 70,000 books—when it was burned by looters. Today, 13 years later, faculty and students are still affected by this loss. The devastation of this and other libraries in 2003 recalls the destruction of another library: the Bayt al-Hikma, or House of Wisdom, a Baghdad institution that, at the height of the Islamic Golden Age, contained the largest collection of books in the world. During the Mongol Siege of Baghdad in 1258, so many books from the city’s libraries were thrown into the Tigris that, legend says, they formed a bridge for the invading army to cross. The river ran black with ink for seven days: 168 hours. With his new artwork 168:01 Iraqi-born artist Wafaa Bilal is facilitating one step toward healing the more recent of these ruptures. The title harkens back to that 13th century tragedy, but it also signals the first second following destruction, the moment when rebuilding can begin. The project will be the centrepiece of his eponymous solo exhibition opening at The Art Gallery of Windsor in Ontario at the end of this month—and you can be a part of the artwork, and a part of repairing what was destroyed. In its preliminary form, 168:01 will comprise a 40-foot-long bookcase containing 1,000 blank, white books. In an interactive performance, over the course of exhibition these blank books will be replaced with ones from a wish list compiled by the arts faculty at the University of Baghdad. While some of these books will be sourced by donors directly from a forthcoming online registry, the first opportunity for supporters to contribute is in a Kickstarter campaign, which launched this month.

**Intellectual Property:**

**Digital Freedom Depends on the Right to Tinker**

One of the most crucial issues in the fight for digital freedom is the question of who will control the hardware that you have in your home, in your pocket, or in your own body. Have you ever been frustrated when a beloved feature was taken away in an update? Or felt helpless to prevent the apps on your phone from oversharing your personal data with advertisers? Or had to pay through the nose for proprietary cartridges of ink or 3D printing material? Or found that your independent repair shop wasn’t allowed to fix your car or appliance? If so, then you’ve experienced a small—but accumulating—frustration of losing control over your stuff.

Section 1201 was enacted to combat copyright infringement of digital works by making it unlawful to circumvent access controls on those works (such as the encryption on a DVD). Because of the broad definition of a copyrighted work, however, Section 1201 potentially implicates the software in your car, pacemaker, phone, television, or other digital device. Federal appeals courts are split on whether fair use even applies to protect acts of circumvention that are necessary to make fair uses of the underlying work. Both Section 1201 and non-negotiable form licenses have something in common: they threaten to replace the “grand bargain” of copyright law with a one-sided system of restrictions lacking the necessary protections for free speech, competition, innovation, or the
Uploading of Anne Frank’s diary ruffles legal feathers
The Diary of Anne Frank has been put online by a French politician and an academic, who cite EU law and the importance of intellectual freedom. The Basel-based Anne Frank Foundation is considering legal action, saying it still holds the copyright. “Anne Frank died in 1945 [in the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp in Germany], therefore her diary should enter the public domain on January 1, 2016,” argues Olivier Ertzscheid, a lecturer at the University of Nantes, who has published the original Dutch text on his blog. At the same time, Isabelle Attard from the French Green Party put it online on her website.

According to French law, which conforms to an EU directive, a work falls into the public domain on January 1, 70 years after the death of its author or last surviving author in the case of multiple authors. But as copyright law is determined at a national level, each country has its own rules, resulting in differences in protection periods. The Anne Frank Foundation (AFF) sees things differently, pointing to the applicable French copyright law, which says a work first published posthumously before 1995 remains protected for 50 years after the initial publication.

At the centre of this legal stand-off are two questions: who is the author of the Diary of Anne Frank, and when was it published?

On December 28, the foundation’s lawyers sent a letter, in English, to Olivier Ertzscheid, asking him to abide by various conditions, including ceasing and desisting from making the Diary of Anne Frank available online. In his response the following day, Ertzscheid repeated his belief that “within a context of escalating anti-Semitic acts and nauseating negationist speeches, the rise of the extreme right in a number of European countries and indeed as Mein Kampf by Adolf Hitler is set to enter the public domain on January 1, 2016, the public interest seems to me in this case to take precedence, without calling into question the work that the Anne Frank Foundation does to keep her memory alive and to educate”.


Freedom of Information:
Archivist of US Should Declare Torture Report a Federal Record
National Security Archive FOIA Project Director Nate Jones called on the Archivist of the United States, David Ferriero, to use his binding legal authority to declare the Senate Intelligence Committee’s report on the CIA torture program a federal record. Jones made the call at the most recent FOIA Advisory Committee meeting, and noted that the Presidential and Federal Records Act Amendments of 2014 gives the Archivist of the United States the authority to determine whether or not something constitutes a federal record. The New York Times reported in November 2015 that the Department of Justice refused to allow its own officials, as well as those of the Defense Department, the CIA, and the State Department, to read the report under the pretense that its status as congressional or executive branch record is unclear.


Open Data:
World Bank Group Launches New Gender Data Products
The World Bank Group today relaunched its popular Gender Data Portal, comprising current and historical data on topics ranging from health and education to jobs, assets, and political participation—all broken down by sex. The Bank Group is also launching its Little Data Book on Gender 2016 alongside new online tables—to be updated quarterly—linked to the latest World Development Indicators, making it easier than ever to see how women and men are faring across a range of global indicators.

In addition to standard demographic and economic information, new indicators include the percentage in a given economy of businesses with female ownership or top management, percentage of men and women holding mobile phone accounts, percentage of men and women who saved any money over the preceding year, and proportion of women in ministerial-level government posts.

Country and topic dashboards in the Gender Data Portal provide an overview of data trends over time and across key themes such as female labor force participation and maternal mortality. The Bank Group is working to operationalize new international definitions of work and employment that recognize all productive activities, paid and unpaid—which has major implications for how women’s work is measured.
What a Million Syllabuses Can Teach Us

College course syllabuses are curious documents. They represent the best efforts by faculty and instructors to distill human knowledge on a given subject into 14-week chunks. They structure the main activity of colleges and universities. And then, for the most part, they disappear. Some schools archive them, some don’t. Some syllabus archives are public, some aren’t. Some faculty members treat their syllabuses as trade secrets, others are happy to post them online. Despite the bureaucratization of higher education over the past few decades, syllabuses have escaped systematic treatment. Until now. Over the past two years, we and our partners at the Open Syllabus Project (based at the American Assembly at Columbia) have collected more than a million syllabuses from university websites. We have also begun to extract some of their key components – their metadata – starting with their dates, their schools, their fields of study and the texts that they assign. This past week, we made available online a beta version of our Syllabus Explorer, which allows this database to be searched. Our hope and expectation is that this tool will enable people to learn new things about teaching, publishing and intellectual history.


Watch 118 Bird Species Migrate Across a Map of the Western Hemisphere

For the first time, scientists at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology have documented migratory movements of bird populations spanning the entire year for 118 species throughout the Western Hemisphere. The study finds broad similarity in the routes used by specific groups of species-vividly demonstrated by animated maps showing patterns of movement across the annual cycle. The results of these analyses were published today in the Proceedings of the Royal Society B.

Abstract:
Migration is a common strategy used by birds that breed in seasonal environments. Selection for greater migration efficiency is likely to be stronger for terrestrial species whose migration strategies require non-stop transoceanic crossings. If multiple species use the same transoceanic flyway, then we expect the migration strategies of these species to converge geographically towards the most optimal solution. We test this by examining population-level migration trajectories within the Western Hemisphere for 118 migratory species using occurrence information from eBird. [Note: eBird is an open data repository of bird observations made each year by recreational and professional bird watchers - ed.]

Geographical convergence of migration strategies was evident within specific terrestrial regions where geomorphological features such as mountains or isthmuses constrained overland migration. Convergence was also evident for transoceanic migrants that crossed the Gulf of Mexico or Atlantic Ocean. Here, annual population-level movements were characterized by clockwise looped trajectories, which resulted in faster but more circuitous journeys in the spring and more direct journeys in the autumn. These findings suggest that the unique constraints and requirements associated with transoceanic migration have promoted the spatial convergence of migration strategies. The combination of seasonal atmospheric and environmental conditions that has facilitated the use of similar broad-scale migration strategies may be especially prone to disruption under climate and land-use change.


Digital Archives:

Shakespeare Documented: Largest Online Shakespeare Resource Launches

Shakespeare Documented, the largest and most authoritative resource for learning about primary sources that document the life and career of William Shakespeare, launches today, January 20, at www.shakespearedocumented.org. This free and publicly accessible online exhibition includes images, descriptions, and transcriptions of all known references and allusions to Shakespeare and his works during his lifetime and shortly thereafter, as well as additional references to his family.

Shakespeare Documented Highlights:

- The Parish Register for Holy Trinity Church, Stratford-upon-Avon, including the entries for Shakespeare’s baptism and burial
- The 1597 and 1602 final concords for Shakespeare’s purchase of New Place
- The 1613 bargain and sale and mortgage deed for the Blackfriars Gatehouse signed by Shakespeare
- Shakespeare’s signed last will and testament


Technology:

Democratic Republic of the Congo: “This is what we die for”: Human rights abuses in the Democratic Republic of the Congo power the global trade in cobalt

This report documents the hazardous conditions in which artisanal miners, including thousands of children, mine cobalt in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. It goes on to trace how this cobalt is used to power mobile phones, laptop computers, and other portable electronic devices. Using basic hand tools, miners dig out rocks from tunnels deep underground, and accidents are common. Despite the potentially fatal health effects of prolonged exposure to cobalt, adult and child miners work without even the most basic protective equipment. This report is the first comprehensive
account of how cobalt enters the supply chain of many of the world’s leading brands.  

Researchers develop a revolutionary Braille tablet for the blind
Researchers at the University of Michigan recently unveiled a new Braille-enabled prototype tablet that makes it possible for those with vision problems to read text on a full display. The tablet itself features fully refreshable pages containing raised bumps, a marked improvement from current devices that can only display one line of Braille text at a time. Led by professor Dr. Sile O’Modhrain, researchers at the University of Michigan are also planning to add the ability for individuals with vision impairment to ‘read’ graphs, photographs and other non-text items.  
http://bgr.com/2016/01/14/braille-tablet-prototype-blind/.

Public Policy:

What is political ‘dark money’ – and is it bad?
By now, you’ve probably heard the phrase ‘dark money.’ Activists use it. Politicians use it. And journalists use it, including here at the Center for Public Integrity. For some people, it’s just another piece of confusing campaign finance jargon. For others, it’s a term of art, with a precise definition. So here are answers to some of the most frequently asked questions about dark money in politics. …

What makes political money dark money?
The sources behind most of the money raised by politicians and political groups are publicly disclosed. Candidates, parties and political action committees — including the super PACs that are allowed to accept unlimited amounts of money — all report the names of their donors to the Federal Election Commission on a regular basis. Or, to be technical, they regularly disclose the names of all their donors who each give more than $200. But when the source of political money isn’t known, that’s dark money.

What does political dark money look like?
How much money are we talking about?
Do Democrats use dark money?
How does dark money relate to the U.S. Supreme Court’s Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission ruling?
Are there other types of money in politics that come from unknown sources?
Why are so many people upset about dark money in politics?
Who thinks dark money in politics is good?
Who regulates political dark money?

So, is there really no way to know who’s behind political dark money?

http://www.publicintegrity.org/node/19156.

Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety. Attribution appreciated.
The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.

Share this:

Intersect Alert January 31, 2016
http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2016/02/intersect-alert-january-31-2016/  
February 1, 2016 Categories: Intersect Alert Tags: books and reading, freedom of information, intellectual property, internet access, open data, privacy, public policy, bail bonds, court transportation, ankle monitors, DUI schools, psychiatric hospitals, probation, and deportation.  
http://www.inthepublicinterest.org/private-companies-profit-from-almost-every/.

Public Policy:

Private Companies Profit from Almost Every Function of America’s Criminal Justice System (infographic)
Today, private companies hold contracts that allow them to profit from all corners of America’s criminal justice system. Consequently, many people charged with crimes are exposed to the profit-seeking of companies every step of the way, from entering the system to being released: Fine collections, jails, and deportation.

Gun Deaths Surpass Motor Vehicle Deaths in 21 States and the District of Columbia
Gun deaths outpaced motor vehicle deaths in 21 states and the District of Columbia in 2014, the most recent year for which data is available, a new analysis from the Violence Policy
America’s lead poisoning problem isn’t just in Flint. It’s everywhere.
The city of Flint, Michigan, is in the midst of a terrible and rightly shocking lead poisoning crisis. The number of kids testing positive for elevated lead levels in their bloodstream has doubled in the past few years, after the city switched to a new, cheaper water source. This is an extreme case, but the problem of lead exposure among children is not a local Flint story. If you look at public health data, you begin to realize two things. The first is that it’s actually really hard to get good data on which kids do and don’t experience lead exposure, and which parents should worry about the issue.

Second: The data that is available shows that lead exposure is a pervasive issue in the United States. In some places outside of Flint, more than half of children test positive for lead poisoning. Of the 3,143 counties in the United States, only 1,573 reported lead poisoning data in 2014. Forty-four percent of those counties reported no confirmed cases of lead in the bloodstream. But there are also the nine counties, largely in the right of those counties reported no confirmed cases of lead in the bloodstream. Forty-four percent of the 3,143 counties in the United States, only 1,573 reported lead poisoning data in 2014. Forty-four percent of those counties reported no confirmed cases of lead in the bloodstream. But there are also the nine counties, largely in the

Freedom of Information:

FCC votes to expand transparency for political ads
The FCC voted unanimously today to require cable, satellite and radio stations to upload their political files online. Cable systems with fewer than 1,000 subscribers are exempt from the rule. This is another victory for transparency, following a 2014 rule that required broadcast television stations to upload their records of political ad buys online. These political files contain valuable information about the ads, such as how much they cost and when they ran. Having the political ad files online is important: In some cases they provide the only public information available on groups that are thinly disguised as nonprofit “social welfare” organizations but are, in fact, major campaign players.

Until now, these providers only had to make files physically available to view — if you wanted to know who bought an ad on a radio, satellite or cable station, you would have to go to the provider’s headquarters and ask to see the file on paper. This was also the case for broadcast TV stations until 2014, something Sunlight and our allies fought to achieve. Our tool Political Ad Sleuth allows anyone to search and sort these political files for valuable information — like who is buying ads, which firms are doing it for them, and how much they’re spending on it — and we’re aiming to integrate these new filings into the tool once they become available.

Open Data:

Yahoo Releases the Largest-ever Machine Learning Dataset for Researchers
Data is the lifeblood of research in machine learning. However, access to truly large-scale datasets is a privilege that has been traditionally reserved for machine learning researchers and data scientists working at large companies — and out of reach for most academic researchers. Research scientists at Yahoo Labs have long enjoyed working on large-scale machine learning problems inspired by consumer-facing products. This has enabled us to advance the thinking in areas such as search ranking, computational advertising, information retrieval, and core machine learning. A key aspect of interest to the external research community has been the application of new algorithms and methodologies to production traffic and to large-scale datasets gathered from real products.

Today, we are proud to announce the public release of the largest-ever machine learning dataset to the research community. The dataset stands at a massive ~110B events (13.5TB uncompressed) of anonymized user-news item interaction data, collected by recording the user-news item interactions of about 20M users from February 2015 to May 2015. The Yahoo News Feed dataset is a collection based on a sample of anonymized user interactions on the news feeds of several Yahoo properties, including the Yahoo homepage, Yahoo News, Yahoo Sports, Yahoo Finance, Yahoo Movies, and Yahoo Real Estate.

Internet Access:

Internet Fragmentation: An Overview
open Internet provides the foundation for the fourth industrial revolution. There has been growing concern that the Internet may be in danger of splintering into a series of bordered cyberspace segments endangering its very nature. World Economic Forum’s Global Challenge on the Future of the Internet supported research highlights a number of fault lines that need to be addressed by bringing all stakeholders together...The purpose of this document is to contribute to the emergence of a common baseline understanding of Internet fragmentation. It maps the landscape of some of the key trends and practices that have been variously described as constituting Internet fragmentation and highlight s 28 examples. A distinction is made between cases of technical, governmental and commercial fragmentation. The technical cases generally can be said to involve fragmentation “of” the Internet, or its underlying physical and logical infrastructures. The governmental and commercial cases often more directly involve fragmentation “on” the Internet, or the transactions and cyberspace it conveys, although they also can involve the infrastructure as well. With the examples cited placed in these three conjoined baskets, we can get a holistic overview of their nature and scope and more readily engage in the sort of dialogue and cooperation that is needed.”


Privacy Issues:

States Take Steps to Limit School Surveillance of Student Social Media Pages
It’s no secret that schools across the country regularly monitor students’ social media pages. In Florida and California, for example, school districts hire “social media listening” services to monitor students’ pages for threats of violence. The New Jersey department of education has used social media monitoring to flag violations of state Common Core testing rules. A law just went into effect in Illinois that actually gives schools the right to demand login credentials to a student’s social media account. Federal student privacy laws do not address social media surveillance, and few state laws prevent schools from accessing content students post on social media pages that are not private (such as a public Twitter feed). However, states have proposed laws that prohibit schools from compelling students to allow access to or provide login credentials for their private social media accounts. Alaska, DC, Missouri, Minnesota, and North Carolina recently introduced such bills. These proposed laws are modeled after draft legislation released last week as part of the ACLU’s #TakeCTRL campaign. Additionally, Wyoming introduced a similar bill in October.


Intellectual Property:

No One Owns The Law. Everyone Owns The Law
In a democracy, no one owns the law—or to put it another way, everyone owns the law. If a judge claimed that she should be paid a toll every time someone copied a passage from one of her decisions, we would find it absurd. If the lobbyist who wrote sections of your city’s business code announced he could decide, at any time, to sharply limit public access to those sections, he would be run out of town. The right to read the law—and just as important, the right to copy, discuss, and share the law—is essential to the rule of law itself. But six huge industry associations are trying to undermine that principle, insisting that it doesn’t apply to a growing category of law: laws that began as private standards but are later incorporated into federal and state regulations. Insisting that they own a copyright in these laws, they’ve joined forces to stop a tiny non-profit, Public.Resource.Org, from posting them online. In 2013, three SDOs sued Public Resource, claiming that only they have the right to say who can copy dozens of standards incorporated into law, and at what price. These are some of the most important laws governing our daily lives and the safety of the buildings and products we encounter, yet copies are expensive to obtain. And while the SDOs put some of the standards online, they load up their sites with registration requirements, copy restrictions, and difficult user interfaces in a deliberate attempt to make the sites hard to use.


Reading:

11-Year-Old ‘Sick of Reading About White Boys and Dogs’ Launches #1000BlackGirlBooks
Marley Dias is an 11-year-old New Jersey resident who’s spent more time giving back to her community in her brief time on this planet than most of us will spend in a lifetime. She’s received a grant from Disney, traveled to Ghana to help feed orphans, and now—in her latest act of altruism—she’s rounding up children’s books that feature black female leads so that she and her peers have more fictional characters to look up to.

The project, titled #1000BlackGirlBooks, started when Marley complained to her mother about reading too many books about white male protagonists in school. “I told her I was sick of reading about white boys and dogs,” Dias said, pointing specifically to “Where the Red Fern Grows” and the”Shiloh” series. “What are you going to do about it?” [my mom] asked. And I told her I was going to start a book drive, and a specific book drive, where black girls are the main characters in the book and not background characters or minor characters.”


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The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special
This Month in Bayline: January 2016

How has your new year been so far? Here’s how Bayline’s been doing:

- Our new chapter president greets us in her first message, telling us a bit about herself and what she’s been doing. On a side note, we’re still looking for someone to fill the Hospitality chair. If you like meet and greets, this one’s for you!
- Intersect keeps coming up with more interesting articles for us. Read about what web sites shouldn’t do, and about what Wikipedia shouldn’t do. Some Sci-Tech members may want to see WP’s problem as an opportunity for volunteer experience…
- The last of the SLA Advocacy Toolkits, benchmarking, has been posted. We hope you’ve enjoyed this series!
- Are you a student member of the SLA who could use up to $1,500 to attend a conference? If yes, find out how you can receive a Student Stipend Award. The Deadline’s February 29th! Speaking of deadlines…
- On February 9th, Fish & Farm will be hosting John Bohannon, who exposed fraudulent peer review in health journals. Register now!

Looks like the new year is off to a good start. Here’s hoping next month continues this trend!

TED Talk Presenter John Bohannon: Adventurous Investigator in Science Data

When: February 9, 2016, 5:30 – 8:00 pm

Where: Fish & Farm, 424 Clay Street, San Francisco (near Battery St, in the Financial District)

Join us next Tuesday, February 9, for a presentation by John Bohannon, science journalist and visiting scholar at the Berkeley Institute for Data Science. Mr. Bohannon has presented at TED and TEDxBrussels, investigated the evolution of scientific fame, and exposed fake peer review. He helped uncover the junk science often used in diet and health studies — his study purportedly showing that eating chocolate daily led to weight loss made headlines around the world. His work even once inspired Stephen Colbert to eat cat food on television.

He is also the creator of the “Dance Your PhD” contest! (His own example at TEDxBrussels appears below.)

SLA Program Cost

SLA & BayNet Members $30.00

Non-Members (Neither in SLA nor in BayNet) $50.00

Student / Retired / Unemployed $25.00

REGISTRATION IS NOW CLOSED. THANK YOU.
Intersect Alert February 8, 2016

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2016/02/intersect-alert-february-8-2016/ February 8, 2016 Categories: Intersect Alert Tags: libraries, open access, research, values

Free Speech

Maryland Bill Would Protect Consumers’ Free Speech from Bad Contracts (H.B. 131)

“Should a company be allowed to use its own contractual fine print to take away its customers’ free speech? What fundamental rights should not be waivable?”

“We’ve written in the past about companies putting clauses in their form contracts that ostensibly forbid customers from posting online reviews of those companies’ products and services. Members of the Maryland House of Delegates have introduced a bill (MD H.B. 131) seeking to end the practice in Maryland. The bill’s sponsors are Dels. Jeff Waldstreicher, David Moon, Benjamin Kramer, and C.T. Wilson.”

“Under H.B. 131, vendors would not be allowed to use ‘gag clauses’ in their contracts with customers—for example, an auto repair shop in Maryland wouldn’t be allowed to use a contract that tries to restrict its customers from complaining online about its services. HB 131 is closely modeled after a law that California passed in 2014.”

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2016/02/maryland-bill-would-protect-consumers-free-speech-bad-contracts-hb-131

Open Access

Academics Want You to Read Their Work for Free

“Imagine you’ve spent the last few years writing a manuscript. You submit it to a publisher, and they make you an offer: They’ll print it, but once it’s published, they own your work. They’ll sell it to people who want to read it, but you won’t see any of the profits. Alternatively, if you pay the publisher to print your work, they’ll release it to the public for free.”

“These are the options for academics publishing their research in mainstream journals—but that’s begun to change over the past several years, as academics have started to push more strongly for better options. The latest effort is taking shape in the cognitive-science community, where a group of researchers are petitioning the publishing giant Elsevier to lower fees to publish open-access papers in Cognition, a well-regarded journal.”


Research

Libraries Support Data-Sharing Across the Research Lifecycle

“As more and more researchers are committed to sharing their data, libraries are seizing the opportunity to demonstrate their value across the research life cycle and support open culture. Mandates from funding agencies have made data management and sharing a high priority for researchers; new strategies for reuse and visualization are shining a spotlight on the importance of discoverability. Libraries have an important role to play in research data management and sharing; they are taking the opportunity to remind their partners across campus that managing research data, like most efforts in scholarly communication, is a team sport”


Libraries and Librarians
The Library of Congress by the Numbers in 2015

“The Library of Congress today released statistics for fiscal year 2015. Its collection now comprises more than 162 million physical items in a wide variety of formats.”

“The daily business of being the world’s largest library, the home of the U.S. Copyright Office and a supportive agency to the U.S. Congress resulted in the Library adding 1.7 million physical items to its permanent collections, registering more than 443,000 copyright claims and responding to more than 1 million reference requests from Congress, the public and other federal agencies in fiscal year 2015.”

“Some notable items newly cataloged into the Library’s collection include the papers of former U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and composer Marvin Hamlisch; rare Civil War stereograph images; recordings from the pioneering folk music label Stinson Records, featuring Woody Guthrie, Peter Seeger and Lead Belly; the Archive of the Association of American Geographers; and the backfile of issues on microfilm of the French satirical magazine “Charlie Hebdo,” which began publishing in 1970.”

Librarians, the Gathering: Designing and Publicizing a Personal Librarian Program

“One of the core elements of the program were the personas: fantasy identities the librarians took on, which were transformed into collectible cards for the students. Each participating librarian worked with the team to write a description of their persona, translating their real world abilities and skills into ‘powers,’ ‘spells,’ and other language appropriate to a fantasy world. An information literacy librarian, for instance, became a ‘Gnome Bibliomancer,’ whose abilities included ‘warding off the evils of information-illiteracy.’ Hero Machine, a free superhero creation tool, was used to make the initial images of each librarian, providing them with costumes and attributes appropriate to their new fantastical identity. These images were then placed in customizable Photoshop card templates from the website GraphicRiver. The librarian’s actual photo, title, and contact information were provided on the back of the card, giving students an easy way to recognize and contact their personal librarian.”

Roundup: Links to a Growing List of Library Coloring Books as “Color Our Collections Week” Begins

“Monday (February 1, 2016) is the beginning of the ‘Color Our Collections Week” coloring event being organized by The New York Academy of Medicine.”

“A number of coloring books available for on-demand printing (PDFs) are already online as well as collections of images to download and color.”

“If you color a picture, your encouraged to share it on social media using the hashtag, #ColorOurCollections.”

“Here’s a roundup with DIRECT links to some of the coloring books and/or images already available online.”

Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety. Attribution appreciated.
The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.

Student Stipend Award Application and Information

This award may be granted to a student member of the chapter who demonstrates interest in and involvement with the SLA organization and particularly the SF Bay Region chapter to support them in attending the SLA Annual Conference, which will be held in Philadelphia in June 2016. This award has been updated to cover more of the costs of conference attendance.

One awardee will be granted a stipend of up to $1500 to cover costs associated with attending the SLA Annual Conference. Those costs are understood to include conference registration, airfare, and hotel. The Board will consider other expenses with written documentation. Awardee will be granted the stipend on award, but will be required to document relevant expenses with receipts, per the post-award requirements. The awardee will be required to return the stipend in the event they are unable to
attend the conference or fulfill any of the post-award requirements.

**Application**

Applicants must complete the form found [2016 SF Bay Region Chapter Conference Travel Stipend Application](http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2016/02/intersect-alert-february-15-2016/)

Application must include their résumé and an essay of not more than 1000 words describing the applicant’s reasons for wanting to attend the SLA Annual Conference, and their expectations for professional advancement related to attending. Essay should include detailed descriptions of their volunteer work with the Chapter.

Applications must be received by February 29th, 2016 for review by the Awards Committee, which is chaired by the chapter’s Past President, Jaye Lapachet. The committee will recommend an awardee to the President, and the President will select an awardee no later than March 30th.

**Eligibility**

Applicants must be:

- a member in good standing of the SF Bay Region chapter
- a current student
- be able to attend the conference in the year in which they are applying
- be willing to complete the post-award requirements detailed below
- and must not have received the award in a past year.

Current chapter Board members are not eligible.

**Post-Award Requirements**

1. At the conference, the awardee will be required to attend the Western States Chapters reception, where they will be recognized for their award.
2. Within one month of the close of the conference, awardees will submit receipts documenting their conference-related expenses. Expenses submitted after this date will not be reimbursed.
3. Within one month of the close of the conference, awardees will write a brief article (approximately 1,000 words) on the conference experience for the chapter newsletter, *Bayline* and submit it to the Bayline editor.
4. In the year following their award, the awardee will be required to serve on the Awards Committee, and assist in selecting the following year’s winner.

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**Intersect Alert February 15, 2016**

February 15, 2016 Categories: Intersect Alert Tags: internet users, professional development, technology

**Professional Development**

**Power up Your Search Skills**

“The power of search is undeniable. I realize that as a research scientist on the Search team I might be just a little biased, but the educational value of having the answer to any question at your fingertips is pretty powerful. Access to this world of information is only part of the puzzle though; actually knowing how to search is a skill.”

“To help you sharpen those search skills, we’re re-opening the Power Searching with Google online course starting February 8th. Through this free two-week course, we’ll show you new ways to be a great power searcher and share techniques that will sharpen your research skills. We’ll cover a wide variety of topics, from the advanced search operators (such as filetype: and site:), to the proper use of quote marks, to how to assess a web site’s credibility.”

http://googleforeducation.blogspot.com/2016/02/power-up-your-search-skills.html

**Data Visualization**

“As scholars use new digital tools and resources to expand their scope of research and teaching, libraries are evolving to
support them. While some of these tools and resources reside within the infrastructure of the library, others sit outside of it. This is a trend that cascades across all academic disciplines, from the humanities to the sciences, with often varying needs from disparate researchers. These different needs have led libraries to develop a wide range of service models to support curricular and research needs at their institutions. Learn about these tools, resources, and services and how they can further your interactions with researchers and help you support curricular innovation. Engage in discussions with colleagues who are helping their libraries reimagine services and evolve to support for their communities.”

Title: Data Visualization

Date: Tuesday, February 16, 2016

Time: 03:00 PM Eastern Standard Time

Duration: 1 hour

Can’t make it February 16th? No problem! Register now and you will receive an email from Library Journal with the URL to access the archive for this event.

Follow the Link to Register

Search

DoD’s Implementation of Public Access

“As DoD prepares to implement Public Access, the search above is provided to aid the public in the discovery of journal articles that are already part of the DTIC collection search. DoD’s approach to Public Access will start with access to DoD-funded journal articles and associated datasets in intramural basic research (research that is performed by DoD personnel), then move on to implement public access for contractor and grantee-performed work. Metadata from datasets will be forwarded to data.gov”

http://www.dtic.mil/dtic/search/tr/journal.html

National Library of Medicine Announces MedPix®, Free Online Medical Image Database

“The National Library of Medicine is pleased to announce the launch of MedPix®, a free online medical image database originally developed by the Departments of Radiology and Biomedical Informatics at the Uniformed Services University, Bethesda, Maryland, USA. The URL is https://medpix.nlm.nih.gov/.”

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“As DoD prepares to implement Public Access, the search above is provided to aid the public in the discovery of journal articles that are already part of the DTIC collection search. DoD’s approach to Public Access will start with access to DoD-funded journal articles and associated datasets in intramural basic research (research that is performed by DoD personnel), then move on to implement public access for contracto
their rapidly growing collections of books. The New York Public Library, for example, installed 75 miles of new bookshelves in 1910 in preparation of its grand opening the next year. And the shelves from earlier decades simply weren’t going to cut it.”

“So where were these new libraries going to get bookshelves that were up to the challenge? Snead & Company, of Louisville, Kentucky, was a cast-iron works business that manufactured everything from window frames to tea kettles to girders to spittoons. In the 1890s, the company took its expertise in metal work and turned its attention to the design of bookshelves, when it became apparent that metal shelves offered a unique solution to the turn-of-the-century’s bookshelf crisis. From 1890–1950, Snead & Company designed, patented, manufactured, and installed an unprecedented measure of shelves, generating hundreds of miles of new shelf space.”

http://www.slate.com/blogs/the_vault/2016/02/01/how_snead_bookshelves_made_america_s_biggest_libraries_possible.html

‘Master of the River’: A 71-Year-Old Librarian’s 15 Years of Water Commutes

“It was one day while Horchler sat on his motorcycle in Anacostia Freeway traffic that his imagination shifted to the water. The river runs parallel to the freeway. What if he used it to get to work in downtown Washington?”

“That was 15 years ago.”

“Today, the head of the law cataloguing section of the Library of Congress has retirement on his mind. Later this month, he’ll leave his job managing the inflow of 20,000 books annually, and his more than a decade of cross-river commutes will cease.”


Intersect Alert February 22, 2016


Government Information

This Guy Wants to Set Millions of CIA Documents Free

“It’s a task worthy of a superspy. Michael Best wants to round up as many CIA documents as he can and publish them online for free.”

“Currently, more than 11 million pages of declassified CIA documents are publicly available via an electronic database called CREST, or the CIA Records Search Tool. While some of these documents — like a batch of UFO related files the CIA cleverly calls its X-Files — are available online, many can only be seen by visiting a National Archives building in Maryland. Making things even more complicated, only four tucked-away computers can access the database and it’s only staffed for half a day, according to Best.”

“Even the CIA seems to realize the difficulty inherent in this setup. ‘CIA recognizes that such visits may be inconvenient and present an obstacle to many researchers,’ read the CREST website.”


Privacy

How Americans Balance Privacy Concerns with Sharing Personal Information: 5 Key Findings

“Many Americans are in an ‘It depends’ frame of mind when they consider a central trade-off of the digital era: Will you share personal information in return for a product, service or other benefit?”

“A new report from Pew Research Center explores six different scenarios where Americans might encounter that privacy-related question. It finds that people consider a variety of things in making their decisions, such as the value of the benefit they are being offered, the circumstances of their lives, how they feel about the organization that is collecting the data, what happens to their personal data after it is captured and how long the data are retained.”
Protecting Privacy, Promoting Competition: Public Knowledge Releases Framework for FCC Privacy Rules

“Today, we’re happy to announce our newest white paper, ‘Protecting Privacy, Promoting Competition: A Framework For Updating The Federal Communications Commission Privacy Rules For The Digital World,’ by Harold Feld, Senior Vice President at Public Knowledge. This paper examines how the Federal Communications Commission might apply privacy rules to broadband Internet access services now that these are classified as Title II telecommunications services.”

This paper provides necessary background by exploring the history and purpose of Section 222 of the Communications Act, which imposes a duty on Title II carriers to protect the ‘proprietary information’ of their customers or interconnecting networks. The paper also reviews the FCC’s general privacy jurisdiction and its complementary relationship with the Federal Trade Commission. The paper also examines the existing and potential information collection habits of broadband providers, illustrating why the FCC must act now to protect consumer privacy and OTT competition.”


Freedom of Information

A Debate With Scalia

“Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia passed away on Saturday in Texas at the age of 79. In 1982, Scalia, who was a professor of law at the University of Chicago at the time, participated in a U.S. News debate about the Freedom of Information Act, explaining why he favored cutting access to government data. New York Times columnist William Safire would later write that the Q&A segment ‘focused White House attention on’ Scalia, helping him get a federal judgeship and aiding what Safire called Scalia’s ‘meteoric rise to contention for the next High Court vacancy.’”


Libraries/Librarians

Terry Ballard on the Making of “Fifty Specialty Libraries of New York City: From Botany to Magic”

“Terry Ballard, an academic systems librarian for more than 40 years, recently finished up an ambitious project: visiting, photographing, and writing about 50 of New York City’s special libraries. The resulting book, Fifty Specialty Libraries of New York City: From Botany to Magic, from Chandos Books, publishes today. LJ caught up with him shortly before the book’s launch in order to find out a little more about the process behind his odyssey—and what it was like to visit 50 libraries in less than a year.”


Librarians Find Themselves Caught Between Journal Pirates and Publishers

“The rise, fall, and resurfacing of a popular piracy website for scholarly-journal articles, Sci-Hub, has highlighted tensions between academic librarians and scholarly publishers.”

“Academics are increasingly turning to websites like Sci-Hub to view subscriber-only articles that they cannot obtain at their college or that they need more quickly than interlibrary loan can provide.”

“That trend puts librarians in an awkward position. While many are proponents of open access and understand the challenges scholars face in gaining access to information, they are also bound by their contracts with publishers, which obligate them to crack down on pirates. And while few, if any, librarians openly endorse piracy, many believe that the scholarly-publishing system is broken.”

http://chronicle.com/article/Librarians-Find-Themselves

Search

Wikipedia Takes on Google with New ‘Transparent’ Search Engine

“Online encyclopedia Wikipedia has launched a $2.5 million program to build ‘the Internet’s first transparent search engine.’”

“Wikimedia Discovery, originally known as the Knowledge Engine, is being developed initially through funds granted to Wikipedia’s parent organization, the Wikimedia Foundation, and takes direct aim at major search engines like Google.”

“The new search engine does not aim to immediately replace Google as a general purpose search engine, according to the foundation, as it will only draw on information from Wikipedia and its other free knowledge projects. Eventually, it is hoped that other sources of open knowledge could be incorporated, such as the U.S. Census Bureau.”

http://www.newsweek.com/wikipedia-takes-google-new-transparent-search-engine-427028
Deadline Soon! Attend 2016 SLA Annual Conference in Philly for Free!

Categories: Bayline, Honors & Awards Tags: awards

SLA’s Leadership and Management Division’s Career Advancement Award is designed to inspire new professionals who are looking to develop their own leadership and management abilities, and will be presented to an individual in the first five years of her or his information career.

The winner will be provided with financial support and mentorship to attend SLA’s Annual Conference. The Award includes one full Conference registration, complimentary tickets to all LMD ticketed events, registration to a pre-Conference LMD sponsored workshop (if offered), and $1500 US for travel expenses.

Applicants should submit a proposal describing a concept for a project or initiative inspired by LMD’s professional development activity. The winning proposal will:

- characterize the target audience, delivery mechanism, focus, and learning outcomes expected
- demonstrate an interest in furthering LMD’s strategic goals

Submit your proposal by March 1, 2016 midnight EST to Deb Hunt at dhunt@milibrary.org

So don’t delay – this is your chance to participate in developing and implementing a new project, to increase LMD members’ professional skill sets, and to earn the opportunity to travel to the SLA Conference and meet information professionals from all parts of the globe. For all the details visit: http://lmd.sla.org/?page_id=5661

February 2016 President’s Message

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2016/02/february-2016-presidents-message/ February 25, 2016 Categories: Bayline, Chapter Programs & Events Tags: President's message

Happy February, SLA-SF! It was nice seeing those of you who could make it to our joint event with BayNet on February 9 with science journalist John Bohannon. He talked about his work on fraud in scholarly communication, and led us through some mind-expanding thought experiments around Jorge Luis Borges’ “The Library of Babel.”

Mark your calendars for our chapter’s next event on Tuesday, March 15, Sunshine Week 2016 Panel Discussion: Delivering Data for Open Government. Our colleagues at NOCALL are co-hosting the event, and it’ll be held at Preservation Park in downtown Oakland, just four blocks from 12st Street BART.

This month we’re thanking Rebecca Leung for her brief service as Assistant Programs Director. She has stepped down due to time conflicts with school. If you think you’d like to fill out the rest of her term, contact Sandy Malloy, our Nominating Committee Chair. And we’re still looking for volunteers for Hospitality! Both of these positions are a great way to network and meet chapter members. Contact me directly if you’re interested in Hospitality.

You may wonder why there’s a different process for Programs and Hospitality. The two Programs Chairs are both Executive Board positions, while Hospitality is part of the Advisory Council. The slate of nominees for our chapter’s Executive Board is put forward every year by the Nominating Committee and voted on by chapter members, usually in early fall. The Advisory Council is appointed by the President.

The Special Libraries Association operates in a similar way. It, too, has a Board of Directors elected by the members. There’s also a Chapter Cabinet, composed of the Presidents and Presidents-Elect from all the chapters. Kendra and I will meet with the Chapter Cabinet at the SLA Annual Conference in
June. You won’t be surprised to hear that there’s a Division Cabinet as well.

These elected positions obviously turn over regularly, but SLA Headquarters also has a permanent staff. You may have seen the announcement that the Board recently engaged an association management company, MCI USA, to handle the administrative work of the organization starting March 1 of this year. At least some of the current staff will be staying on under the outsourced management company.

These are times of transition for SLA, and you can read more about the Board of Directors’ key initiatives on their website. I hope that understanding the structure of the organization will help you make sense of these communications from Headquarters as they come.

In the meantime, our chapter has great things planned for this year. Thank you for being a member!

Sincerely,

Hilary Schiraldi
President, SLA-SF

Hilary Schiraldi

The Future of Data with LinkedIn’s Lutz Finger


Berkeley Advanced Media Institute has partnered with Berkeley Tableau User Group to bring Lutz Finger, renowned data scientist, to Berkeley. He will be presenting a keynote on the future of data and the media industry.

All are welcome to attend the free event, but registration is required.

“Data is changing our world. Predictions using massive data have not only improved many products, but they have disrupted the media industry. How should the media industry embrace data effectively?” Lutz will answer this question within an actionable framework.

Lutz is the Director of Data Science at LinkedIn, Data Scientist in Residence at Cornell University and author of the book “Ask Measure Learn.” He is an authority on data analytics and data mining and teaches a course at Harvard Business School about Data-Driven Thinking.

Where: 121 North Gate Hall in the Library
Admission is free, but seats are limited. Learn more and register.

Co-sponsors
Academy X, San Francisco
Berkeley Tableau User Group

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Intersect Alert February 29, 2016

Libraries and Librarians

All You Need is Less: The KonMari Test of Collection Strength

“My maternal grandmother, like many others who lived through the depression, kept a lot of stuff. Sitti’s house was full of things with no rational reason for hanging on to, but it wasn’t until the leukemia ran its fatal course that my mom and aunt could finally clean up the place. I imagine many failed retail stores experience something comparable, where a shopkeeper wastes time and money stocking merchandise there’s no demand for, until the joint goes out of business and the wares are scuttled. And then there’s the dusty tomes sitting in the hallowed stacks of a research library, perhaps destined to share a similar fate.”

“The usefulness of a library collection is often objectively measured by its size, to the point where the number of volumes a library holds is touted as a self-evident testament to its worthiness. Collection girth is the most common base yardstick used when comparing libraries. But saying that a library with more items is superior, solely by virtue of its size, is akin to arguing that Donald Trump is a better person than you because he has more money. Any worthwhile measure of a library’s value accounts for not just the depth and recency of what subjects are represented but also how well these materials are used, and I would argue, penalizes librarians for wasting dollars by maintaining collections there are no demonstrated needs for.”


Obama Nominates African American Woman to be Librarian of Congress

“President Obama’s historic choice to be the 14th librarian of Congress, Carla D. Hayden, is regarded as a smart, politically savvy leader and strong advocate for community engagement and access for all.”

“ Hayden is the chief executive of the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore, a job she has had for 22 years. She drew praise and criticism for her decision to keep the library open during last year’s protests over the death of Freddie Gray while in police custody. As the head of the American Library Association in 2003-2004, Hayden took on U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft over measures in the Patriot Act that she considered an invasion of privacy. And she is credited with updating Pratt’s technology and launching programs to meet the community’s needs.”


How the Humble Index Card Foresaw the Internet

“Index cards are mostly obsolete nowadays. We use them to create flash cards, write recipes, and occasionally fold them up into cool paper airplanes. But their original purpose was nothing less than organizing and classifying every known animal, plant, and mineral in the world. Later, they formed the backbone of the library system, allowing us to index vast sums of information and inadvertently creating many of the underlying ideas that allowed the Internet to flourish.”

http://www.popularmechanics.com/culture/a19379/a-short-history-of-the-index-card/

San Francisco Public Library Hosts Drag Queen Story Hour for Children

“What do drag queens and children have in common?”

“They both find joy in wrapping themselves in feather boas and all things shiny and glittery.”

“Radar Productions, a group giving voice to queer writers and artists, will be hosting Honey Mahogany at the Eureka Valley Harvey Milk Memorial Library, March 12, noon to 2 p.m, in the heart of the Castro District. Dressed in fabulous drag-queen garb and full makeup, Honey will be reading stories, painting children’s faces and passing out cookies.”


Research

The Supreme Court Mapping Project

“With this free tool you can analyze and study lines of Supreme Court cases by creating citation networks. You can quickly access the full text of all the opinions in your citation network as well as examine all the associated case data from Supreme Court Database (Spaeth). Citation networks are visualized graphically and underlying data is also presented in sortable tables. You can save your networks, edit and comment upon them, and share them too. You can even embed interactive network visualizations in your website or blog. Learn more by looking below at our gallery of shared networks or by making one yourself.”

https://www.courtlistener.com/visualizations/scotus-mapper/

Publishing

Artists’ Books that Break with Traditional Bindings

“DETROIT — I’m an inveterate lover of books, so you never
have to bother arguing with me about the continued relevance of print as a medium. Books are not just the sum of their words and ideas, but lovely standalone objects — a concept aptly demonstrated by two book-based shows going on in the Detroit Metro area.”

“At Holding House is TURNOVER A SPREAD — a survey of artists’ books and limited edition texts by local Detroit publishers and print artists, including Toby Millman, Lynne Avadenka, Laura Beyer, and Ryan Standfest. At the Cranbrook Museum of Art is Read Image/See Text, which borrows its title from an iconic poster titled “See/Read,” a treatise on communications design, by former artist-in-residence and co-head of the Design Department at Cranbrook Academy of Art, Katherine McCoy. This hands-on investigation of books as art objects mixes the work of hometown heroes like Susan Goethel-Campbell, Megan Heeres, and Corrie Baldauf (whose Infinite Jest Project continues to proliferate, digitally and physically) with some well-known artists’ books, including examples by Ed Ruscha and Kara Walker. The Cranbrook show additionally features a graphic design section and a reading room with selections curated in collaboration with Maia Asshaq, co-founder of Detroit’s boutique bookstore du jour, Ditto Ditto, co-organizer of the wildly popular annual Detroit Art Book Fair, and local expert on limited-run publishing.”


Copyright

Everyday Fair Use in Libraries

“Fair use is one of the most important exceptions to the exclusive rights of copyright holders. It allows people to use copyrighted materials for certain purposes without the need to ask permission from rights holders. Fair use is the safety valve in the law that allows citizens to exercise their first amendment rights when using copyrighted materials. It balances the rights of copyright holders with those who make uses of their materials for reasons that benefit society at large. In the actual statute, these purposes are: “criticism, comment, news reporting, teaching (including multiple copies for classroom use), scholarship, or research.” Without fair use, many familiar and everyday experiences could become illegal.”

http://www.districtdispatch.org/2016/02/16420/

Privacy

Bay Area Rallies Against FBI Threats to Privacy and Security

“Dozens of people gathered at the Apple Store in San Francisco this evening to shout their support for the company’s position defending privacy and security in the face of irresponsible government demands.”

“Organized as part of a day of action including events in Boston, New York City, Washington, D.C, and Southern California, the rally in San Francisco was the second in a single week responding to the FBI’s latest demands to expand its authority.”

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2016/02/bay-area-rallies-against-fbi-threats-privacy-and-security

Sunshine Week 2016 Panel Discussion: Delivering Data for Open Government

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2016/03/sunshine-week-2016-panel-discussion-delivering-data-for-open-government/ March 1, 2016 Categories: Bayline, Chapter Programs & Events Tags: events

Special Libraries Association San Francisco Bay Region Chapter &
Northern California Association of Law Libraries

Sunshine Week 2016 Panel Discussion:
Delivering Data for Open Government

Where: Nile Hall at Preservation Park, 668 13th St., Oakland CA 94612

Directions: http://tinyurl.com/PresParkDirections

When: Tuesday, March 15, 2016; 6:00-8:30 PM

Sunshine Week is a national initiative to promote a dialogue about the importance of open government and freedom of information. Participants include news media, civic groups,
libraries, nonprofits, schools and others interested in the public’s right to know. The Special Libraries Association, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter and the Northern California Association of Law Libraries are happy to announce a Sunshine Week 2016 panel discussion on open government.

The panelists are:


**Miriam Marks** Data Director at MapLight. MapLight ([http://maplight.org/](http://maplight.org/)) is a nonpartisan research organization that reveals money’s influence on politics. They research and compile data about the sources of campaign contributions in U.S. presidential, congressional, state, and local ballot and candidate elections. They provide transparency tools that connect data on campaign contributions, politicians, legislative votes, industries, companies, and more to show patterns of influence never before possible to see. Use their website to get information on bills, legislators, interest groups, companies, and topics. Miriam leads MapLight’s data projects, overseeing the integrity and accuracy of the organization’s databases. She received an M.A. and B.A. with Honors in Public Policy and a minor in Economics from Stanford University. Miriam is also an alumna of the CORO Fellows Program and sits on the Board of Directors of CORO Northern California.

**Agenda:**

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM Registration, networking and appetizers
7:00 PM – 7:15 PM Announcements
7:15 PM – 8:15 PM Program with Q&A following

**Menu:** Assorted delights from Market Hall catering. Wine and beer will also be available.

**Cost:**

$30 for SLA and NOCALL members
$50 for non-members and guests
$25 for students, retired, unemployed.

Pre-Event Registration is closed. We are accepting registrations at the door on Tuesday, March 15. Please pay by check at the check-in desk.

Thank you to our generous sponsor LexisNexis!

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**This Month in Bayline: February 2016**


Spring is here, the city is warming up, and so is Bayline:

- Another [message](http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2016/03/this-month-in-bayline-february-2016/) from our new president, full of announcements. Take particular note of our [chapter’s next event on March 15th](http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2016/03/this-month-in-bayline-february-2016/).
- Speaking of events, we’ve got another one coming up on the 17th of March, [The Future of Data](http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2016/03/this-month-in-bayline-february-2016/).
- Last but not least is news from [Intersect](http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2016/03/this-month-in-bayline-february-2016/). Learn about the FBI’s attempts to use iPhones to snoop, and [Wikipedia looking to compete with Google](http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2016/03/this-month-in-bayline-february-2016/).

That’s it for this month, but I’m just getting warmed up, too. I’m looking forward to you next time!

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**Intersect Alert March 6, 2016**

Intellectual Property:

Why the Rauschenberg Foundation’s easing of copyright restrictions is good for art and journalism

Last week, the Robert Rauschenberg Foundation in New York announced that it would ease copyright restrictions on art belonging to the artist. The move will make images of Rauschenberg’s work – he was a groundbreaking figure known for his hybrid assemblage-paintings – much easier to access and disseminate. It will do this in a number of ways. One, the foundation has issued a statement that provides guidelines for fair use of its imagery, and imagery of Rauschenberg’s work in general, making it simpler for museums and members of the media to employ images. See the most-read stories in Entertainment this hour. Second, the foundation will even allow royalty-free use of its images to museums and educational institutions who might want to use Rauschenberg’s art in promotional materials – something that is not governed by fair use. “The people who are the best stewards are the scholars and the museums,” says foundation CEO Christy MacLear. “Professors were making choices of images and teaching based on what images are available. That affects our history. What you teach should be the best pieces, not the free pieces.”


Freedom of Information:

Bill Would Authorize Release of CRS Reports

A bill to make Congressional Research Service reports available to the public through authorized rather than unauthorized channels was introduced in Congress yesterday. The bill was sponsored in the Senate (S. 2639) by Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-VT) and Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) and in the House (H.R. 4702) by Rep. Leonard Lance (R-NJ) and Rep. Mike Quigley (D-IL).

While the support of these congressional sponsors of both parties is promising, the proposal to provide authorized public access to non-confidential CRS publications is not assured of passage. A press release from Sen. Leahy’s office yesterday noted gamely that “McCain and Leahy have partnered for more than a decade in pressing for this change.” Still, conditions for approval of the measure seem more favorable today than for many years past, thanks largely to a broad coalition of support mobilized by Daniel Schuman of Demand Progress and Kevin Kosar of the R Street Institute, themselves former CRS employees.

In the meantime, the latest reports from CRS that are not yet subject to authorized public disclosure include the following. Lead in Flint, Michigan’s Drinking Water: Federal Regulatory Role, CRS Insight, updated March 2, 2016


Child Support: An Overview of Census Bureau Data on Recipients, March 1, 2016

http://fas.org/blogs/secrecy/2016/03/crs-bill/.

Libraries:

Desperation Shows As Critics Argue That Nominated Librarian Of Congress Is ‘Pro Obscenity’

Last week, we wrote about the exciting decision by President Obama to nominate Dr. Carla Hayden to be the next Librarian of Congress. As we noted at the time, she seemed immensely qualified for the position, having successfully run and modernized the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore. She also clearly recognized the importance of open access and access to culture. Given the job, there’s really no honest reason that people can find to criticize the choice. She seems almost perfectly qualified for the position.

But, of course, there are some critics, and boy, are they reaching deep in the depths of inanity to attack this choice. A key issue, of course, is that the Copyright Office is part of the Library of Congress, so Hayden would run the Copyright Office as well. We already noted the rather snide statement put out by the RIAA, which basically says “Hayden’s fine for the library, but she better keep her filthy hands off of the Copyright Office”:

“We are gratified that President Obama has chosen a qualified and capable nominee to be the next Librarian of Congress. We look forward to working with Dr. Hayden. It is worth noting that the Library of Congress and the U.S. Copyright Office have been mutually respectful of each other’s areas of expertise. We would hope that the new Librarian would continue to demonstrate that respect for the Copyright Office’s expertise in copyright policy and recommendations to Congress.”

This is bullshit, of course. Basically, the Copyright Office has been ignored by the Librarian of Congress, because the last Librarian basically ignored his job.

And, The National Center on Sexual Exploitation (NCOSE) trumpeted that “Obama nominee to Library of Congress led a pro-obscenity group!” Oh really? Of course, it turns out that the “pro-obscenity group” is also the famous and well respected... American Library Association. NCOSE insists they’re “pro-obscenity” and “pro-porn” because the ALA has long fought against mandatory internet filters in libraries.

International Outlook:

Punished for a Paradox: Brazil’s Random Detention of Facebook Executive Fails Justice

Yesterday, Diego Dzodan, Facebook’s Vice President for Latin America, was arrested at his Sao Paolo home by federal police, escorted to a forensic institute and then held at Pinheiros Provisional Detention Center in the city. His arrest was ordered by Judge Marcel Montalvão, who was been demanding personal data from WhatsApp as part of a drug-related investigation in Brazil’s northeastern state of Sergipe. The arrest comes after the judge had begun serving WhatsApp, which is owned by Facebook, a series of fines for withholding information from the court.

Davi Tangerino, WhatsApp’s lawyer, told reporters what he told the court: WhatsApp can’t provide the contents of the communications, because the company has no record of those communications. That may be for technological reasons—many WhatsApp communications are end-to-end encrypted. It may also be result of the companies own logging policies: WhatsApp says it makes no permanent record of the data that the court requires. In either case, the court is punishing a single employee for the court’s own impossible demands. 

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2016/03/punished-for-paradox-brazils-facebook.

Open Access:

Who Pays for Open Access?

he theory of Open Access (OA) predates the Internet, but the web has made it a full-fledged phenomenon for scientific and medical journals. Driven in large part by mandates from government and institutional funding entities, OA theoretically lowers the subscription cost barrier for peer-reviewed content. Academic libraries and their constituents—especially researchers—are the prime beneficiaries, but so also are general public libraries and “citizen scientists” who simply have Internet access. Like a politician’s promise, however, the benefits of OA have to be paid for—typically through an Article Processing Charge (APC) charged to the author or, more commonly, the author’s employer. These can average between $2,000 and $3,000 per article, according to Anneliese Taylor, Assistant Director, Scholarly Communications and Collections, at the University of California, San Francisco Library. “These are increasingly a line item in research grant funding proposals,” she said, pointing out that funding entities are themselves often proponents of Open Access. Payment of APCs comes from a variety of sources. According to the Publishers Communication Group’s September 2014 Open Access Library Survey, the authors themselves provide the highest percentage of funding, although a significant portion was covered by outside funding. Of those who indicated the library provided 44% of the funding, the majority indicated that those funds came from the existing materials budget.

http://lj.libraryjournal.com/2016/03/oa/who-pays-for-open-access/.

Privacy:

Data Is a Toxic Asset

Thefts of personal information aren’t unusual. Every week, thieves break into networks and steal data about people, often tens of millions at a time. Most of the time it’s information that’s needed to commit fraud, as happened in 2015 to Experian and the IRS. Sometimes it’s stolen for purposes of embarrassment or coercion, as in the 2015 cases of Ashley Madison and the US Office of Personnel Management. The latter exposed highly sensitive personal data that affects security of millions of government employees, probably to the Chinese. Always it’s personal information about us, information that we shared with the expectation that the recipients would keep it secret. And in every case, they did not. Telecommunications providers, social networks, and many other types of companies save information about who we talk to and share things with. Data brokers save everything about us they can get their hands on. This data is saved and analyzed, bought and sold, and used for marketing and other persuasive

Reading:

What books were taken to the Antarctic 100 years ago?

When Sir Ernest Shackleton set off for Antarctica on his ship Endurance, he made sure he had plenty of reading material. But details of precisely what books he took have remained hidden in this photograph – until now. The image from the ill-fated South Pole expedition – taken in early March 1915 by Australian photographer Frank Hurley – has been digitised by the Royal Geographical Society in London. It is now known that the explorer carried with him dictionaries, encyclopedias and books chronicling other dangerous polar expeditions. He took established works by Dostoyevsky and Shelley – but also, explains Alasdair MacLeod from the RGS, “newly published fiction by popular authors of the time”.

In January 1915, Endurance and her 28-man crew became trapped in ice in the Weddell Sea. Shackleton and his men would remain there for 10 months – until the ship sank and they moved on to the ice. In April 1916, in three small boats taken off Endurance, the crew left the ice and began an arduous voyage to uninhabited Elephant Island. From there, Shackleton took a small group with him to South Georgia – 750 miles away – where they finally got help. All members of Endurance’s crew survived.

Visit this web page to see the full list of books identified by experts at the RGS – and see more stark images of Shackleton’s struggle for survival.

And because the cost of saving all this data is so cheap, there’s no reason not to save as much as possible, and save it all forever. Figuring out what isn’t worth saving is hard. And because someday the companies might figure out how to turn the data into money, until recently there was absolutely no downside to saving everything. That changed this past year. What all these data breaches are teaching us is that data is a toxic asset and saving it is dangerous. We need to regulate what corporations can do with our data at every stage: collection, storage, use, resale and disposal. We can make corporate executives personally liable so they know there’s a downside to taking chances. We can make the business models that involve massively surveilling people the less compelling ones, simply by making certain business practices illegal.

https://www.schneier.com/blog/archives/2016/03/data_is_a_toxic.html.

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Archives:

The Bob Dylan Archive: 6,000 items illuminating nearly 60 years of writings, recordings, memorabilia, film and more

The Bob Dylan Archive highlights the unique artistry and worldwide cultural significance of Bob Dylan. Housed at The University of Tulsa’s Helmerich Center for American Research, the archive includes decades of never-before-seen handwritten manuscripts, notebooks and correspondence; films, videos, photographs and artwork; memorabilia; personal documents; unrecorded song lyrics and chords. The materials – nearly all of which have never been viewed or accessed by outside parties – will be made available to scholars and curated for public exhibitions in the near future. The collection also includes essays, poems, liner notes, correspondence, autobiographical bits and philosophical musings. Master tapes of the artist’s entire musical catalog as well as hundreds of hours of film and video material are in the collection, as well as the film originals of Murray Lerner’s Festival! (1965), D.A. Pennebaker’s Don’t Look Back (1967), Dylan’s (with Howard Alk and Pennebaker) Eat the Document (1971), Dylan and Alk’s Renaldo & Clara (1978), Martin Scorsese’s Bob Dylan: No Direction Home (2006) and a host of music shorts and videos.

http://bobdylanarchive.com/about/.

Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety. Attribution appreciated.

The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.

February Web Chat Q&A Summary

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2016/03/february-web-chat-qa-summary/ March 9, 2016 Categories: Bayline, SLA HQ Tags: events

Recently, the SLA Board of Directors has been having webchat Q&As. For the convenience of those short on time, I’ve written up summaries of the questions and answers. There was no web chat in January, so I’ll be starting with February.

–Bayline Editor

What happens to staff under the new AMC?

AMC is currently evaluating staff based on their skillsets, and will be producing a staffing model in the near future.

Since Caroline Sosnowski left, has any other staff departed?

Julio Santos & Caroline Hamilton.

You mentioned the AMC contract being within budget. Can members see the 2016 AMC budget?

No, but our 990’s are on the SLA webpage; there’s a link to Finances on the bottom footer.

Can vendors contribute content to the Cool Resources Initiative?

By all means! Anyone, even non-members, can contribute educational content!

What is the status of SLA Connect?

It’s coming, about the end of March.

Has any more space been rented at HQ?

No, but we’re working on that.
What is the name of the AMC?

We can’t share that until the final negotiations are completed.

What criteria will the Board use to evaluate the AMC?

(Tom) I’m going to appoint a sub-committee of the Board to to report on the AMC.

(Bill) We’ll build benchmarks into the documents we’re working on: some will be financial; others will be about aspects of the association’s management. We also have the Emerging Opportunities Taskforce, which will look at a range of items and monitor AMC for quality and service of products.

Will webmasters be involved or in charge of the SLA Connect rollout?

(James) Connect will be run by SLA staff. Connect will replace LYRIS, so we’ll know when members join caucus, division, assume new leadership role, etc.

Can the archives of all past contributed papers be available at a stable URL?

I don’t see why not; we’ll look into it.

Is the Board going to review SLA financial management’s reference reviews of pooled funds?

That’s in the purview of Finance Committee, and it’s been handled.

Will the AMC will have goals and objectives, and be held accountable to the Emerging Opportunities Taskforce?

They won’t be held accountable to the Emerging Opportunities Taskforce.

(Jill) The EOT is about partnership opportunities for SLA. The AMC is accountable to the Board, which will have a sub-committee watching its actions.

With SLA Connect, will there be webinars for webmasters?

Yes, there will be training.

Can divisions proceed with 2017 meetings?

Yes! If there’s any change, you’ll be notified.

Is the implementation plan public?

Yes, it’s on the Key Board Initiatives page.

Is SLA offering a discount for the upcoming computer conference?

Yes.

Can you send out some screenshots so that people can see how SLA Connect is going to work? Also, if our chapter has a discussion list not current on LYRIS, will we be able to keep that?

No screen shots yet. Also, it it’s not an SLA LYRIS list then we won’t get involved, but you won’t be able to connect it to the
Will SLA websites still be WordPress.

Websites will still be WordPress. SLA Connect will be more like Facebook or LinkedIn, and will not replace the SLA website.

Is SLA Connect a custom made AMS (association management system) maintained by vendors?

It’s a custom tool designed on to sit on top of the AMS.

That’s it for this month’s questions. Let me know what you think.

Share this:

Intersect Alert March 13, 2016


Take Action!:

Five minutes can net libraries $200 million next year

Earlier this week, we asked for your help in defending the more than $200 million in LSTA and other federal library funding from Congressional and Administration cost-cutters. Time was short then and it’s even shorter now. Your help is needed to get your Representative and both US Senators to sign “Dear Appropriator” letters supporting LSTA and Innovative Approaches to Literacy grants, among others. With just a few days left to get as many members of Congress behind those programs as humanly possible, now is the time for you to go to ALA’s Legislative Action Center and help save more than $200 million for communities across the country . . . very likely including yours!

A strong showing on these letters sends a signal to the Appropriations Committees’ to protect LSTA and IAL funding. So far, your work has generated thousands of emails, but frankly, we need many, many more. Whether you call, email, tweet or all of the above (which would be great), the message to the office staff of your Senators and Representative is simple: “Hello, I’m a constituent. Please ask Representative/Senator _______ to sign the LSTA and IAL ‘Dear Appropriator’ letters circulating for signature!”

http://www.districtdispatch.org/2016/03/lsta-and-ial-funding/

Privacy Issues:

Free Privacy Mini-Conference this week! Library 2.016: Privacy in the Digital Age

We’re excited to announce the first of three Library 2.016 online mini-conferences: “Privacy in the Digital Age,” March 16th, 2016, from 12:00 – 3:00pm US-Pacific Time.

In this focused conversation, we will address the roles and responsibilities of libraries regarding the protections of intellectual freedom, privacy, free speech, information access, and freedom of the press. Are these still core values of the library profession, and if so, how are libraries and librarians responding to the increasing complexities of data tracking and desires for data-informed services and marketing?

We’ll hear from a variety of library professionals as well as keynote Speakers: Lee Rainie; Director, Internet, Science, and Technology Research; Pew Research Center; Jamie Larue, Director, Office for Intellectual Freedom, American Library Association; Jonathan Hernández, Associate Researcher, Library and Information Institute, National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM); Deborah Caldwell-Stone, Deputy Director, Office for Intellectual Freedom, American Library Association; and Alison Macrina, Director, Library Freedom Project.

This is a free event, being held online. Please register HERE to attend live or to receive the recording links.


Victory: Verizon Will Stop Tagging Customers for Tracking Without Consent

Today, Verizon reached an agreement with the FCC to acquire affirmative consent before injecting their UIDH tracking header into their customers’ web activity on non-Verizon owned sites. This is exactly what we asked them to do in November 2014, and is a huge win for Internet privacy. ISPs are trusted carriers of our communications. They should be supporting individuals’ privacy rights, not undermining them. Verizon started their tracking header program in 2012, but did not describe the program in its privacy policy at that time. In 2014, EFF analyzed the header and warned that it acted as an
Online Privacy and the Invisible Market for Our Data
Consumers constantly enter into blind bargains online. We trade our personal information for free websites and apps, without knowing exactly what will be done with our data. There is nominally a notice and choice regime in place via lengthy privacy policies. However, virtually no one reads them. In this ill-informed environment, companies can gather and exploit as much data as technologically possible, with very few legal boundaries. The consequences for consumers are often far-removed from their actions, or entirely invisible to them. Americans deserve a rigorous notice and choice regime. Such a regime would allow consumers to make informed decisions and regain some measure of control over their personal information. This article explores the problems with the current marketplace for our digital data, and explains how we can make a robust notice and choice regime work for consumers.


Worried about Apple? California Has a Bill That Would Disable Encryption on All Phones
Smartphone users in California take notice: a new CA State Assembly bill would ban default encryption features on all smartphones. Assembly Bill 1681, introduced in January by Assemblymember Jim Cooper, would require any smartphone sold in California “to be capable of being decrypted and unlocked by its manufacturer or its operating system provider.” This is perhaps even more drastic than the legal precedent at stake in Apple’s ongoing showdown with the Justice Department, in which the government is trying to force a private company to write code undermining key security features in specific cases.

Both Apple and Google currently encrypt smartphones running their iOS and Android operating systems by default. A.B. 1681 would undo this default, penalizing manufacturers and providers of operating systems $2,500 per device that cannot be decrypted at the time of sale.

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2016/03/worried-about-apple-california-has-bill-would-disable-encryption-all-phones.

Freedom of Information:
Defense Department Tells MuckRock It Will Need To Come Up With $660 Million To Cover FOIA Request Fees
Nothing quite tells the public to mind its own business like attaching a ridiculous fee demand to an FOIA response. It’s pretty easy to price the public out of the transparency market, seeing as it doesn’t have access to the monetary resources its tax dollars are paying for. MuckRock has now topped that [LIST] … exponentially. Martin Peck’s FOIA request for information on the Dept. of Defense’s use of “HotPlug” systems (a portable power pack that keeps seized devices from powering down) has resulted in an FOIA fee estimate exceeding a half-billion dollars.

Mr. Robert R. Jarrett, Director of Operations, Defense Procurement Acquisition Policy, and a FOIA Initial Denial Authority, stated that it is possible that contracts that acquired the requested items are present in the Electronic Documents Access (EDA) system; however, there are more than 30 million contracts in EDA, consisting of more than 45 million documents. No method exists for a complete text search of EDA, as some documents are scans of paper copies. The estimated time required to perform the necessary redactions of proprietary data, assuming 20 minutes per document, is estimated to be 15 million labor hours at an estimated cost of $660 million.


Publishing:
Apple gets smacked by $450-million e-book price-fixing fine
The Supreme Court of the United States has declined to hear Apple’s appeal of a lower court decision that it conspired with five publishers to increase e-book prices. Apple must now pay $450 million as part of its anti-trust e-book settlement. Amazon, however, is probably grinning like the Cheshire Cat. This decision leaves in place the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals that found Apple liable for engaging in a conspiracy with five major book publishers to fix pricing on e-books. What Apple was attempting to do so was establish itself as an e-book middleman and damage Amazon’s dominant position. The Circuit Court held that Apple violated the Sherman
Antitrust Act by working with the book publishers to set unfair prices. Before SCOTUS’ final decision, an unusual alliance of booksellers (including Barnes and Noble), the American Booksellers Association, and the Author Guild filed an Amicus Curiae, friend of the court, petition in Apple’s favor. The publishers, booksellers, and writers united because all agreed that “competition is vital to the book industry.”

The Custodian of Forgotten Books
A little over a decade ago, a forgotten book was suddenly remembered. Its second life began when a fiction writer referenced it in a book of her own. A blogger read the new book, then tracked down a copy of the old one, and wrote about all this on his Web site. An archivist read the blog post and e-mailed it to a small publisher. By 2009, Jetta Carleton’s “The Moonflower Vine,” first published in 1962, was back in print. Most novels are forgotten. Glance at the names of writers who were famous in the nineteenth century, or who won the Nobel Prize at the beginning of the twentieth, or who were on best-seller lists just a few decades ago, and chances are that most of them won’t even ring a bell. When “The Moonflower Vine” resurfaced and ricocheted around the publishing world, it became an unlikely exception. What’s strange about the journey of that book—and about our moment in the history of publishing—is that its rediscovery was made possible by an independent blogger, named Brad Bigelow. Bigelow, fifty-eight, is not a professional publisher, author, or critic. He’s a self-appointed custodian of obscurity. For much of his career, he worked as an I.T. adviser for the United States Air Force. At his home, in Brussels, Belgium, he spends nights and weekends scouring old books and magazines for writers worthy of resurrection.

“It can just be a series of almost random things that can make the difference between something being remembered or something being forgotten,” Bigelow told me recently. On his blog, Neglected Books, he has written posts about roughly seven hundred books—impressive numbers for a hobbyist, though they’re modest next to the thousands of books we forget each year.

A Plagiarism Scandal Is Unfolding In The Crossword World
A group of eagle-eyed puzzlers, using digital tools, has uncovered a pattern of copying in the professional crossword-puzzle world that has led to accusations of plagiarism and false identity. Since 1999, Timothy Parker, editor of one of the nation’s most widely syndicated crosswords, has edited more than 60 individual puzzles that copy elements from New York Times puzzles, often with pseudonyms for bylines, a new database has helped reveal. The puzzles in question repeated themes, answers, grids and clues from Times puzzles published years earlier. Hundreds more of the puzzles edited by Parker are nearly verbatim copies of previous puzzles that Parker also edited. Most of those have been republished under fake author names. Nearly all this replication was found in two crosswords series edited by Parker: the USA Today Crossword and the syndicated Universal Crossword. (The copyright to both puzzles is held by Universal Uclick, which grew out of the former Universal Press Syndicate and calls itself “the leading distributor of daily puzzle and word games.”) USA Today is one of the country’s highest-circulation newspapers, and the Universal Crossword is syndicated to hundreds of newspapers and websites. The database that helped uncover the repetition holds tens of thousands of puzzles published by 11 outlets over various time periods – for example, it holds puzzles from The New York

Intellectual Property:

Needed Reforms to Section 1201 of the DMCA
The Copyright Office is off to a busy 2016, as are those who file comments in Copyright Office proceedings. A few weeks after the first round of comments in its Senate-requested inquiry into software-enabled consumer products, and just a few weeks before taking comments on the Digital Millennium Copyright Act’s (DMCA) notice-and-takedown regime, the Office accepted its first round of comments on Section 1201 of the DMCA. This provision imposes civil and possibly even criminal penalties on persons who circumvent “technological protections measures” (TPMs) that control access to copyrighted works. Although these penalties originally were intended to deter copyright infringement in the digital environment, the ubiquity of copyrighted works (particularly software and firmware) in the world around us has allowed parties to use the threat of liability under Section 1201 for purposes unrelated to copyright.

Sensing this might happen, Congress included a number of statutory exemptions to liability under Section 1201 for purposes such as reverse engineering, security testing, encryption research, archival and educational activities, and law enforcement. Congress also included a failsafe mechanism for the Librarian of Congress to grant three-year exemptions from liability under Section 1201. It is unlikely that Congress knew how essential this failsafe would become. Earlier versions of the DMCA did not even include it. But as the Office noted in its Notice of Inquiry (NOI), the first triennial rulemaking considered nearly 400 comments leading to the adoption of two exemptions while last year’s rulemaking considered nearly 40,000 comments resulting in twenty-two exemptions.
Times starting in 1942 and from the Los Angeles Times starting in 1996. The engineer who created the database also wrote a computer program that identifies similar puzzles and assigns each pair of similar puzzles a similarity score, essentially the percentage of letters and black squares that are shared by two puzzles’ grids. To confirm the database was accurate, I went to the library and pulled spool after spool of microfilm. Sure enough, there were the replications in black and white. http://fivethirtyeight.com/features/a-plagiarism-scandal-is-unfolding-in-the-crossword-world/.

Public Policy:

A Response to Law Enforcement Concerns with the Email Privacy Act

The Email Privacy Act, H.R. 699, is finally on its way to markup in the House Judiciary Committee. With over 300 cosponsors, it is the most popular piece of legislation that has yet to receive a vote. It’s no wonder it’s so popular – the commonsense notion that our 30-year-old Electronic Communications Privacy Act (ECPA) should be updated to reflect the technological innovations that have taken place since 1986 is one that even Republicans and Democrats in Congress can agree on. If the Email Privacy Act becomes law, the protections from unreasonable searches and seizures afforded to our private letters, files, and homes in the physical world will finally apply to our digital world, too: law enforcement will be required to obtain a warrant based on probable cause before accessing our private communications such as emails as well as documents, pictures and other information stored in the cloud.

We’re in the home stretch, and we’ve waited long enough. Congress must pass, and the President must sign, the Email Privacy Act. However, some groups continue to express concern that the Act will pose too great a burden to law enforcement. One of those groups is the FBI Agents Association (FBIAA), which recently released a letter voicing their criticism of the Act. {see the web page for CDTs responses to each of their concerns:

Concern 1: H.R. 699 Creates Obstacles to Law Enforcement
Concern 2: H.R. 699 Should Ensure Access to Electronic Evidence

Most voters favor cutting defense spending. Politicians say otherwise

In a comprehensive new survey, most voters favored a decrease of at least $12 billion in the Pentagon’s spending and called for killing some costly military programs. Both the Obama administration and Congress are pushing for higher spending on the military next year, as are most of the presidential candidates. But most American voters have a different opinion, preferring military spending cuts instead. The nonpartisan organization Voice Of the People recently gave registered voters around the country the task of forming their own defense budgets, after hearing vetted pro and con arguments, and it found that more than half favored cutting defense spending at least $12 billion. President Barack Obama, in contrast, has proposed to add $2.4 billion in 2017 to the current defense budget, reflecting core spending of $523.9 billion plus another $58.8 billion ostensibly meant for overseas contingency operations. The major presidential candidates’ positions on defense spending are not all clear-cut, but analysts credit the top four Republican presidential candidates as supporting increased defense spending, while Hillary Clinton hasn’t staked out a clear position, and Bernie Sanders has said he would cut it substantially.

http://www.publicintegrity.org/node/19416.

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The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.

Tracy Z. Maleeff – Technical Tools and Information Security for Librarians

Categories: Bayline, Chapter Programs & Events Tags: events, professional development

March 22, 2016 at 6pm PDT

Learn what applications, programs and websites are useful for librarians and information professionals in the real working world. In this one-hour webinar, Tracy Z. Maleeff (@LibrarySherpa) will give a high-level overview of the resources that will enhance your professional development. The second-half of the program will feature information security. Learn the vocabulary, best practices and resources on
how to be safe with your personal and professional passwords and data. All combined, this hour will leave you with a foundation on which to tech to use and how to utilize it safely in the workplace.

Tracy Z. Maleeff is a new independent info pro, the owner of Sherpa Intelligence LLC – your guide up a mountain of information. Prior to starting her own business, Tracy worked as a librarian primarily in law firms, with some experience in both the corporate and academic worlds. She earned her MLIS from the University of Pittsburgh and has undergraduate degrees from both Temple University (magna cum laude) and the Pennsylvania State University. An active SLA member holding many leadership positions, she was the recipient of the 2014 Dow Jones Innovate Award. Most recently, she was named an SLA Fellow in 2015. She is a member of the Women’s Society of Cyberjutsu and write for the cybersecurity portal Peerlyst.com. She actively Tweets as both @LibrarySherpa and @InfoSecSherpa. Check our her “Tuesdays With Motivation” series on her LibrarySherpa.com blog.

Link to session: https://sas.elluminate.com/d.jsp?sid=2011274&password=D.6DB4059B5816A65D1EF8A1CCF8DFBB

Individuals requiring real-time captioning or other accommodations should contact Dr. Sue Alman as soon as possible.

This presentation will be recorded and the recording accessible at: https://ischoolgroups.sjsu.edu/slasc/

**Intersect Alert March 20, 2016**

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2016/03/intersect-alert-march-20-2016/ March 20, 2016 Categories: Intersect Alert Tags: freedom of information, intellectual property, internet access, libraries, open access, public policy, research, social media, technology

**Freedom of Information:**

**The Foilies 2016: Recognizing the Worst in Government Responses to Public Records Requests**

Last spring, Shoshana Walter with the Center for Investigative Reporting filed a routine public records request with the Sacramento County Sheriff’s Department for a story on a rogue firearms instructor. The request was unceremoniously denied, so Walter did exactly what reporters do in that situation: she pushed back. Moments later she received an email that she was never meant to see. “Okay, now what? She is being a pain. Do we ask Peter what to do with her?” wrote the public servant handling the request. Within an hour, the sheriff’s department had a sudden change of heart and agreed to release the information. Meanwhile, all Walter could do was commiserate with other transparency advocates on the #FOIAFriday thread on Twitter. Join us on this journey as we examine some of the most ridiculous experiences members of the public have faced while pursuing James Madison’s 1822 advice: “Knowledge will forever govern ignorance; and a people who mean to be their own governors must arm themselves with the power which knowledge gives.”


**Tobacco giant gave $250,000 to group representing black-owned newspapers**

After National Newspaper Publishers Association President Benjamin Chavis Jr. visited Reynolds American’s headquarters in Winston-Salem, N.C., he left impressed – and with hopes of big money from the tobacco giant. Ultimately, Reynolds American last year gave $250,000 to the organization, which from its Washington, D.C., headquarters represents the interests of more than 200 African-American-owned community newspapers across the nation. The donation – listed in a new Reynolds American corporate governance document reviewed by the Center for Public Integrity – represented the largest contribution Reynolds American made in 2015 to nearly three-dozen nonprofit organizations, many of which are politically active and typically keep their funders secret.

Other small, but notable Reynolds Americas’ contributions in 2015 helped Americans for Prosperity, a “social welfare” nonprofit connected to billionaire industrialists Charles and David Koch, and Americans for Tax Reform, led by anti-tax advocate Grover Norquist.

Reynolds American is rare in that most large companies, regardless of their industry, volunteer little information about their political activities beyond what’s required by law. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, of which many such companies are members, has for years hectored them to keep their corporate mouths shut, warning that such disclosures give fuel to anti-business activists itching to “silence the business community’s voice.”

Chavis of the National Newspaper Publishers Association, which last week conducted three-day gathering in Washington, D.C., that featured various elected and government officials, said he actively courted Reynolds American’s support given its
Anaxar Productions, told FOX411. Paramount and CBS claim plaintiff claims to own which of those copyrights,” she said. “In particular, we are seeking specifics on what copyrights Trek.”

story 21 years before the first Kirk episode of the original “Star Trek,” including its settings, characters, species, and themes.” Ranahan added the suit is baffling because the fan film is unfinished. According to the production company, the script for the film is still being rewritten and revised. It tells a story 21 years before the first Kirk episode of the original “Star Trek.”

“In particular, we are seeking specifics on what copyrights CBS/Paramount alleges have been infringed, and which plaintiff claims to own which of those copyrights,” she said. “With respect to the not yet made film, we are also challenging whether it is premature to claim infringement on a movie that is not done, and in fact, the script is being reworked in light of the lawsuit.”


intellectual property:

‘Star Trek’ fan film’s lawyer: Studios are only hurting fans, themselves with legal battle

A lawyer for the fan-made “Star Trek” film “Axanar” claims CBS and Paramount are only hurting themselves and the fans by going after the crowdfunded fan film for copyright infringement. The legal battle launched by CBS and Paramount against “Axanar” raged on in court on Monday as producers for the film argued that the copyright infringement lawsuit filed in December 2015 should be dismissed.

“It is unfortunate that to purportedly ‘protect’ the ‘Star Trek’ franchise, CBS and Paramount have targeted some of its biggest fans with this lawsuit,” Erin Ranahan, a lawyer for Anaxar Productions, told FOX411. Paramount and CBS claim in the suit “Axanar” uses “innumerable copyrighted elements of ‘Star Trek,’ including its settings, characters, species, and themes.” Ranahan added the suit is baffling because the fan film is unfinished. According to the production company, the script for the film is still being rewritten and revised. It tells a story 21 years before the first Kirk episode of the original “Star Trek.”

“In particular, we are seeking specifics on what copyrights CBS/Paramount alleges have been infringed, and which plaintiff claims to own which of those copyrights,” she said. “With respect to the not yet made film, we are also challenging whether it is premature to claim infringement on a movie that is not done, and in fact, the script is being reworked in light of the lawsuit.”


Open Access:

Handful of Biologists Went Rogue and Published Directly to Internet

On Feb. 29, Carol Greider of Johns Hopkins University became the third Nobel Prize laureate biologist in a month to do something long considered taboo among biomedical researchers: She posted a report of her recent discoveries to a publicly accessible website, bioRxiv, before submitting it to a scholarly journal for “official” publication. It was a small act of information age defiance, and perhaps also a bit of a throwback, somewhat analogous to Stephen King’s 2000 self-publishing an e-book or Radiohead’s 2007 release of a download-only record without a label. To commemorate it, she tweeted the website’s confirmation under the hashtag #ASAPbio, a newly coined rallying cry of a cadre of biologists who say they want to speed science by making a key change in the way it is published.

For most of the history of organized scientific research, the limitations of technology made print journals the chief means of disseminating scientific results. But some #ASAPbio advocates argue that since the rise of the Internet, biologists have been abdicating their duty to the public – which pays for most academic research – by not sharing results as quickly and openly as possible. Unlike physicists, for whom preprints became a default method of communicating discoveries in the 1990s, biomedical researchers typically wait more than six months to disseminate their work while they submit it – on an exclusive basis – to the most prestigious journal they think might accept it for publication. If, as is often the case, it is rejected, they try another journal. As a result, it can sometimes take years to publish a paper, which is then typically available for a time only to colleagues at major academic institutions whose libraries pay for subscriptions. And because science is in many ways a relay, with one scientist building on the published work of another, the communication delays almost certainly slow scientific progress.


Cybersecurity:

Motor Vehicles Increasingly Vulnerable to Remote Exploits

Vehicle hacking occurs when someone with a computer seeks to gain unauthorized access to vehicle systems for the purposes of retrieving driver data or manipulating vehicle functionality. While not all hacking incidents may result in a risk to safety – such as an attacker taking control of a vehicle – it is important that consumers take appropriate steps to minimize risk. Therefore, the FBI and NHTSA are warning the general public and manufacturers – of vehicles, vehicle components, and aftermarket devices – to maintain awareness of potential issues and cybersecurity threats related to connected vehicle technologies in modern vehicles.

Vulnerabilities may exist within a vehicle’s wireless communication functions, within a mobile device – such as a cellular phone or tablet connected to the vehicle via USB, Bluetooth, or Wi-Fi – or within a third-party device connected through a vehicle diagnostic port. In these cases, it may be
possible for an attacker to remotely exploit these vulnerabilities and gain access to the vehicle’s controller network or to data stored on the vehicle. Although vulnerabilities may not always result in an attacker being able to access all parts of the system, the safety risk to consumers could increase significantly if the access involves the ability to manipulate critical vehicle control systems.


Internet Access:

What does it mean to #ConnectALL?

Last Wednesday, the White House announced the #ConnectALL initiative and a goal to connect 20 million more people to broadband by 2020. That’s right – 20 million! According to the Pew Research Center, only about 67 percent of Americans have home broadband access, or roughly 80 percent when factoring in access via smartphones. Cost is the major reason most people do not have broadband connections, and, in fact, less than half of families with incomes below $25,000 have broadband service.

So, national policymakers MUST address the cost barrier. Fortunately, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is in the thick of considering new rules for the Lifeline program, which was created during the Reagan Administration to subsidize telephone service for low-income Americans. Approximately 10 percent of American households participate in the program, and voice telephone service is now nearly universal. As FCC Commissioners Tom Wheeler and Mignon Clyburn called out in their blog this week, broadband is a lifeline for the 21st century. Key provisions include:

– Ability to apply the $9.25 per month support to stand-alone broadband (as well as bundled voice and data, and mobile voice through 2019);

– Minimum standards starting with 10/1Mbps fixed broadband speeds, minimum monthly fixed broadband data allowance of 150GB, 500 megabits of 3G data for mobile broadband to start, and unlimited minutes for mobile voice;

– New category of service providers called Lifeline Broadband Providers;

– National Eligibility Verifier to determine eligibility


Libraries:

Restoring the world’s oldest library

The ancient al-Qarawiyyin Library in Fez isn’t just the oldest library in Africa. Founded in 859, it’s the oldest working library in the world, holding ancient manuscripts that date as far back as 12 centuries. But modern life had taken a toll on the library, with its buildings falling into disrepair. That’s why in 2012, the Moroccan Ministry of Culture asked TED Fellow and architect Aziza Chaouni to rehabilitate the library so that it can reopen to the general public. She describes the challenges inherent in undertaking a daunting, historic project. (Spoiler alert: she was successful; the library reopens in May 2016!)

First, some history. The al-Qarawiyyin Library was created by a woman, challenging commonly held assumptions about the contribution of women in Muslim civilization. The al-Qarawiyyin, which includes a mosque, library, and university, was founded by Fatima El-Fihriya, the daughter of a rich immigrant from al-Qayrawan (Tunisia today). Well educated and devout, she vowed to spend her entire inheritance on building a mosque and knowledge center for her community. According to UNESCO, the result is the oldest operational educational institution in the world.

Restoring the ancient library while trying to respect its authenticity posed its own problems. For instance, how to find similar material to match missing or broken pieces of ancient zellige (mosaic) or cracked wooden railings and ceiling beams? Cleaning delicate plaster carvings without breaking them was hard, too. And the project was full of surprises: “One of the

Public Policy:

FOIA Bill Passes Senate; House Bill Already Passed; Need to Reconcile Best Parts of Both

Proving again that the Freedom of Information Act may be the last bastion of bipartisanship in Washington DC, Senators Patrick Leahy, John Cornyn, and Chuck Grassley today marked Sunshine Week by passing the FOIA Improvement Act of 2016 (S. 337)– via Unanimous Consent – an extremely tricky task. To pass the bill via UC, the senators amended the bill that passed out of the Judiciary Committee to make it slightly less strong than the bill that the Senate passed last session. The section on Exemption Five reform was changed so that the 25-year sunset now only applies to the “Deliberative Process” privilege of Exemption Five (which covers drafts, and communications including emails and memos); the Attorney Client privilege and Attorney Work Product Privileges have been removed. The Presidential Records Act forbids the use of any Exemption Five privilege beginning twelve years after the president leaves office.

While it was disappointing to see Exemption Five reform weakened from the reform that passed in 2014, the most egregious abuses will still be sunset (like the CIA’s withholding of its Bay of Pigs History); and the codification of the presumption of openness will apply to the Attorney Client and Work Product privileges so if agencies follow the law (or are sued) more of that type of information will also be released.


———

Client privilege and Attorney Work Product Privileges have

communications including emails and memos); the Attorney

privilege of Exemption Five (which covers drafts, and

communications including emails and memos); the Attorney

Client privilege and Attorney Work Product Privileges have

been removed. The Presidential Records Act forbids the use of

any Exemption Five privilege beginning twelve years after the

president leaves office.

While it was disappointing to see Exemption Five reform

weakened from the reform that passed in 2014, the most

egregious abuses will still be sunset (like the CIA's withholding

of its Bay of Pigs History); and the codification of the

presumption of openness will apply to the Attorney Client and

Work Product privileges so if agencies follow the law (or are

sued) more of that type of information will also be released.


———

Restoring the ancient library while trying to respect its

authenticity posed its own problems. For instance, how to find

similar material to match missing or broken pieces of ancient

zellige (mosaic) or cracked wooden railings and ceiling beams?

Cleaning delicate plaster carvings without breaking them was

hard, too. And the project was full of surprises: “One of the

———

Public Policy:

FOIA Bill Passes Senate; House Bill Already Passed; Need to Reconcile Best Parts of Both

Proving again that the Freedom of Information Act may be the

last bastion of bipartisanship in Washington DC, Senators

Patrick Leahy, John Cornyn, and Chuck Grassley today marked

Sunshine Week by passing the FOIA Improvement Act of 2016

(S. 337)– via Unanimous Consent – an extremely tricky task.

To pass the bill via UC, the senators amended the bill that

passed out of the Judiciary Committee to make it slightly less

strong than the bill that the Senate passed last session. The

section on Exemption Five reform was changed so that the 25-

year sunset now only applies to the “Deliberative Process”

privilege of Exemption Five (which covers drafts, and

communications including emails and memos); the Attorney

Client privilege and Attorney Work Product Privileges have

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Work Product privileges so if agencies follow the law (or are

sued) more of that type of information will also be released.


———
startling aspects about restoring a building this old is that you never know what’s behind a wall. You could scrap it and find a painting, take out the painting and find a door – and so on. We discovered some unexpected things, especially underground, such as a centuries-old sewage system.”
http://ideas.ted.com/restoring-the-worlds-oldest-library/.

Digital History:

5 facts about Twitter at age 10
The very first Twitter message was sent on March 21, 2006. The microblogging platform was then known as twttr – the vowels came later, after the founders bought the twitter.com domain name. It spent its first few months as an internal messaging system for Odeo, the company that developed it, then was opened to the general public in July 2006. Today, millions of people around the world use Twitter to break and comment on news, disseminate official pronouncements, organize campaigns and protests, or just let their friends know what’s on their minds. Here are five facts about Twitter at age 10:
1. Twitter’s user base has grown rapidly but may be plateauing.
2. Twitter is largely a global service: Twitter has nearly four times as many users internationally as in the United States.
3. There are six basic types of Twitter conversations. A 2014 report by Pew Research Center that analyzed thousands of conversations on Twitter found that they tended to fall into one of six “archetypes.”
4. The Twitterverse doesn’t always mirror the real world. Nearly two-thirds (63%) of U.S. Twitter users get news via the service, but the reaction on Twitter to major political events and policy decisions often differs considerably from general public opinion.
5. Twitter can be a valuable tool in helping to deal with emergencies. A 2012 Pew Research Center study found that Twitter was a critical lifeline when Hurricane Sandy devastated wide swaths of the East Coast in October of that year.
http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2016/03/18/5-facts-about-twitter-at-age-10/.

Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety; attribution appreciated.
The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.

Jobline 2016/03/20

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2016/03/jobline-20160320/ March 20, 2016 Categories: Jobline

Investment Banking Research Center, Long Term
Temporary Position
New York City, Mon – Fri

Provide reference and research in a high volume business library to bankers and executives worldwide covering all major industries.

- Provide high-quality, professional client service
- Requires mastery of database search methods & excellent judgment of information quality
- Mastery of business & financial databases including Factset, Bloomberg, Dealogic, SDC, Factiva, Edgar, Thomson, Alacra, SNL, Profound
- Knowledge of Microsoft Office
- Excellent communication skills
- Ability to work in a fast-paced, deadline driven environment, prioritizing multiple projects

Education:

- Bachelors degree from accredited university
- Masters degree in Library & Information Science desirable

For consideration, please email cover letter, resume and references to:
Angela Dzikowski, Pro Libra Associates
800-262-0070 adzikowski@prolibra.com

When applying, please mention that you found this position listing on SLA SV/SF Jobline. Thank you!

2016 Conference Travel Stipend Award
The Special Libraries Association San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, in conjunction with Annual Reviews, is very pleased to support member travel to the 2016 SLA Annual Conference in Philadelphia, June 11-14 by offering a $1500 travel stipend.

The stipend is intended to defray expenses but may not be sufficient to meet all expenses of attendance. Only actual eligible expenses up to and not exceeding the stipend amount will be reimbursed. The applicant must be a current member of SLA and of the San Francisco Bay Region Chapter. Current San Francisco Bay Region Chapter Executive Board members are not eligible.

This award may be granted to a member of the chapter who demonstrates interest in and involvement with the SLA organization and particularly the SF Bay Region chapter to support them in attending the SLA Annual Conference. This award has been updated to cover more of the costs of conference attendance. This year the award will be offered to all members.

Award

One awardee will be granted a stipend of up to $1500 to cover costs associated with attending the SLA Annual Conference. Those costs are understood to include conference registration, airfare, and hotel. The Board will consider other expenses with written documentation. Awardee will be granted the stipend on award, but will be required to document relevant expenses with receipts, per the post-award requirements. The awardee will be required to return the stipend in the event they are unable to attend the conference or fulfill any of the post-award requirements.

Application

Applicants must complete the SF Bay Region Chapter Conference Travel Stipend Application.

Applicant must include their résumé and an essay of approximately 500 words describing the applicant’s:

- List of offices held and/or volunteer service to the chapter performed. Essay should include detailed descriptions of volunteer work with the Chapter
- Reasons for wanting to attend the SLA Annual Conference
- Expectations for professional advancement related to attending.

Applications must be received by April 15th, 2016 for review by the Awards Committee, which is chaired by the chapter’s Past President, Jaye Lapachet. The committee will recommend an awardee to the President, and the President will select an awardee no later than April 29th.

Eligibility

Applicants must be:

- a member in good standing of the SF Bay Region chapter
- be able to attend the conference in the year in which they are applying (June 2016)
- be willing to complete the post-award requirements detailed below
- and must not have received the award in a past year.

Current chapter Board members are not eligible.

Post-Award Requirements

1. At the conference, the awardee will be required to attend the Western States Chapters reception, where they will be recognized for their award
2. Within one month of the close of the conference, awardees will submit receipts documenting their conference-related expenses to the Treasurer. Expenses submitted after this date will not be reimbursed
3. Within one month of the close of the conference, awardees will write a brief article (approximately 1,000 words) on the conference experience for the chapter newsletter, Bayline and submit it to the Bayline editor.
4. In the year following their award, the awardee will be required to serve on the Awards Committee, and assist in selecting the following year’s winner.

Annual Reviews

The 2016 Conference Travel Stipend is generously sponsored by Annual Reviews

The leadership and membership of the chapter thank Annual Reviews for their generosity and continued support.
Please register to attend the 2016 Western States Chapter Reception in Philadelphia


Although the reception remains free to members of the participating chapters, this year the reception is a Ticketed Event. Please include a ticket to the 2016 Western States Chapter Reception when registering for the annual conference in Philadelphia! If you have already registered for the conference, please log-in to your account and add this event.

This year’s reception is hosted by the San Francisco Bay Region Chapter along with the Arizona, Oregon, Pacific Northwest, Rocky Mountain, San Diego, Sierra Nevada, Silicon Valley and Southern California Chapters. Join us at Philadelphia’s best authentic German restaurant and beer hall!

Brauhaus Schmitz (1 mile from the convention center)
718 South Street
Philadelphia, PA 19147

Philadelphia magazine has honored Brauhaus Schmitz with three “Best of” titles in their annual “Best of Philly” issues, and The Philadelphia Inquirer’s Craig LaBan wrote that “[Brauhaus Schmitz delivers] the satisfaction of Philly’s German tradition come alive again.”

Hors d’oeuvres will be served (including gluten-free, vegetarian, and vegan options), and attendees will receive 2 drink tickets for beer, cider, wine, or mixed drinks.

Members of participating Western States chapters are free; non-members are welcome for $10.00.

Please remember to add this event to your conference registration. This will serve as your RSVP for the reception and will assist the reception planners in procuring the appropriate amount of ingestibles.

The event registration for members looks like this:

We are extremely grateful to our generous sponsors who have made this event possible!

Gold Level
IOP Publishing
Zubal Books

Principal Level
IEEE

Lead Level
EBSCO

Supporter Level
Geographic Research
SPIE Digital Library

We would love to have you join us!

Thank you!
Anne Barker (SFBR) and the 2016 WSCR Team

Intersect Alert March 27, 2016


Intellectual Property:

Cybersquatting Cases Up in 2015, Driven by New gTLDs

Amid the roll-out of hundreds of new generic Top-Level Domains (gTLDs) such as .GURU, .NINJA and .NYC, trademark owners filed 2,754 cases under the Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy (UDRP) with WIPO in 2015, an increase of 4.6% over the previous year. Cybersquatting disputes relating to new gTLDs accounted for 10.5% of WIPO’s UDRP caseload in 2015, which covered a total of 4,364 domain names. Among these names, .XYZ, .CLUB and .EMAIL were the most common new gTLDs.

WIPO Director General Francis Gurry said: “As brand owners face the possibility of further abuse of their trademarks in domains – both old and new – they continue to rely on WIPO’s cybersquatting dispute resolution procedures. By combating opportunistic domain name registration practices, WIPO’s
services help consumers to find authentic web content and
enhance the reliability of the Domain Name System.” Country
code Top-Level Domains (ccTLDs) accounted for 13.7% of all
filings with WIPO in 2015, with 71 national domain registries
designating this WIPO dispute resolution service. WIPO
UDRP cases in 2015 involved parties from 113 countries. The
U.S., with 847 cases filed, was the first-ranked WIPO filing
country, followed by France (337), Germany (272), the U.K.
(229) and Switzerland (169). The top three sectors of
complainant activity were fashion (10% of all cases), banking
and finance (9%), and Internet and IT (9%).
http://www.wipo.int/pressroom/en/articles
/2016/article_0003.html.

Open Data:

House Rules Committee to release data in XML format
The House Rules Committee took a big step for open and
accountable government today: House Rules Chairman Pete
Sessions, R-Texas, announced that the committee would
publish the text of the House Rules and eventually other related
documents in an easy-to-use and analyze XML format that will
be available for download on Github. “Technology plays an
important role in our daily lives, and it is necessary that the
House keep up with the most efficient and effective ways to
provide information about Congressional activities,” said
Sessions in the announcement.
Releasing the rules as data as opposed to hard-to-parse PDF
documents will allow organizations like the Sunlight
Foundation the ability to integrate this data into our tools, track
changes to the rules and educate the public about vital
functions of our democracy. The Rules Committee plays an
essential role how the House functions and conducts its
business by managing the business of the House floor (like
which bills get a vote and when) on behalf of the House
speaker.
http://sunlightfoundation.com/blog/2016/03/23/house-rules-
committee-to-release-data-in-xml-format/.

Freedom of Information:

Access to Government Information in the United States: A
Primer
This report offers an introduction to the four access laws and
provides citations to additional
resources related to these statutes. This report includes
statistics on the use of FOIA and FACA
and on litigation related to FOIA. The 114th Congress may
have an interest in overseeing the
implementation of these laws or may consider amending the
laws. In addition, this report
provides some examples of the methods Congress, the
President, and the courts have employed to
provide or require the provision of information to one another.
This report is a primer on
information access in the U.S. federal government and provides
a list of resources related to
transparency, secrecy, access, and nondisclosure.

Public Policy:

New international research reinforces the link between
public policy and life expectancy
While average life expectancy has been rising steadily in most
countries over the past century, new research led by the Centre
for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) shows that life
expectancy declined significantly and rapidly in three countries
where policy changes increased access to prescription opioids,
alcohol or illicit drugs. Published in BMC Medicine, the study
underscores the need for effective substance use policies and
public health interventions, and provides key principles to
guide policy decisions.
“Our study shows that failed substance use policies can reverse
life expectancy trends for large population groups or even
countries,” says Dr. Jürgen Rehm, Director of Social and
Epidemiological Research at CAMH and first author of the
study. “On the other hand, we also observed that effective
policy changes are associated with substantial gains in life
expectancy.”
The researchers investigated marked changes in life expectancy
linked to substance use and related policies in three countries:
the U.S., the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
(USSR) and Mexico. In the U.S., prescription opioids are used
in larger quantities than in any other country. Usage started
increasing rapidly in the mid-1990s, partly as a result of
allowing family doctors to prescribe short-acting opioids such
as oxycodone for chronic pain and other relatively common
diseases. Non-medical use of these substances and associated
harms, including overdose deaths, increased alongside
prescription use. From 1999 to 2013, mortality increased by
nine per cent in middle-aged white non-Hispanic Americans,
despite life expectancy continuing to rise among other U.S.
populations, including Hispanic and black non-Hispanic
populations.
type=user&func=display&sid=40787.

Privacy Issues:
Senator Markey Proposes Drones Privacy-Enhancing Amendments to FAA Reauthorization Act
The Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee will mark up the Federal Aviation Administration Reauthorization Act of 2016 (S. 2658) this Wednesday (March 16th). The bill includes a number of provisions designed to accelerate commercial and government use of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) – “drones” – as well as provisions outlining UAS data privacy requirements. Senator Markey has proposed various privacy-enhancing amendments to the bill that we hope the Committee will give particular attention during Wednesday’s mark up.
In addition to giving the agency rulemaking authority to create UAS data privacy rules, Markey’s amendments would mandate the creation of an “easily searchable online database” of government and commercial UAS operators. The existing reauthorization bill also mandates creation of a database; however, the bill does not require an operator to be listed in the database if inclusion would interfere with “national security, homeland defense, or law enforcement.” This exemption is far too broad and could exclude the majority of (if not all) government UAS operators. Sen. Markey’s amendments more appropriately scope the exemption; the database requirement would not apply to situations involving immediate danger of death, serious physical injury, or “activities threatening the national security interest” (although we should note that “national security interest” could be broadly interpreted as well). Markey’s amendments would also require a more complete UAS profile to be included in the database.


India’s Billion-Member Biometric Database Raises Privacy Fears
India’s parliament is set to pass legislation that gives federal agencies access to the world’s biggest biometric database in the interests of national security, raising fears the privacy of a billion people could be compromised. The move comes as the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) cracks down on student protests and pushes a Hindu nationalist agenda in state elections, steps that some say erode India’s traditions of tolerance and free speech, reports Reuters. It could also usher in surveillance far more intrusive than the U.S. telephone and Internet spying revealed by former National Security Agency (NSA) contractor Edward Snowden in 2013, some privacy advocates said.

The Aadhaar database scheme, started seven years ago, was set up to streamline payment of benefits and cut down on massive wastage and fraud, and already nearly a billion people have registered their finger prints and iris signatures. Now the BJP, which inherited the scheme, wants to pass new provisions including those on national security, using a loophole to bypass the opposition in parliament. “It has been showcased as a tool exclusively meant for disbursement of subsidies and we do not realize that it can also be used for mass surveillance,” said Tathagata Satpathy, a lawmaker from the eastern state of Odisha. “Can the government … assure us that this Aadhaar card and the data that will be collected under it – biometric, biological, iris scan, finger print, everything put together – will not be misused as has been done by the NSA in the U.S.?”

http://worldhappiness.report/ed/2016/

International Outlook:

World Happiness Report Update 2016
The World Happiness Report 2016 Update, which ranks 156 countries by their happiness levels, was released in Rome in advance of UN World Happiness Day, March 20th. The widespread interest in the World Happiness Reports, of which this is the fourth, reflects growing global interest in using happiness and subjective well-being as primary indicators of the quality of human development. Because of this growing interest, many governments, communities and organizations are using happiness data, and the results of subjective well-being research, to enable policies that support better lives. This year, for the first time, the World Happiness Report gives a special role to the measurement and consequences of inequality in the distribution of well-being among countries and regions. In previous reports the editors have argued that happiness provides a better indicator of human welfare than do income, poverty, education, health and good government measured separately. In a parallel way, they now argue that the inequality of well-being provides a broader measure of inequality. They find that people are happier living in societies where there is less inequality of happiness. They also find that happiness inequality has increased significantly (comparing 2012-2015 to 2005-2011) in most countries, in almost all global regions, and for the population of the world as a whole. http://worldhappiness.report/ed/2016/.

Libraries:

The libraries of Herculaneum: Not quite destroyed by Mt. Vesuvius?
It may require a particle accelerator, X-ray vision, and a highly toxic metal, but researchers believe they could soon be reading from the libraries of Herculaneum, an ancient Roman town destroyed by a volcano to the benefit of archaeology. Scientists have discovered that ancient scholars in the town which, along with its more-famous neighbor, Pompeii, was destroyed by the volcanic eruption of Mt. Vesuvius used a lead-based paint, which they may be able to read using X-ray technology. Archaeologists found about 800 ancient papyrus scrolls when they began digging through a private library, dubbed the “Villa of the Papyri,” in Herculaneum in 1752, but 200 remain too
delicate even to open. Discovering lead among the ink’s components surprised physicist Vito Mocella of the Italian National Research Council and his colleagues, who published their findings in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. 

Internet Access:

Thousands Support Expanding Lifeline to Broadband in Petitions Submitted to FCC

Today, Public Knowledge joined MAG-Net, Communications Workers of America, Color of Change, and OC Inc. in submitting more than 20,000 signatures to the Federal Communications Commission urging the agency to expand its low-income phone subsidy program, Lifeline, to broadband Internet. The petitions will be added to the public record, which the Commissioners will consider before they vote on the Lifeline modernization proposal at the March 31 Open Meeting. Public Knowledge supports modernizing Lifeline to include broadband Internet as the new essential communications tool for the 21st century.

“30 years after the introduction of Lifeline, the addition of broadband access is a clear next step for the Lifeline program. Americans increasingly rely on broadband Internet for education, employment, health care, news and information, access to government and social services, commerce, and basic communications. However, for many Americans, broadband is simply not affordable. Modernizing the Lifeline program to include broadband Internet access will help millions of Americans stay connected, further closing the digital divide and supporting a thriving American economy. We look forward to the Commission’s decision on its Lifeline modernization proposal.”

Brewster Kahle to Speak at Joint Chapters Meeting on May 1

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2016/04/brewster-kahle-to-speak-at-joint-chapters-meeting-on-may-1/ April 1, 2016 Categories: Bayline, Chapter Programs & Events Tags: events, librarians

Silicon Valley and San Francisco Special Library Association Chapters would like to present:

An evening with Brewster Kahle from the Internet Archive

Sunday, May 1st 5:30pm–8:00pm at Valut 164 in San Mateo

Register Online: surveymonkey

Brewster Kahle, Digital Librarian and Founder of the Internet Archive, has been working to provide universal access to all knowledge for more than twenty-five years.

Since the mid-1980s, Kahle has focused on developing technologies for information discovery and digital libraries. In 1989 Kahle invented the Internet’s first publishing system, WAIS (Wide Area Information Server) system and in 1989, founded WAIS Inc., a pioneering electronic publishing company that was sold to America Online in 1995. In 1996, Kahle founded the Internet Archive which may be the largest digital library. At the same time, he co-founded Alexa Internet which helps catalog the Web in April 1996, which was sold to Amazon.com in 1999.

Kahle earned a B.S. from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in 1982. As a student, he studied artificial intelligence with W. Daniel Hillis and Marvin Minsky. In 1983, Kahle helped start Thinking Machines, a parallel supercomputer maker, serving there as a lead engineer for six years. He serves on the boards of the Electronic Frontier Foundation, Public Knowledge, the European Archive, the Television Archive, and the Internet Archive.

Schedule
5:30 – 6:30 Registration, networking and dinner
6:30 – 7:00 SLA-SF announcements
7:00 – 8:00 Program with Q&A following

Registration fee
– $35 for SLA members
– $50 for Non-member
– $20 SLA Student Members

Where: Vault 164

Directions: B Street at 2nd Street in San Mateo. Vault 164 is only a couple of blocks southwest from the San Mateo Caltrain stop. A block from Philz Coffee.

Deadline for registration: April 22nd
This Month in Bayline: March 2016

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2016/04/this-month-in-bayline-march-2016/ April 2, 2016 Categories: Bayline, Chapter Programs & Events Tags: events

Before I begin with my recap I have some sad news for all of you…I’m terrible with April Fools jokes. I mean, I’m late for it, aren’t I? Foolery aside, let’s get to the news!

- Intersect never lets up with library news. A fan filmmaker’s lawyer speaking out, and biologists bypassing journals by publishing directly to the Internet? These stories are absolutely worth a look.
- The SLA Board of Directors have been having webchat Q&As, which I summarized for your convenience. I’m wanting this to be a regular thing, but be aware that writing a recap’s busy work!

Don’t be fooled, April readers, this is still a lot of content, and I’m looking to add more. May the next month be better!

Intersect Alert April 4, 2016

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2016/04/intersect-alert-april-4-2016/ April 4, 2016 Categories: Intersect Alert Tags: libraries, open data

Copyright

This Student Put 50 Million Stolen Research Articles Online. And They’re Free.

“Alexandra Elbakyan is a highbrow pirate in hiding.”

“The 27-year-old graduate student from Kazakhstan is operating a searchable online database of nearly 50 million stolen scholarly journal articles, shattering the $10 billion-per-year paywall of academic publishers.”

“Elbakyan has kept herself beyond the reach of a federal judge who late last year issued an injunction against her site, noting that damages could total $150,000 per article — a sum that Applied and Computational Harmonic Analysis, a journal in her database, could help calculate. But she is not hiding from responsibility.”

https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/this-student-put-50-million-stolen-research-articles-online-and-theyre-free/2016/03/30/7714ffb4-eaf7-11e5-b0fd-073d5930a7b7_story.html

Open Data

OpenGov Voices: ‘Open Independence’ Brings a Wealth of

Data to Missourians

“In June of 2013, Independence, Mo., launched its open data portal, Open Independence. At that time, the goal for Open Independence was to take data that could already be found on the city’s website and provide it in several standardized formats. Website visitors could already search for information like building permits, business licenses and restaurant violations, but there wasn’t an easy way to access any of these datasets in their entirety. Implementing Open Independence provided a centralized location for Independence to begin publishing entire datasets. Currently most of our datasets can be viewed in a web page, downloaded as a csv, or accessed as a RESTful service.”

“Not long after we launched Open Independence, I was contacted by a local developer wanting to develop a Windows app that made use of the restaurant inspection violation dataset. This developer kept me updated with his project. I was excited to see our data being used so quickly after its launch. I have also seen several instances where city staff has made use of the data published on Open Independence because it is so easy to access and analyze.”

http://sunlightfoundation.com/blog/2016/03/31/opengov-voices-open-independence-brings-a-wealth-of-data-to-missourians/

OpenGov Voices: With Bellevue’s Data, It’s Quality Over
Quantity

“When the city of Bellevue, Wash., launched its open data portal last month, it made a conscious effort to present targeted datasets that would be useful to residents.”

“And, thanks to the ongoing transparency initiative, visitors to the portal can find datasets that help illuminate Bellevue’s economy, neighborhoods, public safety, budget and efforts to be green, among other things.”

Research

Senators Seek Better Conflict Disclosures for Scientific Articles

“Citing the Center for Public Integrity’s recent ‘Science for Sale’ series, a group of U.S. senators has asked the National Institutes of Health to make it easier to tell who funds research published in scientific journals.”

“Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Connecticut, on Wednesday released a letter sent to NIH Director Francis Collins asking that the National Library of Medicine make changes to its public database of 25 million journal articles, called PubMed, to reveal conflicts of interest in research.”

Libraries

Library of Congress to Cancel the Subject Heading “Illegal Aliens”

“In response to constituent requests, the Policy and Standards Division of the Library of Congress, which maintains Library of Congress Subject Headings, has investigated the possibility of cancelling or revising the heading Illegal aliens. PSD also explored the possibility of revising the broader term Aliens. It concluded that the meaning of Aliens is often misunderstood and should be revised to Noncitizens, and that the phrase illegal aliens has become pejorative. The heading Illegal aliens will therefore be cancelled and replaced by two headings, Noncitizens and Unauthorized immigration, which may be assigned together to describe resources about people who illegally reside in a country.”

“Other headings that include the word aliens or the phrase illegal aliens (e.g., Church work with aliens; Children of illegal aliens) will also be revised. All of the revisions will appear on a Tentative List and be approved no earlier than May 2016; the revision of existing bibliographic records will commence shortly thereafter.”

Photographers’ Identities Catalog

“Photographers’ Identities Catalog (PIC) is an experimental interface to a collection of biographical data describing photographers, studios, manufacturers, and others involved in the production of photographic images. Consisting of names, nationalities, dates, locations and more, PIC is a vast and growing resource for the historian, student, genealogist, or any lover of photography’s history. The information has been culled from trusted biographical dictionaries, catalogs and databases, and from extensive original research by NYPL Photography Collection staff.”

Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety; attribution appreciated.

The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association

Intersect Alert April 11, 2016

Knowledge Management

Transitioning from XML to RDF: Considerations For an Effective Move Towards Linked Data and the Semantic Web

Abstract

“Metadata, particularly within the academic library setting, is often expressed in eXtensible Markup Language (XML) and managed with XML tools, technologies, and workflows. Managing a library’s metadata currently takes on a greater level of complexity as libraries are increasingly adopting the Resource Description Framework (RDF). Semantic Web initiatives are surfacing in the library context with experiments in publishing metadata as Linked Data sets and also with development efforts such as BIBFRAME and the Fedora 4 Digital Repository incorporating RDF. Use cases show that transitions into RDF are occurring in both XML standards and in libraries with metadata encoded in XML. It is vital to understand that transitioning from XML to RDF requires a shift in perspective from replicating structures in XML to defining meaningful relationships in RDF. Establishing coordination and communication among these efforts will help as more libraries move to use RDF, produce Linked Data, and approach the Semantic Web.”

Click Here to Read the Paper

Databases

UBC Library Digital Collections

“UBC Library’s Digital Collections consist of locally-created digital collections developed and maintained by the Library. Collectively they document a diverse range of people and places, activities and events, and serve as a resource for students, historians, genealogists, and other researchers. Most of this content has been digitized from material held at the Library.”

Click Here to Explore 185,750 Unique Digital Objects

MIT’s New Visualization Tool is a Goldmine for Data Nerds

“Love impressing your pals with all there is to know about computer science? Or perhaps state geography is more your thing?”

“MIT Media Lab, in partnership with Deloitte and the data visualization startup Datawheel, has just gone live with perhaps the most extensive tool ever created for mining and visualizing US government open data, called Data USA.”

“April 5, 2016 — The New York Public Library (NYPL) and The Moth — both curators of rich and dynamic personal storytelling archives — today are launching Together We Listen, a joint project designed to make personal storytelling archives more accessible online.”
“Today, thousands of libraries and public media organizations publish large digital audio collections online. Most of these, however, lack transcripts or basic metadata, rendering them invisible to search engines and inaccessible to prospective users — particularly for those who are deaf or hard of hearing. To address these challenges, NYPL and The Moth were awarded a Knight Foundation Prototype grant in late 2015 to explore the intersection of automated transcription technologies and Crowdsourced editing. The two organizations sent hundreds of hours of audio — more than 600 stories recorded during live Moth events from around the world, and a thousand stories from NYPL’s Community Oral History Project — through Pop Up Archive, an Oakland-based speech-to-text service that works extensively with the public media and cultural heritage sectors. The computer-generated transcripts, which are comprehensive, but filled with errors, are presented to the public for a final proofreading stage.”

Click Here to Read to More

“Now a growing group of life scientists are working to change that, by committing the somewhat-rebellious act of uploading their papers directly to an open-access pre-print site, called bioRxiv, before submitting them to the mainstream journals, as Amy Harmon reports for The New York Times. That means their work is now available for anyone to read and comment on for free.”

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Conference Travel Stipend – Last Chance!


The Special Libraries Association San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, in conjunction with Annual Reviews, is very pleased to support member travel to the 2016 SLA Annual Conference in Philadelphia, June 11-14 by offering a $1500 travel stipend. To date no applications have been received, so YOU can be the proud recipient of an award with some effort at the application.

The stipend is intended to defray expenses but may not be sufficient to meet all expenses of attendance. Only actual eligible expenses up to and not exceeding the stipend amount will be reimbursed. The applicant must be a current member of SLA and of the San Francisco Bay Region Chapter. Current San Francisco Bay Region Chapter Executive Board members are not eligible.

This award may be granted to a member of the chapter who demonstrates interest in and involvement with the SLA organization and particularly the SF Bay Region chapter to support them in attending the SLA Annual Conference. This award has been updated to cover more of the costs of conference attendance. This year the award will be offered to all members.

Award

One awardee will be granted a stipend of up to $1500 to cover costs associated with attending the SLA Annual Conference. Those costs are understood to include conference registration, airfare, and hotel. The Board will consider other expenses with written documentation. Awardee will be granted the stipend on award, but will be required to document relevant expenses with receipts, per the post-award requirements. The awardee will be required to return the stipend in the event they are unable to attend the conference or fulfill any of the post-award requirements.

Application

Applicants must complete the SF Bay Region Chapter Conference Travel Stipend Application.

Applicant must include their résumé and an essay of approximately 500 words describing the applicant’s:

- List of offices held and/or volunteer service to the chapter performed. Essay should include detailed
descriptions of volunteer work with the Chapter
• Reasons for wanting to attend the SLA Annual Conference
• Expectations for professional advancement related to attending.

Applications must be received by April 15th, 2016 for review by the Awards Committee, which is chaired by the chapter’s Past President, Jaye Lapachet. The committee will recommend an awardee to the President, and the President will select an awardee no later than April 29th.

Eligibility

Applicants must be:

- a member in good standing of the SF Bay Region chapter
- be able to attend the conference in the year in which they are applying (June 2016)
- be willing to complete the post-award requirements detailed below
- and must not have received the award in a past year.

Current chapter Board members are not eligible.

Post-Award Requirements

1. At the conference, the awardee will be required to attend the Western States Chapters reception, where they will be recognized for their award
2. Within one month of the close of the conference, awardees will submit receipts documenting their conference-related expenses to the Treasurer. Expenses submitted after this date will not be reimbursed
3. Within one month of the close of the conference, awardees will write a brief article (approximately 1,000 words) on the conference experience for the chapter newsletter, Bayline and submit it to the Bayline editor.
4. In the year following their award, the awardee will be required to serve on the Awards Committee, and assist in selecting the following year’s winner.

Annual Reviews

The 2016 Conference Travel Stipend is generously sponsored by Annual Reviews

The leadership and membership of the chapter thank Annual Reviews for their gen

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Intersect Alert April 18, 2016


April 18, 2016 Categories: Intersect Alert Tags: intellectual property, libraries, open data, research, technology

Directories

Local Food Directories: National Farmers Market Directory

“The Farmers Market Directory lists markets that feature two or more farm vendors selling agricultural products directly to customers at a common, recurrent physical location. Maintained by the Agricultural Marketing Service, the Directory is designed to provide customers with convenient access to information about farmers market listings to include: market locations, directions, operating times, product offerings, accepted forms of payment, and more.”

“Visit our Local Food Directories page to find other operations offering locally grown products. If you are a market manager visit our Local Food Directory Registration & Update page to add or update a market listing. An API is available for developers to integrate this data into other applications.”

Libraries

New Bill Will Require Library of Congress to Continue Use of ‘Illegal Alien’ in Subject Headings

“While the Library of Congress effectively scrubbed the terms “aliens” and ‘illegal aliens’ from its subject headings last month, legislation set to be introduced Wednesday could change that.”

“The short bill doesn’t require the Library of Congress to unequivocally use the phrases; rather it mandates that the research library ‘continue using the term ‘illegal alien’ just as
they were previously,’ Rep. Diane Black (R-Tenn.) told TheBlaze Tuesday.”

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Search

10 Big Changes With Search Engines Over My 20 Years of Covering Them

“Chances are, the first resource you turn to if you have a question about something is a search engine, whether it be Google, Siri, Bing, Yelp, others or a combination of services.”

“This simple act, that you likely don’t think twice about, was a highly revolutionary change to how people sought information. Before popular consumer-focused search engines emerged just over 20 years ago, people got answers the same way they had for hundreds and thousands of years: largely by asking other people.”

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Copyright

High Court Won’t Hear Copyright Challenge to Google Books

“The copyright dispute between the Authors Guild and Alphabet Inc.’s Google reached a conclusion Monday when the Supreme Court declined to intervene, leaving a federal appeals court ruling in Google’s favor as the last word.”

“The justices, in a brief written order, said they won’t take up an appeal by the Authors Guild and individual writers who argued Google engaged in copyright infringement ‘on an epic scale.’”

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Open Data

Congress to Consider Making Open Data the Default in Federal Government

“The arc of U.S. history is long, but it bends toward machine-readability. This morning, we saw positive signs on the long road to baking open data into the way the federal government functions and discloses information to the people it serves.”

“As soon as next week, the ‘Open, Permanent, Electronic, and Necessary (OPEN) Government Data Act’ will be introduced in Congress, providing a legislative vehicle to make the open data policy of the Obama administration into the law of the land. The bill — an early draft of which Federal News Radio obtained and published online last week — is a short, clear approach to ensuring that open data endures for generations to come.”

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Victorville’s New Open Data Policy Brings Transparency to the California Desert

“Earlier this month, the city of Victorville, Calif., became the latest What Works City to pass an open data policy. This step is a major reform for the city, which provides the structure for its government to become more transparent and efficient. Victorville joins Jackson, Miss., Kansas City, Mo., Mesa, Ariz., Waco, Texas, and San Jose as cities that have passed open data policies as part of the What Works Cities initiative (WWC).”

“Victorville’s participation in WWC and its subsequent adoption of San Bernardino County’s first open data policy has also elevated the dialogue for this high-desert city of just over 120,000. ‘It puts us in the mix with other cities … putting us on the map,’ Victorville City Manager Doug Robertson said. ‘We wanted to get back into a leadership position, not only in our region but in California as well.’ The open data program also functions as a way to tear down silos in city government and improve information sharing. ‘We’re looking forward to our own staff having access to information.”

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Libraries/Librarians

Key Ring Chronicles: Library Card

“I work at a small liberal arts college in the Midwest, in a town of less than 8,000 people. It’s the kind of place where it’s very easy to run into friends, colleagues, students, former lovers, and that guy who walks around town wearing fishing waders. All the local businesses know your face, which can be convenient when running a tab at the one town bar but is also kind of a nightmare for someone with overdue library books. That’s me.”

“I’ve always been an active library patron. When I moved here last summer, I cut out my public library card’s bar code and punched a hole in it so I could keep it on my key ring. In October, I checked out four books. I always meant to take them back but procrastinated reading them through the fall, over the winter holidays, and far into the spring. The unread books have become fixtures on my nightstand, small monuments to my shame. As of this writing they are overdue by 148 days. The late fees are 25 cents per day; multiplied by four books, that means I owe $148. I know, I know — why didn’t I just renew them?”

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Students’ Project Revolutionizes BYU Library Digitization

“Staff at the Harold B. Lee Library at Brigham Young University could scan special collections documents for eight hours a day with perfect efficiency and still not have all the documents digitized within 20 years. It’s a long process, but it used to be a lot longer.”

“MASS, the Mass Archival Scanning System, was created by a group of seven engineering students for their senior capstone project and sponsored by the library as a way to quicken the process of digitizing documents. The system will revolutionize the process, which previously consisted of scanning documents on a flatbed scanner and took one to two minutes to scan a single document. MASS, using a round, rotating table that places the documents under a camera, can do that work eight to 10 times faster.”

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Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety; attribution appreciated.

The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association

Share this:

List of 2016 Neighborhood Dinners

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2016/04/list-of-2016-neighborhood-dinners/ April 18, 2016 Categories: Bayline, Chapter Programs & Events Tags: events

Mission District, San Francisco

Monday, April 25 at 6:00 pm
HOST: Hilary Schiraldi

Hawker Fare
680 Valencia Street (between 17 & 18th Streets – walkable from 16 Street BART Station)

Please RSVP to Hilary Schiraldi, hschiral@library.berkeley.edu. I’ve reserved 8 seats, make sure you get one!

-Hilary

***

West Portal, San Francisco

Tuesday, April 26 at 7:00 pm
HOST: Jessica Neaves

I’m hosting a neighborhood dinner in San Francisco’s West Portal area at Orexi, a Greek and Mediterranean restaurant.

When: Tuesday, April 26, 7 pm

Where: Orexi Restaurant
243 West Portal Ave

http://www.orexisanfrancisco.com/

Guests are welcome, and we can have up to 8 people.

Please RSVP by Monday, April 24 to Jessica.neaves@comcast.net.

West Portal is easily accessible by the K, L, and M trains and 48 bus. There is parking available around the neighborhood.

I hope you can join me!

– Jessica

***

TriValley (Dublin, Livermore, Pleasanton, etc.)

Wednesday, April 27 at 6:30 pm
HOST: Rich Hunt

WHAT: TriValley Neighborhood Dinner
WHEN: Wednesday, April 27, 6:30 PM
WHERE: Eddie Papa’s American Hangout
4889 Hopyard Road
Pleasanton, CA 94588
http://eddiepapas.com

WHO: Rich Hunt is your host

WHY: because I can’t remember ever having one of these in the TriValley

RSVP: please RSVP by April 22. Email rhunt@llnl.gov to RSVP.

Spouse/SOs are welcome.
Eddie Papa’s is about 1 mile from the Pleasanton/Dublin BART station. I think that it’s walkable, but then again, I like to walk... Seriously, if you’re coming on BART, I’ll figure out a way to get you to/from the BART station.
I’m looking forward to our gathering.
Daly City
April 7
HOSTS: Jaye Lapachet and Craig Cruz

The Boulevard Cafe
2 Poncetta Drive, Daly City (walking distance from Daly City BART Station)
Thursday, April 7, meet between 6:30-7 in the cocktail lounge, dinner at 7

Hope to see you in Daly City! Craig Cruz and I will be, once again, hosting a Neighborhood Dinner at Boulevard Café in Daly City on 4/7/2015. Drinks at 6:30pm, dinner at 7:00. We can host about 12 people.

Dinner will be Dutch Treat, of course. Spouse/SoS are welcome.
Boulevard Café is within easy walking distance of Daly City BART. Bring a coat; the walk can be chilly.

If you would like to be the reporter, we would be thrilled!

We look forward to seeing you there!

A map of the location can be viewed here:
http://www.theboulevardcafe.com/location.html

RSVP by April 6 to craig.cruz.sf@gmail.com

Share this:

April 2016 President’s Message

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2016/04/april-2016-presidents-message/

Happy spring, SLA-SF! I wanted to remind you all of the wonderful events our Chapter has for you this spring and encourage you to sign up.

First of all, I hope you’re all planning to attend a neighborhood dinner. It’s a wonderful way to spend time with colleagues who live or work near you. The small group format and leisurely pace of conversation is great, even for those who sometimes feel overwhelmed by larger networking events. Hosts should feel free to extend these dinners into May.

Speaking of May, we definitely hope to see you at the annual joint meeting with Silicon Valley Chapter. This year we’ve got Brewster Kahle of the Internet Archive as our speaker. He’s one of our greatest thinkers on access to information and a truly inspiring speaker, so you won’t want to miss this event in San Mateo. Registration closes this Friday, April 22, so don’t wait!

Finally, for those of you who will be attending the annual conference in Philadelphia in June, don’t forget to add the Western States Chapters Reception at Brauhaus Schmitz to your registration. Although it’s a ticketed event, there is no cost to members of SLA-SF. If you’ve already registered but haven’t chosen this event, you can log in to your registration and add it now. I did it, and it only took a few moments.

These events happen thanks to the hard work of our Executive Board and Advisory Council, especially the Programs and Hospitality Chairs. I’m pleased to announce that Heather Heen, who has been Tours Coordinator for the past 2 years, has agreed to step in as Assistant Programs Chair. She’ll be joining Programs Chair Craig Cruz in planning events for the rest of this year, and she’ll serve as Programs Chair next year. Thank you, Heather!

Additionally, Academic Relations chair Grace Kim has agreed to chair the Hospitality committee. If you’d like to be part of the Hospitality Committee and help Grace track registrations, make nametags, and staff the check-in desk at our events, please let her know.

Sincerely,
Hilary Schiraldi
President, SLA-SF

Share this:
SENIOR INFORMATION SPECIALIST / FINANCIAL INDUSTRY
San Francisco, CA
Temp/contractor position with potential opportunity for FT hire
Schedule required: (Mon – Fri): (12pm – 8pm) or (11am -7pm)

Our client’s Research & Information Services are a new function and resource supporting their Investment banking teams. Their mission is to provide quality and comprehensive research and information services to front office teams in support of the banks’ strategic vision towards becoming a Top Tier Corporate and Investment Banking franchise.

Key Responsibilities of Information Specialist

• Strong ability to conduct and provide comprehensive business information quickly and effectively
• Ability to provide research including company and business information, industry and market profiles, deal analytics and financial data through the use of external resources and platforms
• Ability to work independently as needed
• To track workflow and request queue
• To assist on training to end-users/bankers
• To assist in market data management: renewal audits, usage tracking, invoice processing

Experience

• Previous experience (5+ years) as a research professional in a financial institution (or related); MLS preferred
• Strong understanding of banking and finance: capital markets and investment banking services/products
• Ability to manage time and multitask on research workflow and other responsibilities
• Excellent communication skills
• Must be a team player and ability to work independently
• Must be experienced and familiar with the following sources: (sources primarily but not exclusively as listed):
  * Bloomberg * Capital IQ * Dealogic – DCM Analytics
  * Dealogic – Loan Analytics * Dealogic – Strategy Manager

Please contact Angela Dzikowski at 800-262-0070
Email: adzikowski@prolibra.com
PRO LIBRA Associates, Inc.

When applying, please mention that you found this position listing on SLA SV/SF Jobline. Thank you!

The Job Seeker’s Toolkit: I Need A Library Job

Information professionals have a difficult time getting what library jobs there are, and entry-level people seem to struggle more. For this reason, I have decided to begin what my colleague Sandy Malloy calls the “Job Seeker’s Toolkit,” a blog series dedicated to providing resources and advice to people looking for a library job.

A good place to start this off is with the interesting and meaningful experience I had working for a site specifically about library jobs: INALJ

Introduction to INALJ

For people who want a library job, there’s a web site helpfully titled I Need A Library Job, (INALJ). The site provides a daily list of available library jobs by state. For job seekers wanting something more, INALJ provides lists of online resources by state (take a look at California), and the sidebar on the left provides keywords for job searching.

INALJ is a volunteer project run by Naomi House; a hard-working woman who herself experienced job seeking difficulties, so she knows the challenges.

Getting In
I got the idea that working for a site that listed library jobs would help me find one, and INALJ looked like just the place that could help, so I decided to volunteer there. I e-mailed the jobs department and asked what they wanted. It was a great relief when they told me they weren’t big on formality. They offered me all the options, so I opted for working as a Senior Assistant.

On The job

The job as Senior Assistant was simple: I was given two lists of 1-2 dozen sites each, one for Wednesdays and another for two other weekdays. My task was to browse each site for library jobs, pick them out, and enter the necessary information in a Word document: job title (hyperlinked), company, location, and application deadline. I formatted everything to look clean, then sent it the Senior Editor for California.

My duties took about an hour on each of my assigned days. Wednesdays almost always took a lot less time since I was focusing on government sites instead if Indeed and SimplyHired. After the two job boards were dropped from my list, all of my days from then on only took a half hour to go through my assigned list for the day.

From April until August, I sent in formatted job listings but also feedback on the keywords used for searching Indeed and SimplyHired. At early August, all volunteers became Content Editors, and the Senior Editor position was phased out. My duties remained unchanged, but there were numerous changes to formatting and reporting structures.

At the end of the December we were given the choice of continuing another year or moving on with no further obligation (or need to give notice!). Wanting to seek new experiences, and focus on furthering my career, I bid an amicable goodbye to INALJ.

So What Did I Learn?

Here’s some helpful for job-seekers.

- Job boards like SimplyHired and Indeed are the best places to find lots of jobs. However…
- While there are plenty of library jobs, even in or near San Francisco, they almost all require at least 1-3 years, and often more. Sadly, there are not very many entry-level library jobs.
- Outside of actual libraries, lot of jobs with “library” in the title focus on medical or financial records.
- Government sites practically have no library jobs or government agencies don’t have libraries or government library jobs are posted elsewhere.
- San Diego and Los Angeles have the best library job prospects.
- The more obscure and specialized keywords from the INALJ sidebar list (see above picture) turn up few or sometimes no results. That doesn’t mean they’re not worth a look, though.

Additional INALJ Resources

INALJ has more than just job listings:

- In addition to the job titles in the left sidebar (see picture above), there’s a more comprehensive list of job titles, as well as non-librarian jobs for LIS grads.
- For those wanting an insider’s perspective, INALJ has interviews with librarians whose personal experiences may be helpful. The interviews with Anastasia Chiu (regarding volunteering and job hunting) and Christy Tomecek (about working in Archives) are especially interesting!
- INALJ also has articles providing site updates, and advice. The article on self care is useful and bears reviewing frequently, as does the article on how not to impress a hiring manager.
- While not a resource, strictly speaking, volunteering for INALJ may be of help as well. You’ll learn all about the current environment for library jobs. The work takes only about an hour a day, for three days a week, and any time of the day you want. Best of all, the folks at INALJ are very relaxed. If you want a quick and educational data entry jobs, then helping out INALJ may be for you.

How was that for a first post? Was that helpful? How could it be better? Any other comments? By all means, let me know.

Intersect Alert May 1, 2016

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2016/05/intersect-alert-may-1-2016/

May 2, 2016 Categories: Intersect Alert Tags: freedom of information, intellectual property, libraries, privacy, publishing

22 Years Later, US Still Classifying “Bombshell” Plan to Pull Peacekeepers Out Before Rwanda Genocide

The tinderbox of Rwanda’s ethnic tensions ignited in April
1994 and mass violence engulfed the country in one of the swiftest campaigns of genocide in history. The National Security Archive’s Genocide Documentation Project’s collection of declassified documents on Rwanda numbers in the thousands, and includes an April 15, 1994, State Department cable on the U.S.’s decision to pull United Nations forces out of Rwanda; a fact still withheld by State Department redactors even though the information has been released by the Czech Republic, New Zealand, United Kingdom, and the United Nations and published on the Archive’s website. On April 20, 1994, the Advisor on African Affairs to French President Mitterrand, Bruno Delaye, stated, “There is nothing to say.” According to UNHCR, 100,000 Rwandans would be dead by the end of April and 800,000 would be displaced. The following day, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) reported that the fighting that started in central Rwanda at the beginning of the month had spread to the rest of the country. Tens of thousands were dead and hundreds of thousands had fled their homes. However, a plan by the U.S. and the UN to reduce and eventually withdraw the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) was already well underway. On April 15, 1994, the U.S. Mission to the UN dropped a “bombshell” on the Security Council, arguing for the complete termination of UNAMIR and the pullout of all peacekeepers in Rwanda. Reviewers redacted the historic “bombshell” from a State Department cable, however, even though the fact that the U.S. called for the withdrawal of UNAMIR troops, was previously released to the National Security Archive by the governments of the Czech Republic, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom, and the UN’s Kofi Annan in response to FOIA requests. The information had even been published on the Archive’s website and in the critical oral history conference briefing book, “International Decision-Making in the Age of Genocide: Rwanda 1990-1994,” in June 2014. [https://nsarchive.wordpress.com/2016/04/26/22-years-later-us-still-classifying-bombshell-plan-to-pull-peacekeepers-out-before-rwanda-genocide/](https://nsarchive.wordpress.com/2016/04/26/22-years-later-us-still-classifying-bombshell-plan-to-pull-peacekeepers-out-before-rwanda-genocide/).

Copyright:

The Misguided Plan to Expand A Performers’ Veto: More “Copyright Creep” Through Policy Laundering
A proposal to rewrite parts of copyright law being pushed by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office would create new restrictions for filmmakers, journalists, and others using recordings of audiovisual performances. Against the background of the the Next Great Copyright Act lurching forward and the Copyright Office convening a new series of roundtables on the Digital Millennium Copyright Act, few have noticed the USPTO push happening now. But these proposals are a classic instance of copyright creep and are dangerous for users, creators, and service providers alike. There are many problems with this plan. Here are a few:

Definitions: The definition of “performance” is unclear. Does it include lectures? Political speeches? An a cappella group singing a song that’s in the public domain? A flash mob? This matters a lot, especially for the professional and amateur creators and journalists who will need to obtain a license to capture and share any of these activities, and the even larger group of users who might want to repurpose that material.

Term: 95 years? Really? Admittedly, that’s better than no term at all, but even better would be, say, 14 years—or even the 50 years term that seems to be contemplated in the Treaty.

Damages: The current anti-bootlegging statute says that violators are subject to the same penalties as copyright infringers. Depending on that language is interpreted, anyone who records and shares a “performance” and doesn’t get consent from the performer could be on the hook for up to $150,000 (or more depending on how damages are calculated, another messy question) and potentially attorneys’ fees as well.

Safe Harbors: Currently, it is unclear at best whether the DMCA safe harbors apply to bootlegging claims. That means service providers will worry that any content they host or transmit could subject them to secondary liability if, as will often be the case, the user did not (1) guess correctly about what kinds of consent might be necessary; and (2) obtain that consent.

Potential for abuse: But even if a court concluded that Section 512 applies to these new rights, we have a decade of experience to show that the Section 512 takedown process will be abused to take down lawful content.

What about other limitations? It’s great that the our bootlegging provisions will now be explicitly subject to fair use and the library exceptions. But what about the many other limits on the reach of copyrights? Why not import them all?

Deception: Trade deal supporters often insist that trade agreements involving IP won’t require changes to US law, or only minimal changes. This proposal should serve as a useful demonstration, if such a demonstration were needed, that we can’t trust such claims.

[https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2016/04/another-fine-mess-ustr-has-gotten-us-misguided-plan-expand-performers-rights](https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2016/04/another-fine-mess-ustr-has-gotten-us-misguided-plan-expand-performers-rights).

Who’s downloading pirated papers? Everyone
In increasing numbers, researchers around the world are turning to Sci-Hub, which hosts 50 million papers and counting. Over the 6 months leading up to March, Sci-Hub served up 28 million documents. More than 2.6 million download requests came from Iran, 3.4 million from India, and 4.4 million from China. The papers cover every scientific topic, from obscure physics experiments published decades ago to the latest breakthroughs in biotechnology. The publisher with the most requested Sci-Hub articles? It is Elsevier by a long shot—Sci-Hub provided half-a-million downloads of Elsevier papers in one recent week.

These statistics are based on extensive server log data supplied by Alexandra Elbakyan, the neuroscientist who created Sci-Hub in 2011 as a 22-year-old graduate student in Kazakhstan. I asked her for the data because, in spite of the flurry of
developing a platform called Patient Rescue, which will provide data analytics services to NHS hospital trusts. It states that the agreement also includes access to patient data from the last three London hospitals run by the Royal Free NHS Trust – gives the clearest picture yet of what the company is doing and what sensitive data it now has access to. In fact, some of the most intense use of Sci-Hub appears to be happening on the campuses of U.S. and European universities. http://www.sciencemag.org/news/2016/04/whos-downloadingpirated-papers-everyone.

Privacy Issues:

Revealed: Google AI has access to huge haul of NHS patient data
It’s no secret that Google has broad ambitions in healthcare. But a document obtained by New Scientist reveals that the tech giant’s collaboration with the UK’s National Health Service goes far beyond what has been publicly announced. The document – a data-sharing agreement between Google-owned artificial intelligence company DeepMind and the Royal Free NHS Trust – gives the clearest picture yet of what the company is doing and what sensitive data it now has access to. The agreement gives DeepMind access to a wide range of healthcare data on the 1.6 million patients who pass through three London hospitals run by the Royal Free NHS Trust – Barnet, Chase Farm and the Royal Free – each year. This will include information about people who are HIV-positive, for instance, as well as details of drug overdoses and abortions. The agreement also includes access to patient data from the last five years. The document also reveals that DeepMind is developing a platform called Patient Rescue, which will provide data analytics services to NHS hospital trusts. It states that Patient Rescue will use data streams from hospitals to build other tools, in addition to Streams, that could carry out real-time analysis of clinical data and support diagnostic decisions. One aim, the agreement says, is for these tools to help medical staff adhere to the UK’s National Institute for Health and Care Excellence guidelines. DeepMind is not planning to automate clinical decisions – such as what treatments to give patients – but says it wants to support doctors by making predictions based on data that is too broad in scope for an individual to take in.


Publishing:

Comparing Published Scientific Journal Articles to Their Pre-print Versions
Academic publishers claim that they add value to scholarly communications by coordinating reviews and contributing and enhancing text during publication. These contributions come at a considerable cost: U.S. academic libraries paid $1.7 billion for serial subscriptions in 2008 alone. Library budgets, in contrast, are flat and not able to keep pace with serial price inflation. We have investigated the publishers’ value proposition by conducting a comparative study of pre-print papers and their final published counterparts. This comparison had two working assumptions: 1) if the publishers’ argument is valid, the text of a pre-print paper should vary measurably from its corresponding final published version, and 2) by applying standard similarity measures, we should be able to detect and quantify such differences. Our analysis revealed that the text contents of the scientific papers generally changed very little from their pre-print to final published versions. These findings contribute empirical indicators to discussions of the added value of commercial publishers and therefore should influence libraries’ economic decisions regarding access to scholarly publications.


Libraries:

Weeding the Worst Library Books
Last summer, in Berkeley, California, librarians pulled roughly forty thousand books off the shelves of the public library and carted them away. The library’s director, Jeff Scott, announced that his staff had “deaccessioned” texts that weren’t regularly checked out. But the protesters who gathered on the library’s front steps to decry what became known as “Librarygate” preferred a different term: “purged. “Put a tourniquet on the hemorrhage,” one of the protesters’ signs declared. In response, Scott attempted to put his policy in perspective. His predecessor had removed fifty thousand books in a single year, he explained. And many of the deaccessioned books would be donated to a nonprofit—not pulped. Furthermore, after new acquisitions, the collection was actually expected to grow by eighteen thousand books, to a total of nearly half a million. But none of these facts stirred up much sympathy in Berkeley. A thousand people signed a petition demanding that Scott step down—and, in the end, he did. Public libraries serve practical purposes, but they also symbolize our collective access to information, so it’s
understandable that many Berkeley residents reacted strongly to seeing books discarded. What’s more, Scott’s critics ultimately contended that he had not been forthcoming about how many books were being removed, or about his process for deciding which books would go. Still, it’s standard practice—and often a necessity—to remove books from library collections. Librarians call it “weeding,” and the choice of words is important: a library that “hemorrhages” books loses its lifeblood; a librarian who “weeds” is helping the collection thrive. The key question, for librarians who prefer to avoid scandal, is which books are weeds.

Mary Kelly and Holly Hibner, two Michigan librarians, have answered that question in multiple ways. They’ve written a book called “Making a Collection Count: A Holistic Approach to Library Collection Management,” which proposes best practices for analyzing library data and adapting to space constraints. But they are better known for calling attention to the matter with a blog: Awful Library Books. Kelly and Hibner created the site in 2009. Each week, they highlight books that seem to them so self-evidently ridiculous that weeding is the only possible recourse. They often feature books with outlandish titles, like “Little Corpuscle,” a children’s book starring a dancing red blood cell; “Enlarging Is Thrilling,” a how-to about—you guessed it—film photography; and “God, the Rod, and Your Child’s Bod: The Art of Loving Correction for Christian Parents.”


LA Archives Have Their Own TV Show
In Los Angeles, anyone can be a star—even a library collection. The story of Lost LA, which draws on a Los Angeles library consortium’s local collections, proves that with the right tools (and a willingness to collaborate), libraries can reach an even wider audience. Lost LA wasn’t always a star. A few years ago, it was merely an attempt by Nathan Masters, manager of academic events and programming at the University of Southern California (USC) Libraries, to bring more attention to the university’s collections. A few years ago KCET, a local public television station that had recently broken with PBS, approached USC with a unique question. Would the university be willing to provide the station regular editorial content about Los Angeles history? Making archives into TV isn’t a simple process. Masters estimates that the production team involved more than 100 people, in part because of a production model that relied on multiple small films. Each episode entailed a huge effort—one that Masters says has paid off. “Now more than ever, we’re getting research inquiries from scholars, journalists, and professionals in architecture and urban planning who heard about us through Lost LA or the web series that we had before that,” he says. http://lj.libraryjournal.com/2016/04/academic-libraries/la-archives-have-their-own-tv-show/.

Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety; attribution appreciated.
The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.
coursework in information systems, computer science, or closely related field, some library experience and five years of increasingly responsible experience related to managing automated systems, application projects and technical staff are strongly encouraged to apply. The salary range is $100,000 to $130,000 annually, DOQ. To apply, submit your cover letter, resume, current salary and contact information including email addresses for five work-related references (email preferred) to Paul Kimura by June 1, 2016. A job announcement is available at www.averyassoc.net/current-searches/

Paul Kimura and/or Cris Piasecki
Avery Associates

Jobline 2016/05/04

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2016/05/jobline-20160504/ May 3, 2016 Categories: Jobline

Location: San Francisco
Hours: 10am -7pm

Information Specialist

We are recruiting for an Information Specialist to support an Investment Banking team in our client’s San Francisco office

Job Description:

– Purpose and Key Responsibilities

• Strong ability to conduct and provide comprehensive business information quickly and effectively
• Ability to provide research including company and business information, industry and market profiles, deal analytics and financial data through the use of external resources and platforms
• Adept in primary and secondary research tools
• Ability to conduct all aspects of research request/project life-cycle: from client inquiry to client deliverable
• Ability to work independently as needed
• Strong organization and handling of workflow and request queue
• To assist on training to end-users/bankers
• To assist in market data management: renewal audits, usage tracking, invoice processing

–Experience

• Previous experience (min. of 5+ years) as a research professional in a financial institution (or related); MLS preferred but not mandatory
• Strong understanding of banking and finance: capital markets and investment banking services/products
• Ability to manage time and multitask on research workflow and other responsibilities
• Excellent communication skills
• Must be a team player and ability to work independently
• Must be experienced and familiar with the following sources: (sources primarily but not exclusively as listed):

*Bloomberg, Capital IQ, CreditSights, Dealogic – DCM, ECM, Loan, M&A Analytics

*Dealogic – Strategy Manager

*EIKON (ThomsonReuters)

*Euromonitor, Factiva, Fitch Ratings, Gartner

*IBISWorld, HIS, Moody’s Ratings & Financial Metrics

*SNL Financial, S&P RatingsDirect

To apply send resume to Catherine Ghent

When applying, please mention that you found this position listing on SLA SV/SF Jobline. Thank you!
Happy Cinco de Mayo, Bayline readers! I have some good news for you! But first…

- More fascinating news from Intersect this month. Whether it’s the “illegal alien” subject heading, or pirated scientific journal articles, learn about how politicized information.
- See our President’s monthly message for news on the Annual Conference and new chair positions. Special thanks to Grace Kim for volunteering for Hospitality!
- And finally, the good news I told you about. I’m writing a new series for Bayline, titled the Job-Seeker’s Toolkit. My goal is to provide advice and resources on every aspect of finding a library job, from profile preparation to job interviews. I begin this series with my time at INALJ.

The prospect of writing a series that will help job-seekers…it fills me with determination. I hope you’re looking forward to the next in the series, I sure am. See you next month!

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Digital History:

**How Big Data Creates False Confidence**

If I claimed that Americans have gotten more self-centered lately, you might just chalk me up as a curmudgeon, prone to good-ol’-days whining. But what if I said I could back that claim up by analyzing 150 billion words of text? A few decades ago, evidence on such a scale was a pipe dream. Today, though, 150 billion data points is practically passé. A feverish push for “big data” analysis has swept through biology, linguistics, finance, and every field in between. But there’s a problem: It’s tempting to think that with such an incredible volume of data behind them, studies relying on big data couldn’t be wrong. But the bigness of the data can imbue the results with a false sense of certainty. Many of them are probably bogus—and the reasons why should give us pause about any research that blindly trusts big data.

In the case of language and culture, big data showed up in a big way in 2011, when Google released its Ngrams tool. Announced with fanfare in the journal Science, Google Ngrams allowed users to search for short phrases in Google’s database of scanned books—about 4 percent of all books ever published!—and see how the frequency of those phrases has shifted over time. The paper’s authors heralded the advent of “culturomics,” the study of culture based on reams of data and, since then, Google Ngrams has been, well, largely an endless source of entertainment—but also a goldmine for linguists, psychologists, and sociologists. The problems start with the way the Ngrams corpus was constructed. In a study published last October, three University of Vermont researchers pointed out that, in general, Google Books includes one copy of every book. This makes perfect sense for its original purpose: to expose the contents of those books to Google’s powerful search technology. From the angle of sociological research, though, it makes the corpus dangerously skewed. Some books, for example, end up punching below their true cultural weight: The Lord of the Rings gets no more influence than, say, Witchcraft Persecutions in Bavaria.

Even once you get past the data sources, there’s still the thorny issue of interpretation. Sure, words like “character” and “dignity” might decline over the decades. But does that mean that people care about morality less? Not so fast, cautions Ted Underwood, an English professor at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. Conceptions of morality at the turn of the last century likely differed sharply from ours, he argues, and “dignity” might have been popular for non-moral reasons. So any conclusions we draw by projecting current associations backward are suspect.


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Open Access:

**NASA Makes Dozens of Patents Available in Public Domain to Benefit US Industry**

NASA has released 56 formerly-patented agency technologies into the public domain, making its government-developed technologies freely available for unrestricted commercial use. In addition to the release of these technologies, a searchable database now is available that catalogs thousands of expired NASA patents already in the public domain. These technologies were developed to advance NASA missions but may have non-aerospace applications and be used by commercial space ventures and other companies free of charge, eliminating the time, expense and paperwork often associated with licensing intellectual property. The technologies include...
advanced manufacturing processes, sensors, propulsion methods, rocket nozzles, thrusters, aircraft wing designs and improved rocket safety and performance concepts…This patents release is the latest in NASA’s long tradition of extending the benefits of its research and development into the public sector, where it may enhance the economy and quality of life for more Americans. The release also may help familiarize commercial space companies with NASA capabilities and result in new collaborations with private industry. The innovations included in this transfer were selected by NASA officials using a rigorous review process, during which decision-makers looked for technologies that offer the potential for high unit values but are less likely to be licensed by outside companies because of low demand for resulting products (e.g. spacecraft), or the technology still requires significant development before it is marketable. http://www.bespacific.com/nasa-makes-dozens-patents-available-public-domain-benefit-us-industry/.

Public Policy:

A New Way to Keep an Eye on Who Represents You in Congress

Today ProPublica is launching a new interactive database that will help you keep track of the officials who represent you in Congress. Our new project adds pages for each elected official, where you can find their latest votes, legislation they support and statistics about their voting. As we move forward we want to add much more data to help you understand how your elected officials represent you, the incentives that drive them and the issues they care about. … we’re calling the new project Represent.

The new Represent will help you track members, votes and bills in the House of Representatives and Senate. We’re also launching a Congress API, or Application Programming Interface, so developers can get data about what Congress is doing, too.

Represent will show details of votes and bills and provide a way for you to follow the activities of your elected representatives and understand how they fit into the broader world of American politics. For example, we’ll show you how often a member of the House or Senate votes against a majority of her party colleagues, or the kinds of bills each lawmaker sponsors and cosponsors. We have pages detailing every vote, every bill and every member, with details about each. On the homepage we’ll display significant votes in the House and Senate.


Punishing Leaks Through Administrative Channels

The Obama Administration has famously prosecuted more individuals for unauthorized disclosures of classified information to the media than all of its predecessors combined. But behind the scenes, it appears to have sought administrative penalties for leaks — rather than criminal ones — with equal or greater vigor. “This Administration has been historically active in pursuing prosecution of leakers, and the Intelligence Community fully supports this effort,” said ODNI General Counsel Robert S. Litt in testimony from a closed hearing of the Senate Intelligence Committee in 2012 that was released last week in response to a Freedom of Information Act request. But, he said, “prosecution of unauthorized disclosure cases is often beset with complications, including difficult problems of identifying the leaker, the potential for confirming or revealing even more classified information in a public trial, and graymail by the defense.”

Therefore, Mr. Litt said, in 2011 Director of National Intelligence James Clapper ordered intelligence agencies “to pursue administrative investigations and sanctions against identified leakers wherever appropriate. Pursuant to this DNI directive, individual agencies are instructed to identify those leak incidents that are ripe for an administrative disposition….“ Administrative penalties could include termination of employment, loss of security clearance, fines, or other adverse consequences. The number of individuals who were in fact sanctioned as a result of the ensuing “emphasis on administrative dispositions of leak investigations” was not disclosed. But “by advocating for administrative action in appropriate cases, the DNI hopes that more leakers will be sanctioned, and others similarly situated will be deterred,” he said at that time.

http://fas.org/blogs/secrecy/2016/05/administrative-penalties/.

Archivist Won’t Call “Torture Report” a Permanent Record

Archivist of the United States David S. Ferriero last week rebuffed requests to formally designate the Senate Intelligence Committee report on CIA interrogation practices a “federal record” that must be preserved. Senators Dianne Feinstein and Patrick Leahy had urged the Archivist to exercise his authority to certify that the Senate report is a federal record. “We believe that Congress has made it clear that the National Archives has a responsibility — as the nation’s record keeper — to advise other parts of the United States government of their legal duty to preserve documents like the Senate Report under the Federal Records Act, the Presidential Records Act, and other statutes,” Senators Feinstein and Leahy wrote in an April 13 letter. The report qualifies for preservation as a permanent record, they said, “because it contains uniquely valuable information regarding the CIA’s detention and interrogation program under the Bush Administration,” among other reasons.

Two weeks later, dozens of non-governmental organizations led by the Constitution Project sent their own letter to the Archivist likewise urging him to make a formal determination that the Senate report is a federal record that by law must be preserved.

But Archivist Ferriero was unmoved by the appeals. “NARA
has refrained from interceding in this matter because the issue is the subject of ongoing litigation,” he wrote in an April 29 reply to Senators Feinstein and Leahy, referring to a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit brought by the ACLU for access to the report. “As is routine with respect to any issue that is being litigated, we have coordinated with litigation counsel at DOJ handling the pending court case.” He also asserted that the mere fact that executive branch agencies are in possession of the Senate report does not necessarily mean that it qualifies as a federal record. There is a “possibility that an agency could accept physical receipt of a document but maintain it in such a manner that the agency does not acquire legal custody for purposes of either the FRA [Federal Records Act] or the FOIA,” he wrote.

http://fas.org/blogs/secrecy/2016/05/archivist-record/.

Privacy:

Here’s how many US surveillance requests were rejected in 2015
[Hint: It’s less than 1 -ed.]
A secret court that oversees the US government’s surveillance requests accepted every warrant that was submitted last year, according to new figures. The Washington DC.-based Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court received 1,457 requests from the National Security Agency and the Federal Bureau of Investigation to intercept phone calls and emails. In long-standing fashion, the court did not reject a single warrant, entirely or in part.

The FBI also issued 48,642 national security letters, a subpoena-like power that compels a company to turn over data on national security grounds without informing the subject of the letter. The memo said the majority of these demands sought data on foreigners, but almost one-in-five were requests for data on Americans. Since 1979 through to 2015, the last round of reporting figures, the court has approved 38,365 warrants but only rejected a dozen. That’s a rejection rate of 0.031 percent.


International Outlook:

Mexico’s Supreme Court Won’t Halt Data Retention: Activists Plan to Take Case to International Court
In a disappointing decision, Mexico’s Supreme Court rejected a challenge to Mexico’s Ley Telecom data retention mandates and its lack of legal safeguards. The challenge, or writ of amparo—a remedy available to any person whose rights have been violated—was filed by R3D.mx on behalf of a coalition of journalists, human rights NGOs, students arguing that Articles 189 and 190 of Ley Telecom violate the privacy rights of Mexican citizens. The articles compel the country’s telephone operators and ISPs, to retain a massive amount of metadata — including the precise location of its users — for 24 months.

It’s not the end of the road for those fighting data retention or uncontrolled government access to personal data. Now that Red en Defensa de los Derechos Digitales (R3D.mx) and their colleagues have exhausted potential challenges under domestic law, they intend to file a lawsuit against the Mexican State before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. This new litigation will be lengthy, but if successful, it will set a positive precedent not only for Mexico but for the entire region.


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Libraries:

How Libraries — Yes, Libraries — Are Helping People Ditch Stuff They Don’t Need
Have you ever checked out a sewing machine from your local library? What about a guitar or a 3D printer? If you haven’t, you might soon. Public libraries across the country are housing so-called “libraries of things,” from which people can borrow useful items for a short time instead of buying them outright. This is a largely hidden feature of the growing “sharing economy,” but it may be poised to take off as many Americans become increasingly concerned about waste and environmental sustainability.

“There is definitely a growing trend in this direction,” Saif Benjaafar, professor of engineering and director of the sharing economy initiative at the University of Minnesota, told The Huffington Post. “In the long run, I expect the ownership of many categories of products to go down, in favor of accessing these products on an on-demand basis.”

Talk of the sharing economy tends to revolve around flashy startups — Uber and AirBnB, for example — that disrupt markets by making existing products and services more convenient. But public libraries were sharing before sharing was cool, lending books and other goods to people who, in some sense, collectively own them. “We’re the original sharing economy,” Rivkah Sass, executive director of the Sacramento Public Library in California, told HuffPost. The Library of Things program at the SPL is one of the best examples of a nonprofit sharing economy springing up in a public library. The SPL launched the program after patrons began requesting decidedly non-literary items, like sewing machines and specialized cookware.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/library-of-things-sustainability_us_57237259e4b01a5ebde55e76.

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http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/library-of-things-sustainability_us_57237259e4b01a5ebde55e76.
Jobline 2016/05/11

Requisition Number: 16-0028
Title: Research & Intelligence Manager
City: Mountain View
Position Type: Regular Full-Time

Fenwick & West is a top-tier law firm with an open and inclusive culture. With more than 300 attorneys and 400 employees in the Silicon Valley, San Francisco and Seattle, we work with companies on the cutting edge of technology, life sciences and cleantech. For more than four decades, our Firm has helped some of the world’s most recognized companies become and remain market leaders. We are proud to have been named one of the Best Places to Work in the Bay Area for the ninth year.

Are you looking for a unique way to use research and organizational skills to have an impact on our attorneys and our cutting edge clients? Do you excel in a collaborative work environment where you get to work with some of the most creative and talented researchers, librarians, technologists, attorneys and business analysts? Then you might be just what we are looking for! Fenwick’s Knowledge Management team has an opening for a Research & Intelligence Manager to join our team of research analysts, attorneys, technologists and business analysts to help shape the future of delivering legal services to our cutting edge clients.

The Research & Intelligence Manager will:

- Lead the research and intelligence team providing research, competitive and business intelligence and analytics services to the firm’s attorneys and business departments.
- Identify opportunities for collaboration with other departments to develop and deliver information and services to serve clients in the most effective and efficient manner possible while maintaining the highest quality.
- Have a sense of humor
- Oversee the day to day operation of the research intelligence team including managing firm research contracts and budget.
- Ability to work in a fast paced environment with multiple stake holders.

Desired Skills & Qualifications:

- Communications: Ability to get consensus and collaboration across many business groups; ability to explain complex concepts in layman’s language; ability to generate enthusiasm; ability to communicate with all levels of management and staff.
- Client Orientation: Understands clients’ needs and concerns; responds promptly and effectively to client needs; Customizes services and products as appropriate.
- Drive for Results: Makes things happen; Is proactive; balances “analysis” with “doing”; sets high standards for self; Commits to organizational goals.
- Teamwork: Collaborates with others in own group and across boundaries; acknowledges others’ contributions. Influencing and resolving differences across organizational boundaries: Gaining support and commitment from others even without formal authority; resolving differences by determining needs and forging solutions that benefit all parties; promoting collaboration and facilitating teamwork across organizational boundaries.
- Learning and knowledge sharing: open to new ideas; shares own knowledge; applies knowledge in daily work; builds partnerships for learning and knowledge sharing.
- Advanced knowledge of database structure and theory.
- Advanced knowledge of business practices and philosophies.
- MLS Degree; MBA or JD or combination.
- Excellent computer skills, including Microsoft Office and SharePoint.

Interested candidates should visit the career-site to apply: https://rn22.ultipro.com/FEN1000/JobBoard/JobDetails.aspx?ID=*3780EA0670AE4E99

When applying, please mention that you found this position listing on SLA SV/SF Jobline. Thank you!
Freedom of Information:

Panama Papers Database Goes Live
This database contains information on almost 320,000 offshore entities that are part of the Panama Papers and the Offshore Leaks investigations. The data covers nearly 40 years – from 1977 through 2015 – and links to people and companies in more than 200 countries and territories. The real value of the database is that it strips away the secrecy that cloaks companies and trusts incorporated in tax havens and exposes the people behind them. This includes, when available, the names of the real owners of those opaque structures. In all, the interactive application reveals more than 360,000 names of people and companies behind secret offshore structures. They come from leaked records and not a standardized corporate registry, so there may be duplicates. In some cases, companies are listed as shareholders for another company or a trust, arrangement that often helps obscure the flesh-and-blood people behind offshore entities. ICIJ obtained the data through two massive leaks. The majority of the names in this database come from Panamanian law firm Mossack Fonseca, whose inner workings were exposed in the Panama Papers investigation published in April 2016 in conjunction with Süddetsche Zeitung and more than 100 other media partners. Around a third of the offshore entities were incorporated through Portcullis Trustnet (now Portcullis) and Commonwealth Trust Limited, two offshore service providers exposed as part of ICIJ’s 2013 Offshore Leaks exposé. This was the first information added to this database when it was released in June 2013, which was then produced in conjunction with Costa Rican newspaper La Nación. The database does not disclose the totality of the leaked records. It doesn’t divulge raw documents or personal information en masse. It contains a great deal of information about company owners, proxies and intermediaries in secrecy jurisdictions, but it doesn’t disclose bank accounts, email exchanges and financial transactions contained in the documents. ICIJ is publishing the information in the public interest. While many of the activities carried out through offshore entities are perfectly legal, extensive reporting by ICIJ and its media partners for more than four years has shown that the anonymity granted by the offshore economy facilitates money laundering, tax evasion, fraud and other crimes. Even when it’s legal, transparency advocates argue that the use of an alternative, parallel economy undermines democracy because it benefits a few at the expense of the majority.


Public Policy:

California’s Legislature Wants to Copyright All Government Works
The California Assembly Committee on Judiciary recently approved a bill (AB 2880) to grant local and state governments’ copyright authority along with other intellectual property rights. At its core, the bill grants state and local government the authority to create, hold, and exert copyrights, including in materials created by the government. For background, the federal Copyright Act prohibits the federal government from claiming copyright in the materials it creates, but is silent on state governments. As a result, states have taken various approaches to copyright law with some granting themselves vast powers and others (such as California) forgoing virtually all copyright authority at least until now. AB 2880 sets out to “clarify” that all works created by public entities are eligible for intellectual property restrictions. This includes trademarks, patents, trade secrets, and copyrights. As things stand today, works created by California state and local governments (like reports, video, maps, and so on) aren’t subject to copyright except in a few special cases. That ensures that Californians who funded the creation of those works through their tax dollars can use those works freely. The bill would change California from having one of the best policies on copyright of any U.S. state to among the worst. It authorizes public entities to register copyrights in their work. That means that state and local governments will have the power to seek statutory damages that can reach as high as $30,000 per infringement and potentially as life altering as $150,000 for willful conduct against people who use state-created materials. Therefore, if a citizen infringed on a state owned copyright by making a copy of a government publication, or reading that publication out loud in a public setting, or uploading it to the internet, they could be liable for statutory damages. The harms felt by this bill’s approach are wide ranging because it would take very little to claim that a work is protected by copyright law.

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2016/04/ab-2880.

Privacy:

GAO Report – Smartphone Data: Information and Issues Regarding Surreptitious Tracking Apps That Can Facilitate Stalking
GAO found that the majority of the reviewed websites for smartphone tracking applications (apps) marketed their
products to parents or employers to track the location of their children or employees, respectively, or to monitor them in other ways, such as intercepting their smartphone communications. Several tracking apps were marketed to individuals for the purpose of tracking or intercepting the communications of an intimate partner to determine if that partner was cheating. About one-third of the websites marketed their tracking apps as intimate partners without their knowledge or consent. The key communications of a smartphone communications of children, employees, or other ways, such as intercepting their smartphone communications of children or employees, respectively, or to monitor them in other ways, such as intercepting their smartphone communications of children, employees, or intimate partners without their knowledge or consent. The key concerns of the stakeholders with whom GAO spoke—including domestic violence groups, privacy groups, and academics—were questions about: (1) the applicability of current federal laws to the manufacture, sale, and use of surreptitious tracking apps; (2) the limited enforcement of current laws; and (3) the need for additional education about tracking apps. GAO found that some federal laws apply or potentially apply to smartphone tracking apps, particularly those that surreptitiously intercept communications such as e-mails or texts, but may not apply to some instances involving surreptitiously tracking location. Statutes that may be applicable to surreptitious tracking apps, depending on the circumstances of their sale or use, are statutes related to wiretapping, unfair or deceptive trade practices, computer fraud, and stalking. Stakeholders also expressed concerns over what they perceived to be limited enforcement of laws related to tracking apps and stalking. Some of these stakeholders believed it was important to prosecute companies that manufacture surreptitious tracking apps and market them for the purpose of spying. Domestic violence groups stated that additional education of law enforcement officials and consumers about how to protect against, detect, and remove tracking apps is needed. The federal government has undertaken educational, enforcement, and legislative efforts to protect individuals from the use of surreptitious tracking apps, but stakeholders differed over whether current federal laws need to be strengthened to combat stalking. Educational efforts by the Department of Justice (DOJ) have included funding for the Stalking Resource Center, which trains law enforcement officers, victim service professionals, policymakers, and researchers on the use of technology in stalking. With regard to enforcement, DOJ has prosecuted a manufacturer and an individual under the federal wiretap statute for the manufacture or use of a surreptitious tracking app.

Some stakeholders believed the federal wiretap statute should be amended to explicitly include the interception of location data and DOJ has proposed amending the statute to allow for the forfeiture of proceeds from the sale of smartphone tracking apps and to make the sale of such apps a predicate offense for money laundering. Stakeholders differed in their opinions on the applicability and strengths of the relevant federal laws and the need for legislative action. Some industry stakeholders were concerned that legislative actions could be overly broad and harm legitimate uses of tracking apps. However, stakeholders generally agreed that location data can be highly personal information and are deserving of privacy protections. http://www.bespacific.com/gao-report-smartphone-data-information-issues-regarding-surreptitious-tracking-apps-can-facilitate-stalking/

Report: 2 years in, 75 percent of Right to Be Forgotten asks denied by Google
It has been two years since the Court of Justice of the European Union established the “Right to be forgotten” (RTBF). Reputation VIP subsequently launched Forget.me as one way for consumers in Europe to submit RTBF requests to Bing and Google. The company has periodically used consumer submissions through the site (130,000 URLs) to compile and publish aggregate data on RTBF trends. A new report looks at two years’ worth of cumulative data on the nature, geographic location and success rates of RTBF requests. The top three countries from which RTBF requests originate are Germany, the UK and France. Google refuses roughly 70 percent to 75 percent of requests, according to the data. Google most frequently denies removal requests that concern professional activity. Following that, Google often denies requests where the individual involved is the source of the content sought to be removed. By comparison, the links that are actually removed are more often from directories (not clearly defined…) than other site categories. Social site link removals are granted much less often than they’re requested. http://searchingineland.com/report-2-years-75-percent-right-forgotten-asks-denied-google-249424.

Intellectual Property:

YouTube’s Copyright Robots Help Sony Shake Down Bluegrass Educators

series of bluegrass history lectures has become the latest victim of the bullying that is enabled by content filtering systems like YouTube’s Content ID. The Digital Millennium Copyright Act’s safe harbors protect websites like YouTube, Vimeo, Twitter, and many others against runaway copyright lawsuits. They also protect people’s fair use rights when they post their own creations online, by ensuring that online platforms don’t have to assume the risk of a user’s fair use case going the wrong way. But automated filtering and takedown systems on platforms like YouTube-systems that the DMCA doesn’t require-flag obvious fair uses as potential infringement, including educational work around the history of music itself. That’s why it’s alarming that major entertainment companies want Congress to scrap the DMCA’s safe harbor and make automatic filtering the law. The Hudson Valley Bluegrass Association was founded “to knit together the bluegrass community of musicians and fans.” Besides hosting jam sessions and concerts, the non-profit association gives lectures on the history of this American art form. These “Evolution of Bluegrass” lectures, which take

place in a classroom in Poughkeepsie, New York, are also posted to YouTube for others to learn from. As you might expect from lectures on music history, these hour-long sessions include many short music clips, typically of about 30 seconds, played over still images of bluegrass musicians and surrounded by commentary. HVBA’s use of clips from old bluegrass recordings is a clear fair use under copyright law. The clips are short, the purpose of the videos is educational, and the group does not earn money from its videos. Plus, no one is likely to forego buying the complete recordings simply because they heard a clip in the middle of an hour-long lecture. Still, HVBA’s videos have repeatedly been caught up by YouTube’s automatic filters, which are known as Content ID. Most of the matches came from Sony Music and its subsidiaries.


Libraries:

North Carolina Librarians, Library Associations React to HB2

From the moment the North Carolina General Assembly passed the Public Facilities Privacy and Security act, also known as HB2, reaction was forceful and articulate. Educators, librarians, and library leaders from public, academic, and school libraries and library organizations across the country, for whom inclusivity is a crucial part of their institutions’ mission, added their voices criticizing the bill’s passage and supporting those it affects.

The Association of Research Libraries (ARL) and the ARL Diversity and Inclusion Committee published a statement opposing the bill, which declared, “The Association joins the chorus of opposition to this legislation—higher education associations, equal rights organizations, those in K–12 education, college and university administrations, businesses, and many others—that opens the door to discriminatory practices toward historically marginalized populations.”

American Library Association (ALA) president Sari Feldman issued a joint letter with ALA’s Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Round Table (GLBTRT) chair Peter D. Coyl and Association for Library Services to Children (ALSC) president Andrew Medlar to Governor McCrory recommending that he urge the repeal of HB2.

Rodney Lippard, president of the North Carolina Library Association, posted an open letter to Governor McCrory and members of the General Assembly expressing concern for the state’s library and information science schools. “Our librarians, staff, and faculty work with a variety of other professionals and with students who identify as LGBTQI…. We are concerned that HB2 may interfere with those students and employees living fully engaged lives and serving local communities. Also, we are troubled that the national reaction to HB2 may interfere with libraries and library schools recruiting and retaining the best and brightest people.”

The Board of Directors of the Special Libraries Association (SLA) is also reconsidering the commitment to host its 2018 conference in Charlotte, and has given the state until May 25 to repeal the law before it makes a decision. SLA board chair Tom Rink said in a statement, “SLA stands strongly in support of diversity and inclusion practices in both privately-held libraries and companies as well as in the various municipalities and states in which special libraries operate. We are deeply opposed to any laws that permit or even give the appearance of tolerating discrimination.”


Open Data:

Lessons from Do Good Data 2016: How data can make the world a better place

When we discuss open data and data science, it is often in the context of commercial gains or how government performance or accountability can be improved. While these aims are important, there is one underlying goal in relation to government that’s often overlooked when talking about the power of transparency through technology: facilitating social good. To that end, what is the discussion around the social utility of open data, data analysis and government transparency? Two weeks ago, the Sunlight Local Policy team attended the Do Good Data 2016 conference (DGD) in Chicago to find out. The event is based on the premise that data can be used to advance social good and that sharing knowledge about how to do it well is critical. We found that when cities and agencies combine open data with analytics, public servants can save lives and empower residents to help themselves.

The highlight of the conference for me, though, was a wide ranging discussion on how open data and the use of data analytics can further core city functions. The session, entitled “The Data Driven Government,” featured Stephen Goldsmith, the former Indianapolis Mayor turned Harvard professor, Tom Schenk, the chief data officer of Chicago, and Erin Dalton, the deputy director of the Office of Data Analysis, Research, and Evaluation for the Allegheny County Department of Human Services.

I posed a question to the panel about what changes need to be made internally for open data to be make government function more effectively. In response, Dalton suggested that data generated by departments should be considered city data, instead of department data. Breaking out of that classification silo would help relevant data to be easily accessible for cross-referencing and, in many cases, enable access in critical situations. This isn’t an abstract need. For example, one common scenario the panel described was a social worker having access to a child’s school, health and criminal records before deciding whether to remove them from a home. The use of data in this instance is a response to the problem that many social services agencies have issues with the management of
their data, which can result in disastrous consequences; see this article [in original post] from the Austin American Statesman about child abuse deaths, which came as a result of “missing red flags – and failing to analyze critical data to identify patterns and trends.”

International Outlook:

Newfoundland To Shutter More than Half its Libraries
Outrage grows across Canada over a plan to close 54 of 95 public libraries in the eastern province of Newfoundland and Labrador, many of them in rural or sparsely populated areas. Twenty-seven libraries will be shut this year and 27 more in 2017, leaving only 41 facilities to serve the entire province, under a plan being implemented by the Provincial Information and Library Resources Board (PILRB), which saw its federal funding slashed. Dale Kirby, Newfoundland and Labrador’s minister of education and early childhood development, whose office controls provincial library funds, cut library funding by $1 million to about $10.7 million, PILRB executive director Andrew Hunt told LJ. The 2016 provincial budget originally included a $1.7 million cut for libraries, but Hunt said an additional $700,000 was restored as a “reinvestment” for services. That money, he said, will help improve ebook and books-by-mail programs, ensure that capital programs will stay funded, and protect money for software maintenance and upgrades.

Sixty-four employees will lose their jobs as libraries transition to a regional service model. Although Canada recently voted to disband its national library association, library groups across Canada strongly rallied around their colleagues in Newfoundland and Labrador. A handful of regional celebrities also lent their voice to the cause. “Advocacy is coming out of the woodwork on this issue!” Amanda Tiller-Hackett, president of the Newfoundland and Labrador Library Association (NLLA), told LJ.

The library closure plan, announced on April 27, swiftly gained national attention, in part because it came on the heels of another headline-grabbing budget decision: The spending plan introduced on April 14 called for a ten percent provincial sales tax on books—if implemented, the first of its kind in Canada —adding to the already five percent charged by the federal government. Newfoundland already has Canada’s lowest literacy rate and spends by far the least of any province per capita on its library patrons, Tiller-Hackett told LJ. “Literacy is not a priority,” she said. “We all know it’s not a priority by the way they fund the library system.”
http://lj.libraryjournal.com/2016/05/budgets-funding/newfoundland-to-shutter-more-than-half-its-libraries/.

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The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region

Chapter, Special Libraries Association.

Jobline 2016/05/19

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2016/05/jobline-20160519/ May 19, 2016 Categories: Jobline

Library Services Manager – San Francisco

RESPONSIBILITIES: Under the direction of the firm’s Chief Marketing Officer, this position is responsible for the overall management and administration of the firm’s research and competitive intelligence requirements including library print collections, electronic databases, and legal, industry, and business development research. Manages a full-time staff of 4 as well as oversee library and research services based in San Francisco. Occasional travel to Northern California regional offices as needed.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS:

- Supervises and manages the workflow of department staff, provides coaching and guidance to library staff
- Works closely with the firm’s legal staff as well as the Marketing and Business Development Department personnel to provide legal and non-legal research on a wide variety of business, industry and competitive intelligence topics
- Periodically reviews processes and procedures, making improvements as needed, to utilize advances in technology and comply with firm policies and purchasing protocols
- Manages Library content on the firm’s intranet Initiates and coordinates acquisition and maintenance of all library materials
- Develops and manages annual department budget
- Negotiates contracts with publishers and vendors and manages vendor relationships
- Develops and provides research training programs for attorneys, paralegals and staff upon hire and as needed
Manages library space utilization and organization of collection using an online catalog and RFID tagging to track the collection.

Assesses information needs of practice groups and provides recommendations on resources and solutions

Participates in professional organizations and industry associations as appropriate

Partners with other administrative directors and managers to accomplish firm goals

QUALIFICATIONS:
* Masters in Library Science preferred
* 4-6 years of experience working in a legal library required
* In-depth knowledge of print and non-print, legal and non-legal resources required
* In-depth knowledge of and ability to use various platforms to access information required
* Ability to evaluate which resource will provide the best results most efficiently and cost-effectively required
* Knowledge of cataloging and MARC record format desirable
* MS Office skills, including excel required
* Excellent communication (both written and oral) and proofreading skills required
* Excellent teamwork and teambuilding skills required
* Strong organizational skills required
* Familiarity with document management (i.e. Filesite), CRM (i.e. InterAction) and SharePoint preferred
* Ability to perform detailed work accurately, thoroughly and consistently required
* Ability to prioritize tasks and manage projects in an ever-changing, fast-paced environment required
* Ability to solve problems by gathering information and determining appropriate approach to solution required

SALARY:
We offer a competitive salary and benefits package. Interested applicants should email their resume to Michelle Klopp, CMO at mklopp@hansonbridgett.com. When applying, please mention that you found this position listing on SLA SV/SF Jobline. Thank you!

Intersect Alert May 22, 2016

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2016/05/intersect-alert-may-22-2016/ May 22, 2016 Categories: Intersect Alert Tags: freedom of information, government, libraries, open access, privacy, research, values

Privacy:

We know where you live: From location data alone, even low-tech snoopers can identify Twitter users’ homes, workplaces

Researchers at MIT and Oxford University have shown that the location stamps on just a handful of Twitter posts – as few as eight over the course of a single day – can be enough to disclose the addresses of the poster’s home and workplace to a relatively low-tech snooper. The tweets themselves might be otherwise innocuous — links to funny videos, say, or comments on the news. The location information comes from geographic coordinates automatically associated with the tweets.

Twitter’s location-reporting service is off by default, but many Twitter users choose to activate it. The new study is part of a more general project at MIT’s Internet Policy Research Initiative to help raise awareness about just how much privacy people may be giving up when they use social media.

Surveillance Chills Speech – As New Studies Show – And

Free Association Suffers

Visiting an art exhibit featuring works about the U.S. war on terror or going to a lecture about Islam wouldn’t be cause for worry—unless you found out that the government was monitoring and keeping track of attendees. At that point, some people would be spooked and stay away, sacrificing their interests and curiosity to protect their privacy, not look suspicious, or stay off a list some intelligence agency might be keeping. Now two new studies examining the use of Facebook and Wikipedia show that this chilling effect is real. Both studies demonstrate that government surveillance discourages speech and access to information and knowledge on the Internet. What happens is that people begin to self-police their communications: they are more likely to avoid associating with certain groups or individuals, or looking at websites or articles, when they think the government is watching them or the groups/people with whom they connect. This hurts our democracy and society as a whole.

The Facebook study, published in Journalism & Mass Communications Quarterly, showed that people censor themselves on the social network, refraining from posting comments voicing minority views when they’re aware that the National Security Agency (NSA) monitors online activities. The Wikipedia study, to be published in an upcoming issue of the Berkeley Technology Law Journal, found a dramatic fall in monthly traffic to Wikipedia articles about terror groups and their techniques after the June 2013 disclosures of the NSA.
PRISM surveillance program by whistleblower Edward Snowden.
https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2016/05/when-surveillance-chills-speech-new-studies-show-our-rights-free-association.

Evaluating the privacy properties of telephone metadata
Communications privacy law, in the United States and many other nations, draws a distinction between “content” and “metadata”. The former category reflects the substance of an electronic communication; the latter includes all other information about the communication, such as parties, time, and duration.

When a government agency compels disclosure of content, the agency must usually comply with extensive substantive and procedural safeguards. Demands for metadata, by contrast, are often left to the near-total discretion of authorities. In the United States, for instance, a law enforcement officer can request telephone calling records with merely a subpoena—essentially a formal letter from the investigating agency. An intelligence program by the National Security Agency (NSA) has drawn particular criticism; under the business records provision of the USA PATRIOT Act, the agency acquired a substantial share of all domestic telephone metadata.

In this paper, we empirically investigate factual assumptions that undergird policies of differential treatment for content and metadata. Using crowdsourced telephone logs and social networking information … we find that telephone metadata is densely interconnected, can trivially be reidentified, enables automated location and relationship inferences, and can be used to determine highly sensitive traits.
http://www.pnas.org/content/113/20/5536.full.

Freedom of Information:

Soldiers Exposed to “Chemical Unknown” in Iraq not Getting Adequate FOIA Responses from DOD
The Defense Department is telling soldiers that were exposed in 2003 to a “chemical unknown” in Taji, Iraq that it has no documents on the incident — after a decade of saying that documents on the event were classified. C. J. Chivers of the New York Times reported in May 2015 that, for over a decade, the US military denied FOIA requests on the chemicals soldiers were exposed to, resulting in chronic illnesses. The Army only released the two-page 2003 Camp Taji Incident report, written by the multinational Iraq Survey Group, after years of FOIA requests; the report found that the chemical soldiers came in contact with was a potentially fatal “carcinogen and poisonous chemical.” The Archive’s Director Tom Blanton told the Times in 2015 that, in addition to the secrecy trumping common sense, that “the outrage here is extraordinary.” Blanton noted, “Soldiers exposed to something really dangerous cannot find out what it was because ‘Sorry it’s classified’?" he said. “It’s creepy and it’s crazy.”

Now, according to reporting by Samantha Foster at the Topeka Capital-Journal, the Army is telling soldiers like Army Spc. Sparky Edwards and former Sgt. First Class Dennis Marcello that there are no documents on the chemical they were exposed to or the incident. Nate Jones, the Archive’s FOIA project director, notes that the DOD may be claiming to have no documents because they were possibly destroyed or misfiled during the war — or because the large, decentralized Defense Department genuinely doesn’t know where to look to find the records.

FAA Releases Drone Registration Location Data
The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) today posted a large database showing the city, state and zip code of each registered drone owner. Release of the database responds to a number of Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests submitted since the new unmanned aircraft registration system began operating on December 21, 2015. The FAA is not posting the names and street addresses of registered owners because the data is exempt from disclosure under a FOIA exemption that protects information in agency files from a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. The FAA based its determination to post only city, state and zip code on several factors, including, in part, that many of the registrants are minors and only hobbyists or recreational users. In addition, when the FAA published its Federal Register notice pertaining to the new unmanned aircraft registration system it specifically advised the public that name and addresses would only be available by the registration number issued to the registrant. For these reasons, the FAA believes the privacy interest in such data outweighs any public interest.
Anyone who owns a drone weighing more than 0.55 lbs. but less than 55 lbs. must register before flying the aircraft outdoors for hobby or recreation. All owners of small unmanned aircraft used for other purposes must also register as one of the requirements associated with a Section 333 exemption.

Open Access:

Disappointing: Elsevier Buys Open Access Academic Pre-Publisher SSRN
SSRN has been around for a long, long time, and it’s basically the go-to place to post research in the legal and economics worlds — the two research areas we most frequently write about. At this moment, I have about 10 SSRN tabs open on interesting papers that I hope to write about at some point.
Technically SSRN is what’s known as a “preprint server,” where academics can share papers before peer review is completed and the final papers end up in a locked up, paywalled journal. The kind of paywall run by a giant company like Elsevier.

So it’s been quite distressing to many this morning to find out that Elsevier has now purchased SSRN. Everyone involved, of course, insists that “nothing will change” and that Elsevier will leave SSRN working as before, but perhaps with some more resources behind it (and, sure, SSRN could use some updates and upgrades). But Elsevier has such a long history of incredibly bad behavior that it’s right to be concerned. Elsevier is not just a copyright maximalist (just last week at a hearing I attended involving the Copyright Office, Elsevier advocated for much more powerful takedown powers in copyright). It’s not just suing those who make it easier to access academic info. It’s not just charging insane amounts for journals. It also has a history of lobbying heavily against open access, while similarly charging for open access research despite knowing it’s not supposed to do this. So, quite obviously, there is reason to be concerned that Elsevier may make some “changes” to SSRN that make it a lot less valuable for the sharing of academic research and papers in the near future.


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Government Information:

Most Cyclists Are Working-Class Immigrants, Not Hipsters

Houston resident Veon McReynolds rides his bicycle everywhere he can. Through his nonprofit organization Tour de Hood, he leads weekly bike ride groups through neighborhoods many Houston residents would never otherwise see. On his own, he’s taken long-distance rides as far as 4,000 miles that crisscross the country. Everywhere he goes, he says, he sees a particular type of cyclist: a working-class person – usually a minority and often a recent immigrant – riding to work on whatever type of bike he can get his hands on. Those cyclists are men and women for whom biking isn’t an environmental cause or a response to an urban trend but a means of transportation that’s cheaper than a car and faster than walking.

“You can just tell they’re using the only transportation option they’ve got,” McReynolds said. “Those people are pretty much invisible.”

He means “invisible” both figuratively and literally. Those cyclists often aren’t seen in City Hall or other venues where people advocate for bike lanes and other bike-friendly policies.

“A number of people are wondering how we can do more comprehensive bike advocacy that includes people who can’t afford to get involved,” said Adonia Lugo, an anthropologist who left her job at the League of American Cyclists earlier this year because of a disconnect she perceived between bike advocates and those who ride bicycles regularly. “They’re on bikes, so they should be involved.”


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Digital History:

Archiving a Website for Ten Thousand Years

In May 1940, Thornwell Jacobs, the president of Oglethorpe University in Atlanta, dedicated a 2,000-square-foot Crypt of Civilization intended to be sealed until May 28, 8113 C.E. He picked that date as the marker of a duration into the future equal to that which had passed since the oldest surviving recorded history, some 6,200 years prior. The crypt contained about 640,000 pages of text reproduced on microfilm. It also housed technological artifacts and bric-a-brac, along with a windmill-powered generator to play back audio and film recordings.

Hi.co, a website that allows its users to post “moments” with a photo and annotation, plans a similar trip to the distant future. The operators, Craig Mod (who has also previously written for The Atlantic) and Chris Palmieri, announced today that the site will freeze service in September 2016. However, all posts present in the site’s database at that time will be microprinted onto a two-by-two-inch nickel plate. The entire site—2,000,000 words and 14,000 photos—should fit on a single disk. Several copies will be made and distributed across the globe; the Library of Congress has already been secured as a repository. The plates have a lifespan as long as 10,000 years, and they may be viewed with a 1,000-power optical microscope.


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The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.
**Freedom of Information:**

**China’s scary lesson to the world: Censoring the Internet works**

First there was the Berlin Wall. Now there is the Great Firewall of China, not a physical barrier preventing people from leaving, but a virtual one, preventing information harmful to the Communist Party from entering the country. Just as one fell, so will the other be eventually dismantled, because information, like people, cannot be held back forever. Or so the argument goes.

But try telling that to Beijing. Far from knocking down the world’s largest system of censorship, China in fact is moving ever more confidently in the opposite direction, strengthening the wall’s legal foundations, closing breaches and reinforcing its control of the Web behind the wall. Defensive no more about its censorship record, China is trumpeting its vision of “Internet sovereignty” as a model for the world and is moving to make it a legal reality at home. At the same time — "Internet sovereignty" as a model for the world and is moving to make it a legal reality at home. At the same time — danger no more of China, not a physical barrier preventing people from leaving, but a virtual one, preventing information harmful to the Communist Party from entering the country. Just as one fell, so will the other be eventually dismantled, because information, like people, cannot be held back forever. Or so the argument goes.

But try telling that to Beijing. Far from knocking down the world’s largest system of censorship, China in fact is moving ever more confidently in the opposite direction, strengthening the wall’s legal foundations, closing breaches and reinforcing its control of the Web behind the wall. Defensive no more about its censorship record, China is trumpeting its vision of “Internet sovereignty” as a model for the world and is moving to make it a legal reality at home. At the same time — confounding Western skeptics — the Internet is nonetheless thriving in China, with nearly 700 million users, putting almost 1 in 4 of the world’s online population behind the Great Firewall.

China is the world’s leader in e-commerce, with digital retail sales volume double that of the United States and accounting for a staggering 40 percent of the global total, according to digital business research company eMarketer. Last year, it also boasted four of the top 10 Internet companies in the world ranked by market capitalization, according to the data website Statista, including e-commerce giant Alibaba, social-media and gaming company Tencent and search specialists Baidu. “This path is the choice of history, and the choice of the people, and we walk the path ever more firmly and full of confidence,” China’s Internet czar, Lu Wei, boasted in January. [https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia_pacific/china-s- scary-lesson-to-the-world-censoring-the-internet-works/2016/05/23/413afe78-fff3-11e5-8bb1-f124a43f84dc_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia_pacific/china-s-scary-lesson-to-the-world-censoring-the-internet-works/2016/05/23/413afe78-fff3-11e5-8bb1-f124a43f84dc_story.html).

**Dangerous Corporate First Amendment Overreach: Three Information Trends and a Data Application**

An appeal playing out in the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals over mobile phone labeling exposes a phenomenon of great import to the future of technology: corporate use of the First Amendment to ax regulation. The stakes are seemingly rather small in the case of CTIA v. City of Berkeley. It involves a humble municipal ordinance requiring cell phone retailers to disclose the same information about permissible levels of radiofrequency (RF) radiation that the Federal Communications Commission already requires mobile phone manufacturers to reveal in their manuals. Yet small stakes cases are rarely litigated with such massive firepower. Representing CTIA is Ted Olson, President George W. Bush’s solicitor general. On Berkeley’s side is Harvard law professor Larry Lessig. What’s really at issue here is the scope of corporate free speech rights, especially in connection with commercial disclosures. CTIA claims that the ordinance violates the retailers’ rights by compelling speech. The kind of “right to know” information requirement that Berkeley has enacted is a flashpoint for movement conservatives seeking to use the First Amendment to advance economic interests. With varying degrees of success, groups like the Washington Legal Foundation and Cato Institute have challenged country-of-origin labels, mercury disposal labels, graphic tobacco warnings, calorie disclosures, airline tax disclosures, obesity warnings for sugary sodas, and product sourcing disclosures. They argue that these government-mandated disclosure regimes mask ideological agendas, and that the information that must be disclosed is either not purely factual or tendentious, or both.

When it comes to commercial speech, the First Amendment interest has always been in the utility of the speech to consumers rather than in the liberty interest of the speaker. This is changing with the elevation of the corporation to person. As a result, corporations are pushing on an open door in arguing that mandatory disclosure is akin to a forced loyalty pledge. [https://www.publicknowledge.org/news-blog/blogs/dangerous-corporate-first-amendment-overreach-three-information-trends-and-a-data-application.](https://www.publicknowledge.org/news-blog/blogs/dangerous-corporate-first-amendment-overreach-three-information-trends-and-a-data-application.).

**Government Information:**

**Congressional report says NFL waged improper campaign to influence government study**

At least a half-dozen top NFL health officials waged an improper, behind-the-scenes campaign last year to influence a major U.S. government research study on football and brain disease, congressional investigators have concluded in a new report. The 91-page report describes how the NFL pressured the National Institutes of Health to strip the $16 million project from a prominent Boston University researcher and tried to redirect the money to members of the league’s committee on brain injuries. The study was to have been funded out of a $30 million “unrestricted gift” the NFL gave the NIH in 2012. After the NIH rebuffed the NFL’s campaign to remove Robert Stern, an expert in neurodegenerative disease who has criticized the league, the NFL backed out of a signed agreement to pay for the study, the report shows. Taxpayers
ended up bearing the cost instead.
The NFL’s actions violated policies that prohibit private donors from interfering in the NIH peer-review process, the report concludes, and were part of a “long-standing pattern of attempts” by the league to shape concussion research for its own purposes. “In this instance, our investigation has shown that while the NFL had been publicly proclaiming its role as funder and accelerator of important research, it was privately attempting to influence that research,” the report states. Dr. Walter Koroshetz, who directs the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke for the NIH, described the NFL’s campaign as unprecedented, telling investigators he “was aware of no other instance” in which a private donor attempted to intervene in the NIH grant selection process. 

Open Access:

Open-access website gets tough
When Lars Bjørnshauge founded a website to index open-access journals in 2003, just 300 titles made the list. But over the next decade, the open-access publishing market exploded, and Bjørnshauge’s Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) along with it. Today the DOAJ comprises almost 10,000 journals – and its main problem is not finding new publications to include, but keeping the dodgy operators out. Now, following criticism of its quality-control checks, the website is asking all of the journals in its directory to reapply on the basis of stricter criteria. It hopes the move will weed out ‘predatory journals’: those that profess to publish research openly, often charging fees, but that are either outright scams or do not provide the services a scientist would expect, such as a minimal standard of peer review or permanent archiving. “We all know there has been a lot of fuss about questionable publishers,” says Bjørnshauge.

The reapplication process will also create one of the largest ‘whitelists’ of acceptable open-access journals, helping the DOAJ to become a more useful tool for funders, librarians and researchers who want to look up information on a publication or import its metadata into their catalogues. Those journals meeting the highest criteria – expected to be about 10–15% of the total – will also be given a ‘seal’ of best practice. 
http://www.nature.com/news/open-access-website-gets-tough-1.15674.

Public Policy:

Deadlock over political coercion at work causes 3 FEC commissioners to issue scathing statement
Three members of the Federal Election Commission issued sharp criticism of their fellow commissioners after the agency, not surprisingly, deadlocked on a “reason to believe” vote concerning the coal mining company Murray Energy. Thanks to FEC deadlock, another troubling campaign finance issue is dropped without even opening an investigation. The four-year-old complaint alleged that the company coerced employees to attend political rallies and make campaign contributions during the 2012 presidential election.

Important: A “reason to believe” vote isn’t a vote saying that the company definitely did these things. It’s a vote simply on whether commissioners believe there is enough evidence to open an investigation. So this vote, simply put, would have given a green light to start investigating whether Murray broke the law. Commissioners Ann Ravel, Steven Walther and Ellen Weintraub believe the impasse on whether to begin an
investigation sets a dangerous precedent, writing in their statement, “Every citizen should feel free to give – or not give – to the candidates and political causes of their choice, inspired by their own convictions, and free from outside pressure or coercion.” Furthermore, the three commissioners seemed bewildered that “despite compelling available record in this matter, we were unable to garner the necessary four votes to open an investigation, which prevented the commission from evaluating whether an employer violated this basic right.”

The [original complaint stemmed from a piece The New Republic published on Oct. 4, 2012, about how Murray Energy required all employees to attend a Mitt Romney campaign event. Attendance was mandatory, even though the company shut down the mine and those workers reportedly were not paid for that day. The company also allegedly pressured employees to give to Murray Energy corporate political action committee.](http://sunlightfoundation.com/blog/2016/05/24/deadlock-over-political-coercion-at-work-causes-three-fec-commissioners-to-issue-scathing-statement/)

TPP Study Projects Worsening Trade Balances for 16 of 25 U.S. Economic Sectors, Overall U.S. Trade Deficit Increase

The U.S. International Trade Commission (USITC) released its report [May 18, 2016](http://www.bespacific.com/tpp-study-projects-worsening-trade-balances-for-16-of-25-u-s-economic-sectors-overall-u-s-trade-deficit-increase/) assessing the likely impact of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Agreement that the President has entered into with Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, and Vietnam. The USITC's report, Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement: Likely Impact on the U.S. Economy and on Specific Industry Sectors, provides an assessment of the likely impact of the Agreement on the U.S. economy as a whole and on specific industry sectors and the interests of U.S. consumers, as requested by the U.S. Trade Representative and required by the Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015.

The report:

– Estimates a worsening balance of trade for 16 out of 25 U.S. agriculture, manufacturing, and services sectors that the ITC selected to feature. This includes vehicles, wheat, corn, autoparts, titanium products, chemicals, seafood, textiles and apparel, rice and even financial service. Autoparts would be hard hit with employment projected to decrease by 0.3 percent.

– Estimates the TPP will increase the U.S. global trade deficit by $21.7 billion by 2032.

Open Data:

Return of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Data Archive (SAMHDA)

The enhanced Substance Abuse and Mental Health Data Archive (SAMHDA) is back online with new features and a new URL: [http://datafiles.samhsa.gov/](http://datafiles.samhsa.gov/). We encourage users to explore all of the files available for public use, which include new and updated series data.

In late summer 2016, the SAMHDA website will add a user-friendly, online analysis tool. Users will be able to create crosstabs and perform logistic regression, chi-square tests, and t-tests from their web browsers. They will also be able to download output and underlying data in .csv format. In early winter 2016, approved researchers will be able to access restricted-use data through a secure data portal. A new call for the data portal will follow once all approved researchers from the first three calls have access.

SAMHDA includes the following and more: National Survey of Substance Abuse Treatment Services; National Survey on Drug Use and Health; National Mental Health Services Survey. [https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USSAMHSA/bulletins/14af507](https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USSAMHSA/bulletins/14af507).

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Share this:

July Tour: Ninth Circuit Court & Building


**NINTH CIRCUIT LIBRARY & BUILDING TOUR**

SLA-SF is pleased to announce the first Library Tour for 2016 will be at the James R. Browning Courthouse – United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit

**The Tour of the Courthouse**
During this hour-long tour, docents discuss the history and architecture of this National Landmark courthouse and also provide some information regarding the federal court. Because your docent will be architect Tom Hardy, your tour will probably focus more on the architecture of the building. During the tour, your group will visit 4 courtrooms, including majestic Courtroom One, which has been described as one of the most elegant and elaborate courtrooms in the United States. Also, on tap, a walk through the famous Redwood Room, home to some of the most intricate carvings around and the only working fireplace in the building and, of course the library!

**When:** Friday July 29th @ 4pm

**Where:** 9th Circuit Courthouse at 95 7th Street (corner of Mission & 7th in San Francisco)

**Use “Public Entry” Door**

**Security:** Please bring a VALID GOVERNMENT ID and allow time for security as the line can move slowly. We will gather in the library before starting our tour so please plan your time accordingly.

**Agenda:**
- Tour Time: 4pm to 5pm
- Refreshments/Drinks: 5pm to 6pm @ Mr. Smiths @ 34 7th St. (across the street from the Courthouse)

**Space/Costs:** Space is limited to 12 people. Costs will be $10 for SLA members and include a Happy Hour beverage and light snacks.

**Registration is now closed.**

If you have questions, please contact heather.heen@thomsonreuters.com.

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**This Month in Bayline: May 2016**


Ah, May, the month just asking for a pun. I’m afraid things are too serious for that, though.

- I’ve been reading Intersect, and the news about the Great Firewall of China disturbs me. Thankfully, the Great Library of Alexandria (Elbakyan) has been making scientific papers freely available.
- The bad news is that I’ve fallen behind on my Job Seeker’s Toolkit series a bit. However, I have some very good news. First, I have been researching what makes good resume advice, and will soon have access to good job advice for every aspect of job seeking. Even better…
- I’ve attended the BayNet hosted event “A Day in the Life of a Special Librarian,” now recently uploaded to the SFPL’s YouTube channel, and made a lot of contacts. I was also able to get an information interview from all four of the speakers for my own Day in the Life series. I’ll be posting them over the next couple of months, one every two weeks.

I’m very happy: not only will Bayline have some new material, but I’ve also run a successful beta test of my series. I just need to push myself and ask some more librarians for informational interviews.

May June be an even better month!

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**Intersect Alert June 6, 2016**


**Privacy:**

FBI wants to exempt its huge fingerprint and photo database from privacy protections

The FBI wants to exempt its burgeoning national database of fingerprints and facial photos from a federal law that gives Americans the right to sue for government violations of the Privacy Act, such as refusing to tell a person if he or she is in the system.
The statute mandates a specific kind of privacy framework. Commissioners to keep in mind.

we included several indisputable facts in our comments for the

The FCC cannot, and has never been able to, "adopt an Federal

proceeding, the thinner the arguments against it become, and

closer we got to the deadline to submit comments on the

Last week, we filed our official comments with the Federal

Privacy Rights Will Prevail

Grasping at Straws: Against ISP Objections, Consumers’

Privacy Rights Will Prevail

The FTC framework, by comparison is both (a) reactive (can

access services under Title II).

and (c) limited to common carriers (i.e. broadband internet

"not" camp), the FCC has a congressional mandate to

promulgate rules that are (a) forward-looking, (b) use-based,

and (c) limited to common carriers (i.e. broadband internet

access services under Title II).

The FTC framework, by comparison is both (a) reactive (can

only be used after the harm has occurred), and (b) type-based

(some types of data are entitled to more protection than others).

The very engineering of the internet makes this impossible to

implement meaningfully for ISPs. ISPs handle massive

amounts of data, of varying types, at any given moment. For an

ISP to implement an FTC-style “tiered” system, it would first

need to know what--if any--of the data it is being handed is

sensitive, and thus must be treated separately.


3 Years Later, the Snowden Leaks Have Changed How the World Sees NSA Surveillance

Three years ago today, the world got powerful confirmation

that the NSA was spying on the digital lives of hundreds of

millions of innocent people. It started with a secret order

written by the FISA court authorizing the mass surveillance of

Verizon Business telephone records—an order that members of

Congress quickly confirmed was similar to orders that had

been issued every 3 months for years. Over the next year, we

saw a steady drumbeat of damning evidence, creating a

detailed, horrifying picture of an intelligence agency

unrestrained by Congress and shielded from public oversight

by a broken classification system.

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2016/06/3-years-later-snowden-leaks-have-changed-how-world-sees-nsa-surveillance.

Grasping at Straws: Against ISP Objections, Consumers’

Privacy Rights Will Prevail

Last week, we filed our official comments with the Federal

Communications Commission for its privacy proceeding. The

closer we got to the deadline to submit comments on the

proceeding, the thinner the arguments against it become, and

we included several indisputable facts in our comments for the

Commissioners to keep in mind.

The statute mandates a specific kind of privacy framework.

The FCC cannot, and has never been able to, “adopt an Federal

Trade Commission-style framework.” This is a myth thrown

around by lobbyists who have never bothered to read the

statute they’re suddenly so concerned about. Like it or not (and

it’s pretty clear that the Internet Service Providers are in the

“not” camp), the FCC has a congressional mandate to

promulgate rules that are (a) forward-looking, (b) use-based,

and (c) limited to common carriers (i.e. broadband internet

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The FTC framework, by comparison is both (a) reactive (can

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need to know what--if any--of the data it is being handed is

sensitive, and thus must be treated separately.


Freedom of Information:

Posting More FOIA Releases Online One Way to Improve FOIA Websites

Agencies are getting better at posting required information

online, but there is still a lot of room for growth. In 2007, a

National Security Archive E-FOIA Audit, “File Not Found,”

reported that only one in five federal agencies had put online

all of the specific requirements mentioned in the E-FOIA

amendments, such as guidance on making requests, contact

information, and processing regulations. Our follow up

E-Audit, 2015’s Most Agencies Falling Short on Mandate for

Online Records, shows some improvement — by 2015 the

number of agencies that have checked those boxes is much

higher — 100 out of 165 — though many (66 in 165) post just

the bare minimum, especially when posting FOIA responses.

When it comes to posting FOIA responses online, the 2015

audit found that only 40 percent of agencies have followed

the law’s instruction for systematic posting of records released

through FOIA in their electronic reading rooms – nearly 20

years after Congress passed the Electronic Freedom of

Information Act Amendments.

https://nsarchive.wordpress.com/2016/06/02/posting-more-foia-releases-online-one-way-to-improve-foia-websites-frinformsum-622016/.

Panama Papers fallout, free speech

Fallout from the Panama Papers reverberates around the world

from Brazilian politicians found to have used New Zealand

debts, to the U.S offices of the law firm at the center of the

world’s largest leak being cut back.

Stories are still emerging from the epic database managed and

networked with 400 journalists by the International Consortium

of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ). More can be expected as

new major media organizations join the those who have been

probing the 11.5m document trove for the past year.

https://www.publicintegrity.org/2016/06/02/19753/panama-papers-fallout-free-speech?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+publici_rss+%28The+Center+for+Public+Integrity%29.

Copyright:

Copyright California: How a new bill could curtail access to public information
Last spring, in a brazen move, the concessionaire for Yosemite National Park revealed that it had privately registered legal trademarks for the historic names of many of the elements of the national park, including the very name “Yosemite National Park.” Delaware North’s assertion of ownership of historic names within the park forced Yosemite, at least for the duration of the legal challenge, to replace many of the traditional names in the park with new ones. (Yosemite has not been the only public subject of Delaware North’s secret trademarking: It also quietly obtained rights to the name “Space Shuttle Atlantis,” which may complicate things somewhat for NASA historians.) Now, in response to this real affront to public interest, the California Legislature is considering AB 2880, a bill that would grant California’s state government broad latitude to presume a copyright over any and all of its work. This bill, if it passes, will entirely change the nature of what is available in California as truly public information.

http://sunlightfoundation.com/blog/2016/06/02/copyright-california-how-a-new-bill-could-curtail-access-to-public-information/.

Stealing Books in the Age of Self-Publishing

In the world of self-publishing, where anyone can put a document on Amazon and call it a book, many writers are seeing their work being appropriated without their permission. Some books are copied word-for-word while others are tinkered with just enough to make it tough for an automated plagiarism-checker to flag them. (Though the practice is legally considered copyright infringement, the term “plagiarism” is more widely used.) The offending books often stay up for weeks or even months at a time before they’re detected, usually by an astute reader. For the authors, this intrusion goes beyond threatening their livelihood. Writing a novel is a form of creative expression, and having it stolen by someone else, many say, can feel like a personal violation.


Open Data:

House makes spending data available in easy-to-use format (SAMHDA)

Great news for open and accessible government: The U.S. House of Representatives has decided to release a machine-readable CSV file of the quarterly “Statement of Disbursements.” This report details how the House and its lawmakers spend taxpayer money, and having it available in an easy-to-use format enables more effective analysis and oversight. SAMHDA includes the following and more: National Survey of Substance Abuse Treatment Services; National Survey on Drug Use and Health; National Mental Health Services Survey.


Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety; attribution appreciated.

The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.

Jobline 2016/06/08

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2016/06/jobline-20160608/ June 8, 2016 Categories: Jobline

The Palo Alto, CA office of Finnegan is seeking a Research Librarian to become a part of the Library Services team.
About Finnegan

Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow, Garrett & Dunner, LLP is dedicated to advancing the ideas, discoveries, and innovations that drive businesses around the world. From offices in the United States, Europe, and Asia, our lawyers work with leading corporations and innovators to protect, advocate, and leverage their most important intellectual property assets. Our diverse client base covers a range of industries and technologies, including biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, industrial manufacturing, electrical components, medical devices, and computer technologies.

Finnegan’s practice includes all aspects of patent, trademark, copyright, and trade secret law, including counseling, prosecution, licensing, and litigation. We also represent clients on IP issues related to international trade, portfolio management, the Internet, e-commerce, government contracts, antitrust, and unfair competition.

Finnegan is an equal opportunity employer.

Job Summary

Reporting to the manager of library services, the research librarian located in the Palo Alto branch office will be a key member of the research team within our library services department. The person in this role will be responsible for a wide variety of tasks that support the delivery of firm-wide library research services including: conducting timely and cost-effective research and document retrieval upon request, recommending appropriate research services and/or resources in response to inquiries from firm personnel, providing client development research support, participating in library training initiatives, and assisting the manager of library services with special projects as needed. Hours: 9:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. (PST)

Specific Job Duties

- Provides legal, business, scientific, technical and other documents upon request using both internal and outside sources
- Provides extensive legal, business, IP and general research assistance using appropriate print and electronic resources
- Helps recommend appropriate research services and/or resources in response to inquiries from firm personnel as needed
- Initiates and monitors alerts from various databases
- Provides client development research support; works with marketing staff on initiatives as requested, including background research and competitive intelligence on current or potential clients and markets
- Remains current in research techniques and available resources relevant to providing high quality library and research services
- Assists in the evaluation of new electronic resources by being an active participant in all testing projects
- Participates in updating and maintaining the library SharePoint site as needed
- Participates in special projects assigned by the Manager of Library Services
- Coordinates and/or provides library resource and/or research training to attorneys and other staff in both individual and group settings

Qualifications

- MLS degree required
- Two or more years of research experience in a law firm, law library, or corporate setting required; intellectual property and/or scientific research experience preferred
- Demonstrated research skills and knowledge of legal and business databases such as Lexis/LexisAdvance, Westlaw, ProQuest Dialog, CourtLink, Hoover’s, BloombergLaw and other legal and non-legal research source; knowledge of intellectual property databases as plus
- Experience with Microsoft Office Suite, working knowledge of SharePoint or other web design program, and the ability to learn the systems and databases used by the library and the firm
- Ability to prioritize tasks, meet deadlines and manage a diverse workload with a strong focus on providing high quality library and research services to a large group of users in a fast-paced environment
- Ability to work independently or as part of a team
- Ability to work in a multi-office environment
- Excellent interpersonal, communication (written and oral), and presentation skills, with a proven ability to build strong relationships and work in a collaborative environment and willingness to actively contribute to department projects
- Ability to remain current and adapt to new materials, changes in resources and research techniques, and shifts in information demands
- Flexibility to work additional hours as necessary

The firm offers an excellent compensation and benefits package and is an equal opportunity employer.

To apply for this position, please send your resume and cover letter to:

Robin McKinney
Staff Recruiting Manager
901 New York Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20001-4413
Fax: 202.408.4400
robin.mckinney@finnegan.com

When applying, please mention that you found this position listing on SLA SV/SF Jobline. Thank you!
Library Technician (Menlo Park, CA)
Employer: ADC Management Services, Inc.
Assignment Location: Department of Interior – USGS Menlo Park, CA
Pay: $26.04 hr.
Paid benefits including Health, Dental, Vision, Life. Paid Holidays and 401K
Hours: 40 hours per week, Monday – Friday.

Required: Experience includes equivalent combination of education and/or experience in library science and 1 year of experience with the creation of cataloging and metadata records on an integrated library or digital library repository system.

Please submit Resumes in Word or PDF format only, via e-mail to lynnaguilar@adcmanagementservices.com
Include Librarian or Library Aide in the subject line.
NO phone calls or walk-ins accepted.

Successful candidate will be subject to a Government Background Check.

The U.S. Geological Survey Library in Menlo park, CA seeks a Library Technician for circulation desk coverage and Interlibrary Loan (ILL) services for the USGS scientific field records collection. The services shall support the library’s overall objectives to USGS scientists and the public.

The USGS Library makes materials widely available for use through circulation, Interlibrary Loan, and document delivery services. The library circulates materials to USGS employees across the country and delivers electronic works on request via e-mail and secure websites. Materials are obtained from other libraries, document suppliers, and databases for use by USGS scientists. Requests and transaction workflows for circulation and interlibrary loan are performed using the library’s Horizon integrated library system, the OCLC national bibliographic utility, e-mail workflows, and OCLC ILLiad software. The circulation desk maintains organized collections and serves as primary point of contact for the Menlo Park library for both on-site library patrons and off-site customers. Activities are performed under the guidelines for the USGS Library system and any locally developed procedures at the USGS Library.

Duties:
Monitors circulation desk and public areas for patrons seeking library assistance. Is visible and responsive, providing high-quality customer service in an efficient timely manner.

Loans USGS Library materials to USGS employees and USGS business partners
Locates and obtains materials for USGS scientists that are not part of the USGS collection
Delivers electronic materials in response to USGS scientist requests
Provides statistical reports on library use and documents library procedures
Maintains well organized and orderly library collections
Prepares materials for inclusion in the library collection
Keeps library areas orderly and in good working order ensuring continuity in delivery of services

Required: Knowledge of Library software including Horizon Integrated Library System, OCLC First Search, OCLC ILLiad software, and various scanning and productivity software for creation of digital materials.

Qualifications:
Excellent customer service skills, good verbal and written communications skills, and attention to detail
Ability to work cooperatively with library staff in a team environment
Basic understanding of USGS mission, products, and information resources
Experience with commonly used software productivity packages (MS-Office, e-mail)
Experience with scanning equipment sufficient to create image and pdf files
Knowledge of computers and library database usage, including OCLC’s FirstSearch and ILLiad services, and the Horizon integrated library system
Understanding of the ALA Interlibrary Loan Code for the United States
Must be able to stand for long periods of time, stoop, bend and lift heavy books
Experience required for the position includes 1 year of experience with the OCLC Interlibrary Loan or Cataloging subsystems and 1 year of experience working with an Integrated Library System
Knowledge of library bibliographic databases including online catalogs and GeoRef
Must be able to lift records boxes
Experience required includes 1 year of experience with the creation of cataloging and metadata records on an integrated library or digital library repository system

When applying, please mention that you found this position listing on SLA SV/SF Jobline. Thank you!
Freedom of Information:

The U.S. just took one step closer to privatizing a core part of the Internet

Every time you type “Google.com” into your browser, what you get is a search engine used by billions. What you don’t see? A complicated string of actions kicking into high gear behind the scenes, turning your URL into language that any computer or server in the world can understand and, ultimately, spit out as a Web page.

It’s this invisible process that underpins much of the Internet, and the Web can’t function without it. Until now, the United States has technically been responsible for overseeing this system. But a slow process has been building in Washington to transfer stewardship of it to the rest of the world. And now, the government has taken another key step in that process.


Today in OpenGov: House to vote on FOIA reform

WITNESSING HISTORY: The U.S House of Representatives will vote on S.337 (The FOIA Improvement Act of 2016) today under Suspension of the Rules. This is incredibly good news to share with you. Reforming FOIA has been a pillar of the Sunlight Foundation’s agenda in Washington for the past decade. While the bill isn’t perfect, we are thrilled that the House is moving to vote on the FOIA Improvement Act and look forward to celebrating President Barack Obama signing it into law. Passing this bill is a critical step toward building a more transparent, accountable and functional FOIA system.

http://www.copyright.gov/newsnet/2016/629.html

FOIA Reform Passes Congress In Time for 50th Anniversary

Congress has passed reforms to the Freedom of Information Act, which EFF hopes signals the beginning of a larger overhaul of the transparency law that will mark its 50th birthday in July. Earlier this year both chambers passed dueling FOIA reform bills. The House passed the FOIA Oversight and Implementation Act (H.R. 653) in January, while the Senate approved it’s own version – the FOIA Improvement Act of 2016 (S. 337) – in March. On Monday, the House approved the Senate bill, which will head to President Obama. He has previously indicated that he would sign it.

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2016/06/congress-passes-foia-reform-lawmakers

Cybersecurity:

Librarians shrug off ISIS hack

The Arkansas Library Association’s website has been hacked, and information about the librarians has been posted on a pro-ISIS website. But the librarians don’t seem too hacked off. Necia T. Parker-Gibson, a librarian and professor at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, said it’s unsettling, but the only difference she has seen so far is more spam in her email inbox. "I can’t for the life of me figure out why they want the names and addresses of a bunch of librarians,” Parker-Gibson said. “We’re not particularly scary.”

http://www.librarystuff.net/2016/06/08/librarians-shrug-off-isis-hack/
Office within LC helped preserve the founders’ idea that copyright should be awarded for a limited time was sound. It was reinforced when Neal agreed, saying that the location strengthened the understanding that copyright’s purpose is to make research and scholarship accessible.
http://lj.libraryjournal.com/2016/06/opinion/john-berry/keep-copyright-at-lc-blatant-berry/

Copyright Office Seeks Meetings with Stakeholders on Revisions to Library and Archives Exceptions
The U.S. Copyright Office today published a Notice of Inquiry (“NOI”) inviting interested parties to discuss potential revisions to the library and archives exceptions in the Copyright Act, 17 U.S.C. § 108, in furtherance of the Office’s policy work in this area over the past ten years and as part of the current copyright review process in Congress. The Copyright Office has led and participated in major discussions on potential changes to section 108 since 2005, with the goal of updating the provisions to better reflect the facts, practices, and principles of the digital age and to provide greater clarity for libraries, archives, and museums. To finalize its legislative recommendation, the Copyright Office seeks further input from the public on several remaining issues, including, especially, provisions concerning copies for users, security measures, public access, and third-party outsourcing.
http://www.copyright.gov/newsnet/2016/629.html

Google Wins Another Fair Use Case
On May 26, 2016, a jury returned a verdict in favor of Google in its battle against Oracle. Oracle brought suit claiming that Google infringed by using Java application programming interface (API) in Android’s mobile operating system. Google argued that its use of the code in the Android system, which relies partly on Java (an open source code that was acquired by Oracle in 2010), was fair use.
http://policynotes.arl.org/?p=1378

Open Data:

National Library of Medicine Launches Image Database
The National Library of Medicine is pleased to announce the launch of MedPix®, a free online medical image database originally developed by the Departments of Radiology and Biomedical Informatics at the Uniformed Services University, Bethesda, Maryland, USA.
The MedPix collection categorizes and classifies the image and patient data for each of several subsets of image database applications (e.g. radiology, pathology, ophthalmology, etc.). The content material is both high-quality and high-yield and includes both common and rare conditions. Most cases have a proven diagnosis (pathology, clinical follow-up). The teaching file cases are peer-reviewed by an Editorial Panel.
http://web.resourceshelf.com/go/resourceblog/73352

Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety; attribution appreciated.
The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.

Share this:

Day in the Life: Mark Mackler
http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2016/06/day-in-the-life-mark-mackler/

As editor of Bayline, one of my goals has been to showcase special libraries as the unique and fascinating institutions they are. There are libraries for both wine and landfills, for example.

Over the past year, I’ve been developing an idea of my creative colleague’s Sandy Malloy called the Day in the Life series. In it, special librarians are given a series of informational interview questions, and the Q&A form the basis of an article. We got one article on the day in the life of a law librarian before going back to question development.

The questions have been thoroughly developed now, and they’ve been beta tested – successfully. At the BayNet hosted event “A Day in the Life of a Special Librarian” I got interviews from all four speakers, and I’ll be posting them over the next two months from shortest to longest.

The first of these four interviews is from Mark Mackler, Supervising Librarian for the California Department of Justice in the Attorney General’s Law Library, San Francisco.

How did you become interested in your library specialization?
At first I wanted to become a lawyer, but I realized that this profession would be far more satisfying for me.

How did you come to work at your current organization?
I bumped into an attorney here, with whom I used to work in a private law firm. She told me about the upcoming job opening.

What are your most frequent, professional tasks during a typical workday?
Research and reference and interacting with the 250 attorneys in the office.

What skills do you consider most essential for your job?
Strong reference/research skills, and not only in the area of law.

What would you say is the biggest challenge your library faces?
Finding the right balance between print and online, and dealing with attorneys with many different levels of experience.

What’s your favorite task?
Having an attorney at my desk, or being at the attorney’s desk, and doing the reference interview.

How has digitization influenced your institution’s library?
Do you have digitization projects, digital-born records, and other digital resource project that you would like to discuss?
None

What’s the most unusual thing that happened on your job?
Having an attorney break down in tears after having been dressed down by a superior.

If you weren’t a special librarian, what might you be, and why?
Teacher—that had been my previous profession.

What do you like most about your job, overall?
Intellectual stimulation, and the feeling that we are using our skills to do good in the world.

How would you recommend a newer librarian get started in a job like yours?
Network, learn the language of law.

Thank you very much for your contribution to Bayline, Mark! May all the cases in your basket be good eggs.

If any of you are interest in an informational interview about a day in your life, let me know and we’ll get in touch

---

**Jobline 2016/06/15**


**Associate/ Senior Associate**

**Information Resources, North America,** Los Angeles or San Francisco

NERA Economic Consulting ([www.nera.com](http://www.nera.com)) is a global firm of experts dedicated to applying economic, finance, and quantitative principles to complex business and legal challenges. For half a century, NERA’s economists have been creating strategies, studies, reports, expert testimony, and policy recommendations for government authorities and the world’s leading law firms and corporations. We bring academic rigor, objectivity, and real world industry experience to bear on issues arising from competition, regulation, public policy, strategy, finance, and litigation. NERA’s clients value our ability to apply and communicate state-of-the-art approaches clearly and convincingly, our commitment to deliver unbiased findings, and our reputation for quality and independence. Our clients rely on the integrity and skills of our unparalleled team of economists and other experts backed by the resources and reliability of one of the world’s largest economic consultancies. With its main office in New York City, NERA serves clients from more than 25 offices across North America, Europe, and Asia Pacific.

We have an immediate opening for a full-time Information Resources/Knowledge Management position in our Los Angeles or San Francisco office. This is an exciting opportunity for a creative individual who has vision and enthusiasm to join a global Information Research team with an established and expanding firm.

**Description and Responsibilities**

Reporting to the Senior Manager, Global Information Resources, the qualified candidate will have the following responsibilities:

- Work with global consulting staff on a wide range of research projects using information tools and proprietary databases to provide information for client projects and business development initiatives
- Participate in the knowledge management process working with practice leaders to incorporate their work product and knowledge
- Work with the global NERA IRC team in sharing work
and experience and helping to build the research function in the region

- Contribute to the education and training of the consulting staff both with research issues generally, and with end-user training specifically
- Provide special research and support to the global consulting staff as needed
- Assist in marketing and developing information services to NERA staff globally
- Use a helpdesk system to provide quick solutions and in-depth research, current awareness services, and competitive intelligence research
- Work on special projects as assigned

Requirements

- Advanced degree in one of the following is required: information/library science from an accredited program or Masters (MBA) in business or economics or law; an undergraduate degree in economics or finance would be an advantage.
- Minimum of 2 years’ experience working in a research environment providing business, legal or financial information (preferably in a law, energy, professional services or consulting firm) is required
- Understanding/knowledge of search techniques and database structures of business, legal, healthcare/pharmaceuticals, energy or finance sectors using database services such as: ThomsonOne/Eikon, Datastream, SNL, BvD Orbis, Factiva, legal databases (Lexis Nexis, Westlaw, Bloomberg Law, Oxford Competition Law), Bloomberg, CapIQ, Factset
- Ability to prioritize, problem solve, respond quickly to requests and handle a heavy workload requiring creative, analytical, evaluative, and interpretive thought processes
- Excellent interpersonal and organizational skills as well as strong oral and written communication skills
- Fluency in English is required and proficiency in one or more European languages, such as German or French, is an advantage.
- Proficient knowledge of Microsoft Office and SharePoint

The qualified candidate must be able to work a minimum 40-hour week Monday through Friday and additional hours as needed to meet time-sensitive deadlines.

We offer a competitive salary, including an excellent benefits package.

To apply for this position please submit your CV and cover letter by clicking on this link

https://mmc.taleo.net/careersection/10480/jobdetail.ftl?job=LOS0016C

Save the Date: LinkedIn for Library Professionals on July 12th

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2016/06/save-the-date-linkedin-for-library-professionals-on-july-12th/ June 18, 2016 Categories: Bayline, Chapter Programs & Events Tags: events, librarians, professional development

LinkedIn for Library Professionals – A Professional Development Workshop
July 12th at the Pacific Energy Center in San Francisco
8:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Intersect Alert June 20, 2016


Net Neutrality:

‘Net neutrality’ rules for fair internet access win in court
A federal appeals court on Tuesday upheld the government’s “net neutrality” rules, preserving regulations that force internet providers such as Comcast and AT&T to treat all online traffic — everything from Netflix and cat videos to games and downloads — equally.
The 2-1 ruling is a sweeping victory for the Obama administration and the consumer groups and internet companies that have pushed net neutrality for years. The Federal Communications Commission’s rules block internet service providers from favoring their own services and
disadvantaging others; blocking other sites and apps; and creating “fast lanes” for video and other data services that pay for the privilege.


DC Circuit Court Upholds FCC’s Open Internet Order
Governing Net Neutrality

On Tuesday, June 14, 2016, the Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit released its long-awaited opinion in U.S. Telecom Association v. FCC, upholding the FCC’s 2015 Open Internet Order by a 2-1 vote. On petition for review, the petitioners challenged the FCC’s reclassification of broadband service as a Title II common carriers, reclassification of mobile broadband service, the ban on paid prioritization and the General Conduct Rule, and also argued that the net neutrality rules violate the First Amendment. The DC Circuit found against each of these challenges and denied the petitions for review.

http://policynotes.arl.org/?p=1385

President Obama’s Plan for a Free and Open Internet (A White House timeline on net neutrality)

More than any other invention of our time, the Internet has unlocked possibilities we could just barely imagine a generation ago. And here’s a big reason we’ve seen such incredible growth and innovation: Most Internet providers have treated Internet traffic equally. That’s a principle known as “net neutrality” — and it says that an entrepreneur’s fledgling company should have the same chance to succeed as established corporations, and that access to a high school student’s blog shouldn’t be unfairly slowed down to make way for advertisers with more money.

https://www.whitehouse.gov/net-neutrality

Library of Congress Subject Headings:

A Fight Over ‘Aliens’

In 2014, Melissa Padilla, an immigrant from Mexico, was dismayed to find while doing research for a paper at Dartmouth College that all articles about undocumented students were archived under the heading “illegal aliens.” When she led a group of students to ask the college library to consider phasing out the term, they expected, at best, to make a statement at the campus. But their request triggered a political fight that has drawn in lawmakers engaged in the immigration debate.

Dartmouth librarians told the students that indexing terms were drawn in lawmakers engaged in the immigration debate.

http://www.nytimes.com/2016/06/20/opinion/a-fight-over-aliens.html

Open Data:

Transit data – a major success story for common data standards

2016 brings us one of the largest open data success stories to date: the creation of national and global tools for exploring public transit schedule data.

Transit data has been light years ahead of many other open data sets. In other domains, half the struggle is getting governments to release their data at all — and in a machine-readable format. But an important layer on top of this is for the structure of the data to follow a common standard so the public can easily combine data from multiple governments or agencies.


Freedom of Information:

50 of the Year’s Most Important Stories Made Possible by the Freedom of Information Act, Signed 50 Years Ago this July 4

Today the National Security Archive celebrates the Freedom of Information Act’s upcoming 50th birthday by highlighting 50 of the year’s biggest news stories made possible by FOIA. The diverse front-page news shows how FOIA can impact human rights, government accountability, and even what you eat. Here is a sampling of this year’s top stories.


Privacy:

Privacy advocates accuse Obama administration of failing to properly protect student data

A coalition of organizations and individuals concerned about student privacy rights is accusing the Obama administration of failing to properly protect student data from unauthorized disclosure and is petitioning the Education Department to strengthen a federal law to prevent the unauthorized disclosure of kids’ personally identifiable information.


2017 Intelligence Bill Would Constrain Privacy Board

The jurisdiction of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board (PCLOB) would be restricted for the second year in a row by the Senate Intelligence Committee version of the FY2017 Intelligence Authorization Act (S.3017). Section 603 of the Act would specifically limit the scope of PCLOB’s attention to the privacy and civil liberties “of United States persons.” Internal disagreements over the move were highlighted in the Committee report published last week to accompany the text of the bill, which was reported out of Committee on June 5.


House Leaders Politicize a Tragedy to Block Bipartisan Surveillance Reforms

Two years ago, the House stood united across party lines,
voting by a remarkable margin of 293–123 to support the same measures, which would enhance security and privacy by limiting the powers of intelligence agencies to conduct warrantless backdoor searches targeting Americans, and to undermine encryption standards and devices. This week, the intelligence community broke that consensus by inappropriately politicizing the recent tragedy in Orlando. Before Thursday’s vote, the chair of the House Intelligence Committee, Rep. Devin Nunes (R-CA), circulated a letter falsely claiming that: “If this amendment were enacted, the Intelligence Community would not be able to look through information lawfully collected under FISA Section 702 to see if…the Orlando nightclub attacker was in contact with any terrorist groups outside the United States.” These claims were downright disingenuous.

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2016/06/house-leaders-politicize-tragedy-block-bipartisan-surveillance-reforms

Publishing voter registration data must balance privacy with transparency
As mandated by law, the District of Columbia published a list of voters online 14 days before the election. This is an excellent and unfortunate example of how a disclosure of unredacted voter registration data online may be legal, but raise ethical questions that merit public debate and reform. As sharp-eyed privacy advocates noticed, the District went beyond what the 2015 Primary Date Alteration Act required, publishing not only names but home addresses, party affiliations and voting frequency.


Copyright:

Big Win for User-Generated Content Hosts in Vimeo Case
The Second Circuit has released its long-awaited opinion in Capitol Records v. Vimeo, fully vindicating Vimeo’s positions. EFF along with a coalition of advocacy groups, submitted a friend-of-the-court brief in the case, supporting Vimeo. The Second Circuit considered three important issues. First, whether a service provider could rely on the DMCA safe harbor when it came to pre-1972 sound recordings. Second, whether evidence of Vimeo employees watching certain well-known songs was enough to create “red flag” knowledge that the videos were infringing. And third, whether Vimeo was “willfully blind” to infringement occurring on its service. For each of these issues, the Second Circuit ruled for Vimeo. https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2016/06/big-win-user-generated-content-hosts-vimeo-case

Cybersecurity:

Russian groups accused of hacking Democratic computers, seeking opposition research on Trump
Hackers affiliated with the Russian government have been tapping into the files of the Democratic National Committee for nearly a year, targeting in particular the party’s opposition research about Donald Trump, officials say. DNC officials on Tuesday confirmed the break-in, which was first reported by the Washington Post. The party’s research on Trump had been obtained by the hackers, they said, adding that the party’s internal emails and chat communications also were accessible to them.


Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety; attribution appreciated.

The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.

Professional Development Workshop: LinkedIn for Library Professionals
Categories: Bayline, Chapter Programs & Events Tags: events, librarians, professional development

Please join us for a summer Professional Development Workshop:

LinkedIn for Library Professionals

Presentation by Shari Tishman, followed by group discussions

Tuesday, July 12, 2016

8:30am – 12:30pm

The Pacific Energy Center – 851 Howard St., San Francisco, CA 94103

Are you interested in…

• Discovering more about LinkedIn
• Tips on navigating the LinkedIn site
• Finding out how to use this powerful tool more effectively
• Learning from colleagues how and why they use LinkedIn
Using LinkedIn for job searching, networking and more

Registration information:

SLA members: $30
Students and currently not employed: $20
Non Members: $45

Register below using PayPal (you do not need to have a PayPal account)

Registration deadline is Sunday, July 10, 2016.

For additional information: please contact Marlene Vogelsang. 415-973-7206

The Pacific Energy Center is on Howard St., between 4th and 5th streets and is convenient to Powell Street BART. Parking is available at the 5th/Market Parking Garage.

Tentative Agenda

8:30 – 9:00 am – Registration
9:00 – 9:30 am – Networking
9:30 – 11:00 am – Presentation
11:00 – 11:15 – Q&A
11:15 -11:30 – Break
11:30 – 12:15pm Group discussion/Sharing circle (to share your own LinkedIn experiences/ “Best Practices”)

Thanks to our generous sponsor!

Day in the Life: Peggy Tahir

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2016/06/day-in-the-life-peggy-tahir/

June 28, 2016 Categories: Bayline, Chapter Programs & Events
Tags: member highlights

I hope you enjoyed the last Day in the Life article, because I have more to come!

Next up is Peggy Tahir, Education & Copyright Librarian of the UCSF Library.

The UCSF Library is an academic health sciences library. The campus has four professional schools (Medicine, Dentistry, Nursing, Pharmacy), a Graduate Division (many Post-doctoral scholars) and some other smaller degree programs. UCSF is for graduate study only, and is the smallest of the UC campuses.

How did you become interested in your library specialization?

I was working in a medical library and decided to go to library school. I found it an interesting environment to work in.

How did you come to work at your current organization?

I had previously worked in hospital libraries and for the UOP School of Dentistry. After working developing a digital library and doing early web development, I came to UCSF in 1998.

What are your most frequent, professional tasks during a typical workday?

Personal consultations with researchers, systematic review consultations, teaching PubMed or other database classes, teaching citation management classes, handling email reference questions or following up on chat reference sessions, developing course content and materials.

What skills do you consider most essential for your job?

Information retrieval and management skills, communication skills, knowledge of copyright law, teaching ability, tech skills, ability to work with a diverse and distributed client base, curiosity.

What would you say is the biggest challenge your library faces?

Limited finances.

What’s your favorite task?

Providing personal research consultations and/or systematic review consultations.

How has digitization influenced your institution’s library?

Do you have digitization projects, digital-born records, and other digital resource project that you would like to discuss?

In the sciences, no one wants print. Most current materials are in digitized format. The UCSF library has digitized many
special collections:  https://www.library.ucsf.edu/collections/archives. We also house the Tobacco Control Archives, a digital library with several collections: https://www.library.ucsf.edu/tobacco

During my early years at UCSF I was the library’s Intranet webmaster, and was responsible for the initial building of the History of UCSF website: http://history.library.ucsf.edu/

In the years since, the website has expanded to include more historical information and photographs pertaining to all the professional schools. I haven’t worked on any digitization projects in my more recent jobs in the library.

What’s the most unusual thing that happened on your job?

A library patron wanted me to read through his medical record (which was about 2 inches thick) and explain it to him. The same patron also began lifting his shirt to show me his surgical scars.. awkward.

If you weren’t a special librarian, what might you be, and why?

Probably teaching in the community college system. I have a second master’s degree in English: Creative Writing. I have also been teaching in the CCSF Library Technology program for the last 10 years.

What do you like most about your job, overall?

I get paid to learn new things. I like working in the sciences. People are very motivated and there is constant discovery in the sciences in terms of new treatments, methods, medical devices and materials, genomics, technologies, etc. It makes for a very exciting work environment. I enjoy working with smart people.

How would you recommend a newer librarian get started in a job like yours?

Take the medical library course in library school (if there is one; there was when I went). Try and find an internship in a medical library. Join the local MLA chapter and meet others working in the field.

As somebody with an interest in medical technology (particularly gene therapy), I found this fascinating. If you want to learn more about the UCSF Library, be sure to check out Peggy’s presentation. Be glad it’s recorded, because there’s so much!

Intersect Alert June 28, 2016


Publishing:

Nascent Journal To Help Refugees Preserve And Publish Their Research
It can take researchers and academics years to get published in academic journals. It’s that rigorous. So imagine if all that work were lost. That’s a real possibility for scholars fleeing conflicts in the Middle East and Africa and arriving in Europe, far from their academic home bases. Today, a group of Oxford University students launches a platform to help preserve and publish that work. Paul Ostwald came up with the idea for the Journal of Interrupted Studies. http://www.npr.org/2016/06/20/482750891/nascent-journal-to-help-refugees-preserve-and-publish-their-research

Copyright:

Let European copyright catch up with reality
This week, the Wikimedia Foundation submitted comments to the European Commission, urging them to recommend a clear and broad freedom of panorama that would allow people to share images of buildings, sculptures, and monuments that are permanently located in a public space. We also voiced our concerns about the new proposed neighboring right for publishers, which—oddly enough—was included in the same consultation. http://blog.wikimedia.org/2016/06/26/european-copyright-more-freedom/

California Legislature Drops Proposal to Copyright All Government Works
You spoke, and the California Legislature listened. We’re happy to report that A.B. 2880 was amended in the State Senate to remove the dangerous sections that EFF and over 25 other organizations opposed. Your messages to the Legislature were vital to this effort.
The prior version of A.B. 2880 that was passed by the State Assembly would have given state government agencies vast new power to assert copyrights and trademarks over government-created work. It also would have added a broad new exemption to the California Public Records Act, the state’s version of FOIA.
It was never made clear why the state needed sweeping new copyright and trademark powers and new limitations on open
government. The power to assert copyrights and trademarks over taxpayer-funded work is one that’s easily abused to punish critics of the government or to charge more fees to the public. EFF warned the bill’s authors about these problems in early May. Soon after, numerous other organizations joined in opposition from library groups to open government advocates to newspapers, Internet companies, and the California Chamber of Commerce. And more than 360 Californians wrote to their state legislators through EFF’s Action Center to sound the alarm.

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2016/06/california-legislature-drops-proposal-copyright-all-government-works

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**Open Data:**

**Why are some cities so good at releasing open data? (Pt. 1)**

Cities collect tons of data. Open Baltimore reveals 1,847 dataset files; the Western Pennsylvania Regional Data Center notes 132,187 car accident reports; and on top of displaying large tables with interactive charts, the city of Mesa, Ariz., even makes a point of linking to the data that noncity agencies collect.

With so much data to compile, sort, and process, the U.S. City Open Data Census — an initiative that Sunlight is now revamping — looks at how well cities make some of their most important datasets accessible to the public. Open data isn’t just data that’s posted online — the census also notes if datasets are free, openly licensed, easy to download, accessible without restrictions and up to date, criteria that are linked to Sunlight’s open data policy guidelines. While many cities have made progress in recent years by creating open data portals, releasing comprehensive local maps and digitizing city archives, the City Open Data Census has seen a handful of cities consistently rise to the top. What about those cities makes them do well in the census? How did they ensure that their data are open and easily accessible to their communities?


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**Citation:**

**Google Link in Supreme Court Case Shows Struggle on Citation**

A Supreme Court decision got huge attention this week for a stinging dissent by Justice Sotomayor that some have called the court’s “Black Lives Matter” moment. But the decision is also significant because it contains a strange short phrase — http://goo.gl/3Yq3Nd. No, that’s not a typo or a technical snafu. Instead, it’s what appears to be the Supreme Court’s first use of a link shortener in a decision.

http://fortune.com/2016/06/22/google-link-supreme-court-citation/

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**Scholarly Communication:**

**The Time is Now: Scholarly Communication and Undergraduates**

Several recent developments in the scholarly communication world have left the future feeling bleak. An April news piece in Science concluded that millions of pirated papers continue to be downloaded from Sci-Hub. The piece states that for access or convenience (or both), “[o]ver the 6 months leading up to March, Sci-Hub served up 28 million documents” for researchers around the globe (para 6). Some of the papers downloaded were open access, with more than 4,000 papers available from PLoS. Even more surprisingly, “some of the most intense use of Sci-Hub appears to be happening on the campuses of U.S. and European universities.” … [T]his is undeniably an indictment of current library systems and how functional and accessible they are to our users, particularly if those that already have access through their library databases and Interlibrary Loan still prefer using Sci-Hub.

http://acrl.org/2016/06/28/scholcomm-undergrads/

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**Data visualization:**

**The Surprising History of the Infographic**

We live in an age of data visualization. Go to any news website and you’ll see graphics charting support for the presidential candidates; open your iPhone and the Health app will generate personalized graphs showing how active you’ve been this week, month or year. Sites publish charts showing how the climate is changing, how schools are segregating, how much housework mothers do versus fathers. And newspapers are increasingly finding that readers love “dataviz”: In 2013, the New York Times’ most-read story for the entire year was a visualization of regional accents across the United States. It makes sense. We live in an age of Big Data. If we’re going to understand our complex world, one powerful way is to graph it.

http://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/surprising-history-infographic-180959563/?no-ist

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**This Month in Bayline: June 2016**

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2016/07/this-month-in-bayline-june-2016/ July 1, 2016 Categories: Bayline, Chapter Programs & Events Tags: events
Hello again, Bayline readers. June has come and gone too soon, but July is upon us with its holiday coming soon. As for what happened last month:

- A co-worker of mine worried that the SLA was about "creepy government databases," but Intersect shows otherwise. From refugees being able to preserve and publish their research, to net neutrality winning in court, the news of the library world can sometimes be positive.
- In more good news, the Day in the Life series is off to a healthy start. Get the concise scoop on law libraries from Mark Mackler, and a thorough understanding of UCSF from Peggy Tahir (if you click on the video link, which you should totally do!).

That may be it for June, but you can look forward to more this month. Happy Independence Day!

Intersect Alert July 11, 2016


Search

Medical Dictionary by Stedman’s

“Since 1911, Stedman’s Medical Dictionary has been the medical profession’s most trusted source for medical definitions. A complete medical terms dictionary, Stedman’s Electronic Medical Dictionary (version 6.0) contains over 107,000 medical terms taken directly from Stedman’s Medical Dictionary, 28th Edition.”

“The Stedmans medical terminology dictionary at Drugs.com contains medical terms, medical definitions, and some pronunciations. Stedmans provides the most comprehensive medical dictionary online, in an easy-to-use, flexible format. For future reference, bookmark important definition pages in your browser favorites.”

Follow the link to search Stedman’s Medical Dictionary

Explore, Discover, and Create Using National Archives’ Primary Sources on DocsTeach.org

“Washington, DC…The National Archives has updated its popular teaching website, DocsTeach.org [https://www.docsteach.org/]. In addition to a new look and improved features, teachers and students can now use the full website and all of its interactive features on any computer or mobile device — including the tablets so often used in the classroom today.”

“DocsTeach is the online tool for teaching with documents from the National Archives. Since it first came online in 2010, its pages have been viewed over 12 million times, in over two million visits from around the world. More than 35,000 registered users have created over 20,000 DocsTeach learning activities. And teachers, students, and schools have downloaded the DocsTeach app for iPad over 580,000 times.”

Privacy

Google’s My Activity Reveals Just How Much it Knows About You

“Google has rolled out new tools to let users see what its ad-tracking service has learned about them, and to let users opt in or out of a new personalised ads service.”

“The addition to Google’s account settings, called My Activity, allows users to review everything that Google has tracked about their behaviour – across search, YouTube, Chrome, Android and everything else – and edit or delete it at each step.”

“If you use Google for everything you do, you might be surprised by just how much it catalogues about your comings and goings on the internet.”


Freedom of Information

Congress Passes Amendments to the FOIA

“On June 30, 2016 President Obama signed into law the FOIA Improvement Act of 2016. The Act addresses a range of procedural issues, including requirements that agencies establish a minimum of 90 days for requesters to file an administrative appeal and that they provide dispute resolution services at various times throughout the FOIA process. The Act
also codifies the Department of Justice’s “foreseeable harm” standard, amends Exemption 5, creates a new “FOIA Council,” and adds two new elements to agency Annual FOIA Reports. OIP has created a redline version of the FOIA showing the changes made by the Act.”


Why FOIA Is Broken, From a Government Worker’s Perspective

“Last week, Chris Haugh and I wrote a story about historic changes to the Freedom of Information Act, which makes government records accessible to the public—albeit imperfectly. We spoke to a number of folks who frequently make records requests, including an author who waited almost 20 years for one set of documents. They told some frustrating stories, to say the least.”

“But a number of our readers have experienced the other side of the exchange: the agencies that must respond to FOIA request.”


Open Data

Why Are Some Cities So Good At Releasing Open Data? Pt. 2

“Last week, we looked at some of the best performers on the US City Open Data Census and the policies that helped ensure their top-notch data accessibility. However, there are occasionally perceptions that open data is for cities with special advantages. The cities analyzed last week, Austin and Las Vegas, are both large, each with 500,000 to 1 million residents. Both cities likewise have extensive resources at their disposal, reporting yearly expenditures in the billions. This makes it easier for them to support the starting costs of an open data program. How can a smaller city with fewer resources possibly achieve the open data success of major urban areas like Austin and Las Vegas?”


Libraries

In Digital Era, Libraries Remain ‘A Trusted Institution’

“Two-year-old Fiona DeArmas and her mother, Amy, were strolling through the stacks of the Arbutus branch of the Baltimore County Public Library last week, searching for the right book to take home.”

“In a tradition passed on to each of Amy’s six children, she’d be allowed to take out as many books as her age.”

“The library has been an important resource for DeArmas, who teachers her children at home. Not only has it been important place for her to instill a love of reading to her children, but the library has become a gathering spot for home schooling parents, she said. Her children have taken part in a number of programs there over the years.”


Cornell University Pops Cork on Wine Library

“The brainchild of Susan Henry and Kathryn Boor, the former and current deans of the university’s College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS), Cornell’s wine library was part of a $105 million renovation of the campus’s Stocking Hall. The new space will store wines used for teaching in the school’s Viticulture and Enology program, where students in CALS already grow and press their own grapes. Previously, storing wine properly presented a challenge for the program, said Gavin Sacks, an associate professor in the Department of Food Science, whose research focuses on the many factors that affect the flavor of wines, from vine to cellar.”

http://lj.libraryjournal.com/2016/06/academic-libraries/cornell-university-pops-cork-on-wine-library/

Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety; attribution appreciated.
The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.

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Day in the Life: Taryn Edwards

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2016/07/day-in-the-life-taryn-edwards/ July 14, 2016 Categories: Bayline, Chapter Programs & Events Tags: member highlights
Hello again, Bayline! We still have two more articles, and here’s number three!

Next is Taryn Edwards: Librarian and Strategic Partnerships Manager for the Mechanics’ Institute of San Francisco.

In her own words, “My role has evolved over the 8.5 years I’ve worked there. I started out as a librarian but felt that MI needed to focus on making friends within the community to further our mutual goals. I am also an historian of the Institute with specialization on the years between 1854-1900 and our Industrial Expositions that took place between 1857-1899.”

**How did you become interested in your library specialization?**

Mechanics’ Institute has suffered over the last fifty years – it no longer was in the daily public eye via the newspapers and it became very insular. Its status as an independently financed organization came to mean it was “private” which is completely untrue. Membership to MI is open to anyone we are just are not financed by “public” funds, ie tax dollars.

**How did you come to work at your current organization?**

I answered a job advertisement on BayNet for a librarian and assistant to the Library Director. Prior to that I had never heard of MI.

**What are your most frequent, professional tasks during a typical workday?**

My days are filled with reference service, offering tours, and corresponding with folks interested in the Mechanics’ Institute and its services.

**What skills do you consider most essential for your job?**

One must be friendly and outgoing to do my job. I host over 700 people a year on our free Wednesday tour of the Institute. Sometimes the tour is one or two people, sometimes its over 50. Public speaking is essential!

**What would you say is the biggest challenge your library faces?**

Our membership is growing and so is our collection and the need for flexible space. Luckily we own our building so we can open up new areas of the Institute for its own use but that comes at the cost of loss of rental income. (We own our building and rent out office space to tenants – this is our we are able to function with a membership cost of only $95 per year).

**What’s your favorite task? Researching MI’s history.**

I am at home in the 19th century so take every opportunity to dig into our records.

**How has digitization influenced your institution’s library? Do you have digitization projects, digital-born records, and other digital resource project that you would like to discuss?**

We are working on digitizing our 19th century Institutional records but its an expensive process both in money and staff time.

**What’s the most unusual thing that happened on your job?**

A librarian from the baseball hall of fame in Japan came to visit. Turns out he was here to see the place because one of our librarians back in the 19th century had been the person to “introduce” baseball to Japan. See this blog post [here](http://tarynedwards.com/2014/03/13/horacewilson/)

**If you weren’t a special librarian, what might you be, and why?**

I fell into this job and it has turned out to be the most wonderful position I could imagine. I don’t consider myself a “special” librarian really – I would probably be working at a publicly funded library.

**What do you like most about your job, overall?**

I adore the people that are our members and those that are interested in MI and I love talking about the Institute and its humble origins.

**How would you recommend a newer librarian get started in a job like yours?**

Practice your public speaking skills.

**Do you have any additional comments?**

See on Wednesday at noon!

That’s it for this article. If you want more of Taryn, you can watch [her BayNet interview](http://her BayNet interview)…or [see her for yourself](http://see her for yourself)!

Until next time.

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**Intersect Alert July 18, 2016**
The Supreme Court Database

“The Supreme Court Database is the definitive source for researchers, students, journalists, and citizens interested in the U.S. Supreme Court. The Database contains over two hundred pieces of information about each case decided by the Court between the 1791 and 2015 terms. Examples include the identity of the court whose decision the Supreme Court reviewed, the parties to the suit, the legal provisions considered in the case, and the votes of the Justices.”

http://supremecourtdatabase.org/index.php

New York Public Library – Public Domain Collections: Free to Share and Reuse

“Did you know that more than 180,000 of the items in our Digital Collections are in the public domain?”

“That means everyone has the freedom to enjoy and reuse these materials in almost limitless ways. The Library now makes it possible to download such items in the highest resolution available directly from the Digital Collections website.”

https://www.nypl.org/research/collections/digital-collections/public-domain

Privacy

Your Car’s Been Studying You Closely and Everyone Wants the Data

“As you may have suspected, your car is spying on you. Fire up a new model and it updates more than 100,000 data points, including rather personal details like the front-seat passenger’s weight. The navigation system tracks every mile and remembers your route to work. The vehicular brain is smart enough to help avoid traffic jams or score parking spaces, and soon will be able to log not only your itineraries but your internet shopping patterns.”

“The connected car will be a wonderful convenience or an intrusive nightmare, depending on your tolerance. For automakers, it could be a gold mine, which is why the industry is building firewalls to keep the likes of Google Inc. and Apple Inc. at bay — and hoping to pry you away from their phones and apps when you’re motoring.”


Appeals Court Rules Feds Can Withhold Criminal Mug

“A federal appeals court has ruled that federal authorities can withhold criminal mug shots, concluding that the Internet and social media have made booking photos more ‘embarrassing and humiliating’ than ever before for defendants, and that the accused are entitled to privacy rights.”

“Twenty years ago, we thought that the disclosure of booking photographs, in ongoing criminal proceedings, would do no harm,’ the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals wrote in today’s 23-page opinion.‘But time has taught us otherwise. The internet and social media have worked unpredictable changes in the way photographs are stored and shared … they can be instantaneously disseminated for malevolent purposes … these images preserve the indignity of a deprivation of liberty, often at the (literal) expense of the most vulnerable among us.’”


Protecting Patron Privacy

“Recently, I was teaching a privacy class for librarians, and the topic turned to the privacy versus convenience trade-off—the occasional annoyances of using privacy-enhancing technologies online. An audience member laid out what she felt I was asking of the group. ‘You’re telling us to start selling granola when everyone else is running a candy store.’”

“I thought about her comment for a moment. ‘Yes, but don’t you see? There’s about to be a huge demand for granola, and no one else will have it.’”

http://lj.libraryjournal.com/2016/07/digital-resources/protecting-patron-privacy/#

Libraries and Librarians

The First Woman and African American Librarian of Congress Was Just Confirmed

“Carla Hayden made history on Wednesday as the Senate voted to approve her nomination as Librarian of Congress, making her both the first woman and the first African American to hold the post.”

“Hayden was first nominated by President Obama in February, and the Senate Rules Committee approved her nomination in early June. In recent weeks, advocates for her appointment began to grow restless for the Senate to take action and finally place her in the job, more than a year after her predecessor James Billington announced his resignation.”
Everything Librarians Need To Know About Pokemon Go!

“You’ve seen the Facebook posts. You’ve seen the headlines, you’ve heard about it in conversation, and you may have seen groups of teens and young adults walking around in odd places with smartphones and simultaneously bewildered and overjoyed expressions. But what is this game? Why is everyone so excited, and how can I use it at my library?”


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The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.

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Intersect Alert July 25, 2016


Search

National Transportation Atlas Database

“The National Transportation Atlas Database is a set of nationwide geographic databases of transportation facilities, transportation networks, and associated infrastructure. These datasets include spatial information for transportation modal networks and intermodal terminals, as well as the related attribute information for these features. Metadata documentation, as prescribed by the Federal Geographic Data Committee, is also provided for each database. The data support research, analysis, and decision-making across all modes of transportation. They are most useful at the national level, but have major applications at regional, state, and local scales throughout the transportation community.”


Toronto Public Library Reveals Its Website Searches In Real Time

“Bulletproof coffee, brain games for puppies, Donald Trump sucks.”

“What do they all have in common?”

“They’re all recent searches on the Toronto Public Library’s website.”

“The library has developed a tool using Google analytics that pulls search topics into one spot and updates in real time, offering a fascinating glimpse into the city’s psyche — and a slightly addictive browser screen.”

http://www.metronews.ca/news/toronto/2016/07/21/toronto-public-library-tool-lets-you-see-google-searches-.html

Access to Information

There’s a Reason Why We Complain

“The Social Science Research Network (SSRN) could be called the “academic version” of user-generated content on the web. Scholars and academics generate content in the form of scholarly papers and post them on the SSRN for all to see, read, and comment on. Often, academics who post their forthcoming papers or “pre-prints” intend to eventually publish them in scholarly journals that research libraries and academic societies acquire. But in the meantime, academics want to quickly share their works in a pre-published form on the SSRN. It’s a valuable and heavily used resource with over 682,100 scholarly working papers and forthcoming papers freely available.”

http://www.districtdispatch.org/2016/07/17243/

Libraries

Why Libraries Are Everywhere in the Czech Republic

“PRAGUE — In the age of Amazon and the internet, the idea of going to a public library to borrow a book may seem ever more quaint and old-fashioned in many parts of the world, but one country, at least, is clinging to it tenaciously: the Czech Republic.”

“There are libraries everywhere you look in the country — it has the densest library network in the world, according to a survey conducted for the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.
There are more libraries than grammar schools. In fact, there is one library for every 1,971 Czech citizens, the survey found — four times as many, relative to population, as the average European country, and 10 times as many as the United States, which has one for every 19,583 people.”


Nominate Your Favorite Librarian for 2016 I Love My Librarian Award

“CHICAGO, July 25, 2016 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ — The American Library Association (ALA) invites the public to nominate their favorite librarians for its prestigious 2016 I Love My Librarian Award. The award recognizes the public service of exceptional public, school, college, community college or university librarians who have transformed lives and communities through educational opportunities and lifelong learning. The ALA is accepting nominations now through Sept. 19 at http://www.ilovelibraries.org/lovemylibrarian.”

“The ALA will select up to 10 librarians. Each honoree will receive a $5,000 cash award, a plaque and a travel stipend to attend the I Love My Librarian Award ceremony and reception in New York City on Nov. 30, 2016, hosted by the philanthropic foundation and award sponsor, Carnegie Corporation of New York.”


Another Word for ‘Illegal Alien’ at the Library of Congress: Contentious

“WASHINGTON — Melissa Padilla was doing research on immigration in her university library at Dartmouth College when she noticed the term ‘illegal aliens’ popping up again and again. The more she saw it, the angrier she became.”

“This term, and the way people used it to criminalize the choices our parents made in order to provide us with better lives, completely detracts from the brave choices and obstacles we overcame in order to survive,” said Ms. Padilla, 26, who was an undocumented immigrant for 15 years after her parents brought her to the United States from Mexico when she was 7. “I’m not illegal. I’m a survivor that continues to work toward a better future.”


Day In the Life: Meredith Eliassen

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2016/07/day-in-the-life-meredith-eliassen/ July 28, 2016 Categories: Bayline, Chapter Programs & Events Tags: member highlights

Welcome, Bayline to the last BayNet interview in the Day in the Life series.

Last up is Meredith Eliassen, who works as a special collections librarian, university archivist, and curator in the J. Paul Leonard Library at San Francisco State University. She does instruction and outreach with the University Archives and Historic Collections and is curator of the Frank V. de Bellis Collection of Italian cultural materials, which is a museum/library that includes Etruscan artifacts, literature and music dating back to the Middle Ages, and an audio collection.

My current position has evolved over a quarter of a century. I always knew that I wanted to be a librarian. When I was in the sixth grade, I won a speech competition that was about the importance of the role of a school librarian. I trained to be an art librarian, because I have an interest in design. I graduated at a time when there were no stable job openings for art librarians, so I returned to a staff position in the Archives/Special Collections Department of the J. Paul Leonard Library; I have only been in a faculty (lecturer) librarian position since January 2013.

How did you come to work at your current organization?

I worked my way through my undergraduate career with student jobs at Santa Rosa Junior College, the North Bay Cooperative Library System, and then the J. Paul Leonard Library at San Francisco State University. At the Leonard Library I filed “insert” updates for legal and government
reference books as a student assistant, and this job was reclassified as a low-level staff position. After I graduated with a B.A. in Broadcasting Communication Arts, I continued with the part-time staff position and volunteered in the Archives/Special Collections Department organizing, indexing, and abstracting a collection of local Emmy Award-winning programs from the local NATAS (National Association for Television Arts and Sciences) chapter. Eventually I produced a printed finding aid for the collection, which was so detailed that it was mentioned in Congressional testimony about the need to preserve such collections, and the local NATAS chapter president sent me a letter describing the guide as an “outstanding achievement” (in essence the letter was a paper Emmy). When a clerical job opened in the department, I applied and got the job. I took a leave of absence to get my M.L.I.S. from Simmons College in Boston, and the finding aid I applied and got the job. I took a leave of absence to get my M.L.I.S. from Simmons College in Boston, and the finding aid I applied and got the job. I took a leave of absence to get my M.L.I.S. from Simmons College in Boston, and the finding aid I applied and got the job. I took a leave of absence to get my M.L.I.S. from Simmons College in Boston, and the finding aid I applied and got the job. I took a leave of absence to get my M.L.I.S. from Simmons College in Boston, and the finding aid I applied and got the job. I took a leave of absence to get my M.L.I.S. from Simmons College in Boston, and the finding aid

What are your most frequent, professional tasks during a typical workday?

As an instruction and outreach librarian, my most frequent task is answering reference questions related to the collections I work with: the University Archives and Historic Collections (that includes two historic children’s book collections) and the Frank V. de Bellis Collections of historic Italian cultural materials. Of these collections, the University Archives dominates my time as a reference librarian. In a very real way, I contain the institutional memory in my head even though I have created tools (LibGuides and a picture book) to disseminate the information, but as the Archive grows, more of our history surfaces.

What skills do you consider most essential for your job?

Relationship building is the most essential skill for my job. I am a natural “history detective” so I am always making connections. My work directly supports University Advancement; if it were a different type of organization, the University Archives might be situated under the organization’s administrative arm instead of Academic Affairs.

What would you say is the biggest challenge your library faces?

The biggest challenge my library faces is the long-term implications of diminishing budgets that have resulted in subsequent priority shifts in public higher education. The University only gets about a third of its funding from the State of California: funding for collection development, staff, and new initiatives have been destabilized or managed in a kind of unspoken “downsizing” mode. Long-term planning is jeopardized so that management is more reactionary rather than to be proactive.

What’s your favorite task?

I am a pathfinder for the collections I work with: I love going into collections to explore and learn.

How has digitization influenced your institution’s library?

I have digitization projects, digital-born records, and other digital resource project that you would like to discuss?

Digitizing has had a profound impact on my teaching: I don’t have to pull out fragile materials that may be hundreds of years old for every session, though we allow digitized materials to be handled as part of our teaching mission we are very conscious of the role of digitizing in conservation and preservation. I create LibGuides [http://libguides.sfsu.edu/archives-guides] that link to many of our digital assets and these guides answer many of the questions that come to me throughout the year.

We have a small Digital Scholarship Center in the J. Paul Leonard Library where some of our oldest materials have been digitized saving wear and tear on the actual materials. I have done the metadata for all the items digitized for the collections I work with: [http://digital-collections.library.sfsu.edu/]. Earlier this year we got the student newspapers from our 1968-1969 student-led strike digitized as part of the institutional repository [https://sfsu-dspace.calstate.edu/handle/10211.3/159511]. This was an important project because we only had one set of these issues (the microfilm copies were stolen years ago), so the bound copies were really getting used and abused because it is the most heavily researched event in our history. We hope to add more as time and resources permit.

In the Frank V. de Bellis Collection, we have this amazing collection of over 14,000 recordings dating back to the 1890s that chronicle Italy’s recording industry, and no way to make it accessible today. This is perhaps the most focused collection of Italian music recordings in the world, and yet it remains silent because the media is obsolete. The hope is to raise funds to outsource the specialized digitizing services that need to be done because of the variety of formats.

I could go on about this, but the most important point is that despite the huge workload impact, digitizing is a necessary part of special collections work that can be immensely enriching for both librarians and users.

What’s the most unusual thing that happened on your job?

When I returned from library school, a Beat poet named Ruth Weiss came in to talk to University archivist and special collections librarian Helene Whitson, and when Whitson left the room, Weiss turned those big blue eyes on me and said, “You and I are witnesses to history.” It made an indelible impression on me. I had no intention of being a writer at that point, and certainly not the kind of writing that I have done, but she was right… and I would not be surprised if that was not a
line she used on many young people, but in this case it was a Truth.

**If you weren’t a special librarian, what might you be, and why?**

I have been able to explore many of my personal interests as a special librarian, and the collections that I have worked with have piqued my interest in unexpected areas. I do design work related to folk motifs and maintain a blog [https://mmedesigns.wordpress.com/](https://mmedesigns.wordpress.com/) when I have time. I consider myself to be a designer but would not want to do it as a career; it is my alter ego. I also have a deep interest in folklore and different cultures that I am able to explore as a special librarian in an academic environment... much of the writing I have done was researched with old-fashioned folklorist “gumshoe” methods more than today’s speedy online searching. Very little of the juicy material that I use is available on the Internet, the field is wide open! I am a history detective in the truest sense; the characters I research very much come alive as friends and advisors.

**What do you like most about your job, overall?**

I love working with the ever-changing student populations; our student population reflect the diversity in the San Francisco Bay Area, so that I am moving across different collections in different ways all the time. I am always learning to keep serving. We work with a broad array of researchers from students, to members of the campus community, to international researchers who all motivate me to remain relevant to be of service even when a few of the collections I work with may appear to be obsolete to today’s clients. An essential part of collection development is not limited by today’s biases... we cannot predict what posterity will value, but as information professionals, we should “do no harm.”

I enjoy letting collections “speak” to me. I am currently doing the research to launch an initiative to raise funds to digitize some extremely rare recordings in the Frank V. de Bellis Collection. This initiative is related to a collection that some would argue is not relevant to a broad base of our campus curriculum, so it is not a high priority for campus fundraising. Frank de Bellis (1898-1968), who was a brilliant strategist in his collecting, recognized the collective power of gaining broad support for initiatives when he launched a “good music” fight for classical radio during the 1950s. It would be great to find a single donor to support a long-term project, but after researching the life of this collection’s donor, I actually see support coming from many small donors over time. This is the same logic that KDFC employs, and it reflects the public broadcasting industry that seeks to establish audience support for funding.

**How would you recommend a newer librarian get started in a job like yours?**

I have not been overly ambitious in my career, but rather in my intellectual path; my job/career evolved over time, as if it was designed just for me, but not by me. I am not sure a newer librarian would want a job like mine. Working in an academic environment, I always encourage the students that I mentor to find their own path.

To be new in a field, one needs to be like a folklorist going into an unfamiliar environment who must learn about the people, language, and important landmarks within the context of that community... by immersion. With so many library and information science programs online, it is the face-to-face relationship building that is so important in getting started in a special library career, and I am not sure how many people would be willing to take the slow path I followed.

I am a storyteller. My job on the surface is actually very theatrical, and in order to pull it off, I have developed a very broad (and often esoteric) repertoire of stories to tell in different situations. The stories are and extension of me, and sometimes I will hear someone repeat phrases out of my repertoire and it doesn’t work for them. This is because the essence of my storytelling, that its underlying logic, always attempts to reflect aspects of the University’s strategic future so that listeners can in some way engage with that future.

**Do you have any additional comments?**

While at Simmons College, I took James Matarazzo’s corporate library course and was introduced to the Special Library Association’s work. Looking back, though I thought of working in the corporate library world (perhaps broadcasting), I can now see that my temperament is more suited to the academic world, which is now becoming increasingly corporate in nature. What Matarazzo taught his students about value-added management of corporate libraries a quarter-century ago, is totally applicable in the academic libraries of today.

If you want to see more of Meredith then be sure to check out her video. Or watch this video if you want to see all the Baynet librarians in a Q&A.

That’s it for the BayNet interviews, but not for the Day in the Life series. Keep alert as we’ll have more to come in the future.

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**Intersect Alert August 1, 2016**
Freedom of Information

Fighting a Bureaucratic Battle: A Librarian Wins a Dogged Quest For Public Records

“For Marilyn Flachman, it seemed like a simple request.”

“In Colorado, open records laws clearly say public employee salaries, which are funded by taxpayers, are available to the public.”

“Last year, the district was having financial problems, so Ms. Flachman, a former Adams County School District 50 board president, wanted to see the details of most schools’ largest expenditure — staff salaries.”

“In February 2015, Ms. Flachman filed a records request for the 1,000 or so teachers, administrators and other school employees, and she assumed a spreadsheet would appear in her email in box within days.”


Apps

Android App Now Offers New Ways to Browse Wikipedia and Find Trending, Recommended Articles

“The updated Wikipedia app for Android features a completely redesigned home screen, now including the explore feed, in addition to other new features and improvements.”

“Wikipedia has been there for the past fifteen years when you needed to search a quick fact, research a topic, or settle a bet. But what about when you’re looking for something interesting to read on the metro, or have a few minutes to browse while you’re on break?”

“The Wikipedia app for Android has been redesigned to not only help you find the information you need now, but also to provide interesting, recommended Wikipedia content to dive into when you have a bit of spare time.”


Libraries

Internet Post Leads to Truck Loads of Library Books

“Truck loads of books are piling up outside the Plumas County

“Writers from all over the world are donating books to the Greenville Junior/Senior High School Library, which is located 90 miles North East of Chico. Students have been unable to check out books there for over 10 years because budget cuts and staffing issues left the book shelves out dated.”


How Do Authors Make Money from Library Books?

“You’ve probably got some music on your phone, or you might stream it through apps like Spotify or Pandora. Every time you click on one of those songs, the artist gets a little bit of money. And yet, it’s called your music “library.” But when you check out a book from the library, it’s free. Well, it’s sort of free.”


National Archives Presidential Libraries and PBS series American Experience Launch #ElectionCollection Challenge

“In honor of Election Tuesday, Presidential Libraries and American Experience will feature a new #ElectionCollection challenge every Tuesday from July 26th until the Presidential election on November 8, 2016. Each challenge will ask people to feature election memorabilia from a new category.”


The Most Beautiful Library in Each US State

“Libraries are timeless treasures.”

“Even as pulpy paperbacks get swapped out for electronic ink, we still crave a physical space where we can surround ourselves with knowledge. When done right, those spaces can be works of art.”

“To find the most beautiful libraries in each state, Tech Insider looked at past and current award-winners as judged by the American Institute of Architects and the American Library Association awards, and relied on our own judgment for states who have never won.”

http://www.techinsider.io/most-beautiful-library-in-all-50-
Microsoft Just Made It Way Easier to Write a Research Paper with Word

“If you’ve used the last few versions of Word, you’ll know it’s really hard to pinpoint exactly what’s changed. Word might feel feature complete right now, but Microsoft isn’t giving up on adding new and interesting features. This month, Microsoft is adding a new Researcher feature to Word. As the name implies, it’s designed to make research paper writing a lot easier.”

“Researcher uses Microsoft’s Bing Knowledge Graph to query content from the internet and then pull it straight into Word. Microsoft has a curated list of trusted sources and reference materials which the company plans to expand upon over time. If you add source material, it will even automatically create the citation in your bibliography as part of your research paper. If you’re a student using Office 365 then Researcher is available immediately, and Microsoft is planning to bring the feature to mobile variants of Office in the future.”

http://www.theverge.com/2016/7/26/12283814/microsoft-word-researcher-editor-features

When Does ‘Fair Use’ Become Unfair?

“Some years ago, the science writer George Johnson was wrapping up work on his book ‘The Ten Most Beautiful Experiments’ and looking for illustrations to accompany the text. One chapter dealt with Isaac Newton’s demonstration that white light was made of many colors. Johnson wanted to include a drawing of the experiment from Newton’s journal, in Newton’s own hand.”

“‘Considering that the experiment was done in the 17th century, you might assume that it was in the public domain and I could use it,’” Johnson told me. And that’s what he assumed.”

http://undark.org/article/fair-use-become-unfair/

This Month in Bayline: July 2016

Welcome back, Bayline readers. It’s back-to-school month, but most of you are hopefully past that part of your lives.

Enough rambling, on to the news!

- Intersect is still the news source for modern and relevant information professionals. For example, find out why Pokemon Go is big with libraries (and what "pokeymans" are). For something more NPR, discover why the Czech Republic has so many libraries (and how they’re still not so different from ours).
- The Day in the Life interviews of the BayNet presenters comes to a conclusion with the interviews of Taryn Edwards and Meredith Eliassen. Oh, and don’t forget to watch the Q&A!

That’s it for this month. I’m still gathering material for the Day in the Life series and the Job-Seeker’s Toolkit, but look forward to articles for August! Don’t forget to watch the election.

Intersect Alert August 8, 2016

Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association. Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety; attribution appreciated.
Open Data:

A closer look at the problem of open data policy that isn’t open
Earlier today, we announced Open Data Policies Decoded, a new web resource to help communities across the country find and share their open data best practices. We developed this tool to help address a specific problem: Most cities do not yet have an open data policy, and even among those that do, it is often the case that that policy is difficult to find – or even nowhere to be found – online. As we explained in our previous post: Ironically, open data policy is not open.

Baltimore, for instance, passed an open data executive order in 2011 as well as a City Council ordinance in 2016, and while it is technically possible to find the latter by digging through the city’s Legistar portal (itself hard to find), there is no trace of the executive order anywhere on the city’s website. When open data policy is in fact made available online, with few exceptions, it is not being shared as open data. For instance, while Austin, Texas, Hartford, Conn., and Asheville, N.C., are all examples of cities with strong open data programs and policies – the kind that other cities might be keen to replicate and learn from – these cities are unfortunately also all-too-typical examples of the lackluster manner in which open data policies are often made public.


Open Science:

F1000Research – Open Science publishing platform
“F1000Research is an Open Science publishing platform for life scientists, offering immediate publication of articles, posters and slides without editorial bias. All articles benefit from transparent refereeing and the inclusion of all source data...The traditional anonymous pre-publication peer review of research articles can cause long delays before new results become visible. F1000Research uses an author-led process, publishing all scientific research within a few days. Open, invited peer review of articles is conducted after publication, focusing on scientific soundness rather than novelty or impact.”


Public Policy:

Which states are passing effective legislation on police bodycams?
Over the past several years, the availability of bystander video showing police-civilian shootings has been instrumental in sparking public conversations about the need for police reform. The importance of video for establishing visible evidence of police-civilian encounters has led to the rapid adoption of body-worn cameras by police departments. Tragically, as recent events have shown, having video evidence of police-civilian encounters remains critical for establishing a common public truth and understanding of the dynamics of authorized state violence.

Having the right to see police-civilian encounters depends on law made by state and local governments. Access to police video depends on public policy decisions determining what can be recorded, what can be shown and what can be legally withheld from the public.

One of the critical areas of policymaking concerns the use of body-mounted cameras worn by police officers. Last year, the Open Government Coalition of Washington, D.C., published a comprehensive collection of research produced by Ropes and Gray on bodycam legislation in cities and states that summarizes the scope of how the issue is being addressed across the country. We decided to update that research to include the most recent legislative events, using the Open States API to track the progress and timing of those bills. We added some additional analysis based on the state legislative data we incorporate into the Open States API, such as information on bill sponsors and votes.

http://sunlightfoundation.com/blog/2016/08/04/which-states-are-passing-effective-legislation-on-police-bodycams/.

Libraries:

Chicago Public Library lending hundreds of hotspots
The Chicago Public Library was already the largest provider of free internet access in the city, but it’s taken things to a new level: now patrons can check out the internet too. In all, 973 wireless internet hotspots are available at Chicago library branches. The goal is to have 1,000 available, said Patrick Molloy, director of public and government affairs. The hotspots, about the size of a BlackBerry cellphone, allow smartphones, tablets and laptop computers to go online from almost anywhere.

They seem to be popular – fewer than a dozen are available and holds have been placed on about 200, according to the library’s online reservation system. Devices were added at branches in communities with the lowest usage rates of broadband, or high-speed internet, according to Molloy. Those areas were determined based on a 2011 survey from the Partnership for a Connected Illinois, he said. Five branches also have Chromebooks kits, which include laptop computer and Wi-Fi hotspot. The Chicago Public Library lends wireless internet hotspots at 13 sites.
International Outlook:

Net Neutrality in India: the Start of Something Big

Something big is happening in India. While authorities in the United States and the European Union work to put the last big pieces of net neutrality regulation in place for their respective portions of the internet, the subcontinent of India begins its efforts to keep its rapidly expanding corner of the internet open and free. Although the country’s Department of Telecommunications (DoT) released a report (PDF) on net neutrality last spring, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India’s (TRAI’s) recent Pre-Consultation on Net Neutrality was the country’s first request for public comment on how India should preserve the neutrality of its networks. As such, the questions in the Pre-Consultation are appropriately high-level, aimed at helping the TRAI get a sense of the size and shape of the issues. CDT anticipates further refinement of the issues as the TRAI pursues this worthy goal.

So why is this important? Consider this: India is the second most populous country on Earth, the most populous democracy, and already has more internet users than the US. India has the fastest growing telecom industry; ten years ago, less than 3% of Indians had access to the internet, while today roughly 35% of the population is connected. Even with only one in three Indians on the internet, they make up 13.5% of the world’s internet population. The development, adoption, and use of the internet in India will have profound effects on the future of the global internet.


Internet:

Can mythbusters like Snopes.com keep up in a post-truth era?

The fact-checking website was launched to correct urban legends and false rumours. Now, with even presidential candidates repeating fake stories from the web, its co-founder David Mikkelson says ‘the bilge is rising faster than you can pump.’ Mikkelson owns and runs Snopes.com, a hugely popular fact-checking site which debunks urban legends, old wives’ tales, fake news, shoddy journalism and political spin. It started as a hobby in the internet’s Pleistocene epoch two decades ago and evolved into a professional site that millions now rely on as a lie-detector. Every day its team of writers and editors interrogate claims ricocheting around the internet to determine if they are false, true or somewhere in the middle – a cleaning of the Augean stables for the digital era.

In the midst of terror attacks, policing protests, Brexit, and Trump’s run for president the need for accurate information has seldom felt more urgent – or forlorn. Here we are with the freest access to knowledge in history, troves of data and facts at our fingertips and HG Wells’s dream of a world brain a reality, yet a tide of truthiness, propaganda and nonsense surges ever higher. Bogus claims about Barack Obama’s citizenship, say, or Britain’s payments to the European Union, are exposed, yet the claim-pedlars breeze on, unimpeded – they win.


Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety; attribution appreciated.

The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.

Students and New Members Happy Hour

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2016/08/students-and-new-members-happy-hour/ August 9, 2016 Categories: Chapter Programs & Events Tags: events

We invite you to the Special Libraries Association Bay Region Chapter’s Fall Happy Hour. Are you a student or new to the Bay Area? Are you a librarian and want to meet new librarians in the area? Come join us for an evening with friends and colleagues. Meet librarians from all walks of life and find out what the SLA in the Bay Area is about.

The event is free to new and prospective members, students, and for current members who bring along one or more
prospective members. The fee for all others is $10. The first drink is on us!

**Registration**

Members: $10

Students or members who bring prospective member(s) – free

To register as a free attendee, please email Grace Kim at gkim1133@gmail.com with your name, current SLA membership status, and who you will bring.

If you are paying $10 for this night of drinks and conversations, please RSVP to Grace at gkim1133@gmail.com and bring your payment to the event.

**Please RSVP by August 29th**

We look forward to seeing you!

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**Meet the Candidates: Division Cabinet Chair-Elect**

[Meet the Candidates: Division Cabinet Chair-Elect](http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2016/08/meet-the-candidates-division-cabinet-chair-elect/) August 13, 2016 Categories: Bayline, SLA HQ Tags: events, take action

Do you know what’s great about the SLA? Sane elections! And they’re no less interesting because of that. This month, we’re having webinars where we can meet the candidates and ask them what they’d do if they were elected.

However, you might not have the time to listen to a whole recording, or maybe you just want to look up one thing right now (part of the reason I got into library science: learning how to do that better). To help SLA members make an informed decision, I’ve written up a paraphrased summary of the Q&A to make your decision-making quick and easy.

First up are the candidates for Division Cabinet Chair-Elect. Learn and enjoy!

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**Why did you accept this nomination? And why do you feel qualified for this position?**

Joy Banks

I’m coming out of my current service and feel it would be a good time to run for Chair-Elect. I have experience helping in the Florida-Caribbean chapter (spread out-retention/recruitment difficulties), and have helped engaged the large number of student members in the Museums/Arts/Humanities division has a large

Laura Leavitt

I see it as a unique opportunity to formulate the future of the SLA, and the profession in general. I’m a mid-career librarian, and have experience in the Social Sciences division. I have a unique perspective, strategic thinker, and a big-picture person.

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**What ideas do you have to bring former SLA members back? Can you think of anything that would make membership more attractive to both prospective and lapsed members?**

Joy

The lapsed members I know lost a trust in the organization. The SLA hasn’t tried to make members loyal, current relationship is transactional. Members need to love the SLA.

The SLA used to offer more benefits (like Click U) that have moved more toward the unit level.

We also need to have members work in different parts of the world, giving the SLA a greater purpose.

There needs to be greater recognition of the work the units are doing.

Laura

Don’t panic, leaders, this is happening in every information professional organization. Our demographics and profession are changing.

I’d conduct focus groups of people who’ve left and ask them why they did. I’ve heard a lot of things, but we don’t know for sure. Ask what they need that they’re not getting. Ask what other organizations could help them the way the SLA does. I’m not looking for another 5-year study, thankfully.
We need to communicate our value, look at our marketing and brand name, and emphasize what we do offer.

**How can we engage students more as prospective members? Also, how can we ensure that membership for students in non-traditional settings remain relevant?**

*Joy*

Our profession is moving online, making it difficult to have student organizations. Use updated SLA competencies as starting points, and show universities how to use them in a MLS curriculum. This will keep us engaged in our studies and show us how they can help our career.

Focus on university-level rather than faculty-level relationships; engage in the education element.

People from traditional library backgrounds need to be careful not

*Laura*

I have similar ideas to joy. We should connect with the administration rather than the faculty. Have members join the alumni or lib school advisory board and advocate for the SLA. Collaborate with student chapters, offer internship program. Make student involvement cleared, perhaps with a website or online platform.

**What does it mean to be an ambassador for the SLA, and how will you carry out said duties?**

*Joy*

I’ve always encouraged my colleagues to explore the benefits of the organization, and have been accused of being an SLA cheerleader. I’d make better connections with the people I’ve engaged with.

*Laura*

I feel I excel at outreach, and would be using my skills and networking and outreach to stay across silos and advocate for the profession and SLA.

Our mission should be to find people in corporations screening SLA members and make the case that SLA is the place for them. SLA has a good story to tell, and we should just tell it.

**How should we approach leader recruitment and training?**

*Joy*

Show appreciation for all the volunteers, especially from the Board level. For example, thank you notes, stipends for travel, and reduced registration rates.

Leadership burnout another issue; studies show it’s stemmed by appreciation.

Training’s also something we’ve been struggling with, too dependent on who’s on the Board of Directors at the time. Leadership summit should be in-person again.

*Laura*

6 years is too long to serve, roles are too big and daunting. Make leadership more manageable, less long-term commitments. Make it clear how to get involved, and what’s involved in each role.

Give opportunities for small-scale involvement (e.g., blog posts, handling newsletters, etc.). Bring back Leadership Summit. Make SLA more transparent; more of what the roles, how they relate to each other, what these meeting are, etc.

**How would you help facilitate unit collaboration?**

*Joy*

Cabinet seems like best way to collaborate, but we’ve only met twice a year.

Annual meetings aren’t enough, perhaps regular online meetings for the Cabinet? They’d require moderation to keep on track. Dysfunctional boards (e.g., incomplete, vacant officer positions) will need more work.

*Laura*

SLA Connect makes collaboration easier. I’m in favor of more online collaboration and communication.

We need a culture change, some people are afraid of losing autonomy due to collaboration.

**How do you plan on helping SLA members who are struggling to get entry-level jobs?**

*Joy*

Boost our presence at university level to encourage internships and mentorships for new graduates to give them practical professionals experience many entry-level positions look for. Establish an internship program would help, as would practical opportunities for job skill training (e.g., resumes, cover letters, interviews).

*Laura*

I started early and had a plan, our involvement in schools is important to make this happen.

Look through SLA directory, find someone with something interesting, and ask questions.

*Joy, were you thinking of having SLA perform a clearinghouse function for internships?*

*Joy*
Yes. Laura touched on earlier that
W should be making it easier for SLA to facilitate internships for new students and professionals, there’s currently not a clear route to find opportunities.

Laura

Sounds wonderful! We could have SLA Connect help out.

Laura, how would suggest people wanting autonomy get past their fear of collaboration?

Laura

Concentrate on the mutual benefits of working together, address fears and determine their causes. Respect people’s fears, let them know their identity isn’t going away.

Joy

Sensitivity is important, but collaboration is a necessity. We’re still one SLA, encourage memberships to think this way.

What is your opinion of the raised annual dues? Don’t you think they’ll drive out poorer members, leaving the SLA composed only of wealthy elites?

Joy

I was hit very hard: I appreciated tier levels because I worked as a part-time for a long time, and salaries in Florida and many Southern states are not the national average for even the starting salary for someone who has an MLS degree.

I understand why the dues were changed, SLA needs more money, but SLA didn’t go about change in the best way to prepare members who were hit hardest by the financial burden. I took offense at dues hike, being a part of one chapter among several who were almost accused cheating SLA out of money.

I don’t think we’re going back toward a tiered dues structure, but the SLA’s language should be more accepting of people with lower salaries.

Joy

I wasn’t affected, but heard that many aren’t rejoining because dues. Board should look at dues and be sensitive to the issue.

How else can we use competencies to both be relevant and reach out?

Joy

Encourage members to integrate competencies into workforce

Laura

Make competencies more prominent on SLA. Start conversation with non-librarians.

How important is the Pooled Resources Initiative, and how will you get it up and running?

Joy

It’s good idea in theory, but not in practice; other associations do this and compensate people.

Laura

Organize what we currently have in an intuitive way so people don’t have to struggle to find anything.

Intersect Alert August 14, 2016

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2016/08/intersect-alert-august-14-2016/ August 14, 2016 Categories: Intersect Alert Tags: freedom of information, intellectual property, internet access, open access, open data, take action

Take Action!:

Stand Up for Open Access. Stand Up for Diego

Diego Gomez is a recent biology graduate from the University of Quindío, a small university in Colombia. His research interests are reptiles and amphibians. Since the university where he studied didn’t have a large budget for access to academic databases, he did what any other science grad student would do: he found the resources he needed online. Sometimes he shared the research he discovered, so that others could benefit as well. In 2011, Diego shared another student’s Master’s thesis with colleagues over the Internet. That simple act—something that many people all over the world do every day—put Diego at risk of spending years in prison. In Colombia, copying and distribution of copyrighted works without permission can lead to criminal charges of up to eight years if the prosecution can show it hurt the commercial rights of the author (derechos patrimoniales).

We’ve been following Diego’s trial over the past year, and closing arguments are scheduled for this week. Today, we join open access allies all over the world in standing with Diego. Open access could have saved Diego from the risk of spending years in prison.
Sign the petition!  
https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2016/08/stand-open-access.

Your Chance to Say No to Proposed Social Media Questioning on US Customs

“Passport and flight number, please. What brings you to the States? Duration of stay? LinkedIn username? OKCupid handle?”

No, the U.S. Customs officer is not trolling you. If the Department of Homeland Security has its way, these will be standard questions for people visiting the United States. The DHS recently issued a proposal to ask tourists on visa waivers to share their “online presence” on the I-94W and the online application for the Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA), including the social networks they use and their corresponding “identifiers” – their handles or account names. CDT thinks this is a bad idea and is planning to file public comments with U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) explaining why. Anyone can submit comments and we encourage those who travel, have friends or family abroad, or just plain care about civil liberties to consider chiming in.

Submit your comments!  
https://cdt.org/blog/your-chance-to-say-no-to-proposed-social-media-questioning-on-us-customs/.

Internet Access:

Too Poor to Afford the Internet

All summer, kids have been hanging out in front of the Morris Park Library in the Bronx, before opening hours and after closing. They bring their computers to pick up the Wi-Fi signal that is leaking out of the building, because they can’t afford internet access at home. They’re there during the school year, too, even during the winter — it’s the only way they can complete their online math homework. Last year, the Federal Communications Commission reaffirmed what these students already knew: Access to broadband is necessary to be a productive member of society. In June, a federal appeals court upheld the commission’s authority to regulate the internet as a public utility.

The court’s decision is a partial victory. While the ruling ensures that the information superhighway can be maintained for the public interest, it doesn’t help anyone who simply can’t afford to have access to it. As many as one in five Americans remains in the digital dark. To start to tackle that problem, the F.C.C. has recently expanded its Lifeline program to provide subsidies for broadband access.  

Open Data:

Strengthening Research through Data Sharing (by Sen. Elizabeth Warren)

Data sharing has incredible potential to strengthen academic research, the practice of medicine, and the integrity of the clinical trial system. Some benefits are obvious: when researchers have access to complete data, they can answer new questions, explore different lines of analysis, and more efficiently conduct large-scale analyses across trials. Other advantages, such as providing a guardrail against conflicts of interest in a clinical trial system in which external sponsorship of research is common and necessary, are less visible yet just as critical. I appreciate that there are many policy, privacy, and practical issues that need to be addressed in order to make data sharing practical and useful for the research community, but the stakes are too high to step back in the face of that challenge.

One policy proposal that I am particularly enthusiastic about is making data sharing a condition of publication in major medical journals. I [also] urge members of the medical research community to also consider ways to improve the public sharing of information from trials that have produced null, inconclusive, or negative results.

There are several other articles in this issue of New England Journal of Medicine addressing open data.

Freedom of Information:

Over 1,000 pages of declassified docs on Argentina posted online

Argentina Declassification Project, August 8, 2016. “During his landmark visit to Argentina in March, President Barack Obama announced that the U.S. government would declassify records relating to human rights abuses under Argentina’s 1976-1983 dictatorship. At a ceremony commemorating the victims of these human rights abuses, held on the 40th anniversary of the 1976 coup d’état, the President committed to releasing relevant records from across the executive branch, including for the first time records from U.S. intelligence, law enforcement and defense agencies. Today, the U.S. government posted 1,078 pages of these newly declassified records. Secretary of State John Kerry presented the records to Argentine President Mauricio Macri Aug. 4 in Buenos Aires at
his request. The project greatly expands upon the State Department’s 2002 effort to declassify its cables and records related to individual human rights abuses in Argentina. The U.S. government will release additional declassified documents over the next 18 months as part of a comprehensive effort by over 14 government agencies and departments to search their records and declassify them for public access, consistent with the need to protect national security. The Office of the Director of National Intelligence leads this effort, with support from the White House. Agency records managers, archivists, historians and declassification and information access professionals contribute to this effort. Most of the 1,078 pages made available today originate from the Jimmy Carter Presidential Library in Atlanta, Georgia, which the National Archives and Records Administration operates. They include records retrieved from several different national security file series and collections, including the Argentina Country Files, individual White House staff member files, meeting files, presidential correspondence files and Evening Notes files. Taken together, these newly declassified documents shed light on the policies of the Carter administration and the role human rights issues played in the U.S. bilateral relationship with Argentina. In particular, they provide insights into the Carter administration’s efforts to urge the Argentine dictatorship to abide by the rule of law, release individuals illegally detained, and account for those who had disappeared while in the custody of the state.”


Intellectual Property:

Publishers Lose Another Round in GSU Copyright Case
In a brief, nine-page final order, the judge in the long-running Georgia State University e-reserves case has rejected the publisher plaintiffs’ bid for injunctive relief, and affirmed that the publishers must pay GSU’s legal fees and costs. In the order, dated July 27, Judge Orinda Evans also denied the publishers’ motion to refresh the record in the case by gathering new evidence from the most recent academic term. And in a ruling that could cost the plaintiffs millions, she rejected the publishers’ motion to reconsider the awarding of legal fees, holding that new Supreme Court guidance issued last month in another high profile copyright case was not a factor. The order effectively concludes the case, pending any appeals, and comes after Evans, in March, ruled for the publishers in just four of 48 infringement claims.


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Books:

Marcus Books is coming back to San Francisco
We are pleased to announce an event on Aug. 16, 2016, to celebrate the union of Marcus Books and the African American Arts and Culture Complex (AAACC) in the Fillmore District of San Francisco. Over the past few months, Marcus Books and the African American Arts and Culture Complex have been collaborating on the details of their new partnership which will manifest as a bookstore within the first floor lobby of the complex. The event, to be held Tuesday, Aug. 16, 6-9 p.m., on the first floor of the AAACC, 762 Fulton St., San Francisco, is meant to share the exciting plans with the community through an immersive full-scale prototype of the proposed design, architectural renderings and talks with Mohammed Soriano-Bilal, director of the AAACC, and Karen Johnson, co-owner of Marcus Books. Attendees of the event will learn more about future programs, listen to vinyl records from Jess Cross of Cross Colours and enjoy some refreshments.

Drs. Julian and Raye Richardson, two seriously committed community activists and avid readers, scholars and SF State professors, opened The Success Book Co. in the front of their print shop on Fillmore Street in San Francisco in 1960. Their store supplied books by and about Black people from throughout the world and time. After reading “The Philosophy and Opinions of Marcus Garvey,” the Richardsons renamed the store Marcus Books, and another store was opened in Oakland. The Marcus Book Stores have hosted more major Black writers than the entire Harlem Renaissance, which gives evidence of the increase in Black authorship. The stores also provide a showcase for many fledgling writers. The San Francisco store moved seven times and the Oakland twice in their 56 years of bookselling, and the new location in the African American Arts and Culture Complex bears further witness to the resilience of their spirit.


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Open Access:

U.S. Department of Agriculture Pomological Watercolor Collection
The USDA Pomological Watercolor Collection documents fruit and nut varieties developed by growers or introduced by USDA plant explorers around the turn of the 20th century. Technically accurate paintings were used to create lithographs illustrating USDA bulletins, yearbooks, and other series distributed to growers and gardeners across America.

Fast Facts:
Time period: 1886 to 1942, with the majority created between 1894 and 1916.
Content: 7,584 watercolor paintings, lithographs and line drawings, including 3,807 images of apples.
Fruit origins: The plant specimens illustrated originated in 29
Supporting Sci-Hub vs. Explaining Sci-Hub
Gabriel J. Gardner is a librarian at California State University at Long Beach. He studies, among other things, the reasons that some scholars — even those with access to scientific journals for which their colleges and universities have paid for subscriptions — prefer shared papers, even when those papers have been pirated in violation of copyright laws. Thomas H. Allen, president of the Association of American Publishers, last month sent a letter to Gardner’s boss at Cal State to complain about a presentation Gardner made on the research — and that letter is now being shared online and being criticized by many librarians. Gardner and Cal State say that the letter distorts his research and implies that talking about such repositories of pirated papers as Sci-Hub is the same thing as endorsing them. And they say Allen is trying to intimidate librarians who are pushing for change in scholarly publishing. Gardner said that he never endorsed Sci-Hub or its methods, but that in discussing the site, he said it was easy to use. He said it’s important for librarians to be aware of that fact. Roman Kochan, dean of library services at Cal State Long Beach, has now issued his own letter, strongly defending Gardner and asking why the publishers’ group is not doing more to help university libraries deal with journal costs. https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2016/08/08/letter-publishers-group-adds-debate-over-sci-hub-and-librarians-who-study-it.

Share this:

Jobline 2016/08/19

Nossaman LLP is seeking an innovative KM Manager to lead the Firm’s next generation of knowledge management, library, research, and information services. The KM Manager is responsible for helping to implement the Firm’s knowledge management initiatives across all practice groups and administrative departments in order to drive efficiency and client service. The KM Manager is also responsible for managing research services, training and support of attorneys and staff, publications and subscriptions, and related budgets and expenses. The position reports to the Director of Knowledge Management and can be located in Los Angeles or San Francisco.

Specific responsibilities include:

* Implementing, enhancing, and promoting KM and Library Department strategies and initiatives.
* Maintaining the Firm’s knowledge, including both the print and electronic resources and infrastructure, and identify relevant content for the Intranet.
* Managing resources (both internal and external) utilized in the acquisition and dissemination of information content in all formats.
* Managing the daily operations and activities of the KM personnel firm-wide, including supervising and mentoring a team of high quality professionals that adds value and plays a key role as the Firm grows and diversifies.
* Overseeing and monitoring the Library budget, including developing and implementing guidelines and procedures for cost recovery and collection development, with a focus on transformation to a digital library.
* Managing vendor services, contracts, and relationships, including online research vendors, print content and subscriptions, and library administration.
* Developing and facilitating KM and Library training programs and initiatives.
* Developing a strategy and approach to training and support of KM tools and other online resources.
* Gathering metrics and producing reports for Director of Knowledge Management and Firm stakeholders.
* Participating in Firm initiatives under the direction of the Director of Knowledge Management, as needed.

Qualifications and Experience

* Master’s degree in Library and Information Science, JD, or equivalent experience required
* 5+ years of law library experience with managerial or supervisory level duties
* Demonstrated knowledge of best practices and current trends and the ability to define solutions for process improvement
* Ability to identify, define, and analyze complex KM and Library issues and recommend and help implement solutions
* Ability to serve as a champion and change agent to socialize knowledge management opportunities, techniques, and solutions
* Experience in creating and managing content in a Microsoft SharePoint environment
* Strong change management, communication, and presentation skills.
* Strong computer skills including proficient use of Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Outlook required
* Excellent leadership and management skills, with proven ability to take initiative and work independently, create a
Nossaman offers a competitive salary and generous benefits package. Qualified candidates are invited to apply online (www.nossaman.com/careers) by submitting a cover letter, resume and salary requirements.

Nossaman is an Equal Opportunity Employer, Affirmative Action Employer, M/F/D/V.

Agency submissions by invitation only

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**Intersect Alert August 21, 2016**

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2016/08/intersect-alert-august-21-2016/  
August 22, 2016 Categories: Intersect Alert Tags: books and reading, government, international outlook, privacy, public policy, research, technology

**Public Policy:**

**Federal Prisoner Petitions to Vacate Sentences Soar in 2016**

The latest available data from the federal courts show that during July 2016 the government reported 1,432 new federal prisoner petitions to vacate their sentences were filed. This is the fourth month in a row that civil filings for these matters have been above a thousand. According to the case-by-case information analyzed by the Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse (TRAC) at Syracuse University, July’s total was only topped by May and June of this year. In May 2016 there were a total of 2,767 prisoner sentence petitions, while in June there were a whopping 13,254.

Over the previous 5 years the number of such petitions filed each month averaged less than 600, and generally ranged between 450 and 700 each month based upon a comparisons of case-by-case court records going back to October 2007 that were compiled and analyzed by TRAC (see Table 1). Thus, the numbers seen so far this year are clearly unprecedented.

http://trac.syr.edu/tracreports/civil/434/.

**Background Checks for Firearm Transfers, 2013–14 – Statistical Tables**

More than 180 million applications for firearm transfers or permits were subject to background checks since the effective date of the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act on February 28, 1994, through December 31, 2014. During this period, about 2.8 million applications (1.6%) were denied. In 2014, nearly 15 million applications were subject to background checks, and 193,000 (1.3%) were denied, including about 91,000 denied by the FBI and about 102,000 denied by state and local agencies.

Among state agencies, denial rates in 2014 were 3.1% for purchase permits, 1.5% for instant checks, 0.9% for other approval checks, and 1.0% for exempt carry permits. Denial rates in 2013 were estimated to be 1.9% for purchase permits, 1.2% for instant checks, 0.8% for other approval checks, and 0.9% for exempt carry permits. Among local agencies, the denial rates in 2014 were 4% for purchase permit checks and 1.2% for exempt carry permit checks. A felony conviction (42%) was the most common reason for the FBI to deny an application in 2014, followed by a fugitive from justice status (19%).

http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/bcft1314st.pdf (PDF).

**New laws leave voters to navigate maze of requirements**

With the presidential election less than three months away, millions of Americans will be navigating new requirements for voting – if they can vote at all – as state leaders implement dozens of new restrictions that could make it more difficult to cast a ballot. Since the last presidential election in 2012, politicians in 20 states passed 37 different new voting requirements that they said were needed to prevent voter fraud, a News21 analysis found. More than a third of those changes require voters to show specified government-issued photo IDs at the polls or reduce the number of acceptable IDs required by pre-existing laws. Adding to the uncertainty for millions of voters, not all the changes may be in place for the November election because some were limited or overturned by court decisions still subject to appeal.

The new voting requirements, enacted in states mostly in the South and Midwest, were nine times more likely to have been passed by Republican legislatures than those controlled by Democrats, and almost five times more likely to have been signed by a GOP governor, the News21 analysis found. “These laws can be explained by partisanship and by race,” said Wendy Weiser, director of the Democracy Program at the Brennan Center for Justice, a legal civil rights advocacy group. “It’s hard to reconcile these actual laws with the stated purpose. The more reasonable and likely explanation is political self-interest. Voting laws are a way to restrict voters you think are
Civil liberties groups ask FCC to probe Baltimore police use of cellphone tracking devices

Several civil liberties organizations filed a complaint Tuesday asking the Federal Communications Commission to investigate the use of cellphone tracking devices by the Baltimore Police Department. The complaint alleges that the Baltimore police, like many other police agencies across the country, are using devices that mimic cellphone towers to track suspects through their cellphone locations, in violation of federal law that requires a license. The groups are also alleging that the use of the disruptive surveillance technology overwhelmingly affects black residents – and does so without appropriate transparency and oversight.

“There’s a pattern of law enforcement agencies around the country engaging in racially discriminatory policing, and that extends to surveillance technology,” said Laura Moy, director of Georgetown University’s Institute for Public Representation, who filed the complaint on behalf of the groups. The harms that result from police use of the equipment “fall disproportionately” on Baltimore’s black residents, the advocacy groups said. The complaint comes on the heels of a scathing Justice Department investigation that found that the police department routinely violated the civil rights of the city’s black residents. The police engaged in a “pattern or practice” of making unconstitutional stops, using excessive force and retaliating against residents exercising their right of free speech, the Justice Department said. 


The Best New Way to Read? Novels Told Through Text Messages

BRIANNA HOWARTH is a 22-year-old who writes stories that vibrate with eerie tension. In one, a babysitter suddenly discovers that the children she’s sitting have vanished; in another, several teenagers break into their school to pull a late-night prank, only to find something seems to be hunting them. Classic YA horror, right?

Except these tales are told in a newfangled style: as a series of SMS messages. All of Howarth’s stories appear on Hooked, an iPhone app that lets anyone compose—and read—stories made entirely of texts, traded back and forth by the characters. “It’s like how we talk in everyday life,” Howarth says, “but with a new edge to it.” And it’s a glimpse into how technology, once again, is giving birth to new literary forms. Hooked began life when Prerna Gupta, a serial mobile entrepreneur, took a year off to write fiction with her husband. As with radio serials, suspense and horror are common tropes on Hooked. And the form inflects the genre. The young authors intuit the creepiness that’s often inherent to today’s mobile lifestyle: a person who texts you while covertly observing you, your friend suddenly going silent during a heated SMS argument. The telephone in the 1970s gave us When a Stranger Calls; now we’ve got When a Stranger Texts. “Edge-of-your-seat stuff,” Gupta says, “works particularly well.”


Government Information:

GAO Report – Sexual Violence Data

Four federal agencies—the Departments of Defense, Education, Health and Human Services (HHS), and Justice (DOJ)—manage at least 10 efforts to collect data on sexual violence, which differ in target population, terminology, measurements, and methodology. Some of these data collection efforts focus on a specific population that the agency serves—for example, the incarcerated population—while others include information from the general population. These data collection efforts use 23 different terms to describe sexual violence. Data collection efforts also differ in how they categorize particular acts of sexual violence. For example, the same act of sexual violence could be categorized by one data collection effort as “rape,” whereas it could be categorized by other efforts as “assault-sexual” or “nonconsensual sexual acts,” among other terms. In addition, five data collection efforts overseen by Education, HHS, and DOJ reflect inconsistencies between their measurements and definitions of sexual violence. Further, these data collection efforts do not have publicly-available descriptions of what is included in their respective measurements to allow persons using the data to understand the differences, which may lead to confusion for data users. Publicly-available measurement information could enhance the clarity and transparency of sexual violence data. Data collection efforts also differ in terms of the context in which data are collected, data sources, units of measurement, and time frames.


Digital History:
Internet Jones and the Raiders of the Lost Trackers: An Archaeological Study of Web Tracking from 1996 to 2016

Though web tracking and its privacy implications have received much attention in recent years, that attention has come relatively recently in the history of the web and lacks full historical context. In this paper, we present longitudinal measurements of third-party web tracking behaviors from 1996 to present (2016). Our tool, TrackingExcavator, leverages a key insight: that the Internet Archive’s Wayback Machine opens the possibility for a retrospective analysis of tracking over time. We contribute an evaluation of the Wayback Machine’s view of past third-party requests, which we find is imperfect – we evaluate its limitations and unearth lessons and strategies for overcoming them. Applying these strategies in our measurements, we discover (among other findings) that third-party tracking on the web has increased in prevalence and complexity since the first third-party tracker that we observe in 1996, and we see the spread of the most popular trackers to an increasing percentage of the most popular sites on the web. We argue that an understanding of the ecosystem’s historical trends – which we provide for the first time at this scale in our work – is important to any technical and policy discussions surrounding tracking.


International Outlook:

Global publishing chiefs condemn closure of Turkish presses

Chief executives from leading publishing houses around the world, including Markus Dohle of Penguin Random House, Carolyn Reidy of Simon & Schuster and Arnaud Nourry of Hachette Livre, have said they are “deeply concerned” about the closure of 29 publishing houses in Turkey and called on president Tayyip Erdogan to protect writers’ freedom of expression.

The Turkish government shut down 29 publishers under state of emergency regulations last month in reaction to a failed coup in the country, according to the Turkish Publishers Association (TPA), which condemned the closures as “an assault on parliamentary democracy, the government and the people”. PEN International Publishers Circle has now organised a petition against the crackdown, which urges the Turkish authorities to stop using state of emergency regulations to restrict “lawful freedom of expression”. All the closed publishers’ goods, assets, rights and documents were transferred to the Turkish treasury, without hope of appeal or the treasury being liable for any monies owed, according to the TPA. The knock-on effect is that secondary businesses, such as printing presses, bookbinders and distributors, will also face bankruptcy, while authors and translators will suffer too, it said.

Nourry told The Bookseller: “What could president Erdogan possibly be afraid of? Books? Opinions? Contrary opinions? Does Erdogan believe authors, let alone publishers, played a role in the failed coup? Or is he seizing on an opportunity to clamp down on what is left of freedom of expression in his country? Whatever the motivation, Turkey must at once rescind its gag order imposed on publishers if it still wants to be considered a democracy.”


Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety; attribution appreciated.

The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.

Jobline 2016/08/25


Senior Information Services Specialist (Temporary/full-time)

Job ID: 2016-2126

Job Location: US-CA-San Francisco or US-CA-Los Angeles

Posted Date: 8/15/2016

Category: Research & Analysis

Type: Temporary Full-Time

More information about this job:

Overview:

The Senior Specialist, Information Services works as part of a regional team to provide comprehensive research and information services to consulting and administrative staff using appropriate electronic, print, and other resources.
Frequently works as part of case teams to assist in research planning, information management, training, and capture of research experience. The Senior Specialist may have specialized knowledge of resources in one of Bain’s Industry Practice Areas. This temporary position will have a duration of 6 months with possibility for extension and will be around 24 hours per week.

Responsibilities:

Research Support

- Conducts research for local and regional case teams, Practice Areas and client development utilizing electronic, print and other resources as appropriate
- Provides filtered and often synthesized research results
- Proactively works with Case Team to understand the context of the case and specific case information needs
- Provides just-in-time business research for consulting and consulting support staff at all levels

Administrative

- Use internal database to track personal research requests in real time, including appropriate cost recovery information
- Assist with collection maintenance projects as needed (print and electronic)

Qualifications:

- Degree in Library Science from an accredited university or equivalent higher education degree
- Five to Seven years demonstrated competency in conducting complex research inquiries using a variety of information sources in a fast-paced consulting, financial services or other business setting desired
- Database proficiency with Thomson Research, Capital IQ, Bloomberg, LexisNexis, Factiva, and Profound preferred
- Works independently
- Strong organizational, interpersonal and communication skills

Please apply at the link below:


When applying, please mention that you found this position listing on SLA SV/SF Jobline. Thank you!

Intersect Alert August 28, 2016


August 28, 2016 Categories: Intersect Alert Tags: freedom of information, open access, privacy, public policy, publishing

Public Policy:

The link between health spending and life expectancy: The US is an outlier

The graph [in the article] shows the relationship between what a country spends on health per person and life expectancy in that country between 1970 and 2014 for a number of rich countries. The US stands out as an outlier: the US spends far more on health than any other country, yet the life expectancy of the American population is not longer but actually shorter than in other countries that spend far less.

If we look at the time trend for each country we first notice that all countries have followed an upward trajectory – the population lives increasingly longer as health expenditure increased. But again the US stands out as the the country is following a much flatter trajectory; gains in life expectancy from additional health spending in the U.S. were much smaller than in the other high-income countries, particularly since the mid-1980s. This development led to a large inequality between the US and other rich countries: In the US health spending per capita is often more than three-times higher than in other rich countries, yet the populations of countries with much lower health spending than the US enjoy considerably longer lives. In the most extreme case we see that Americans spend 5-times more than Chileans, but the population of Chile actually lives longer than Americans.


A review of key states with Voter ID laws found no voter impersonation fraud

Politicians and voting rights advocates continue to clash over whether photo ID and other voting requirements are needed to prevent voter fraud, but a News21 analysis and recent court rulings show little evidence that such fraud is widespread. A News21 analysis four years ago of 2,068 alleged election-fraud cases in 50 states found that while some fraud had occurred since 2000, the rate was infinitesimal compared with the 146
Freedom of Information:

The slow creep and chilling effect of China’s censorship
In late March, a mother of five, Sonam Tso, died after self-immolating in protest against Chinese rule outside a monastery in broad daylight. The horrific event took place in Dzoege County, within Chinese-controlled Tibet. It was the 145th known self-immolation in the restive region since 2009. The lack of free speech, expression, and legal recourse for Tibetans has driven individuals to burn themselves in a desperate, last-resort form of protest. In the era of smartphones, instantaneous communication, and social media, you’d’ve expected this news to quickly spread around the world. It didn’t. In fact, it was not until early May that civil society groups outside of Tibet were able to verify what had happened to Sonam Tso and alert the world. That was more than six weeks after the event has taken place—an eternity in the digital age.

How could that be possible?
“China’s one-party authoritarian political system depends heavily on information control,” offered Yaqiu Wang, Northeast Asia correspondent with the Committee to Protect Journalists. “The Chinese government does not want people—inside and outside of China—to know what has happened, and is happening, in [Tibet or Xinjiang], as this would expose its troubled policies.”

While new technology is making it easier than ever to connect with others around the world, it’s also making governments more effective in keeping sensitive information within their borders. Nowhere is that power more apparent than in China, specifically the country’s two outermost regions: Tibet and Xinjiang, also known as East Turkestan, the homeland of the Uighurs. The tools used by journalists and activists to keep track of what’s happening around the world—Twitter, Facebook, Snapchat, and Periscope—are mostly dark there, and getting verifiable information out is getting tougher.

The Department of Defense should never be exempt from the Freedom of Information Act
The Sunlight Foundation has opposed attempts to use the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) as a vehicle for weakening the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) before, but we’re now calling attention to one of the most ridiculous proposals we’ve seen in recent history: an exemption from FOIA for an entire federal agency. The version of the NDAA (S.2943), the mammoth spending bill that funds the Department of Defense, that the Senate passed on June 14 included a section which provided for an “exemption of information on military tactics, techniques, and procedures from release under Freedom of Information Act.” The text of the bill that passed the U.S. House on July 7 did not have Section 1054.

The timing of this effort by the Defense Department to carve out a wholesale exemption for military doctrine this spring is particularly egregious, in the context of efforts to reform the FOIA. While we celebrated the passage of FOIA reform in Congress in June, this provision was advancing in parallel. As Steven Aftergood reported at the National Security Archive, a proposed amendment to FOIA was part of legislative proposals that the Department of Defense sent to Congress in March.

Privacy:

Consumer Groups Tell FCC Wireless Car Technology Unsafe and Violates Privacy
Today, Public Knowledge and six consumer groups filed comments telling the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) that the wireless technology the auto industry will begin to deploy next month makes automobiles more vulnerable to cyberattacks, violates consumer privacy, and commercializes spectrum intended for public safety. In addition, Public Knowledge and nearly 20 consumer groups filed a letter generally supporting the need for a non-commercial condition, and adequate privacy and cybersecurity protections.

The technology in question, “Dedicated Short-Range Communication” (DSRC), was allocated to the auto industry in 1999 for collision avoidance and traffic management. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration started a...
rulemaking 2014 which includes proposed privacy and cybersecurity protections, but that proceeding remains incomplete. Nevertheless, the auto industry will begin to deploy a pre-standards version of DSRC next month. In addition, NHTSA’s public safety proposal would not apply to any commercial applications or services which the auto industry may deploy using DSRC.

Word Games: What the NSA Means by “Targeted” Surveillance Under Section 702
We all know that the NSA uses word games to hide and downplay its activities. Words like “collect,” “conversations,” “communications,” and even “surveillance” have suffered tortured definitions that create confusion rather than clarity. There’s another one to watch: “targeted” v. “mass” surveillance.
Since 2008, the NSA has seized tens of billions of Internet communications. It uses the Upstream and PRISM programs—which the government claims are authorized under Section 702 of the FISA Amendments Act—to collect hundreds of millions of those communications each year. The scope is breathtaking, including the ongoing seizure and searching of communications flowing through key Internet backbone junctures, the searching of communications held by service providers like Google and Facebook, and, according to the government’s own investigators, the retention of significantly more than 250 million Internet communications per year. Yet somehow, the NSA and its defenders still try to pass 702 surveillance off as “targeted surveillance,” asserting that it is incorrect when EFF and many others call it “mass surveillance.”

You Can Now Browse Harvard’s Huge Bauhaus Collection Online
The Bauhaus never really died. Though the famed German art school existed in physical form for just 14 years, its legacy lives on in many ways. The latest incarnation: Harvard’s massive online archive. The school recently made more than 32,000 digitized artifacts—paintings, drawings, photos, sculptures, and more—available for browsing, and it’s a beautiful time-suck for design lovers. Architect Walter Gropius founded the Bauhaus in 1919 with the goal of creating a utopian school where the disciplines of art and design could overlap and dissolve into a unified artistic language. The school ran workshops on everything from architecture to weaving to graphic design, but its most famous exports, by far, were the people who studied there. Bauhaus alumni were a prolific and influential bunch. Even after the school shuttered in 1933 due to pressure from the Nazi regime, the artists and designers who studied there continued to spread the school’s teachings. Over the years, Bauhaus masters and lesser-known students have donated their work to Harvard’s Busch-Reisinger Museum, giving rise to one of the largest collections of Bauhaus ephemera in the world. Harvard has done an excellent job in making what could be a paralyzing amount of information accessible. https://www.wired.com/2016/08/can-now-browse-harvards-huge-bauhaus-collection-online/.

All of the Creepy Things Facebook Knows About You
Facebook knows more about your personal life than you probably realize. As part of the company’s increasingly aggressive advertising operation, Facebook goes to great lengths to track you across the web. The company compiles a list of personal details about every user that includes major life events and general interests. For years, details have been murky about how exactly the social network targets ads—but the company has finally given us a glimpse into how the secret sauce is made.
There are plenty of obvious characteristics that Facebook knows about its users, such as whether they’re getting married, just returned from vacation, or are about to have a baby. Most of that personal data is collected when people voluntarily post to Facebook or update their profiles. But then there’s creepier stuff that definitely isn’t submitted voluntarily, such as the number of credit lines you have, whether you’re an investor, what you invest in, whether you carry a balance on your credit card, whether you use coupons, and whether you’re likely to move. Facebook explains its ability to gather this incredibly detailed personal information in a few ways. First, and most obviously, it tracks your activity on the site, your personal devices, and your location settings. What’s less obvious is that the company also tracks virtually every other website you visit. The list of 98 datapoints is in the article.

Open Access:

FTC Charges Academic Journal Publisher OMICS Group Deceived Researchers
The Federal Trade Commission has charged the publisher of hundreds of purported online academic journals with deceiving academics and researchers about the nature of its publications and hiding publication fees ranging from hundreds to thousands of dollars.

Publishing:
The FTC’s complaint alleges that OMICS Group, Inc., along with two affiliated companies and their president and director, Srinubabu Gedela, claim that their journals follow rigorous peer-review practices and have editorial boards made up of prominent academics. In reality, many articles are published with little to no peer review and numerous individuals represented to be editors have not agreed to be affiliated with the journals. According to the FTC’s complaint, OMICS does not tell researchers that they must pay significant publishing fees until after it has accepted an article for publication, and often will not allow researchers to withdraw their articles from submission, thereby making the research ineligible for publication in another journal. Academic ethics standards generally forbid researchers from submitting the same research to more than one journal.

The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.

Jobline 2016/08/30

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2016/08/jobline-20160830/ August 30, 2016 Categories: Jobline

Development Manager

About the Mechanics’ Institute

The Mechanics’ Institute was created in 1854 and has become one of San Francisco’s enduring cultural institutions. The San Francisco Chronicle recently called the Mechanics’ Institute a “vibrant cultural oasis”, reflecting our new energy as a literary and cultural hub for the Bay Area. Located downtown, the Institute owns its building at 57 Post, has 4,800 members and serves individuals and families throughout the Bay Area, offering a world-class library, the oldest chess club in the United States, and a full calendar of engaging cultural events.

Position Description

We are seeking a Development Manager to join our team. Working with the Executive Director and Board leadership, the Development Manager is responsible for planning and implementing fund development strategies to achieve annual goals. The ideal candidate will promote the Mechanics’ Institute mission, demonstrate leadership and a commitment to fundraising, and have experience in the execution of capital campaigns. This career opportunity gives someone the chance to plan and build a fully-professional development program within a strong cultural institution.

Responsibilities include:

- With the Executive Director and Board leadership, create and plan development strategies including specific annual and long-term goals
- Develop and manage prospect lists and research as well as develop and execute targeted cultivation plans and solicitation strategies for a range of prospects (individual, corporate and foundation)
- Establish solicitation priorities, prepare and provide support to staff, board members and volunteers for solicitations
- Improve outreach to prospective donors, and stewardship of strong relationships with current donors
- Work collaboratively with the Membership Office Manager to manage individual gift solicitation, tracking and acknowledgements
- Manage the concept and writing of development related print and electronic collateral materials and coordinate their design and production
- Provide staff leadership in development, planning, and implementation of cultivation and recognition events
- Maintain clear and effective communication with the members of the leadership team and the Board of Trustees on development and strategic initiatives
- Strengthen and grow bequests program, including personally identifying, cultivating, and soliciting prospects for bequests
- Work with the Executive Director and other Board leadership to shape and refine the ways in which MI presents itself to internal and external supporters
- Oversee acknowledgement of all campaign gifts and pledges, preparation of pledge payment reminders and pledge agreements and database entry
- Maintain master development calendar to maximize cultivation and fundraising opportunities.

Leadership and Executive Director Support:

- Support the Executive Director in the execution of strategic initiatives and special projects
- Work with the Executive Director to provide support and
guidance to the Board of Directors

- Fosters an environment of high performance, learning, teamwork, and cooperation throughout the organization

**Compensation and Benefits**

This is a full time exempt position

Salary is commensurate with experience

Comprehensive benefits package

**To Apply:**

Send cover letter and resume to jobs@milibrary.org and include “Development Manager” in the subject line

Salary requirement (a range is fine)

Position will remain open until filled

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**Meet the Candidates: Chapter Cabinet Chair-Elect**


HQ Tags: events, take action

Welcome, Bayline readers, to the next in our series of Meet the Candidates Q&A summaries. Up next are the candidates for Chapter Cabinet Chair Elect.

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**Why did you accept this nomination? And why do you feel qualified for this position?**

_Emma Davidson_

SLA’s in an exciting, transformational time now. Communication is hugely important, and think Cabinet Chair position is central in terms of communication. I love connecting people

_Chris Festal_

I think SLA can help people through their careers, and I want to be part of that.

Helped organize Boston Conference, got an open bar and live jazz band. You need someone who can bring people together for big goal.

**How does SLA engagement prepare you for career success?**

_Chris_

Different for different people; for me, I developed network of mentors who taught me things I couldn’t have learned on my own. I also used the SLA as a sandbox to develop skills I couldn’t at my job, particularly soft skills. I learned a lot volunteering.

_Emma_

Same as Chris. In particular, you can use volunteer experience to fill skill gaps. Also, mentoring relationships through networking. Unlike the workplace, SLA people are so generous. That’s so important, so valuable.

**What does being an ambassador of SLA mean to you? How would you carry out that position?**

_Emma_

I’d consider the spirit of SLA. A love of connecting and meeting people. it’s important to have an international perspective.

_Chris_

I’ve already been an ambassador over the years. I served on Public Relations Advocacy Council, chaired the Advocacy Task Force, advocate in chapter and social net, spoke at events about membership benefits, lectured at schools about being a librarian, etc. I plan to continue those roles whether elected or not.

**What ideas do you have to bring members back to the SLA? How would reach out to people in non-traditional jobs.**

_Chris_

Think about what’s not happening; members aren’t leaving at once in a coordinated manner, but rather letting memberships lapse one by one because they don’t see the value of SLA compared to their dues.

What we can do is find out why staying members see the value of SLA. We need to work on the unit level to engage individual members; try skill development focused on leadership and financial skills. Focus on teaching competencies to students, maybe with a credentialing program. Work with faculty more,
so they’ll promote SLA for us. Soft skills are critical, and the SLA needs a professional development program for this.

*Emma*

What’s really powerful is talking to people about why they’re members or why they left; former members wouldn’t renew, but would keep an eye on the SLA. We still need to keep in touch with former members.

Students are very important, and we should develop relationships with library schools, have senior members mentor younger member and teach people what they need at different career levels

I like Chris’ suggestion of real world skills, and standardize experience across chapters. Connect will be a great tool for this.

**There are students taking virtual classes who don’t even know about SLA. Should we work more closely with faculty, or what?**

*Chris*

Reaching out to faculty is the first step, but we need more; we should entice students with awards and stipends. Target specific schools and students, and also double down on competencies.

*Emma*

Use viral marketing; encourage people attending events to praise us on Twitter. Student members are especially good for this.

**How do you think SLA is doing communicating with members, and what are effective and ineffective tools?**

*Emma*

It’s kind of patchy, but Connect is great tool for fixing this. We also shouldn’t over-communicate (e.g., too much e-mail). It tends to vary by unit. There’s no perfect solution, but small and timely info is never a bad thing. Ask people what medium they’d prefer (e.g. tweets or e-mail?).

*Chris*

Connect has some bumps, but we’ll resolve them. In terms of communicating with members, SLA does an outstanding job compared to other organizations at. Finding things on the SLA page may be hard, but I can find things if I ask or look hard enough. SLA struggles most with communication between units. The best way to fix this is to have a two-question survey every month.

**How should the SLA gain and train new leaders?**

*Emma*

Training events have people think of leadership training as a one-off thing when it isn’t. We should have a monthly session on specific aspect of leadership, perhaps taught by webinar. It keeps the training going through the year, and also fosters connections. Also makes SLA look more supportive to new recruits.

*Chris*

Leadership recruitment comes to two things. First is burnout after so many different positions.

Second is engaging individual members on the unit level, specifically teaching them to lead from the middle. They don’t have to be managers. This will get more leaders, and more willing leaders.

We need different the for collaboration, current tools (cabinet matchmakers) rely too much on individual members to be effective

**What leadership training would be more effective: exclusive cohorts, or inclusive webinars?**

*Emma*

I love the idea of cohorts because we get peer-to-peer support, but the SLA’s international nature means we should be more inclusive.

*Chris*

Cohorts would be easy to do, and worked well for Lexis-Nexus. If I had to choose, we should be more inclusive because cohorts might not train enough. Cohorts can be used too if we have the budget.

**Where should we start with our base strategy?**

*Chris*

Hard to tell, but I’d start with what will bring in and retain new members. I think things that improve out members everyday engagement on the unit level will bring the greatest gain the fastest.

*Emma*

Think about what skills people in the information profession need, base strategy on that.

**What ideas do you have to bring new revenue to the association?**

*Emma*

Make educational programs less expensive. Regional conferences have been suggested. Discuss the funding structure regarding events.

*Chris*
I agree with Amy Burke: treat SLA as a business and grow financially while lowering expenses. Build monetized certification program around competencies. Attract more diverse sponsors.

**How do you plan on helping SLA members who are struggling to get entry-level jobs?**

**Chris**

I got in when the ALA was promoting library jobs, and graduated during Great Recession; it took a year to get an entry-level position. The SLA helped by promoting skill development, particularly networking (e.g., informational interviews). This led to a LoC job, but stories like this don’t happen often.

The SLA can help by stepping in with mentoring, networking, and managing expectations. Rather than have a specific idea, keep options open. Give members the opportunity to stand out through involvement.

**Emma**

I agree with Chris on everything, and we should make explicit we can do this. Have specific mentoring speed dating events, explicit skills workshops (e.g., resume building). Have SLA be a job and internship aggregator.

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**Application for Membership Fee Stipend**


**September 2, 2016**

Categories: Bayline, Honors & Awards

Tags: awards

The Special Libraries Association San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, in conjunction with Annual Reviews, a nonprofit scholarly publisher based in Palo Alto, is very pleased to support membership fees by offering **four $200 stipends** for use to pay for upcoming membership renewals.

The stipend is intended to help pay membership expenses for those active in the chapter. The stipend may not be sufficient to meet all membership costs. The award is intended to pay for upcoming expenses and is not a reimbursement for past expenses. Only actual eligible expenses up to and not exceeding the stipend amount will be paid. The applicant must be a current, active member of SLA and of the San Francisco Bay Region Chapter. Current San Francisco Bay Region Chapter Executive Board members are **not** eligible.

This award may be granted to a member of the chapter who demonstrates interest in and involvement with the SLA organization and particularly the SF Bay Region chapter to support them in continuing to take an active role. This year the award will be offered to all members.

**Award**

Four awardees will be granted a stipend of up to **$200** to cover costs associated with SLA membership. Those costs are understood to include basic membership, unit fees, etc. The Board will consider other expenses with written documentation. Awardee will be granted the stipend on award, but will be required to document relevant expenses with receipts, per the post-award requirements. The awardee will be required to return the stipend in the event they do not renew their membership or fulfill the post-award requirements.

**Application**

Applicants must complete the [Membership Stipend Application](http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2016/09/app-membership-fee-stipend/).

Applicant must include their résumé and an essay of approximately 500 words describing the applicant’s:

- List of offices held and/or volunteer service to the chapter performed. Essay should include detailed descriptions of current volunteer work with the Chapter
- Reasons why the Awards Committee should award them the stipend
- Describe future participation in the chapter; what offices or Advisory Council position the applicant would like, committee work in which the applicant would like to engage, etc.
- Expectations for professional advancement related to participation

Applications must be received by **September 30th, 2016** for review by the Awards Committee, which is chaired by the chapter’s Past President, Jaye Lapachet. The committee will recommend an awardee to the President, and the President will select the awardees no later than October 30th.

**Eligibility**

Applicants must be:

- a member in good standing of the **SF Bay Region chapter**
- be willing to complete the post-award requirements detailed below
- and must not have received an award in a past year.

Current chapter Board members are not eligible.
Post-Award Requirements

1. Immediately join committee indicated on application
2. Notify Nominations Committee of desire for office on Executive Board or
3. Notify President-Elect of desire for committee chairmanship or
4. Propose a project that would significantly help the chapter improve in some way
5. Within one month of the awardee’s membership renewal date, awardees will submit receipts documenting their membership-related expenses to the Treasurer. Expenses submitted after this date will not be reimbursed.
6. Within six months of the membership renewal, awardees will write a brief article (approximately 1,000 words) on the professional topic of their choice for the chapter newsletter, Bayline and submit it to the Bayline editor.
7. In the year following their award, the awardee will be required to serve on the Awards Committee, and assist in selecting the following year’s winner(s).

Annual Reviews

The 2016 Membership Stipend is generously sponsored by Annual Reviews

The leadership and membership of the chapter thank Annual Reviews for their generosity.

Intersect Alert September 4, 2016

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2016/09/intersect-alert-september-4-2016/ September 5, 2016 Categories: Intersect Alert Tags: digital preservation, freedom of information, government, intellectual property, libraries, open access, open data, public policy, social media, technology

Public Policy:

Pew – Opinions on Gun Policy and the 2016 Campaign
“For the past several years, large majorities of both Democrats and Republicans have favored making private gun sales and sales at gun shows subject to background checks. This proposal draws support from 90% of registered voters who back Hillary Clinton and 75% of voters who back Donald Trump. The latest national survey by Pew Research Center, conducted August 9-16 among 2,010 adults, including 1,567 registered voters, also finds broad support among both candidates’ backers for other gun policy proposals, including barring people on federal watch lists from purchasing guns. Other proposals are much more divisive, however. For instance, about twice as many Clinton supporters as Trump backers favor a ban on assault-style weapons (74% vs. 34%) and the differences are about as large in views of a ban on high-capacity ammunition clips (75% vs. 34%)… .”

Reporters are missing a key part of the story on marijuana legalization

In November, California will consider whether to legalize marijuana and seems ready to approve the idea. But the question itself is out of date, and derives from the mistaken idea that all pot is the same, and that most of it is fairly weak. A question we ought to ask ourselves is just as important if legalization is to succeed: What kind of marijuana should we legalize?
The hyper-potent mutant strains that pass for marijuana today have little relation to naturally grown pot associated with Northern California hippie growers of the 1970s. Levels of THC – tetrahydrocannabinol, the chemical that creates the high – in pot now reach 20 to 30 percent, which is seven to 15 times the potency of a few decades ago. This freakish weed emerged precisely because pot is illegal and unregulated. These strains have been brought to life by underground botanists in basements and trailers, hybridizing and dousing their creations with chemical fertilizers and steroids.
Legalizing this kind of mutant marijuana for commercial sale would be irresponsible. At the end of Prohibition in 1933, the United States did not legalize for commercial sale the wood alcohol and other unregulated poisons then passing for liquor and causing paralysis and blindness. High-THC pot is their modern counterpart. Our nationwide epidemic of opiate addiction, meanwhile, ought to give pause to anyone interested in drug legalization. The opiate scourge started with legal drugs – narcotic painkillers – massively prescribed by doctors,
creating a vast new supply of opiates and opiate addicts nationwide. What’s more, the opiate epidemic shows that potency matters. For years before high-potency OxyContin came out, very few of those addicted to low-dose narcotic painkillers moved on to heroin. Then high-potency OxyContin increased pill users’ tolerances and daily cost, thus pushing them to switch to cheaper heroin. The country would not have this new serious heroin problem without it. The pot issue poses many challenges for reporters that few have stepped up to. 


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Social Media:

White nationalist movement growing much faster than Isis on Twitter, study finds

The number of white nationalists and self-identified Nazi sympathisers on Twitter have multiplied more than 600 per cent in the last four years, outperforming the so-called Islamic State (Isis) in everything from follower counts to number of daily tweets, a new study found. Researchers at George Washington University’s Programme on Extremism analysed 18 accounts belonging to major white nationalist groups and organisations – such as the American Nazi Party and the National Socialist Movement – mostly located in the US. These accounts saw a sharp increase in followers, from about 3,500 in 2012 to 22,000 in 2016. The study notes that while Isis stood out for its outreach and recruitment using Twitter since the group’s emergence a few years ago, white nationalist groups have excelled in the medium. The report underscores the declining influence of Isis on the social media platform as Twitter continues to crackdown on the Islamist militant group. In August, the company said that while Isis stood out for its outreach and recruitment using Twitter since the group’s emergence a few years ago, white nationalist groups have excelled in the medium. The report underscores the declining influence of Isis on the social media platform as Twitter continues to crackdown on the Islamist militant group.

“On Twitter, ISIS’s preferred social platform, American white nationalist movements have seen their followers grow by more than 600 per cent since 2012,” the study, authored by JM Berger, stated. “Today, they outperform ISIS in nearly every social metric, from follower counts to tweets per day.”


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Digital Preservation:

The Keepers Registry – long term access to journal content

The Keepers Registry acts as a global monitor on the archiving arrangements for electronic journals. The Keepers Registry was developed by EDINA, the national data service centre at the University of Edinburgh, and the ISSN International Centre in Paris. It was first developed as outcome of the Jisc-funded Piloting an E-journals Preservation Registry Service (PEPRS) project, and the beta service first launched in 2011. There is further background information on the PEPRS project website. The Keepers are the participating archiving agencies acting as stewards of digital content. There are currently twelve participating agencies. Each agency runs a programme for the archiving of e-journals and is making metadata on the journals in their programme available to The Keepers Registry. The ISSN Register, which contains bibliographic metadata for all journals which have been assigned an ISSN, is at the heart of The Keepers Registry. The ISSN Register is used both as an authority source for ISSNs and to enrich the supplied records. The Registry has three main purposes:

– To enable librarians and policy makers to find out who is looking after which e-journal, how and with what terms of access.
– To highlight the e-journals which are still “at risk of loss”.
– To showcase the organisations (the keepers) which act as digital shelves for access over the long term.


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Social Media Conversations About Race

In recent years, these [social media] platforms have provided new arenas for national conversations about race and racial inequality. Some researchers and activists credit social media – in particular, Black Twitter – with propelling racially focused issues to greater national attention. In fact, two of the most used hashtags around social causes in Twitter history focus on race and criminal justice: #Ferguson and #BlackLivesMatter. In addition to social and political issues, social media also serve as places where conversations about race intersect with a number of issues, including pop culture, sports and everyday personal experiences.

A new Pew Research Center survey finds significant differences in the way black and white adults use social media to share and interact with race-related content! And a Pew Research Center analysis of tweets reveals that key news events – from Baltimore, to Charleston, South Carolina, to Dallas – often serve as a catalyst for social media conversations about race. Black social media users (68%) are roughly twice as likely as whites (35%) to say that at least some of the posts they see on social networking sites are about race or race relations. When it comes to their own postings, a similar racial gap exists. Among black social media users, 28% say most or some of what they post is about race or race relations; 8% of whites say the same. On the other hand, roughly two-thirds (67%) of whites who use social media say that none of things they post or share pertain to race.


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Freedom of Information:

Transparency Hunters Capture More than 400 California Database Catalogs
A team of over 40 transparency activists aimed their browsers at California this past weekend, collecting more than 400 database catalogs from local government agencies, as required under a new state law. Together, participants in the California Database Hunt shined light on thousands upon thousands of government record systems. California S.B. 272 requires every local government body, with the exception of educational agencies, to post inventories of their “enterprise systems,” essentially every database that holds records on members of the public or is used as a primary source of information. These database catalogs were required to be posted online (at least by agencies with websites) by July 1, 2016. EFF, the Data Foundation, the Sunlight Foundation, and Level Zero, combined forces to host volunteers in San Francisco, Washington, D.C., and remotely. More than 40 volunteers scoured as many local agency websites as we could in four hours—cities, counties, regional transportation agencies, water districts, etc. 


Open Access:

France: Open Access law adopted
In France, the final text of a new law on Open Access has been adopted on June 29, 2016. On July 20, the Assemblée Nationale has approved the bill, and it still needs to be voted on by the Sénat on September 27. In the law text, article 17 is relevant for Open Access: Article 17 The chapter III of title III of the book V of the Research code is completed by an article L. 533-4 which reads as follows: “Art. L. 533-4. – I. “When a scientific article, result of a research activity funded for at least half by the State, local authorities or public institutions, by national agencies or by European Union grant are not protected by a specific right or a particular regulation and have been made public by the researcher, the institution or the research agency, their reuse is free.” II. “The publisher of a scientific publication mentioned in the subparagraph I cannot limit the reuse of the research data made public in the publication.” 


Open Data:

Using data to track police response to sexual assault
Cases of rape and sexual assault contain deeply private information, but public data is available to help hold police accountable and provide guidance for better policing. And we can learn a lot from the recent investigation by the Department of Justice (DOJ) investigation into the Baltimore Police Department (BPD), which documented a number of serious problems with Baltimore’s policing. As with the Justice Department’s work examining racial bias in policing, investigators looked at both individual cases and broader statistical trends to evaluate BPD’s policing for evidence of gender bias. However, rather than looking at stop and arrest data, investigators evaluated gender bias by looking specifically at sexual assault, a crime which disproportionately affects women. While members of the public can’t access individual cases the way the federal officials can, the department’s use of public data to assess BPD response to sexual assault provides a model that any of us could use. The techniques that the DOJ employed to evaluate police response to sexual assault were fundamentally different than those that they used to evaluate racial bias in policing. First, investigators found themselves looking for police failure to act – failure to investigate, failure to evaluate held evidence and failure to arrest – rather than excessive police action. Second, while we can identify racial profiling using the public stop, search and arrest data which is becoming increasingly easy to access, most data about sexual assault cases cannot be publicly released. However, by following the DOJ’s use of data that is held in federal datasets like the FBI’s Uniform Crime Report, or by submitting a public records request for data which does not contain personally identifying information, we can nonetheless find ways to use data to see how individual law enforcement agencies respond to sexual assault.


Intellectual Property:
Publishers Appeal GSU Copyright Case

Following their second district court loss in eight years of litigation, the publisher plaintiffs in Cambridge University Press vs. Patton (known commonly as the GSU e-reserves case) have again appealed the case. In an August 26 notice of filing, the publishers confirmed that they will ask the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit in Atlanta to review Judge Orinda Evans’ March 30 verdict against them, as well as “all prior orders and rulings” in the closely watched copyright case, which involves the use of digitized course readings, known as e-reserves, common on college campuses. First filed in April, 2008, by three academic publishers (Oxford University Press, Cambridge University Press, and Sage Publications, with costs paid by the AAP and the Copyright Clearance Center) the suit alleges that Georgia State University administrators systematically encouraged faculty to offer students unlicensed, infringing copies of digitized readings as a no-cost alternative to traditionally licensed coursepacks. http://www.publishersweekly.com/pw/by-topic/digital/copyright/article/71357-publishers-appeal-gsu-copyright-case.html.

Libraries:

Borrowed time: US library to enforce jail sentences for overdue books

A library in Alabama has reportedly warned its customers that it plans to enforce strict new borrowing rules that include the possibility of jail time for anyone who fails to return a book on time. In an effort to recoup about $200,000 worth of overdue books, the Athens-Limestone public library will be enforcing a new policy that includes fines of $100, a city jail term of 30 days or possibly both. Library director Paula Laurita said the harsh new rules were necessary because offenders were effectively stealing from the library and taxpayers.

“Sometimes we hear, ‘I lent my library card to my cousin,’” Laurita said. “I just want to ask, ‘Would you lend your cousin your credit card? If they go and get $700 worth of clothing and you’re responsible for the bill, would you do that?’” If that letter is not acted on, a court summons will be issued. Ignoring the court summons could result in another fine and jail time. Laurita said children would not be targeted by the policy.

The study provides recommendations aligned with three overarching vectors:
– Accelerating DoD’s adoption of autonomous capabilities
– Strengthening the operational pull for autonomy
– Expanding the envelope of technologies available for use on DoD missions


Government Information:

Autonomous Military Technology at a “Tipping Point”

Autonomous military technologies that are capable of independently selecting a course of action to achieve a goal are maturing rapidly, the Defense Science Board said in a newly published study. “Autonomy, fueled by advances in artificial intelligence, has attained a ‘tipping point’ in value,” the DSB study said. “Autonomy will deliver substantial operational value—in multiple dimensions—across an increasingly broad spectrum of DoD missions, but the DoD must move more rapidly to realize this value. Allies and adversaries alike also have access to increasingly rapid technological advances occurring globally,” the study said.

The Board recommended that the Department of Defense undertake a series of pilot projects “intended to demonstrate the range of benefits of autonomy for the warfighter.” The Board did not consider catastrophic failures modes associated with autonomous technologies in any depth. But the study did say that “An autonomous system must be designed so that humans (and/or machines) can straightforwardly determine whether, once it has been deployed, it is operating reliably and within its envelope of competence – and, if not, that appropriate action can be taken.”

Meet the Candidates: Director


Welcome again, Bayline readers, to another Meet the Candidates webinar summary. This week, we have the candidates for Director, and four of them at that!

Also, remember that the voting period starts today; you have
until the 21st, 5pm EST to cast your votes, so no rush!

Why did you accept this nomination? And why do you feel qualified for this position?

Naeema Jabur
Why not? I’ve done so much, and I want more benefits for my people.

Zena Applebaum
The people who nominated me feel I can do good for the SLA. I’m uniquely qualified in that I bring non-librarian skills and perspective, most importantly my business background.

Kati Arzeta
Being a corporate librarian, I bring a different perspective from those of academic librarians. I’ve also done so many varied things that I want to share those stories and successes as well.

Barbara Kern
I want to give back to the SLA, and make it bigger and better. I’ve been active in the SLA at various levels: program planner, treasurer, and annual conference advisory committee 2016. I know how the SLA as an association works

How do we reverse the trend of members leaving? What constituency should we focus on?

Kati
Most important is to focus on our offered content: professional opportunities, tools, resources, etc. Students are especially important. In Oregon, we’ve done a lot with non-traditional groups (e.g., tech folks).

Zena
We shouldn’t focus on membership, the decline just an effect of changing networking practices and organizations scaling back. Rather than obsess over membership, we should focus on providing value to professionals. We also need to look at other revenue streams than members. We need to learn who existing members are and make decisions based on that.

Barbara
All types of members should be a priority, so we get diversity; don’t focus on any one demographic. However, some groups have barriers to entry we should look for: high costs, inconvenient location, technology access, and a lack of identity.

Naeema
We should have conferences and activities outside the United States. We also should communicate to people in their own languages.

How can we use the new SLA competencies to SLA’s advantage?

Barbara
Competencies define and describe what information professionals do. SLA should promote competencies, which will demonstrate that the SLA is interested in developing the profession, which would attract more members. Competencies can also be used to design professional development opportunities as well.

Zena
From the competencies, data and ethics are what jump at me, as they’re the backbone of the information world. For the most part, the world has information parity. We should use data ethically, tie data and ethics to everything we do.

Kati
I divide competencies into internal and external actions. Internally, there’s tying professional development opportunities to the competencies, as well as developing career roadmaps based on the competencies. Externally, we can look at what we do outside the SLA that defines our profession.

Naeema
We should assess programs every 4 years to see how competencies help prepare students for the job market. Furthermore, competencies help libraries define the job for librarians. Competencies assist educational programs in telling students what they need and how to be in the future. They also tell professional librarians how to describe their jobs.

What does “One SLA” mean to you? How can we use that to energize and engage our membership?

Zena
We don’t need to blend in, but rather coalesce into a unified vision while respecting each other’s differences. The SLA is not about borders, but about insatiably curious people who want to make order out of chaos.

Kati
Working smarter, meaning to use SLA’s at international level to strengthen units; there’s a lot of duplication and unused potential. Building a collective spirit and shared sense of identity, like Zena said.

Naeema
Cultural diversity within the organization; encouraging personal experience has shown to me that people want this! Also, encourage individual accomplishment among students,
and show that the SLA is the place where people can share and be something.

Barbara

One SLA really resonates with me; it’s our organization, where we’re together as one, it’s my home. We can all have our specific focuses while being one SLA together. One SLA is an opportunity to bring people together for a common goal.

How does SLA engagement prepare you for career success?

Kati

The SLA provides opportunities to learn skills through involvement, which helped my confidence and leadership skills. The SLA helped me be unique in my company, and sped up my promotions.

Naeema

A professional career isn’t about certification, but about what one does. People support me because of my SLA activities.

Barbara

One way is through networking. SLA engagement also helped me development strong leadership skills. What was critical overall was having the support of others; their confidence in me gave me confidence to do things: communication skills technology, etc.

Zena

(not asked)

How do you plan on helping SLA members who are struggling to get entry-level jobs?

Kati

Use competencies to create professional development opportunities, to start with. Helping people with job search and networking; have hiring people and job veterans look at resumes. Provide volunteer opportunities, to demonstrate skills.

Naeema

Create a job ad database, and make sure companies publicize through SLA. People lack presentation skills: we need to teach people how to present themselves, specifically through CVs and interviews through an online workshop. The SLA should advertise this program.

Barbara

We need to think about development opportunities to make available, specifically things that can go onto resume or CV. Also having a mentorship opportunity, or buddy systems for the Annual Conference, and for those new to the SLA who need help with their resumes and such. We should have internship opportunities as well so people can get experience.

Zena

In addition to networking and mentorship, we should focus professional development on soft skills, such as encouraging grads to make and keep lists (what they like, what they’re good at, etc.) to reference later for insights. Work with vendors to create job boards and opportunities; have vendors offer one-day or one-hour workshops on databases and such to earn certificates.

What does it mean to you to be a director?

Naeema

Responsibility and commitment to those who put me in my position.

Barbara

Representing the association and members, thinking about future of SLA, being someone people can approach with thoughts about the SLA.

Zena

To direct, acting in best interest of voters, balancing the wants of both members and the organization.

Jobline 2016/09/09


SIMPSON GUMPERTZ & HEGER INC.

JOB DESCRIPTION

Position/Title: Full-Time Regional Librarian
Location: San Francisco, CA
Salary: Depending on Experience

Function/Role:

This standalone position is responsible for all library services for SGH’s West Coast offices (San Francisco, Los Angeles and Houston, TX). This role reports to the Corporate Library Manager and works as a team with one other Library staff member in our corporate office (Waltham, MA) to ensure that information is made available to SGH staff at all levels in order to advance the corporate mission.

Responsibilities:

• Provide reference services to library users in person and virtually for the West Coast offices. Oversee ILL (Interlibrary Loan) and document delivery services. Provide backup reference services for other SGH offices.
• Proactive development of the library collection (print and electronic) to keep building codes, design manuals and reference materials up-to-date to effectively serve the engineering staff. Coordinate collection development with other SGH library staff.
• Perform on-line research in subscription databases such as Engineering Village and on the web for historic, current and “buried” engineering literature, including codes and standards.
• Manage the library budget and allocate resources throughout the year for SGH West Coast libraries.
• Train engineering staff in use of library resources. Communicate regularly with SGH West Coast staff regarding the library collection, services, and future plans.
• Maintain professional relationships and participate in professional development activities with local and national professional associations. Maintain awareness of issues (such as copyright), trends, and technologies in the information world.
• Ability to travel to our Southern CA offices 4-6 times per year.

Requirements:

• MLS with a minimum of 4 years of experience in a special library environment. Previous management experience preferred.
• The ideal candidate will have a strong service orientation, excellent interpersonal and teamwork skills, and the ability to handle multiple assignments and work independently.
• Experience in searching a variety of sources in subscription databases and the web.
• Knowledge of Library of Congress classification preferred.
• Experience with cataloging of technical or government materials is desired, but not required.

SGH has more than 500 employees and offices in Boston, Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, New York City, San Francisco, and Washington, DC.

SGH is an Equal Opportunity Employer, and we value diversity in our workforce. We are committed to providing equal opportunities to all job applicants and employees. SGH considers all qualified applicants, and we encourage individuals with disabilities and protected veterans to apply. For more information about SGH please visit our website at www.sgh.com.

For consideration to this position you must apply through our online system at https://sgh.tms.hrdepartment.com/cgi-bin/a/searchjobs_quick.cgi.

When applying, please mention that you found this position listing on SLA SV/SF Jobline. Thank you!
maintenance, and exporting bibliographic records.

- Catalogs and classifies special projects that focus on targeted collection areas to improve access, or retrospective editing of existing items to meet current standards.
- Is responsible for the creation and maintenance of non-MARC metadata.
- Establishes and verifies name, title, subject authority entries in conjunction with OCLC and Library of Congress authority files.
- Provides reference services and teaches library instruction classes.
- Manages assigned areas of the Library collection.
- Performs other duties as assigned.

Qualifications:

- ALA-accredited MLIS.
- Demonstrated knowledge of MARC, RDA, AACR2, DDC, and LCSH.
- Experience working with an ILS, preferably Millennium.
- Experience working with OCLC Connexion and MarcEdit.
- Familiarity with archives and archival standards such as EAD and DACS is a plus.

- Excellent customer service aptitude and the ability to work both collaboratively and independently.
- Commitment to professional development and staying current with trends and developments in cataloging, metadata and the library profession.

Compensation and Benefits:

- This is a full time exempt position.
- Salary is commensurate with experience.
- Comprehensive benefits package.
- Early career librarians are encouraged to apply.

To Apply:

- Send cover letter and resume to jobs@milibrary.org and include “Cataloging & Metadata Librarian” in the subject line.
- Position will remain open until filled. First review of applications to begin Monday, September 26.

About the Mechanics’ Institute:

The Mechanics’ Institute was created in 1854 and has become one of San Francisco’s enduring cultural institutions. The San Francisco Chronicle recently called the Mechanics’ Institute a “vibrant cultural oasis,” reflecting our new energy as a literary and cultural hub for the Bay Area. Located downtown, the Institute owns its building at 57 Post, has 4,800 members and serves individuals and families throughout the Bay Area, offering a world-class library, the oldest chess club in the United States, and a full calendar of engaging cultural events.

When applying, please mention that you found this position listing on SLA SV/SF Jobline. Thank you!

Meet the Candidates: President Elect


Welcome back, Bayline readers. This week, we have the last Meet the Candidates webinar, featuring the candidates for President-Elect.

Next week, September the 21st at 5pm EST, is the deadline to vote. While it is a good habit not to leave things to the last minute, be sure to take some time to check out the webinar summaries for Division Cabinet Chair-Elect, Chapter Cabinet Chair-Elect, and SLA Director.

May the best candidates win!

Please tell us about your leadership style?

Doris Small Helfer

My staff would say I’m a very collaborative and communicative leader. I value the individual strengths of my team, and I trust them.

Roberto Sarmiento

I thought I could do it all myself, but I learned it’s better to work with others and bring the best out of everyone I work with.

I mostly enjoy leading teams in project, where everyone has ownership of their own piece. I like to talk things over, come up with contingency plans, come to agreements, and let people do what they’re supposed to. I like to be updated on people’s work just to know how we’re doing.

My team does most of the work; I’m more of a conductor. If something goes wrong, I prefer to fix the problem rather than
Why did you accept the nomination, and what uniquely qualifies you for the position?

Roberto

I believe I have the experience to do a good job. I’m also a revolutionary at heart and believe I can make things better. The SLA’s due for a rebirth, and I don’t want to miss this historical opportunity. Also, the SLA asked me, and how could I turn my back on the association that trusts me?

I’ve done a lot of work with committees, volunteers, the government, etc., and bring a wide variety of experience to the table. I’m a creative manager who looks at the big picture. Above all, I’m fearless and optimistic.

Doris

I value the SLA network and what it’s done for me, and want that to continue for others. I’ve chaired three divisions, one chapter, numerous committees, and Division Cabinet Chair. I want members to be involved, and for their voices to be heard.

How are you going to be an ambassador for SLA?

Doris

I love to meet and engage new people. First will be students in information school, followed by early- and mid-career professionals. I can’t do it alone, but the association management firm the SLA hired can do a good job extending the brand, and letting people know they can get professional help and assistance.

We should pursue professionals who left the SLA; find out why they left, and what we can do to improve.

We should promote international growth and development, and not just in English-speaking countries.

Roberto

You need to be a SLA patriot; to have an unshakable belief in what SLA stands for, and to convey that attitude while communicating.

Also, ambassadors should listen to people, be humble in your work, and lead by example.

How do you plan on helping SLA members who are struggling to get entry-level jobs?

Roberto

Promote the SLA Job Site. It may not be obvious, but it’s there. Other than that, SLA members could provide informal personal help to colleagues (e.g., resume review, class decisions).

Doris

Encourage students to get involved with the chapter to network and learn about hidden jobs. Provide mentorship (resume help, etc.).

What is your opinion of the raised annual dues? Don’t you think they’ll drive out poorer members, leaving the SLA composed only of wealthy elites?

Doris

My retired friends were shocked at the large dues increase. We need to do a better job of explaining the reason for the rate increases. Members felt the increases were too arbitrary.

Roberto

The dues did have an effect, but the reasons were explained: the SLA was in a dire financial situation and we needed to take measure to become financially stable.

The fees can still be rolled back, though not that they should be, because our situation is less perilous. We should do a financial review to see if we can have tiers again; our fees are a catastrophe for international members, and some US and Canadian ones. SLA fees have changed before.

How much energy should go into expanding SLA internationally? Should the focus instead be on regions that already have networks of potential members, and reaching there?

Doris

We need to do both, not just one or the other, and look at why people left. Take advantage of social media more. We need to reach out to a wider variety of people; many of use are in nontraditional, non-library positions.

Roberto

Start a campaign to retain and consolidate what we have; we focus on strong chapters, and then get a foothold outside those areas.

For international membership, we need a financially sustainable strategy to bring all the small groups in our tent at once or else we’ll lose momentum.

How can SLA ensure that membership remains relevant to people in non-traditional information professions?

Doris

Be more proactive in asking members what changes they want. Reach them through social media, and offer more virtual experiences.

Roberto

We need to demonstrate that members can grow and learn at SLA. To attract non-traditional librarians, partner with other
organizations, and invite non-trads to speak at events. Also, develop programs and opportunities at the local level, that’s the face of the SLA for ~90% of members. Duplicate what’s proven successful from other chapters.

How comfortable are you at making tough decisions? Please give an example from your work or personal life?

Roberto

It’s important to do what’s needed. I had to tell friend on committee that they were a flake. Tough decisions are made because they’re required. It’s better to make tough decisions early and quickly, shoot the dog and move on. You feel so good that you got it done with.

Doris

Tough decisions tend to involve personnel. I tried to work with one disruptive employee, but they needed to go. The staff appreciated that. Another time, we were dealing with a company that seemed good, but made too much vaporware.

Making tough decision means think about the long term

How much of a priority should the Pooled Resources Initiative be?

Doris

I don’t know, we’ve made a lot of changes. I’d like more information before I comment.

Roberto

I don’t know, but I support tools that show how units are successful. We should continue developing it, but we should have more tools and better models.

How can we best use the professional competencies to communicate our roles to our employers, and to potential members in related fields?

Roberto

They show what you ought to be doing, and what can be measured. To being in new members, we can develop a SLA channel for students, and teach them tech and competencies.

Doris

Develop online certification classes, which will let graduates show proof of competencies to potential employers. Work with grad schools to make sure they have competencies embedded in them.

Think of different ways to display competencies, such as through a YouTube channel, other social media, and other nontraditional means.

Enticing people with what they could have if they belong could help us attract more members.

Intersect Alert September 19, 2016


Government:

Carla Hayden Breaks New Ground as 14th Librarian of Congress

Carla Hayden, a career librarian who grew up in Chicago and kept Baltimore’s libraries open during last year’s civic unrest, was sworn in Wednesday as the 14th Librarian of Congress, becoming the first woman and the first African-American to lead the national library.


Seven G-20 Commitments to Promote Innovation and the Digital Economy

Last week’s G20 Summit in Hangzhou, China showed that U.S. leadership has driven a growing global consensus on a number of issues central to the growth of the digital economy and the high paying jobs of the future. Due in no small part to U.S. leadership, this year the G-20 endorsed policies long advocated by the United States that will help drive innovation and entrepreneurship and make the digital economy an engine for global opportunity.

…One of the most important reasons the Internet has been such an incredible engine for growth and innovation is that most Internet providers have treated Internet traffic equally. The United States has led an emerging global consensus around this approach, known as “net neutrality,” with the Federal Communications Commission putting in place strong net neutrality rules in 2015. The G-20 endorsed the principles underlying this consensus, highlighting the need for its members to examine introducing net neutrality policies to prevent anti-competitive blocking, throttling, or prioritization of data by commercial broadband networks.

https://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2016/09/14/seven-g-20-commitments-promote-innovation-and-digital-economy
Publishing:

FTC sues academic publisher for deceptive practices
You’ve probably heard the phrase “publish or perish.” The intense pressure on academics to publish their scholarly research has given rise to what critics call a growing industry of predatory journals. Now the Federal Trade Commission is getting involved. The FTC has charged publisher OMICS Group, Inc. with tricking researchers into submitting articles, only to charge them hundreds or thousands of dollars.
https://www.marketplace.org/2016/08/30/education/ftc-sues-academic-publisher-deceptive-practices

Stupid Patent of the Month: Elsevier Patents Online Peer Review
In August 30, 2016, the Patent Office issued U.S. Patent No. 9,430,468, titled; “Online peer review and method.” The owner of this patent is none other than Elsevier, the giant academic publisher. When it first applied for the patent, Elsevier sought very broad claims that could have covered a wide range of online peer review. Fortunately, by the time the patent actually issued, its claims had been narrowed significantly. So, as a practical matter, the patent will be difficult to enforce. But we still think the patent is stupid, invalid, and an indictment of the system.
https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2016/08/stupid-patent-month-elsevier-patents-online-peer-review/

Algorithms Could Save Book Publishing—But Ruin Novels
How could you know which books would be blockbusters and which would flop, and why? Over four years, Archer and Jockers fed 5,000 fiction titles published over the last 30 years into computers and trained them to “read”—to determine where sentences begin and end, to identify parts of speech, to map out plots. They then used so-called machine classification algorithms to isolate the features most common in bestsellers. The result of their work—detailed in The Bestseller Code, out this month—i an algorithm built to predict, with 80 percent accuracy, which novels will become mega-bestsellers. What does it like? Young, strong heroines who are also misfits (the type found in The Girl on the Train, Gone Girl, and The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo). No sex, just “human closeness.” Frequent use of the verb “need.” Lots of contractions. Not a lot of exclamation marks. Dogs, yes; cats, meh. In all, the “bestseller-ometer” has identified 2,799 features strongly associated with bestsellers.
https://www.wired.com/2016/09/bestseller-code/

Indiana’s Grand Textbook Compromise
Essentially, the eTexts initiative treats textbook acquisition as software licensing. In course sections where faculty members opt in to the program, the university is able to negotiate discounted prices by promising publishers that virtually every student in the section will buy the textbook. The course materials are then delivered through an ereading platform controlled by IU, giving the university control over the data collected about how students interact with their textbooks. Students themselves are notified if a course section they wish to enroll in uses an eText, telling them up front how much they will be charged.

The Rock and the Hard Place: Renewal Season, No Big Deal?
September is renewal season when the largest percentage of a typical academic library’s collection budget is committed to the hands of publishers and vendors, thereby determining the largest part of what research is accessible in January of the following year. Some publishers sensitive to the workflow and economic challenges of libraries — usually those with MLS degrees or a background in libraries — make an effort to negotiate for alternative solutions rather than lose large sums of subscription revenue. Such alternatives, however, rarely include an ability to cut costs through cancellation or by swapping out underused titles. Nor has there been much effort to limit the amount of content publishers may acquire that libraries must take on in additional spend.

Open Access:

Rewarding open access scholarship in promotion and tenure
Here we describe the efforts of one institution, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI), to reward OA scholarship in the P&T process. With librarians as advocates, participants, and change agents, IUPUI has become one of the first to include OA as a value in its P&T guidelines.2 At IUPUI this policy-driven, top-down approach is complemented with a bottom-up education and outreach strategy. These librarian-facilitated efforts make the first steps toward building a scholarly communication environment that rewards OA participation.
http://crln.acrl.org/content/77/7/322.full

Copyright:

Computers and Robots Don’t Count
Copyright has a weird relationship with computers. Sometimes it completely freaks out about them; sometimes it pretends it can’t see them at all. The contrast tells us a lot about copyright—and even more about how we relate to new technologies. Start with the freakout. One thing that computers are good for is making copies—lots of copies. Drag your music folder from your hard drive to your backup Dropbox and congratulations: You’ve just duplicated thousands of copyrighted songs. If you
look up the section of the Copyright Act that sets out what counts as infringement, the very first Thou Shalt Not is “reproduce the copyrighted work.” In theory, Congress could have added some language saying that putting your music in your Dropbox that no one else can access isn’t infringement. In practice, well, it’s Congress.  


**European Copyright Ruling Ushers in New Dark Era for Hyperlinks**

In a case which threatens to cause turmoil for thousands if not millions of websites, the Court of Justice of the European Union decided today that a website that merely links to material that infringes copyright, can itself be found guilty of copyright infringement, provided only that the operator knew or could reasonably have known that the material was infringing. Worse, they will be presumed to know of this if the links are provided for “the pursuit of financial gain.”  


**A New Approach to Copyright Exceptions and Limitations**

There is no doubt that digital networks have facilitated copyright infringement. And while the adverse impact of this infringement probably has been overstated by rightsholders, it is perfectly legitimate for rightsholders to take reasonable measures to address infringement. The operative word here is reasonable. And making exceptions for libraries, educational institutions, or the print disabled difficult to use in order to reduce potential leakage is not reasonable.  

http://policynotes.arl.org/?p=1413

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**Jobline 2016/09/20**


**Research Assistant**

Ref. No.: 1954  Job Title: Research Assistant  
Office: • SILICON VALLEY  Practice Area: • Research & Libraries  
Posted Date: 09/15/2016

**Job Description:**

McDermott Will & Emery, a leading international law firm, currently seeks a Research Assistant to respond to simple to moderately complex requests from managers, attorneys and paralegals. This position prepares printed and electronic research documents in accordance with standard processes and procedures. The Research Assistant I works under direct supervision and relies on instructions and pre-existing guidelines to perform the essential functions of the job.

- Assist with research requests by gathering, compiling and generally summarizing research findings
- Retrieve and deliver case laws, articles and other reference materials upon request
- Maintain intake log for library mail and periodicals and route new deliveries to appropriate parties
- Catalogue incoming reference materials in the library cataloguing and circulation systems
- Assist with the upkeep and maintenance of the local office

**Job Requirements:**

- Bachelor’s degree
- Knowledge of Microsoft Office Suite (Excel, Outlook, PowerPoint, and Word)
- Strong written and verbal communication skills
- Strong organizational skills
- Ability to handle and maintain confidential information
- Ability to work effectively in a fast-paced environment
- Ability to learn new concepts and skills quickly

McDermott Will & Emery LLP is an Equal Opportunity Employer and an Affirmative Action Employer (Minority/Female/Disabled/Veteran).

Application must be through the [website], but queries and resumes can be sent to Kim Thompson: Kcthompson@mwe.com

When applying, please mention that you found this position listing on SLA SV/SF Jobline. Thank you!

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**Chapter Meeting: State of the Association Panel Discussion and Happy Hour**

State of the Association Panel Discussion and Happy Hour

When: Thursday, October 13, 2016, 5:30 – 8:00 pm

Where: Jillian’s, 175 Fourth Street, Suite 170, San Francisco, CA (7 min walk from Powell BART & Muni Stations)

Join us on Thursday, October 13, for an informal panel discussion on the many changes that SLA and San Francisco Bay Region Chapter have undergone over the last few years. Chapter President Hilary Schiraldi, Incoming President Kendra Levine, Chapter Past President Jaye Lapachet, SLA Fellow Tony Landolt, and Rising Star Sarah Cook will share their knowledge and answer your questions about the challenges the association has faced and where it is now headed.

We hope for your input and participation in our discussions.

Appetizers as well as beer/wine will be provided by the Chapter for our attendees.

**Agenda for Thursday, October 13, 2016**

5:30 – 6:30 : Registration, networking, and appetizers

6:30 – 6:50 : SLA-SF Announcements

6:50 – 8:00 : Panel discussion and Q&A

**Registration fee**

- $30 for SLA Members
- $45 for non-members
- $20 for Student, Retired, and Unemployed Members

Registration: Online registration is closed. You may register at the event.

**Thanks to our generous sponsor!**

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**Intersect Alert September 26, 2016**


**Open Data:**

**University May Remove Online Content to Avoid Disability Law**

The University of California, Berkeley, has announced that it may eliminate free online content rather than comply with a U.S. Justice Department order that it make the content accessible to those with disabilities. The content in question is all free and is for the general public to use. “The department’s findings do not implicate the accessibility of educational opportunities provided to our enrolled students,” said a statement on the situation by Cathy Koshland, vice chancellor for undergraduate education. While the university has not made a final decision, she said, it may not be able to afford complying with the Justice Department’s recommendations on how to make the online material accessible. [https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2016/09/20/berkeley-may-remove-free-online-content-rather-complying-disability-law](https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2016/09/20/berkeley-may-remove-free-online-content-rather-complying-disability-law)

**GPO & Library of Congress Begin Digital Release of All Congressional Records**

This is good news. Today GPO announced the first release of digitized volumes of the Congressional Record, part of a collaborative project between GPO and the Library of Congress. The plan is to go back to volume 1, 1873. So stay tuned for additional releases.

The U.S. Government Publishing Office (GPO) partners with the Library of Congress (LC) to release the digital bound Congressional Records from 1991-1998 on GPO’s govinfo. This release covers debates of the 102nd through the 105th Congresses. [http://freegovinfo.info/node/11379](http://freegovinfo.info/node/11379)

**Sarah Glassmeyer: Opening a window on closed data**

Sarah Glassmeyer has spent the past year as a research fellow at the Harvard Library Innovation Lab, studying how government publishes law. And how little is available to the taxpayers who finance it.

Her work includes a census of 50 state regulation websites and 105 court websites. And her study found at least 14 barriers to accessing legal information, including how the information is stored and cataloged and the availability of bulk downloads.

“These barriers exist for both the individual user of a resource for personal research as well as an institutional user that would...
seek to republish or transform the information,” she notes in her report. “At the time of the census, no state provided barrier-free access to their legal information.”

http://www.abajournal.com/legalrebels/article/sarah_glassmeyer_profile

Opening agriculture and nutrition data requires confronting power, influence and industry
Opening public interest data which is created by private actors is complicated. Opening data can provide enormous societal, economic and transparency benefits around the world, and there needs to be a clear and well-defined recognition by governments that economic and privacy risks exist for farmers who create or share data about their work, assets and crops. We should be alert to potential harms from agencies that move too quickly to release data without appropriate redaction of personally identifiable information.

We must also be aware of how access to industry sector, such as agricultural data, works with broader principles of public access to information. Nations that do not have freedom of information laws need to commit to the simple but fundamental principle that the public has a right to access information created and stewarded on their behalf. Connecting open data to this right is critical.


Open Access:

The Post-Embargo Open Access Citation Advantage: It Exists (Probably), It’s Modest (Usually), and the Rich Get Richer (of Course)
Many studies show that open access (OA) articles—articles from scholarly journals made freely available to readers without requiring subscription fees—are downloaded, and presumably read, more often than closed access/subscription-only articles. Assertions that OA articles are also cited more often generate more controversy. Confounding factors (authors may self-select only the best articles to make OA; absence of an appropriate control group of non-OA articles with which to compare citation figures; conflation of pre-publication vs. published/publisher versions of articles, etc.) make demonstrating a real citation difference difficult. This study addresses those factors and shows that an open access citation advantage as high as 19% exists, even when articles are embargoed during some or all of their prime citation years. Not surprisingly, better (defined as above median) articles gain more when made OA.

http://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0159614

Whistleblowing:

Whistleblowing:

Busting the Myth of Whistleblower Protections for IC Contractors
Three years after Edward Snowden’s leaks, it appears that everyone has an opinion about him—traitor, hero, or somewhere in between. However, there is one undeniable fact surrounding Snowden’s circumstances that has been misreported by Congress and the Executive Branch far too many times: the Intelligence Community (IC) contractor would have had almost no protections had he come forward through proper channels.

Sure, Snowden could have gone to his supervisors and disclosed his concerns. However, had that supervisor retaliated against Snowden by firing him or demoting him, he would have had no protections because he was an IC contractor. In the absence of adequate protections, IC contractors have only two alternatives to almost certain retaliation: 1) remain silent observers of wrongdoing, or 2) make anonymous leaks.


When the President Pardoned a Leaker
In recent discussions of whether President Obama should pardon Edward Snowden, it has gone unnoticed that a presidential pardon was once granted to a person who committed an unauthorized disclosure of classified information to the press, effectively erasing his crime.

In 1985, Samuel L. Morison, a U.S. Navy intelligence analyst, was convicted under the Espionage Act statutes of providing classified intelligence satellite photographs of a Soviet aircraft carrier to Jane’s Defence Weekly. He was sentenced to two years in prison, of which he served eight months.

But in January 2001, President Clinton issued “a full and unconditional pardon” to Morison.

http://fas.org/blogs/secrecy/2016/09/morison-pardon/

Digital Humanities:

Computers Decipher Burnt Scroll Found in Ancient Holy Ark
“I’ve worked for two decades now with technology and damaged materials, and over that time, I’ve become convinced that this day was possible,” says study author Brent Seales of the University of Kentucky, who specializes in digitally reconstructing damaged texts. “The Ein Gedi Scroll is proof positive that we can potentially recover the whole text from damaged material, not just a few letters or a speculative word.”


Wikipedia:
College students take to Wikipedia to rewrite the wrongs of Internet science
Since the crowd-sourced encyclopedia first hit the Internet in 2001, tens of millions of people around the world have been empowered to anonymously create, edit and write about topics minuscule and enormous, well known and obscure.

The quantity has been unbeatable, the quality sometimes far less so — a matter of significance for such topics as medical ailments and prescription drugs that frequently are searched for by those in need of information.

Professors, once averse to Wikipedia, now see its potential.

Midterm papers and literature reviews — usually read by only the instructor or perhaps a teaching assistant — can be turned into comprehensive, accurate Wikipedia entries.


Libraries:

Libraries in the age of inequality
“Trying to predict the future of anything — let alone public libraries — is a tricky task. But unequivocally we can say this: Libraries are not about to become purely digital endeavors. The notion that e-books will completely replace physical books is tired. So rather than dwelling on that topic, which has become a favorite pastime of armchair futurists, let’s focus on the people affected by libraries instead of the collections contained within them. Whether individuals prefer paperbacks or reading on a mobile device is trivial compared to the fact that American society is becoming highly unequal. The trend suggests a Dickensian future — albeit one filled with smartphones. The real question is: How will the mission of public libraries evolve in a world filled with such gross inequality?”


Rutgers University Libraries Launch Open and Affordable Textbook Project to Provide Relief for Soaring Textbook Costs
The sticker shock of buying college textbooks is a rite of passage for new and returning students at the beginning of each semester at Rutgers University. According to NJPIRG, students at New Jersey’s flagship university pay an average of $1500.00 for textbooks each year, nearly 15% more than the national average $1300.00. These costs force students to make tough decisions: seven out of ten report that they skip required textbooks due to cost and nearly 60% wait for financial aid to pay for textbooks.

With the launch of the Open and Affordable Textbook (OAT) Project, Rutgers University is taking action to address textbook affordability and improve the well-being and education of our students.”


State of our Chapter — Please come discuss on 10/13!

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2016/09/state-of-our-chapter-please-come-discuss-on-1013/ September 29, 2016 Categories: Bayline, Chapter Leadership Tags: events, President’s message

Dear SLA-SF Members,

There have been many changes in the Special Libraries Association over the last few years, and our chapter has been changing as well. Your chapter leadership, including our chapter’s recent Rising Star and SLA Fellow, would love the opportunity to talk to you about what’s been going on and answer any questions you might have.

Possible topics for discussion include:

- The consultants’ report from last year
- The new Association Management Company
- SLA Connect
- Membership trends, in our chapter and the larger organization
- What’s next for SLA-SF?

We also have a bylaws change to vote on. So please come to Jillian’s on October 13, for drinks & snacks, the 411 on our chapter’s changes, and some parliamentary procedure!

Sincerely,

Hilary Schiraldi

President, SLA San Francisco Bay Region Chapter
PlaneTree Health Library
Los Gatos, CA

Executive Director Job Announcement

The PlaneTree Health Library (PHL) Board of Directors is seeking an executive director to lead in charting and implementing a new direction for the long-established health information non-profit. This position provides an opportunity to develop and expand a new online community service for a small organization with a solid reputation and a dedicated, supportive Board.

The Board is currently conducting research to identify core health and medical topics about which consumers find it difficult to gain relevant, reliable information. Online information pathfinders on one or more of these topics will be developed and become a new part of PHL’s services, to guide consumers to local community services and effective information resources.

The executive director will be responsible for the development of online resources, community partnerships, fund development, and management of two current part-time staff members. The ideal candidate will have:

- A passion for ensuring access to reliable, free health information for all.
- Four-year college degree in a related field; a master’s degree is preferred.
- Five (5) years of related management experience, including supervision of staff and volunteers.
- Proven success in grant writing and development/implementation of fund raising strategies.
- Strong communications skills with experience in building and sustaining community partnerships, public speaking and writing.
- Experience in creating online resources and leveraging social media to reach and expand audiences.

This is a part-time salaried position (20-30 hours per week). The annual salary will be commensurate with experience, in the range of $45K – $60K, with limited benefits that do not include medical insurance.

The position will be based at our office located in Los Gatos, California. For information about our current services, visit www.planetree-sccl.org.

For a complete job description, see http://planetree-sccl.org/ed.

Interested persons should send a cover letter and resume to applications@planetree-sccl.org.

When applying, please mention that you found this position listing on SLA SV/SF Jobline. Thank you!
Privacy

Police Around the Country Regularly Abuse Law Enforcement Databases

“For more than a year, EFF has been investigating how police in California misuse the state’s law enforcement database with little oversight from officials. An investigation published by the Associated Press today shows that abuse of law enforcement systems is a nationwide problem.”

“The AP’s investigation analyzed records from all 50 states and three dozen of the country’s largest cities. The reporters found that officers have routinely used law enforcement and driver databases to stalk ex-partners, dig up dirt on their neighbors, and even spy on celebrities and journalists.”

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2016/09/police-around-country-regularly-abuse-law-enforcement-databases

Yahoo Email Surveillance: the Next Front in the Fight Against Mass Surveillance

“In a bombshell published today, Reuters is reporting that, in 2015, Yahoo complied with an order it received from the U.S. government to search all of its users’ incoming emails, in real time.”

“There’s still much that we don’t know at this point, but if the report is accurate, it represents a new—and dangerous—alliance of the government’s mass surveillance techniques.”

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2016/10/yahoo-email-surveillance-next-front-fight-against-mass-surveillance

Freedom of Information

Reporters Committee Launches “FOIA Wiki” Beta

“The Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press has launched a beta of the FOIA Wiki (www.foia.wiki), a collaborative and evolving digital resource on the federal Freedom of Information Act. The FOIA Wiki is part legal guide, part community space for sharing information that aims to serve as a central hub on all manner of issues surrounding FOIA as the law celebrates its 50th anniversary.”

“Using a ‘wiki’ format to encourage contributions from different persons and organizations, the FOIA Wiki includes explanations of FOIA’s provisions and exemptions, provides places for reporters and members of the public to share strategies and tips, and intelligently categorizes information about caselaw and federal agencies to promote the ‘right to know.’ It complements the Reporters Committee’s existing public records guides, such as the Open Government Guide and will evolve alongside changes to the statute and court cases interpreting it.”

https://rcfp.org/reporters-committee-launches-%E2%80%9Cfoia-wiki%E2%80%9D-beta

Libraries and Librarians

Assistance Animals in the Library: How One Academic Library Developed Best Practices.

“Effectively addressing concerns about assistance animals in any library setting is often problematic due to a lack of awareness about assistance animals in general, which then leads to uncertainty on how to proceed in these situations. Library personnel, regardless of library type, are often unaware of legal definitions of assistance animals. When compelled to respond to a patron complaint about “a dog in the library,” many library professionals are uncertain about which questions they may legally ask a patron who is accompanied by an animal. This uncertainty then creates concern about how to act in these situations, and thus, many library personnel may seek to avoid it entirely. However, with knowledge, time, some organizational development, and the appropriate legal vetting, it is possible to establish a best-practices protocol for handling complaints or concerns about patrons with an assistance animal in a library. This article details one such case study at an academic library in the Pacific Northwest.”

http://cedar.wwu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1053&context=library_facpubs

Usability and Desirability | The User Experience

“Spend five minutes brainstorming—or looking around your library—and I’m sure you’ll be able to come up with a list of ten things that aren’t as easy as they could be. Common library pain points include the OPAC, computer access, printing, self-check interfaces, locating items, and wayfinding quirks. Ironing out these wrinkles is important because making our libraries easier for people to use improves their experiences.”

“But usability, or a lack thereof, isn’t the only thing that impacts people’s experiences. Another crucial part is the purpose of their interactions. This aspect of the user experience (UX) also provides libraries with the most significant area for growth and evolution. When we think of libraries not just as places to collect and distribute content but as places of curiosity, learning, and connection, we have license to carry out our mission in ways that, frankly, are more interesting than circulating books. Think of people ordering and picking up healthful food at the library, such as Baltimore residents do at a branch of the Enoch Pratt Free Library through baltimarket.org, or the collocated YWCA and library in Vancouver, BC?”
The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts Acquires Michael Holman Archive, First Hip-Hop Collection in its Holdings

“October 3, 2016 — The Jerome Robbins Dance Division at The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts has acquired the complete archives of Michael Holman, iconic downtown New York dance impresario, filmmaker, experimental musician, journalist, and television producer. The archive contains an unrivaled trove of underground video and film footage capturing the moves of b-boys and breakers at the dawn of hip-hop dance culture, and is the first archive of hip-hop materials in the Dance Division’s collections.”

“The Michael Holman Archive encompasses more than eight linear feet of paper materials, includes over 500 audio and moving image items, and three terabytes of electronic records. Spanning the years 1978 through 1984 and beyond, the present archive of Holman's original video and film footage, audio recordings, production notes, media clippings, manuscripts, typescripts, screenplay drafts, event flyers, and personal diaries comprises a one-of-a-kind primary source collection for researchers interested in the origins and influences of hip-hop culture, particularly as it relates to popular dance, both in live performance and its representations through film and television.”

Remembering Robert Goldstein, NPR’s Music Librarian And Our Friend

“For 20 years, Robert Goldstein was NPR’s music librarian. He went on to become a manager in our research and archives division, and shared his love of music with our audience in stories he wrote for broadcast and online. He was also an accomplished guitarist, whose work made an impression on a young Bob Boilen decades ago, sparking a friendship that continued when they began working together.”

“We lost Robert on Friday night after a prolonged battle with cancer. He was just 66 years old. This is how Bob and NPR Arts Editor Tom Cole would like to remember him.”

Deadline November 1st! – Chapter Award Nominations

We are currently accepting nominations for our chapter awards. Nominations are due by November 1st.

Nominations may be submitted by any Chapter member and self-nominations are encouraged! Don’t be shy! Seriously, tell me what you’ve been up to!

The awards will be distributed at the holiday party in December.

You can find descriptions of the awards on the chapter website, at: http://sanfrancisco.sla.org/award-descriptions/. The nomination form is online at http://sanfrancisco.sla.org/nomination-form/.

The chapter has six different awards that we regularly confer:

- Professional Achievement Award – to recognize one or more members for notable and enduring contributions to the Chapter and the profession.
- Special Project Award – to recognize a member or committee that has exhibited outstanding, unique or beyond the call of duty service to the Chapter.
- Horizon Award (New Member Award) – recognizes Chapter member of 5 years or fewer who has shown promise of becoming an outstanding member of the profession.
- Student Award – recognizes student Chapter member for notable activities and contributions to the Chapter and the profession.
- Quarter Century Club Award – awarded to a member for an extended and sustained service (25 years or more) to the Association in all spheres of its activities.
- Business Partner Appreciation Award – to recognize a supporting vendor or donor who has exhibited outstanding, unique or beyond the call of duty service to the Chapter.

Please send your completed nomination forms to me
Intersect Alert October 17, 2016


Databases

Open Music Library Combines Free and Subscription Databases

“Academic database and streaming media publisher Alexander Street is beta testing the Open Music Library (OML), a new online resource that will eschew database paywalls, enabling non-subscribers to discover and use high-quality open access and public domain content from contributors such as the Library of Congress (LC) and the British Library (BL), while offering subscribers a seamless experience discovering and using free and for-fee content together.”


Privacy

FCC Privacy Rules Must Protect Where We Go and What We Do Online

“Last week, the Federal Communications Commission released a fact sheet summarizing proposed final rules that would significantly upgrade consumer broadband privacy protections. The final proposal varies from the framework set forth in the original proposal in one important respect. The FCC initially proposed requiring Internet Service Providers to obtain opt-out consent for first party use of customer information and opt-in consent for third party use of customer information. Instead, responding to industry lobbying, the FCC will adopt the framework originally developed by the Federal Trade Commission that requires opt-in consent for ‘sensitive’ information, but requires subscribers to affirmatively opt out from the ISP using information designated ‘non-sensitive.’”


Legal Resources

Free Legal Answers

“Free Legal Answers is a virtual legal advice clinic. Qualifying users post their civil legal question to their state’s website. Users will then be emailed when their question receives a response. Attorney volunteers, who must be authorized to provide pro bono assistance in their state, log in to the website, select questions to answer, and provide legal information and advice. Volunteer attorneys will not answer criminal law questions.”

“Participating states have their own page where qualifying residents will post their question. Look at your state’s page for more information. Free Legal Answers is a project of the American Bar Association’s Standing Committee on Pro Bono and Public Service. If you would like more information about the Free Legal Answers site, contact the National Site Administrator here. Please be advised, the National Site Administrator will not respond to email requests for legal assistance.”

http://abafreelegalanswers.org/

Cost of Electronic Access to US Court Filings Faces Major Legal Test of Its Own

“The 10 cents a page most people are charged to view documents in Pacer, an online database of papers filed by litigants in the U.S. federal courts, doesn’t sound like much. But critics of the setup say this cost is just the beginning.”

“Pacer, which stands for Public Access to Court Electronic Records, is a clunky system that doesn’t allow users to search for court papers by their content or look up filings across the web of district, bankruptcy, and circuit courts that make up the federal judiciary. And there’s little that outside developers can do about it.”


Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety; attribution appreciated.

The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special
Senior Information Services Specialist – Digital Initiatives

Job ID: 2016-2168
Job Location: US-CA-San Francisco
Posted Date: 10/6/2016
Category: Research & Analysis
Type: Regular Full-Time

More information about this job:

Overview:

The Senior Specialist (Digital Initiatives) Information Services is responsible for developing, implementing and supporting information and research technology solutions for both consultants and Information Services staff. The Senior Specialist will lead the identification and deployment of research applications and provide systems leadership in coordinating and defining technology requirements for IS-wide projects and initiatives. The Senior Specialist will be the systems administrator for the IS workflow management system (ASK), SharePoint site, Information Services portal and other services as required. The Senior Specialist will act as a technology consultant to IS team members for regional or office-specific projects. The Senior Specialist is a member of the global IS team and works collaboratively with the IS team to deploy technology systems and initiatives in line with Bain global policies.

Responsibilities:

- Researches, identifies, and recommends new technologies for the delivery and support of information services
- Leads the implementation of new technologies that improve access to IS resources and IS skill development and delivery, working with Global Technology Support Group and specifically the Director, Team Leader and Implementation Specialists assigned to Global

Qualifications:

- Relevant bachelor degree or an equivalent combination of education and experience. Masters of Library Science and experience in a global, multi-national consulting, financial services or other professional services research environment preferred
- Four+ years’ experience with online information systems
and intranet/internet applications including hands-on experience identifying, evaluating and implementing digital initiatives and new technology systems in a global environment

- Four+ years of project management experience leading and working with technology projects
- Systems administration experience for online information systems and intranet/internet applications including SharePoint development and administration
- Knowledge and experience with social media and team collaboration tools and implementation within a global organization
- Effective collaborator with both non-technical and technical teams
- Competency and enthusiasm for knowledge-sharing
- Strong knowledge of copyright, intellectual access and digital rights management
- Innovative and strong service-oriented attitude
- Demonstrated relationship building and relationship management skills working with a virtual global team

- Strong organizational, interpersonal and communication skills
- Excellent oral and written communication skills within Bain environment

Apply using the link below:

When applying, please mention that you found this position listing on SLA SV/SF Jobline. Thank you!

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**Intersect Alert October 24, 2016**

[Link](http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2016/10/intersect-alert-october-24-2016/) October 24, 2016 Categories: Intersect Alert Tags: freedom of information, open access, privacy, professional development

**Privacy**

**Memo to the DOJ: Facial Recognition’s Threat to Privacy is Worse Than Anyone Thought**

“If we don’t speak up now, the days when we can walk around with our heads held high without fear of surveillance are numbered. Federal and local law enforcement across the country are adopting sophisticated facial recognition technologies to identify us on the streets and in social media by matching our faces to massive databases.”

“We knew the threat was looming. But a brand new report from the Georgetown Law Center for Privacy and Technology indicates the problem is far worse than we could’ve imagined. The researchers compare the use of facial recognition to a perpetual line-up, where everyday, law-abiding citizens are pulled into law enforcement investigations without their consent and, in many cases, without their knowledge.”

[Link](https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2016/10/memo-doj-facial-recognitions-threat-privacy-worse-anyone-thought)

**Loopholes and Flaws in the Student Privacy Pledge**

“With a new school year underway, concerns about student privacy are at the forefront of parents’ and students’ minds. The Student Privacy Pledge, which recently topped 300 signatories and reached its two-year launch anniversary, is at the center of discussions about how to make sure tech and education companies protect students and their information. A voluntary effort led by the Future of Privacy Forum and the Software and Information Industry Association (SIAA), the Pledge holds the edtech companies who sign it to a set of commitments intended to protect student privacy.”

“But the Student Privacy Pledge as it stands is flawed. While we praise the Pledge’s effort to create industry norms around privacy, its loopholes prevent it from actually protecting student data.”

[Link](https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2016/10/loopholes-and-flaws-student-privacy-pledge)

**Freedom of Information**

**OIP Summary of the FOIA Improvement Act of 2016**

“On June 30, 2016 President Obama signed into law the FOIA Improvement Act of 2016. The Act addresses a range of procedural issues, including requirements that agencies establish a minimum of 90 days for requesters to file an administrative appeal and that they provide dispute resolution services at various times throughout the FOIA process. The Act also codifies the Department of Justice’s “foreseeable harm” standard, amends Exemption 5, creates a new “FOIA Council,” and adds two new elements to agency Annual FOIA Reports. OIP has created a redline version of the FOIA showing the changes made by the Act. Each of the principal changes is also
summarized and discussed below.”


Open Access

Whither (and Whether) OA?

“We’ve now been discussing, advocating for, and arguing about open access for something like twenty years. (The first formal declaration on the topic was issued in 2002, but OA has been a subject of serious discussion in the scholarly-communication world since at least the mid-1990s.)”

“An awful lot has changed since the turn of the 21st century, even though the underlying issues have remained roughly the same: we still see library budget constraints and journal prices heading towards cataclysmic collision—even if that collision, as imminent as it always seems to be, keeps receding in front of us. To many of us it still seems intuitively obvious that the public has a moral right of access to scholarly publications arising from publicly-supported research—even as we struggle to figure out how to account for the costs that occur between the conclusion of the research itself and the delivery of a peer-reviewed, edited, typeset, and formatted article based on it (not to mention the costs of ongoing curation). And to many, there is constant frustration over the way that commercial publishers have managed to coopt OA and use it as just one more highly effective revenue-generating mechanism.”

http://lj.libraryjournal.com/2016/10/oa/whither-and-whether-oa/

Libraries

It’s Not Too Late to Save the Stacks

“Contemporary libraries, like contemporary churches, find their audience changed by contemporary culture. Ask any librarian about technology and you’ll get an earful of responses that range from enthusiastic to frustrated. The university library in particular finds itself emerging as a locus of campus attention, as the admissions officers have come to understand how information tech acts as a great promotional draw for prospective students. Students, meanwhile, are increasingly less familiar with the concept of a physical library — and with those unexpected “Aha!” moments that browsing the stacks provides. We are in the era of immediate-results information.”

“So goes the prevailing conversation about early 21st-century undergraduates, and as a result many campus libraries and librarians find themselves under pressure to conform to the times with updated approaches to information literacy and to storing and retrieving all that material.”

http://www.chronicle.com/article/Its-Not-Too-Late-to-Save-the/238106/

Podcasts

Library Pros Podcast – Episode 11, David Ecker and Stony Brook University’s Innovation Lab

“David Ecker, the Director of Innovation and Technology at Stony Brook University opened up his doors and gave a tour to Chris, and then they sat down and chatted about the creation of this incredible lab which is only 1 of 4 spaces on campus for students to come and imagine, create, collaborate and design. If you can imagine it, his labs probably have it. Learn about the mysterious Madagascar boxes and Dave and his students created with them! Lots of laughs and WOW, the items created there are not only impressive but creative as well!”


Lost in the Stacks: The Research Library Rock’n’Roll Radio Show – Episode 322: Serendipity and the Digital

“The original research-library rock’n’roll radio show! Broadcasting on WREK Atlanta, each show features an hour of music, interviews, and library talk united by a common theme.”

“Guest: Kate Joranson of the University of Pittsburgh libraries. Can we recreate those moments of accidental discovery in our digital library environments?”


Law Librarian Conversations – Teaching Technology Competencies to Law Students

“Ever increasing number of states that now call for tech competency in their rules of professional conduct. What should law librarians be doing in this sphere. What is our role in teaching sphere. What is our role in teaching technologies that are out of the sphere of legal research? Our panel of experts includes Darin Fox, University of Oklahoma School of Law, Michael Robak, University of Missouri Kansas City, Ken Hirsh, University of Cincinnati, Greg Lambert, Jackson Walker, LLP. The conversation will be assisted by co-hosts Roger Skalbeck, University of Richmond, and Elizabeth Farrell Clifford, Florida State University. I will be joined in studio by Mandy Lee, University of Nebraska, who will be monitoring the chatroom.”

http://www.blogtalkradio.com/lawlibcon/2016/10/21/teaching-technology-competencies-to-law-students

Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety; attribution appreciated.
The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations
In Memory of Dunn Miller

Pamela “Dunn” Miller, who was a member of the SLA SF Bay Region chapter for many years, passed away recently. She was a column writer for Bayline and the Bayline editor from 2003 to 2005. Chapter members have shared warm memories calling her a “character” with a “good sense of humor,” and writer Jon Carroll composed this touching remembrance of her:


Jobline 2016/10/27

Title: Research Analyst (full-time)

Location: San Francisco or Silicon Valley

GENERAL SUMMARY:

The Research Analyst provides expert legal and business research for the firm’s attorneys and administrative departments; participates in the firm’s educational initiatives by providing training, orientation and consultative services and proactively monitors the legal industry and contributes ideas and solutions to further the goals of Research Services and the firm.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Works with the Research Services Manager to deliver proactive and value-added research function to the firm.
- Provides expert legal and business research assistance to attorneys and administrative staff in a timely and effective manner, leveraging firm resources appropriately.
- Provides analysis and synthesis of results and presents findings in a manner promoting effective decision making where appropriate.
- Consults with attorneys on research strategy and resource selection to ensure research is accurate and conducted in the most efficient and cost effective manner.
- Provides research coverage as assigned and follows established internal procedures for the handling of requests to ensure timely and efficient delivery of results.
- Develops, prepares and conducts training to promote effective and authoritative research.
- Conducts new hire orientation for administrative and legal staff.
- Contributes to the development and maintenance of the Research Services intranet.
- Participates in the ongoing evaluation of online resources and makes recommendations for purchase or renewal.
- Prioritizes continuous learning by seeking professional development opportunities.

ADDITIONAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Other duties as assigned.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND COMPETENCIES:

- Familiarity with a wide variety of information sources, such as Westlaw, Lexis, Capital IQ, PitchBook, Intelligize InfoNgen, Thomson Innovation, and Saegis.
- Strong interpersonal, written and oral communication skills.
- Ability to prioritize work, multitask and meet deadlines in a fast-paced environment.
- Ability to work independently, as well as collaboratively, with members of the team and Firm.
- Demonstrated knowledge of computer applications, such as Excel, SharePoint, PowerPoint, and WebEx.

EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS/JOB EXPERIENCE
REQUIREMENTS:

• Master of Library Science from an ALA accredited library school. Demonstrated, relevant professional research experience in a private law firm or academic law library, special library or research center can be substituted for the MLS.
• 5+ years’ experience providing research and reference in a private law firm, academic law library or special library or research center.

WORKING CONDITIONS/PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS:

• Travel

Apply using the link below:

San Francisco: http://www.goodwinlaw.com/job-opportunities/sf-staff-research-analyst

Silicon Valley: http://www.goodwinlaw.com/job-opportunities/sv-staff-research-analyst

When applying, please mention that you found this position listing on SLA SV/SF Jobline. Thank you!

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ELECTION OF CHAPTER OFFICERS FOR 2017: MEET YOUR CANDIDATES, AND PLEASE VOTE


Here are your candidates for the offices of President-Elect and Secretary for the coming term. Please take a moment to get to know them and please vote. Voting will begin on Monday, October 31 and run through Sunday, November 13.

PLEASE CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING FOR ASSISTANT PROGRAM CHAIR!! You’ll note that we have not found a candidate for this office and would love for one of our members to volunteer. Please contact president@sanfrancisco.sla1.org to volunteer.

For President-Elect: Sarah Cook

Sarah is a research paralegal at Levin Simes LLP in San Francisco. She joined SLA in 2011 while she was still an MLIS student at San Jose State University. She first served as hospitality chair, then as assistant director of programs, and most recently as director of programs of the SF Bay Area Chapter. She attended SLA 2015 Annual Conference in Boston as a voting representative for the chapter and then this year in Philadelphia to receive her Rising Star award. She enjoys baseball and cuddling with her three Chihuahuas.

For Secretary: Claressa Mazzetti

Claressa Mazzetti is a Senior Associate Research Librarian at Cardno Chemrisk, where she assists staff members with literature searching, document retrieval, citation management software, and manages physical and digital library collections. Prior to her current position, Ms. Mazzetti worked in corporate engineering libraries and the San Francisco Public Library.

Ms. Mazzetti has been involved in the SLA San Francisco Bay Region Chapter for a few years as a contributor to Intersect Alert and has enjoyed attending the Neighborhood Dinners and professional development workshops.

If you missed the live ballot link above, here it is one more time:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VYYHT7W
The Chapter thanks you very much for your support.

State of SLA Meeting

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2016/10/state-of-sla-meeting/

October 28, 2016
Categories: Bayline, Chapter Programs & Events
Tags: events, President's message

by Heather Heen and Jaye Lapachet

The chapter hosted a State of the Association event on October 13th at Jillian’s on 4th Street. Four guests that joined us to discuss recent SLA changes, chapter challenges and opportunities:

- Hilary Schiraldi, SLA-SF Chapter President, 2016
- Kendra Levine, SLA-SF Chapter President-Elect (President, 2017)
- Sarah Cook, SLA-SF Past Program Chair 2015
- Tony Landolt, SLA Fellow
- Jaye Lapachet, SLA-SF Past President (President, 2015)

The attendance was small, though it allowed us to introduce everyone and have more of a conversation.

Hilary started the conversation by talking about how we can make the chapter better for the membership. Some points that came up were:

- Membership is down and we are not getting the full response to programming that we have in the past.
- Not sure if we are using the new online Connect system correctly to get our message out to our unit membership.
- Some ideas came up in regards to improving the chapter’s use of the new system.

Next was the discussion on the possible merger of the SLA-SF and SLA-SV units. There was a lively discussion and some ideas were generated:

- Looking through the archives to find why the division in the first place. The concern is we don’t want to be insensitive to the historical context that led to the split in the first place.
- Second, we need to find out best practices and look to other chapters that have already merged such as the Pacific Northwest.
- Discussion on serving members in a large area
- Agreement that (due to communications issues discussed above) the messaging would go out both in connect and via direct email to membership.

This led to discussion membership numbers and their continued decline. Ideas and discussion included:

- Driving membership via younger members and reexamining what the value proposition is to them and the incumbency on the current ‘older’ membership to drive that conversation in all the touchstones they have in the public marketplace.
- Student membership from schools is seen as a great idea but how to you connect them to local chapter when school is online? Traditionally SJSU students have been left to SLA-SV but with more students being remote perhaps this an opportunity for SLA HQ to sign students up for units based on their address. Kendra said this issue is also being discussed on the national level.
- Also discussion of getting the zip code list from SLA National to determine who is in SLA but not their local chapter.

Programs was the next discussion in regards to the decline in attendance over time regardless of the great programming that has been offered. Ideas conferred included:

- Outward advertising? Why are we keeping this internal when the discussion can include many other people that results in raising our own profile and attendance numbers.
- One suggestion including getting our partners (presenters) to advertise to their own groups to attend.
- Another concern was the price and the membership vs. non-membership pricing creating divides. Suggestion was offered that pricing be the same but members offered an additional benefit such as (a) discount or (b) free drink at the event.
- Reevaluation of the internal roles for programs and the collapse such as hospitality rolling into programs. This is a function of membership reduction and the lack of people stepping up for these roles. Consideration offered that we have one-off-event people to help but not take the role on for an entire year/two years.

The leadership is clearly working on a variety of issues. Please contact any Board member to offer suggestions or to volunteer.
Open Access

Search Thousands of Historical Documents from the Nuremberg Trials

“The Harvard Law School Library’s Nuremberg Trials Project is an open-access initiative to create and present digitized images or full-text versions of the Library’s Nuremberg documents, descriptions of each document, and general information about the trials.”


http://nuremberg.law.harvard.edu/

Patent Trolls Undermine Open Access

“This Open Access Week, the global open access community has a lot to celebrate. Hundreds of universities around the world have adopted open access policies asking faculty to publish their research in open access journals or archive them in open repositories. A few years ago, open access publishing was barely recognized on the fringes of science; now, it’s mainstream. Three years after the White House’s groundbreaking open access memo, we may be on the verge of passing an open access law.”

“Again and again, we’ve seen how making the results of scientific research available to everyone is good for innovation. Innovators should be able to use and build upon the most up-to-date scientific research, regardless of whether they have the budgets and institutional connections necessary to access expensive journal subscriptions and academic databases—particularly when that research was paid for with public funds.”

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2016/10/patent-trolls-undermine-open-access

Open Access: A Distilled Perspective

“As we approach the conclusion of the series of interviews I’ve been conducting with leaders of the open access community, I’ve been asked to share a few comments and reflections.”

“Because of the hard work and dedication of the people who were interviewed for the series, open access publishing—including both text and data—is now a reality for librarians, our users, and the publishing community.”

“Of course, this doesn’t mean all is perfect and it’s time to find a new issue to focus on.”

“Not even close.”

http://lj.libraryjournal.com/2016/10/oa/open-access-a-distilled-perspective/#

Privacy

EFF to Supreme Court: Cell Phone Location Data Is Off-Limits to Police Without a Warrant

“Washington, D.C.—Cell phone location data, which can provide an incredibly detailed picture of people’s private lives, implicates our Fourth Amendment rights against unreasonable searches, requiring police to obtain a warrant to gain access, the Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF) told the Supreme Court today.”

“Weighing in on separate cases where two courts have applied 1970s-era law to digital communications in the information age, EFF urged the nation’s highest court to step in and establish that Americans have the right to expect location data generated from their cell phones is private and protected by the Constitution against unreasonable searches and seizures.”


Public Knowledge Applauds FCC for Protecting Consumer Privacy Online

“Today, the Federal Communications Commission voted to pass broadband privacy rules that protect consumer data online. Public Knowledge commends the FCC for taking drastic steps to provide broadband customers with the tools they need to make informed decisions about the use and sharing of their information by broadband providers.”

“The following can be attributed to Dallas Harris, Policy Fellow at Public Knowledge:

This marks a significant step forward in protecting consumer privacy. For the first time, Internet Service Providers will be required to get consumer consent prior to using the sensitive
information they collect. While much remains to be done to protect consumers online writ large, the Commission’s rules establish a baseline level of protection for all.”


International Outlook

Ninth Century Library Goes Digital to Reach Wider Audience

“A ninth century library in Morocco, widely believed to be the oldest in the world, is going digital to make its ancient treasures available to a wider audience.”

“The al-Qarawiyyin library in the former Moroccan capital, Fez, is home to some of the rarest and most unique manuscripts in the world, with access limited to just the curator in some special cases.”

“However, the library installed a new laboratory this year to oversee the protection and digitalizing of the 4,000 manuscripts on site in conjunction with the Institute of Computational Linguistics in Italy.”

http://www.reuters.com/article/us-morocco-qarawiyyin-library-idUSKCN12O20C?feedType=RSS&feedName=lifestyleMolt

Open Data

The Local projects that are Making Police Complaint Data Open and Accessible

“We give our law enforcement officials the right to use reasonable force in the name of public safety. However, we’ve also seen many instances where individual officers have used force unreasonably, and individual community members have suffered or died. Where we know about community concerns about police misconduct, we could be acting before tragedy occurs. Access to civilian complaints about police behavior make it possible for the public to help hold problematic individuals accountable, leading to a better quality of policing and improvements in police-community relations. While we’re starting from a low point in public access to this information, several current projects give hope that this situation is in the process of changing.”

“And change it absolutely must. From either the perspective of the public’s safety or its finances, information signaling problems in police departments could not be more important. Unfortunately, civilian police complaints are routinely hidden. Police unions often oppose the release of complaint details. In some cities, unions block public access to details of legal settlements resulting from police misconduct, and force people who receive settlements to sign gag orders preventing them from revealing the details. This poses a serious problem for people who are looking to achieve police accountability, because without that information it can be hard to know who or what needs to change in order to produce a better quality of public safety provision.”


Sunlight Endorses ‘Open Data Action Plan’ to Ensure Federal Transparency

“The Center for Open Data Enterprise released the Open Data Action Plan detailing how opening federal government data should remain a priority for the next president. The report is a valuable resource and a useful road map for the next administration to build upon the legacy and initiatives of the Obama era. It provides a set of 27 constructive recommendations for specific federal agencies that will be actionable within the first 100 days or the first year of the next administration.”


Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety; attribution appreciated.

The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.

Tour the Society of California Pioneers Museum and Library!


The objective of the Society of California Pioneers, as described on its website, is:
“To collect and preserve information connected with the early settlement and to form libraries and cabinets ... that advances the interests and perpetuate the memory of the founders of this new state.” (Articles of Incorporation, 1850)

The modern-day Society is dedicated to the study and enjoyment of California art, history and culture. It now operates a museum at the Presidio as well as the Alice Phelan Sullivan Research Library.

Please join us for a bit of socializing and a bit of touring as we explore this great local resource.

(As a bonus for anyone interested in the history of bands – the musical kind – in the Presidio, our Chapter Treasurer John Bertland is speaking, along with other presenters, on that subject at 6 PM at the Presidio Officers’ Club just a short walk from the Pioneers’ building. That event is free and open to the public but they’re asking attendees to register: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/presidio-dialogues-the-presidio-bands-tickets-26931286202) (There will be an actual band.)

WHEN: Thursday, November 10th, from 4:00 PM to 5:45 PM
WHERE: At the Presidio in San Francisco (101 Montgomery St., Suite 150, Presidio)

View map here:
https://goo.gl/maps/325xBYvfHvH2

We will meet at 4 PM in the Museum with our tour guide, Pat Keats, and enjoy some light refreshments before starting our tour. The tour will begin at 4:45 and end at 5:45 and we’ll be touring both the library and the museum. (The front door of Bldg. 101 will be open, as will be the door to the museum, to the right of that.)

COST: $10

DIRECTIONS: Here’s some information about how to get to the Presidio:
http://www.presidio.gov/transportation/get-to-the-presidio

Also, there is a shuttle:

The free Presidigo shuttle goes between the Transbay Terminal and the Presidio, with a stop near the Embarcadero BART: http://www.presidio.gov/transportation/presidigo/presidigo-downtown-shuttle. It takes a little less than a half hour usually, so you could catch the 3:30 shuttle to get to Pioneers by 4:00. The shuttle runs back downtown as late as 8:00 and 9:00.

The 3:30 shuttle is free to everyone; and no pass is required for the 5:45 and 6:15 shuttles and every shuttle after that. It’s a 5 – 10 min walk around the main parade ground to Pioneers – you can see their building from the Transit Center. There is ample but not free parking at that time of day.

REGISTRATION:

Cost: $10

Please enter your name and company as you’d like it to read on your nametag, and click on the "Add to Cart" button:

Donate: $5 (Note: Special Libraries Association, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization; all donations are tax-deductible (please check with your tax advisor for details). No goods or services will be given to you in exchange for this donation.)

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR OUR TOUR GUIDE:

Patricia L. Keats, Director of Library and Archives, Alice Phelan Sullivan Library
The Society of California Pioneers
415.957.1849
pkeats@californiapioneers.org

Jobline 2016/11/02
http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2016/11/jobline-20161102/ November 2, 2016 Categories: Jobline

CITY OF BENICIA
LIBRARY DIRECTOR

The City of Benicia, a San Francisco Bay waterfront community of 28,000, is known for its small town charm and
quality of life and is home to numerous award winning restaurants, schools and parks. Recreation is a big part of the Benicia lifestyle. The area features uninterrupted miles of public shoreline, a marina and boat launches for fishing and sailing, and the Benicia State Recreation Area. The City of Benicia is a community with a high level of pride and concern for preserving the quality of life. Residents enjoy low crime, good schools, affordable housing, culture and a wide range of recreational opportunities.

The Library Director reports to the City Manager and oversees a well-resourced library. The Library is a heavily used, one-branch operation with two divisions — Public Services and Technical Services. The Library Director oversees the City’s Arts and Culture Commission, maintaining effective relationships with cultural organizations throughout the City, collaborating on grants, providing guidance working with local government, and supporting arts and culture as a major element in Benicia’s community identity. The new Library Director will provide a long-range vision for library services through assessment of best professional practices and community needs in alignment with objectives and policies established by the City, the Board of Library Trustees, the Arts and Cultural Commission, and the Department.

The Library Director will have expertise in library operations, with strong administration skills in the areas of finance, budget management, planning, project management, resource allocation and personnel. This position requires completion of a Master’s degree in Library Science from an accredited library school and five years of professional library work, including two years in a supervisory or administrative capacity. An equivalent combination of experience, education and/or training may substitute for the listed minimum requirements. The salary range is $112,392 – $136,620 annually, DOQ. To be considered, please submit (email preferred) a letter of interest, resume, salary history and contact information including email addresses for five work-related references to Bill Avery by December 9, 2016. A formal job announcement is available at http://www.averyassoc.net/current-searches/.

Bill Avery or Cris Piasecki
Avery Associates
3½ N. Santa Cruz Ave., Suite A
Los Gatos, CA 95030
E-mail: jobs@averyassoc.net

When applying, please mention that you found this position listing on SLA SV/SF Jobline. Thank you!

Share this:

Intersect Alert November 6, 2016

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2016/11/intersect-alert-november-6-2016/ November 6, 2016 Categories: Intersect Alert Tags: freedom of information, intellectual property, international outlook, internet access, open access, privacy, public policy associations seeking to enforce ADA requirements against not only employers but businesses as diverse local restaurants, theaters and entertainment centers; motels, hotels, and other accommodation facilities; taxi, transit and even Uber services; public and private school and universities; hospitals and government offices. Litigation isn’t restricted to bricks and mortar establishments, since certain ADA requirements apply to on-line service providers. Government agencies may also bring suit to enforce ADA requirements, or intervene on the side of private parties seeking redress.

http://trac.syr.edu/tracreports/civil/444/.

Privacy:

Researchers Matched Images on Tattoo Websites to a German Police Database
For the last year, EFF has been battling to free records from the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) regarding an ethically dubious research program to promote the development of automated tattoo recognition technology. The agency is months delinquent in providing a variety of information, most notably the list of 19 research entities who received a giant set of tattoo images obtained from prisoners in custody. This delay is particularly alarming as NIST is currently recruiting institutional participants for the next stage of its expanded research, scheduled to begin on Dec. 1. What we’ve discovered so far about NIST’s approach to tattoo identification raises major concerns for privacy, free speech, the freedom to associate, and the rights of research subjects. We’ve also learned that similar tattoo recognition experiments are being conducted in Germany, a country that is usually sensitive to personal privacy.

One of our chief concerns is how automated tattoo recognition technology—algorithms that can match tattoos—can be used to identify and track people in a similar way to how facial recognition systems are being deployed by law enforcement entities. We foresee a future where this technology is used to scan tattoo images on the Internet as a form of surveillance. A presentation recently released in response to our Freedom of Information Act request confirms that this is not only possible but that researchers in Germany have already used tattoo recognition technology to compare online tattoo images to law enforcement records. 


Open Access:

U of M’s Open Textbook Network reports student savings of $1.5 million from open textbooks

Faculty from nine colleges and universities across the United States have saved their students an estimated $1.5 million in textbook costs to date by adopting open textbooks, the University of Minnesota’s Open Textbook Network (OTN) reported this week.

The OTN, created and run by leaders at the U of M’s College of Education and Human Development, is an alliance of schools committed to improving access, affordability and academic success through use of the open textbooks. Open textbooks are funded, published and licensed to be free for students or available in print for a low cost. The University’s Open Textbook Library lists nearly 200 open textbooks in a number of subject areas.

The average U.S. college student will be asked to spend more than $1,200 on books and supplies this year, according to the College Board. Research has shown that the cost of textbooks has increased over 1,000 percent since 1977, and this high cost can have a significant negative impact on student learning. The $1.5 million in student savings was reported by nine early OTN members, including California Polytechnic State University—San Luis Obispo, Cleveland State University, Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, Ohio State University, Purdue University, University of Arizona, University of Minnesota, University of Northwestern St. Paul, and University of Oklahoma. Most of these savings were realized within the last year.


CIA Releases Controversial Bay of Pigs History

The CIA today released the long-contested Volume V of its official history of the Bay of Pigs invasion, which it had successfully concealed until now by claiming that it was a “draft” and could be withheld from the public under the FOIA’s “deliberative process” privilege. The National Security Archive fought the agency for years in court to release the historically significant volume, only to have the U.S. Court of Appeals in 2014 uphold the CIA’s overly-broad interpretation of the “deliberative process” privilege. Special credit for today’s release goes to the champions of the 2016 FOIA amendments, which set a 25-year sunset for the exemption: Senators John Cornyn, Patrick Leahy, and Chuck Grassley, and Representatives Jason Chaffetz, Elijah Cummings, and Darrell Issa. The CIA argued in court for years – backed by Department of Justice lawyers – that the release of this volume, written by Agency historian Jack B. Pfeiffer, would “confuse the public.”

National Security Archive Director Tom Blanton says, “Now the public gets to decide for itself how confusing the CIA can be. How many thousands of taxpayer dollars were wasted trying to hide a CIA historian’s opinion that the Bay of Pigs aftermath degenerated into a nasty internal power struggle?” Archive senior analyst and Cuba Project Director Peter Kornbluh notes, “We know now why the CIA attempted to cover up this document for so long. It is a vivid historical example of what Pfeiffer called ‘the Agency’s dirty linen’ that CIA officials never wanted to air in public.”


International Outlook:

The Global Gender Gap Report 2016

The Global Gender Gap Index was first introduced by the World Economic Forum in 2006 as a framework for capturing the magnitude of gender-based disparities and tracking their progress over time. The Index benchmarks national gender gaps on economic, education, health and political criteria, and provides country rankings that allow for effective comparisons across regions and income groups. The rankings are designed to create global awareness of the challenges posed by gender gaps and the opportunities created by reducing them. The
methodology and quantitative analysis behind the rankings are intended to serve as a basis for designing effective measures for reducing gender gaps.

The first part reviews the underlying concepts employed in creating the Global Gender Gap Index and outlines the methods used to calculate it. The second part presents the 2016 rankings, overall trends, regional performance and notable country cases. It also provides information on progress over time and progress within income groups. Next, the Report lays out the economic case for gender parity, with a focus on the growing evidence of inter-linkages between gender gaps and the future economic prospects and resilience of industries and countries. The fourth part of this chapter takes a deeper look at gender parity as a key element of human capital in countries all throughout the world, examining global patterns, contextual factors, rates of change and proposals to prepare for the future.

The Country Profiles contained in Part 2 of this Report give a more detailed picture of the relative strengths and weaknesses of each country’s performance compared with that of other nations and relative to its own past performance. The first page of each profile contains key demographic and economic indicators as well as detailed information on the country's related factors.

Pakistán's Supreme Court hears PM's Panama Papers reply

The Prime Minister of Pakistan defended himself before the nation’s highest court today as part of an ongoing and highly politicized response to the Panama Papers in the world’s sixth most populated country. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif’s lawyer told the Supreme Court that Sharif does not own any shell companies or property through offshore holdings. Sharif did not address the offshore links of his children. The Supreme Court reportedly gave Sharif’s children, some of whom appear in Panama Papers, a “last chance” to submit their own statements to the court by Monday.

The Supreme Court also appointed a one-person commission to investigate the Panama Papers case and decided to set its own terms of reference for the probe, after political wrangling stalled the process in the country’s parliament. According to news reports, the commission will be led by a sitting Supreme Court judge and will have the full powers of the court at its disposal to investigate the scandal that has dogged the Sharif family since April. Sharif, who was reportedly “upbeat” before the hearing, told a meeting of his cabinet that he was glad the issue was now to be decided by the courts.


Intellectual Property:

Copyright Office Sets Trap for Unwary Website Owners

Under a new rule from the Copyright Office, website owners could be exposed to massive risk of copyright liability simply for neglecting to submit an online form on time. The rule could eliminate the safe harbor status that thousands of websites receive under the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA). Current law (17 U.S.C. § 512, which was enacted as part of the DMCA) protects the owners of websites and online services from monetary liability based on the allegedly infringing activities of their users or other third parties. Owners must meet many requirements in order to be eligible for that protection, including participating in the notice-and-takedown procedure for allegedly infringing content.

They also must register an agent with the Copyright Office, someone who can respond to takedown requests and other communications. The Copyright Office rewrote the registration process this week, requiring everyone to re-register before December 31, 2017, and renew that registration every three years. When website owners inevitably forget to renew, copyright holders will be able to take advantage of that mistake to hold them liable for their users’ infringing activities. In fact, it will be trivial for abusive copyright holders to use the Copyright Office’s own system to compile lists of sites at risk. The Copyright Office’s announcement offers a litany of explanations for the change, but none of them are persuasive, and certainly none of them come close to outweighing the risks.

http://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2016/11/copyright-office-sets-trap-unwary-website-owners

Who owns your ink? Tattoo artists turn to lawsuits to protect intellectual property

A tattoo used to be a sign of defiance or membership of a group, most commonly seen on sailors, bikies or criminals—like the Japanese Yakuza. But in recent years the development of bolder and brighter colours has given the tattoo a whole new openness and popularity. It’s estimated that around 40 percent of people aged 18-35 have at least one tattoo, and many have significantly more. Tattoos are no longer secret adornments. More often than not, they’re a way of expressing individual identity, a part of personal “branding.”

They’re also pieces of intellectual property. And as their popularity increases, says lawyer Shontavia Johnson from Drake University in the US, too do the arguments over ownership. “If I have a personal brand and my brand includes the display of tattoos, I feel not only a personal connection, but really some amount of ownership in that thing,” she said. But just because you paid for the ink and your skin is the canvas, doesn’t mean you are the only one who feels a sense of pride in that artwork. “A tattoo artist is a creator, just like a musician or
an actor or a filmmaker. That tattoo artist, along those same lines, is creating art, creating a body of work,” she said. One of the first notable lawsuits involved a basketball player named Rasheed Wallace, who appeared in a television advertisement for the sportswear company Nike. “They show the tattoo and the tattoo is being digitally recreated on Rasheed Wallace’s arm, and Rasheed Wallace is explaining why this tattoo is important to him and what it means,” Professor Johnson said. “Shortly thereafter the tattoo artist filed a lawsuit suing this basketball player and the Nike organisation. It was probably very surprising for Rasheed Wallace to learn that someone else said they owned his tattoo.”


Internet Access:

Smart Lightbulbs Could Plunge the Internet Into Darkness
Commandeering Internet-connected devices is an increasingly popular pastime for hackers. Now researchers have shown that it’s not just aged devices that can be corralled by criminals. A new study shows that it is possible to remotely hack modern smart-home hardware. The technique, demonstrated on Philips Hue smart lamps, injects a software worm that allows the researchers to control the device. The compromised hardware uses a low-power wireless system called ZigBee to create its own networks. The researchers say that it’s possible for the worm to propagate from one device to another via these connections, causing it to “catastrophically spread everywhere within minutes,” in a kind of chain reaction. The researchers explain that the approach can be used to turn devices “on or off, permanently brick them, or exploit them in a massive DDoS [distributed denial of service] attack.” To demonstrate the hack, the team flew a drone alongside a building and controlled a series of smart bulbs remotely.


Freedom of Information:

Invention Secrecy Increased in 2016
There were 5,680 invention secrecy orders in effect at the end of Fiscal Year 2016. The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office reported that 121 new secrecy orders were issued in 2016, but also that 20 existing orders were rescinded, for a net increase of 101 over the year before. The latest figures were released under the Freedom of Information Act. The government may impose a “secrecy order” on a patent application under the Invention Secrecy Act of 1951 if it believes that disclosure of the underlying invention would be “detrimental to national security.” Under those circumstances, a patent is withheld and the inventor is prohibited from revealing the invention unless and until the secrecy order is withdrawn.

The majority of secrecy orders apply to inventions that were developed with government sponsorship, in national or military laboratories or by government-funded contractors. So the ensuing secrecy amounts to the government silencing itself. In a subset of cases, however, secrecy orders are imposed on private inventors who developed their idea without government support. There were 49 such orders in FY 2016. These orders, known as “John Doe” secrecy orders, seem like a form of prior restraint on individual speech that would be arguably inconsistent with the First Amendment.


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The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.

Canceling our tour of the Society of California Pioneers Museum and Library


Due to a lack of sign-ups our tour of the Society of California Pioneers Museum and Library has been canceled. If there is any interest in trying again for this venue next year, please email sandy.malloy@businesswire.com (or please suggest places you do want to tour) and I will share the information with our regular Tours chairperson.
From the editor: Dear Intersect Alert readers: This is the first Alert post-election, although much of it was actually compiled before November 9. I am not going to repeat what many of you are reading in social media, or what you may be discussing with your colleagues and loved ones. I am going to say that I will try to post relevant advocacy opportunities more frequently here. (If you feel that SLA should have a greater role in policy advocacy – the Public Policy Advisory Council was dissolved a while ago – please contact your elected SLA representatives). If you have any comments or questions about the Alert, you are welcome to contact me directly. Thanks, -Michael

Take Action!

Social Media Helps Police Spy On Activists: Tell Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram to slam shut surveillance side doors and make sure their data can’t be used for discriminatory surveillance
Police are using social media surveillance companies' analytics and search capabilities to monitor activists protesting police brutality. The ACLU of California broke the news that Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram had data deals with Geofeedia – a social media company that characterized activist groups and unions as “overt threats” and marketed its tool to monitor protests. In an important first step, Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter cut off Geofeedia. But Geofeedia is just a piece of the puzzle. Many companies sell social media surveillance tools to police. Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram need to take additional steps to safeguard users against police surveillance.
Social media is a driver for activism, political conversation, and the fight for human rights. We need to make sure it continues to be a safe forum for millions to connect about the most important issues in our lives – and can’t be used as funnels for a surveillance database.
Tell Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram to slam shut surveillance side doors and make sure their data can’t be used for discriminatory surveillance.
https://action.aclu.org/secure/social-media-spying.

Digital History:

Memory in the Internet Age: Part 1: Forgetting & Remembering
Earlier this year, researchers from the University of Southampton unveiled a new 5D optical data storage system “capable of surviving for billions of years, with each disc holding 360TB/disc data capacity.” In “opening a new era of eternal data archiving,” the new nanostructured glass system is described as “a very stable and safe form of portable memory,” that would be of value to “national archives, museum and libraries, to preserve their information and records.” 360 terabytes is equivalent to approximately the full-text and contents of 5 billion books. The discs are expected to last, at room temperature for a “virtually unlimited lifetime,” or at 190 degrees Celsius for 13.8 billion years. At this rate, it will soon be possible (if not probable) that all information will eventually be easily available soon …and for eternity.

In a recent New York Times article, George Washington University Law Professor Jeffrey Rosen noted that “the web means the end of forgetting,” leaving us with the problem of finding out “how best to live our lives in a world where the internet records everything and forgets nothing—where every online photo, status update, Twitter post and blog entry by and about us can be stored forever.”

Intellectual Property:

Users Around the World Reject Europe’s Upload Filtering Proposal
Users around the world have been outraged by the European Commission’s proposal to require websites to enter into Shadow Regulation agreements with copyright holders concerning the automatic filtering of user-generated content. This proposal, which some are calling RoboCopyright and others Europe’s #CensorshipMachine, would require many Internet platforms to integrate content scanning software into their websites to alert copyright holders every time it detected their content being uploaded by a user, without any consideration of the context.
People are right to be mad. This is going to result in the wrongful blocking of non-infringing content, such as the fair use dancing baby video. But that’s only the start of it. The European proposal may also require images and text—not just video—to be automatically blocked on copyright grounds.
Because automated scanning technologies are unable to evaluate the applicability of copyright exceptions, such as fair use or quotation, this could mean no more image macros, and no more reposting of song lyrics or excerpts from news articles to social media.
Once these scanning technologies are in place, it will also become far easier for repressive regimes around the world to
Open Data:

Wilting Shrubs? Diagnose Plant Diseases with an App
You’re working in the garden when you notice your tomato plant is stunted and wrinkled. What is your next step? A team of researchers from Penn State University and the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne (EPFL) believes you should reach for your phone. They are building a free app called PlantVillage that can recognize plant disease from a mobile phone photo. Behind the app, expected to be available in early 2017, is a database of 150,000 photographs of diseased plants—a number the team intends to grow to three million. Right now the images are focused on what the team believes to be the 10 most important diseases affecting the 30 most important crops. The team is offering the database of images free to anyone who would like to use them. EPFL digital epidemiologist Marcel Salathé says they would gladly allow another team or company to develop a better algorithm—the point is to disperse and use the information as effectively as possible. He founded PlantVillage with Penn State entomologist David Hughes after noticing a disconnect between information about plants and the people seeking it.

Immigration Court – Backlog Now at 521,676 Cases
The latest Immigration Court data show the growth in the court’s crushing backlog of cases continued through the first month of FY 2017. During the month of October, the court’s backlog rose by 5,645 cases, and reached 521,676. In California, the backlog rose to a total of 95,801 cases as of October 31, 2016 – the largest backlog among states in the country. Texas was second with a backlog that rose to 93,042. New York was third with a backlog that increased to 71,450 cases. New Jersey was the only state among the top ten that had its backlog inch down during October, although that states average wait time of 803 days continued to lengthen. In terms of wait times, Colorado led the nation. In that state pending cases had been waiting an average of 1,008 days. Because wait times do not include how many more days must pass before a hearing is scheduled before an immigration judge, total effective wait times before these cases are actually decided will be much longer than even these averages reflect. For more details on immigration court backlog and wait times — by nationality, state, immigration court, and hearing location – see TRACs Immigration Court Backlog Tool.

Freedom of Information:

Court of Human Rights Grand Chamber recognises an Article 10 right to access to information
The Grand Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights today handed down judgment in the case of Magyar Helsinki Bizottság v. Hungary (application no. 18030/11). It held (15:2) that there is an Article 1o right to public access to information where access to the information is instrumental for the individual’s exercise of his or her right to freedom of expression. The applicant, Magyar Helsinki Bizottság (Hungarian Helsinki Committee), is an NGO based in Budapest. In pursuit of a survey on the quality of defence provided by public defenders, it requested from a number of police departments the names of the public defenders selected by them in 2008 and the number of appointments per lawyer involved. The request for information was rejected and it brought court proceedings.
The Grand Chamber considered that Article 10(1) of the Convention could be interpreted as including, in the circumstances of the case, a right of access to information, specifying that where the access to information was decisive for the exercise of the right to receive and communicate
information, to refuse that access could amount to an interference with the enjoyment of this right. [https://inforrm.wordpress.com/2016/11/08/news-court-of-human-rights-grand-chamber-recognises-an-article-10-right-to-access-to-information/]

Libraries:

Authors join national protest against library closures
Authors will join hundreds of protesters in the first national demonstration to protect library services held in London on Saturday, in response to a string of closures over the past five years. The children’s laureate, Chris Riddell, and the former children’s laureate Michael Rosen as well as the shadow chancellor, John McDonnell, and an estimated 1,800 protesters from across the country will march from the British Library to Trafalgar Square.

Riddell, the author of the Goth Girl series, said the threat to libraries amounted to a “tragedy for the literary culture of our country”. He added: “Libraries are cultural hubs that, if nurtured by government, have the ability to transform lives. We must all raise our voices to defend them.”

Research by the BBC this year found that a quarter of all jobs in libraries had been lost since May 2010 – 8,000 in total. Meanwhile, 15,500 volunteers have been recruited in what a Unite spokesman described as a “deprofessionalisation” of library services.

[https://www.theguardian.com/books/2016/nov/05/authors-join-national-protest-against-library-closures]

Libraries can be a health lifeline for people most at risk
Public libraries can provide vital support for people at high risk for health problems such as new immigrants and people dealing with homelessness, mental illness and substance use, say U.S. researchers. Their analysis of Philadelphia libraries and how communities use them concludes that libraries can offer specific programs that directly and indirectly improve health, such as classes to improve skills or literacy. Librarians can also act as support figures, connecting people with resources for basic needs like housing.

“We understand that libraries are old-fashioned, outmoded institutions that are irrelevant in the digital age,” said senior study author Carolyn Cannuscio, a social epidemiologist at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, in email to Reuters Health. “Our work shows very clearly that libraries are vital, dynamic organizations that know their patrons well and respond creatively to community needs.”

To explore how libraries can contribute to community health, the study team interviewed staffers at Philadelphia Free Library branches about the programs they offered and who used them. They also interviewed 77 residents around library locations to determine the most pressing needs in the community and how the library could help. Relevant programs offered by the libraries included classes on nutrition, youth leadership, obtaining housing, job training, literacy and support for the elderly. Overall, in 2015, the Free Library locations across Philadelphia received 5.8 million in-person visits. Half a million of these visits were from people participating in specialized programs or classes designed to improve social factors that affect health.

[http://lj.libraryjournal.com/2016/11/budgets-funding/more-wins-than-losses-for-libraries/]

More Wins than Losses for Libraries
On a long election night filled with tension and political upset, 79 libraries across the country had referenda on the ballot. The news for libraries was more good than bad. At press time, 54 wins and 12 losses were recorded, with the remainder either not applicable—representing votes to leave a district, for instance—or still too close to call.

John Chrastka, founder and executive director of EveryLibrary, a nonprofit organization that advocates for local library ballot initiatives (and a 2014 LJ Mover & Shaker), worked with 16 of those communities. Of those, EveryLibrary won nine and lost five, with two still too close to call. The wins total nearly $90 million, including funds for new construction, upgrades and renovations, and operating funds.

As for what the larger implications of the general elections will mean for library measures going forward, Chrastka feels that libraries will become more reliant on local funding. “The promises that have been made during the campaign to shrink the federal government will mean that states and localities have more of a burden on property and sales tax to fund libraries.”

More than that, he told LJ, it will become ever more important for libraries to stand up for their roles in the community. “I see the tone and tenor of the election – one that targeted groups not as our neighbors but as The Other – as being a disturbing shift in how we organize ourselves as communities,” said Chrastka. “And that the library inherently serves everyone as if they are our neighbors means that we have to hold the line on what our truth is, as a public institution, in the face of that.”

[http://lj.libraryjournal.com/2016/11/budgets-funding/more-wins-than-losses-for-libraries/]

More than that, he told LJ, it will become ever more important
Intersect Alert November 20, 2016

Take Action!

No Refugee-Bashing in My Name! Tell Congress to Help Refugees

Dozens of hateful anti-refugee bills have been introduced in Congress and dangerous anti-refugee rhetoric is getting louder than ever. There are 60 million refugee and displaced persons. All countries have an obligation to help, but most rich countries have left poorer, mainly Middle Eastern, African, and South Asian countries to host 86% of the global refugee population.

The lack of leadership in Washington is a part of the problem. Demand that the U.S. government:
- Increase the overall number of refugees that are resettled in the United States;
- Increase support and funding for countries hosting refugees; and
- Streamline the U.S. resettlement program so that it does not take so long.


Here (PDF) is how libraries throughout the world have served refugee populations.

You may also wish to visit Librarians Without Borders.

Report A Hate Incident

The Southern Poverty Law Center is dedicated to fighting hate and bigotry and to seeking justice for the most vulnerable members of our society. Using litigation, education, and other forms of advocacy, the SPLC works toward the day when the ideals of equal justice and equal opportunity will be a reality.

SPLC's website includes a Hate Map of hate groups operating in the USA (892 as of today), as well as Hate Watch, which monitors and exposes the activities of the American radical right. You can search the database for incidents.

You can also report a hate incident.

How to Comment on a Rule

[Editor's note: This is the nuts and bolts of our federal government, folks. Join me in learning this! -M.S.] Federal agencies develop and enforce rules affecting countless aspects of our everyday lives. One of the most important parts of the rulemaking process is the ability of the public to participate. Public feedback on federal regulations is necessary if we are to fully embrace our democratic values. The most important of these public participation mechanisms is the ability to comment on a proposed rule through what is commonly referred to as the “notice-and-comment” period in an informal rulemaking.

Rules go through several stages in their development. (Learn more here.) The public is given the opportunity to comment during the “proposed rule” stage. The public comment period generally lasts 60-90 days. Any person or group may comment on a rule and can easily submit comments online. There are three basic steps to commenting on rules online.

Step 1: Know Your Rule – To comment on a proposed rule, you must first know which rule you would like to comment on. There are a variety of ways to learn about proposed rules.

Step 2: Find Your Rule Online – Once you have identified the proposed rule you would like to comment on, you will need to locate the rule on Regulations.gov, a website run by the federal government, designed to allow the public to find proposed and final regulations and to comment on them.

Step 3: Submit Your Comments – After searching for and finding the proposed rule you would like to comment on, you may read the rule’s Federal Register entry by clicking on the title link of the proposed rule in the left column. Under the title of the proposed rule you will see the last date for submitting comments. You may submit comments by clicking the icon on the top or far right of the screen.


Public Policy:

These Professors Make More Than a Thousand Bucks an Hour Peddling Mega-Mergers

If the government ends up approving the $85 billion AT&T-Time Warner merger, credit won’t necessarily belong to the executives, bankers, lawyers, and lobbyists pushing for the deal. More likely, it will be due to the professors.

A serial acquirer, AT&T must persuade the government to allow every major deal. Again and again, the company has relied on economists from America’s top universities to make its case before the Justice Department or the Federal Trade Commission. Moonlighting for a consulting firm named Compass Lexecon, they represented AT&T when it bought Centennial, DirecTV, and Leap Wireless; and when it tried unsuccessfully to absorb T-Mobile. And now AT&T and Time Warner have hired three top Compass Lexecon economists to counter criticism that the giant deal would harm consumers and concentrate too much media power in one company. Today, “in front of the government, in many cases the most important advocate is the economist and lawyers come second,” said James Denvir, an antitrust lawyer at Boies, Schiller.

Economists who specialize in antitrust – affiliated with Chicago, Harvard, Princeton, the University of California,
Berkeley, and other prestigious universities – reshaped their field through scholarly work showing that mergers create efficiencies of scale that benefit consumers. But they reap their most lucrative paydays by lending their academic authority to mergers their corporate clients propose. Corporate lawyers hire them from Compass Lexecon and half a dozen other firms to sway the government by documenting that a merger won’t be “anti-competitive”: in other words, that it won’t raise retail prices, stifle innovation, or restrict product offerings. Their optimistic forecasts, though, often turn out to be wrong, and the mergers they champion may be hurting the economy.

While the impact of this wave of mergers is much debated, prominent economists such as Lawrence Summers and Joseph Stiglitz suggest that it is one important reason why, even as corporate profits hit records, economic growth is slow, wages are stagnant, business formation is halting, and productivity is lagging. “Only the monopoly-power story can convincingly account” for high business profits and low corporate investment, Summers wrote earlier this year.

In addition, politicians such as U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren have criticized big mergers for giving a handful of companies too much clout. President-elect Trump said in October that his administration would not approve the AT&T-Time Warner merger “because it’s too much concentration of power in the hands of too few.”

https://www.propublica.org/article/these-professors-make-more-than-thousand-bucks-hour-peddling-mega-mergers.

Privacy:

Federal Privacy Council Online Law Library

The Federal Privacy Council is the principal interagency forum to improve the privacy practices of agencies and entities acting on their behalf. The work of the Federal Privacy Council shall strengthen protections of people’s personal information and privacy rights across the Federal Government. To achieve this purpose, the Federal Privacy Council shall: support interagency efforts to protect privacy and provide expertise and assistance to agencies; expand the skill and career development opportunities of agency privacy professionals; improve the management of agency privacy programs by identifying and sharing lessons learned and best practices; and promote collaboration between and among agency privacy professionals to reduce unnecessary duplication of efforts and to ensure the effective, efficient, and consistent implementation of privacy policy government-wide.

The Law Library is a compilation of information about and links to select Federal laws related to the creation, collection, use, processing, storage, maintenance, dissemination, disclosure, and disposal of personally identifiable information (PII) by departments and agencies within the Federal Government. The Law Library does not include all laws that are relevant to privacy or the management of PII in the Federal Government. The Law Library only includes laws applicable to the Federal Government. Although some of the laws included may also be applicable to entities outside of the Federal Government, the information provided on the Law Library pages is strictly limited to the application of those laws to the Federal Government; the information provided does not in any way address the application of any law to the private sector or other non-Federal entities. The Law Library pages have been prepared by members of the Federal Privacy Council and consist of information from and links to other Federal Government websites. The Federal Privacy Council is not responsible for the content of any third-party website, and links to other websites do not constitute or imply endorsement or recommendation of those sites or the information they provide.


Secret Back Door in Some U.S. Phones Sent Data to China, Analysts Say

For about $50, you can get a smartphone with a high-definition display, fast data service and, according to security contractors, a secret feature: a backdoor that sends all your text messages to China every 72 hours. Security contractors recently discovered preinstalled software in some Android phones that monitors where users go, whom they talk to and what they write in text messages. The American authorities say it is not clear whether this represents secretive data mining for advertising purposes or a Chinese government effort to collect intelligence.

International customers and users of disposable or prepaid phones are the people most affected by the software. But the scope is unclear. The Chinese company that wrote the software, Shanghai Adups Technology Company, says its code runs on more than 700 million phones, cars and other smart devices. One American phone manufacturer, BLU Products, said that 120,000 of its phones had been affected and that it had updated the software to eliminate the feature.


Test Driving Privacy and Cybersecurity: Regulation of Smart Cars

The modern automobile is less a mechanical device and more an intricate computer. Regulating the privacy and security risks presented by a computer on wheels has its challenges: as technologist Bruce Schneier said to the House Energy and Commerce Committee in a hearing on IoT [“Internet of Things”] last Wednesday, the average connected device has “crossed four regulatory agencies and it’s not even eleven o’clock.” This dynamic is particularly true in the automated vehicles context, but the issue went unexplored in the Committee’s hearing on self-driving vehicles the day prior.

CDT has noted that creating standards, addressing privacy concerns, and developing infrastructure to support smart cars are pressing concerns. But there remains confusion about which regulatory agency should be in the proverbial driver’s
Having all three agencies working together and on the same page. Whether or not a jurisdictional gap ultimately exists, drivers will benefit by having all three agencies working together and on the same page.

Map: Social Media Monitoring by Police Departments, Cities, and Counties
Social media monitoring products are becoming an increasingly popular tool among local governments and police. Social media monitoring technology provides the capability to constantly monitor and archive information on millions of people’s activities, and can be used by law enforcement to probe posts on sites such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube for information on protests, potential threats, breaking news, and more. This map depicts cities, counties, and law enforcement agencies across the United States that have spent at least $10,000 on social media monitoring software, according to public reports and information from the government procurement database SmartProcure. The map indicates law enforcement/government entity by amount spent; there are 27 in California as of today, November 19. The actual procurement records are also available.

Internet Access:

Securing Your Home Wi-Fi: The Invisibility Defense
Internet access at home has become a must for most people: adults need it for work, bills, and shopping; kids need it for homework; and everyone uses it to download entertainment and keep in touch with friends. Many of us get web access with a home Wi-Fi network, but most of us don’t know how to keep our private Wi-Fi networks truly private. An unsecured home Wi-Fi network leaves you open to anything from freeloaders using up your bandwidth to criminals stealing your financial information or worse. One of the best ways to keep your network private is to keep outsiders from discovering it in the first place.

SpaceX’s Plan to Provide Internet from Orbit Edges Closer to Launch
Elon Musk’s plan to beam Internet connections through the skies via satellites is a step closer to reality—but it faces stiffening competition from other technologies. Reuters reports that SpaceX has now requested permission from the U.S. government to launch a series of small satellites into orbit that would blanket parts of the world with high-speed wireless broadband. According to the filing, the scheme would ultimately use 4,425 satellites. But SpaceX plans to start by launching 800 to provide coverage across the U.S., including Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. The satellites would each measure 4 by 1.8 by 1.2 meters and weigh around 390 kilograms. Their orbits would sit somewhere between 1,150 and 1,325 kilometers above the surface of the planet. The quest for wireless Internet delivered from the sky—be it by satellite, drone, or balloon—is driven in no small part by the need to provide Internet access to poor and remote corners of the world. The resulting solution, then, better be both robust and affordable. But we’ll have to wait and see which one rises to victory.

Estonia tops the global internet freedom chart
The Freedom on the Net 2016 index, compiled by Freedom House, has ranked Estonia first in the world. The Freedom House report, one of the most authoritative reports in the field, investigated 65 geographically dispersed and politically diverse countries, and ranked them according to obstacles to access, limits on content and violations of user rights. These results translated into quantitative (0-70) and qualitative (free, partially free, not free) ratings. Estonia retained the status of “free”, and actually improved its score from last year by one point. There were no government-imposed restrictions or disruptions to internet access during the past years. The report highlights facts that will come as no surprise to most Estonians or even those who have visited or studied the country in recent years. The rate of internet penetration is high and growing, and public Wi-Fi is widely available. There are few if any restrictions on content, although there have been some instances of content removal related to online communications. While Estonia earned the top spot, internet freedom around the world declined in 2016 for the sixth consecutive year. “Two-thirds of all internet users – 67 percent – live in countries where criticism of the government, military, or ruling family are subject to censorship,” Freedom House said.

https://www.myidcare.com/securing-your-home-wi-fi-the-invisibility-defense/


http://estonianworld.com/technology/estonia-tops-global-
International Outlook:

‘Extreme surveillance’ becomes UK law with barely a whimper

A bill giving the UK intelligence agencies and police the most sweeping surveillance powers in the western world has passed into law with barely a whimper, meeting only token resistance over the past 12 months from inside parliament and barely any from outside. The Investigatory Powers Act, passed on Thursday, legalises a whole range of tools for snooping and hacking by the security services unmatched by any other country in western Europe or even the US. The security agencies and police began the year braced for at least some opposition, rehearsing arguments for the debate. In the end, faced with public apathy and an opposition in disarray, the government did not have to make a single substantial concession to the privacy lobby.

The Investigatory Powers Act legalises powers that the security agencies and police had been using for years without making this clear to either the public or parliament. In October, the investigatory powers tribunal, the only court that hears complaints against MI6, MI5 and GCHQ, ruled that they had been unlawfully collecting massive volumes of confidential personal data without proper oversight for 17 years. One of the negative aspects of the legislation is that it fails to provide adequate protection for journalists’ sources, which could discourage whistleblowing.

Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety; attribution appreciated.

The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.

Happy Thanksgiving

Happy Thanksgiving

Best wishes to those in the US for a Happy Thanksgiving from the Executive Board of the San Francisco Bay Region Chapter. We are grateful for all of our members and look forward to seeing you again at the Holiday Party.

For those outside of the US, we wish you a wonderful day!

Intersect Alert November 27, 2016

The Equality Act: Urge Congress to Ensure Comprehensive Anti-Discrimination Protection of LGBT Individuals

No one should be discriminated against because of who they are or who they love. Existing civil rights laws do not explicitly
protect LGBT individuals against discrimination in everyday matters such as employment, housing, education, federal funding, jury service, credit, and public accommodation. The Equality Act of 2015 amends existing federal civil rights laws and will afford LGBT individuals the same protections against discrimination. The Equality Act would ban LGBT discrimination across the U.S. by adding protections to existing civil rights laws for sexual orientation and gender identity. Urge your Members to support the Equality Act of 2015!

Take action here: 

Then, take a look at the website for San Francisco’s new-ish Museum of Transgender Hirstory & Art.

Here’s Exactly What to Say If You Want to Call Your Congressperson or Other Officials About Donald Trump

Amid the outrage over Donald Trump appointing Steve Bannon as his chief adviser (reminder: a former executive of alt-right media company Breitbart, who’s a known white supremacist), a Google Doc that’s currently making the rounds on Twitter is here to help. The “‘We’re His Problem Now’ Calling Sheet” is a word-for-word script outlining how to call your congresspeople and when exactly to call about specific issues you care about. “All election cycle, Donald Trump has been our problem. Now, we’re HIS PROBLEM, and since Congress serves us, SO ARE THEY. Let’s use the best tool at our disposal (our elected representation) to show Donald once and for all that, in our America, ACCOUNTABILITY TRUMPS HATE.”

Folks – this is easy to use: it’s all laid out for you: relevant phone numbers, priority issues, sample scripts, and more. Details are on this shared Google Doc: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/u/1/d/1740WBSVNSdcQ5_S6rWPGB3pNCsrUyYm_ZRQ6QUhGmo.htmlview. And, in case you have doubts about the effectiveness of this work, please read this: http://www.attn.com/stories/12768/former-congressional-staffer-explains-how-to-make-congressman-listen.

Open Data:

ADL Partners With data.world to Launch Open Data Workspace For Analyzing Hate Crime Trends

The Anti-Defamation League (ADL) and data.world today announced the launch of a public, open data workspace to help understand and combat the rise of hate crimes. The new workspace offers instant access to ADL data alongside relevant data from the FBI and other authoritative sources, and provides citizens, journalists and lawmakers with tools to more effectively analyze, visualize and discuss hate crimes across the United States. The data.world platform helps people work together to solve important problems faster by providing a collaborative environment where anyone can discover, explore, share and discuss open data. At launch, the ADL workspace hosts several critical datasets, including the FBI’s recently released 2015 Hate Crime Statistics and ADL’s state-level data on hate crime laws. The data is structured for ease of exploration and accompanied by enhanced metadata, visualizations and documentation. Additional datasets will be added in the weeks and months ahead.


Socrata Announces Free, Open and Public Tool using Valuable Commerce Datasets

The open data movement has been alive at the Department of Commerce for a very long time. The predecessors to the National Weather Service have been providing open weather reports since the founding of our nation and regular weather reports have been around since the early 1900s. The Census Bureau, one of our nation’s leading statistical agencies, has also been in the open data business for decades. Census has been evolving its efforts to share its data in the best ways possible, including by embracing new technologies. However, facilitating the use of Commerce data by as many people as possible is a journey. To bring data-driven insights to new audiences, we issued a challenge to the private sector to help build new tools that make our data more actionable. In response, we’re announcing another free, open and public tool built by Socrata that makes a valuable data set from the U.S. Census Bureau more accessible-Small Area Health Insurance Estimates (SAHIE). The SAHIE program annually produces timely estimates for all counties and states, with detailed demographic and income data as well. SAHIE rely heavily on American Community Survey estimates and related administrative records data. With a few clicks, Socrata’s search engine lets you query, analyze and compare nearly 10 million statistical records over eight years to see health insurance coverage and trends for every state and county in the country. You can compare and contrast the data by age, sex, income and (for states only) by race and Hispanic origin; all accessible through their open platform, that is completely free and open to the public.


Public Policy:

Can a New Administration Undo a Previous Administration’s Regulations?
Following the election of Donald J. Trump on November 8, 2016, questions have been raised as to whether and how a new President’s administration can amend or repeal regulations issued by the previous administration. In short, once a rule has been finalized, a new administration would be required to undergo the rulemaking process to change or repeal all or part of the rule. If a rule has not yet been finalized, however, a new President may be able, immediately upon taking office, to prevent the rule from being issued. In addition to these administrative actions, Congress can also take legislative action to overturn rules.

Under the Administrative Procedure Act (APA), “rulemaking” is defined as “formulating, amending, or repealing a rule,” meaning that an agency must follow the rulemaking procedures set forth by the APA and other statutory and executive order requirements to change or repeal a rule. (For more on these procedures, see CRS Report RL32240, The Federal Rulemaking Process: An Overview, coordinated by Maeve P. Carey.) Under the APA’s rulemaking procedures, agencies are generally required to publish a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) in the Federal Register, allow “interested persons” an opportunity to comment on the proposed rule, and, after considering those comments, publish the final rule. Furthermore, in most cases, the final rule may not become effective until at least 30 days after its publication. Sometimes Congress has required agencies to undertake additional or alternative procedures to issue rules. Such procedures are not addressed here, but also may be required for an agency to amend or repeal a previously issued rule.

Alternatively, a new President and Congress may be able to overturn a regulation issued by the previous administration more expeditiously by using the Congressional Review Act (CRA). (See CRS In Focus IF10023, The Congressional Review Act (CRA), by Alissa M. Dolan, Maeve P. Carey, and Christopher M. Davis.) The CRA, enacted in 1996, was intended to assert congressional control over agency rulemaking by establishing a special set of expedited or “fast track” legislative procedures for this purpose, primarily in the Senate. In short, if both houses of Congress pass a joint resolution of disapproval under the CRA, the resolution would be sent to the President for signature. If the President signs the disapproval resolution, the rule would no longer have effect, would be treated as though it had never been in effect, and the issuing agency would be prohibited from issuing a rule that is “substantially the same” as the nullified rule. (For more information about the CRA, see CRS Report R43992, The Congressional Review Act: Frequently Asked Questions, by Maeve P. Carey, Alissa M. Dolan, and Christopher M. Davis.)

www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/IN10611.pdf (PDF).

Artificial Intelligence:

How to Fix Silicon Valley’s Sexist Algorithms
The presidential campaign made clear that chauvinist attitudes toward women remain stubbornly fixed in some parts of society. It turns out we’re inadvertently teaching artificial-intelligence systems to be sexist, too. New research shows that subtle gender bias is entrenched in the data sets used to teach language skills to AI programs. As these systems become more capable and widespread, their sexist point of view could have negative consequences—in job searches, for instance. The problem results from the way machines are being taught to read and talk. Computer scientists are feeding them huge quantities of written or spoken language, and letting them draw connections between words and phrases. The resulting data sets, known as word embeddings, are widely used to train AI systems that handle language-including chatbots, translation systems, image-captioning programs, and recommendation algorithms. Word embeddings represent the relationships between words as mathematical values. This makes it possible for a machine to perceive semantic connections between, say, “king” and “queen” and understand that the relationship between the two words is similar to that between “man” and “woman.” But researchers from Boston University and Microsoft Research New England also found that the data sets considered the word “programmer” closer to the word “man” than “woman,” and that the most similar word for “woman” is “homemaker.”

James Zou, an assistant professor at Stanford University who conducted the research while at Microsoft, says this could have a range of unintended consequences. Zou and colleagues have conducted some simple experiments that show how this gender bias might manifest itself. When they wrote a program designed to read Web pages and rank their relevance, they found the system would rank information about female programmers as less relevant than that about their male counterparts. The researchers also developed a way to remove gender bias from embeddings by adjusting the mathematical relationship between gender-neutral words like “programmer” and gendered words such as “man” and “woman.”


Privacy:

California AG’s Student Privacy Guidelines a Step in the Right Direction
California has once again proven itself a leader on student privacy issues. The state recently passed the Early Learning Personal Information Privacy Act (ELPIPA), which will extend the protections of the Student Online Personal Information Protection Act (SOPIPA) – one of the most expansive state student privacy laws to date – to pre-kindergarten and early learning programs.

In an effort to expand upon SOPIPA and ELPIPA, the California Department of Justice also took action to advance student privacy in the state. Kamala D. Harris, the California Attorney General (AG) turned Senator-elect, recently
published guidelines for EdTech companies to suggest best practices to protect student data. The document focuses on recommendations in six areas designed to maximize student privacy: 1) data collection and retention; 2) data use; 3) data disclosure; 4) individual control; 5) data security; and 6) transparency. CDT commends these guidelines for drawing on strong research to guide the suggestions and for citing the contributions of numerous key stakeholders in advancing student privacy rights.

The AG’s recommendations, however, suffer from some of the same problems SOPIPA does. Specifically, a nebulous standard for “reasonable security” is undefined and does not offer concrete recommendations for companies. Previous iterations of SOPIPA used the National Institute of Standards and Technology’s Framework for Improving Critical Infrastructure Cybersecurity as a guide for determining what security measures are appropriate, which we support. Tying reasonable security measures to NIST’s technical guidelines creates transparency and predictability for what industry best practices ought to be.


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Intellectual Property:

Copyright Infringement Litigation Fell 22 Percent in FY 2016

New federal lawsuits over issues of copyright infringement fell 22 percent last year. Case-by-case court records compiled and analyzed by the Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse (TRAC) at Syracuse University found a total of 3,944 new federal copyright infringement cases were filed in the U.S. District Courts during fiscal year 2016 which ended September 30. This is down from the peak level of 5,042 such suits filed during fiscal year 2015.

This reduction after 2015 represents a sharp reversal of previous trends which had seen the number of copyright infringement cases under 17 USC 501 climbing steadily year after year. So far during the first month of the new 2017 fiscal year, this lower level of filings has continued. Across the country, October 2016 saw only 349 civil lawsuits over copyright infringement filed in the federal courts compared to a monthly average during FY 2015 of 420 such cases. However, despite these recent declines, the volume of new copyright infringement cases is currently still much higher than it was back in 2010 when filings began to climb.

http://trac.syr.edu/tracreports/civil/445/.

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The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.

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SF Bay Region Chapter Holiday Party and Annual Awards Ceremony


Categories: Bayline, Chapter Programs & Events Tags: events

Monday, December 5, 2016, 5:30 – 8:00 pm

Jillian’s

175 Fourth Street, Suite 170, San Francisco

(7 min walk from Powell BART & Muni Stations)

http://www.jillianssf.com/

Join us on Monday, December 5, for our annual Holiday Party. In addition to drinks, nibbly bits, and a pool table, we’ll be announcing the Chapter Awards!

Agenda for Monday, December 5, 2016

5:30 – 6:30 : Registration and Party
6:30 – 7:00 : Awards Ceremony
7:00 – 8:00 : Party!

Registration fee

-$25 for SLA Members and non-members
-$20 for Student, Retired, and Unemployed Members

Register: Online registration is now closed. Please register and pay at the event.

Thanks to our generous sponsors!
Intersect Alert December 4, 2016

Take Action!

Tell Wall Street to Stop Payouts to Executives Who Leave for the Government

Wall Street executives often receive huge bonuses when they chose to leave their positions specifically for high-level government jobs – called a “government service golden parachute.” In these government positions, they are able to work as regulators for their former bosses.

Proposals will be presented at the annual shareholder meetings of five major banks (Citigroup, Lazard, Goldman Sachs, Morgan Stanley and JPMorgan Chase) to discontinue this conflict of interest.

This has been going on for quite some time. Here’s a 2014 article from the WSJ and here’s a more recent article from the NYT.

Sign the Petition to Demand that Big Banks Stop Providing Incentives for Wall Street Insiders to Flow into the Government Agencies that Regulate Them: Take action here:


Libraries:

Campus Libraries See Increase in Discriminatory Incidents

Between Wednesday, November 9—the day after the U.S. presidential election—and Wednesday, November 16, the Southern Poverty Law Center collected reports of more than 700 incidents of hateful intimidation and harassment through submissions to its #ReportHate page, which launched the day after the election. More than 60 of these occurred on academic campuses, including in libraries, ranging from verbal attacks, fliers, and personal notes containing hate speech to postings on social media. Most of these have thus far been limited to graffiti and property defacement, but at least one student has been physically confronted.

At Reed College, Portland, OR, five bathrooms on the second and third floor of the library were vandalized on November 12 with racist, homophobic, and anti-Semitic graffiti. The messages referenced the recent election, using racial slurs, abusive language, the acronym MAGA (Make America Great Again), and swastikas. The graffiti was reported to the student working the front desk just after 6 p.m., and was promptly covered in butcher paper until maintenance crews arrived to clean it off. At Swarthmore College, PA, a swastika was drawn in a gender-neutral bathroom stall on the second floor of McCabe Library. The graffiti was discovered on the night of November 20, just after a college-wide vigil in honor of Transgender Day of Remembrance. An “out of order” sign was posted on the restroom door and the graffiti was subsequently removed.

Such incidents—as well as, in many cases, the election results themselves—have shaken up students, staff, faculty, and administrators alike. As Reed’s Hutto points out, college students came of age during Obama’s tenure, and now “don’t really know what to expect.” Within the libraries, administrators have used these events to highlight ongoing issues such as how to spot and respond to fake news. On a wider scale, they have stepped up their mission to support various campus communities and interest groups, particularly when it comes to student welfare. Said Hutto, “We, like a lot of colleges, have been very proactive about increasing diversity on campus. I think especially for those students, they definitely… are thinking of Reed as being a safe place. And to find out that it’s kind of like any other place is not a pleasant thing for them. We’re really concerned about them.” In a statement released by the Association of Research Libraries (ARL), Chris Bourg, director of libraries at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and ARL Diversity and Inclusion Committee chair, stated, “While ARL libraries and archives work hard to be inclusive in their hiring, collections, services, and environments, the Association and its members will not claim neutrality in the face of discrimination, sexism, ableism, racism, homophobia, religious persecution, or other forms of oppression. We support freedom of speech and the open exchange of ideas and opinions, but we will not tolerate hate speech, silencing, inflammatory rhetoric, or any other speech or action that threatens the safety or dignity of any...
member of our community.”

Privacy:

The Secret Ballot At Risk: Recommendations for Protecting Democracy
The right to cast a secret ballot in a public election is a core value in the United States’ system of self-governance. Secrecy and privacy in elections guard against coercion and are essential to integrity in the electoral process. Secrecy of the ballot is guaranteed in state constitutions and statutes nationwide. However, as states permit the marking and transmitting of marked ballots over the Internet, the right to a secret ballot is eroded and the integrity of our elections is put at risk.

Thirty-two states and the District of Columbia allow some form of Internet voting—transmitting votes either via email, electronic fix, or Internet portal—typically for use by overseas and military voters. Because of current technological limitations, and the unique challenges of running public elections, it is impossible to maintain separation of voters’ identities from their votes when Internet voting is used. Most states that offer Internet voting recognize this limitation and require voters to sign a waiver of their right to a secret ballot.

The authors believe that Internet voting creates a second-class system for some voters—one in which their votes may not be private and their ballots may be altered without their knowledge [emphasis mine]. This report examines state laws regarding the right to a secret ballot and the ways in which states are asking voters to waive that right. We also offer recommendations for how voters and officials can preserve privacy in voting while making use of the Internet and technological advances. Our findings show that the vast majority of states (44) have constitutional provisions guaranteeing secrecy in voting, while the remaining states have statutory provisions referencing secrecy in voting. Despite that, 32 states allow some voters to transmit their ballots via the Internet which, given the limitations of current technology, eliminates the secrecy of the ballot.

Eighty-two of these states require the voter to sign a waiver of his or her right to a secret ballot. The remainder fail to acknowledge the issue.

Immigration Now 52 Percent of All Federal Criminal Prosecutions
Immigration remains the major focus of federal criminal enforcement efforts. The latest available data show that criminal prosecutions for illegal entry, illegal re-entry, and similar immigration violations made up 52 percent of all federal prosecutions in FY 2016. During the 12 months ending September 30, immigration prosecutions totaled 69,636. This number compares with just 63,405 prosecutions for all other federal crimes—including drugs, weapons, fraud, and violations of the thousands of other criminal provisions that the federal government is responsible for enforcing.

The lead investigative agency for immigration prosecutions through September 2016 was “Homeland Security – Customs and Border Protection” accounting for 86.9 percent of prosecutions referred. “Entry of alien at improper time or place; etc.” (Title 8 U.S.C Section 1325) was the most frequent recorded lead charge. The federal judicial district which showed the greatest growth in immigration prosecutions compared to one year ago-15.9 percent-was Western District of Texas (San Antonio). This was the same district that had the largest increase-29.6%-when compared with five years ago.
http://trac.syr.edu/tracreports/crim/446/

Freedom of Information:

Russia Turns to China for Help Building Its Own “Great Firewall” of Censorship
Russia wants to step up its ability to censor the Internet, and it’s turning to China for help. China’s “Great Firewall” is the envy of the Putin regime, which has long feared that the rise of online political activism could loosen its grip on power. The government has spent years building a system for filtering the
country’s Internet—but it is incomplete, and many U.S.-based Internet companies have thumbed their nose at the Kremlin’s rules.

That’s now changing. In June, the Russian government passed a series of measures known as Yarovaya’s laws that require local telecom companies to store all users’ data for six months, and hang on to metadata for three years. And if the authorities ask, companies must provide keys to unlock encrypted communications. Human rights watchdog groups were aghast at the measure. Edward Snowden, who is holed up in Russia, called the package the “Big Brother law.” It is now clear that Russia has been working with authorities in charge of censoring the Internet in China to import some aspects of the “Great Firewall” that have made it so successful. According to the Guardian, the two countries have been in close talks for some time, and the Chinese digital equipment maker Huawei has been enlisted to help Russian telecom companies build the capacity necessary to comply with Yarovaya’s laws. 


Coalition praises removal of harmful FOIA exemptions from final NDAA legislation

In a major win for government openness and accountability, Congress has removed three harmful exemptions to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) from the final version of the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2017. The FOIA exemptions would have severely undermined the FOIA by creating an unnecessary secrecy provision and a carve-out from the FOIA for the Pentagon.

OpenTheGovernment.org has actively opposed the Pentagon’s attempts to get Congress to pass harmful FOIA exemptions in the NDAA. In June, OTG and a broad coalition of partners called for the removal of the exemptions, included at the request of the Department of Defense (DoD), from the Senate version of the NDAA. Of particular concern was a proposal to exempt “the public disclosure of the information could reasonably be expected to risk impairment of the effective operation of Department of Defense,” that would have permitted concealing information about the military’s interrogation and treatment of prisoners, the handling of sexual assault complaints, the oversight of contractors, and other matters of compelling public interest.

http://www.openthegovernment.org/node/5372.


Kafka wrote in his parable The Problem of Our Laws, “It is an extremely painful thing to be ruled by laws that one does not know.” By this standard, America has long been in pain. Secret law runs rampant in the United States, particularly when national security is concerned. It may be legitimate for the government to keep some information secret, like targets of investigations and specific intelligence strategies, but this should be a relatively short list-containing only information where the government could easily meet a burden of showing a sure, direct, and immediate danger to our nation. And this should not, except in the most extreme circumstance, extend to the law itself. A recent report by the Brennan Center for Justice’s Liza Goitein, however, exposes just how deep the problem of keeping even the law secret runs—with over-classification fostering constitutionally suspect legal reasoning and the rapid erosion of any meaningful check on governmental power.

The Brennan Center report also confirms something we’ve been arguing for years—it’s time for some transparency and accountability in our laws. With only 48 days left in Obama’s presidency, the call to shed some light on the law purportedly supporting the government’s secret surveillance programs is all the more urgent. Opening the blinds is a practical step for protecting the democratic principles this country was founded on—especially as the power to invoke secrecy and surveil Americans is poised to pass into new and untested hands. President Obama, the time is now.

The Brennan Center report, entitled “The New Era of Secret Law,” defines “secret law” as “any law withheld from the public.” It outlines the dramatic post-9/11 expansion of the national security establishment’s web of secret court decisions, regulations, and policies. The expansion of secret law implicates all three branches of government: the legislative branch, with secret legislative histories and classified committee reports incorporated by reference into bills and therefore vested with the force of law; the executive branch, with its classified presidential directives and secret binding legal interpretations by the Justice Department’s Office of Legal Counsel (OLC); and the judicial branch, with the United States Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court (FISC or FISA Court) issuing dozens of secret “ground-breaking” legal interpretations approving unprecedented mass surveillance programs—most of which opinions remain undisclosed to this day.


International Outlook:

Vanuatu Parliament Passes RTI Bill Unanimously

Vanuatu’s Parliament on Nov. 24 unanimously passed a right to information bill tabled by Prime Minister Charlot Salwai, according to a report by the Pacific Island News Association. The article said the Minister for Land and Member of Parliament for Port Vila, Ralph Regenvanu, supported RTI Bill saying it was in the interest of society, the people and government. Member of Parliament for Santo, Alfred Maoh, was quoted as saying, “I am supporting this Bill today because I see myself
back in the village in the next ten years and I know this Bill will help me to have access to information from government.” Opposition members of Parliament also backed the bill. Parliament’s website includes the text of the bill, listed as passed. 

Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety; attribution appreciated.

The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.

SLA SF Bay Region Chapter Annual Award Winners


On Monday December 5th, we gathered for our SLA SF Bay Region Chapter Holiday Party and Annual Awards Ceremony at Jillian’s in San Francisco. The evening was well attended, and we enjoyed delightful food, drinks, and each other’s company! The Annual Awards were presented as follows:

Quarter Century Award – Marlene Vogelsang (above left with Hilary Schiraldi, photo by Jaye Lapachet)

Professional Achievement Award – Mimi Calter (above left with Hilary Schiraldi, photo by Jaye Lapachet)

Business Partner Award – Soutron Global, represented by Tony Saadat (above left with Hilary Schiraldi, photo by Jaye Lapachet)

Horizon Award – Chrystelle Browman (above left with Hilary Schiraldi, photo by Jaye Lapachet)

Congratulations to all our award winners!
Many thanks to our generous sponsors IEEE, Taylor & Associates, LexisNexis, and Thomson Reuters.
Happy Holidays and warm wishes for a wonderful New Year!

Intersect Alert December 12, 2016

Libraries:

Libraries are suddenly a hotbed of political activism
Librarians used to be known for telling everyone to be quiet. Now they can’t seem to shut up. They have opinions on just about every political issue of our time. And they can’t wait to share them with the rest of us.

The week after the election, the American Library Association sent out a fairly anodyne press release: “We are ready to work with President-elect Trump, his transition team, incoming administration and members of Congress to bring more economic opportunity to all Americans and advance other goals we have in common.”

One might wonder why the ALA needs to work with the administration at all or what role they have in bringing economic opportunities to all Americans — beyond ensuring literacy — or what other goals the librarians and any presidential administration might have in common.

Libraries Become Unexpected Sites of Hate Crimes
A librarian at the public library in Evanston, Ill., was recently preparing for a program titled “The Quran: Is It a ‘Good Book’?”

She gathered books to display for attendees and discovered that inside the cover of one, “The Koran for Dummies,” someone had written “lies cover to cover,” drawn a swastika and made a disparaging remark about the Prophet Muhammad.

She discovered six more books about Islam and the Quran that had been similarly defaced with racist language and imagery, officials said. The vandalism was a first for the library, Karen Danczak Lyons, its director, said in an interview.

Librarians, Act Now to Protect Your Users (Before It's Too Late)
Libraries and librarians have long been stalwart guardians of the rights of free expression and inquiry. As part of their profession, librarians protect their users’ ability to access even the most controversial information and ideas free from government scrutiny. Since the passage of the Patriot Act in particular, librarians have purged user records when necessary to fight against unconstitutional government demands and pushed back against (unconstitutional) National Security Letters (NSLs). Librarians also stood with EFF and the ACLU when we worked to pass the California Reader Privacy Act in 2011.

With the recent election of President-elect Donald Trump, many libraries are rightfully worried about a renewed threat to their users’ privacy. If the incoming administration sticks to its promises to identify and deport millions of people, monitor individuals based on their religious beliefs, and expand libel laws, for example, libraries could receive unprecedented government requests for information on their users.

Post-Election:

POGO and Bipartisan Ethics Experts in New Letter to Trump: Divest Now to Prevent Ongoing Conflicts
A group of more than two dozen organizations and individuals who specialize in government ethics and conflict of interest issues, sent a joint letter today to President-elect Donald Trump urging him to immediately divest his businesses and place the assets and investments into a genuine blind trust.

“It must be clear to all that any domestic and foreign policy decisions you make are not being influenced by your business arrangements and family relationships or by your investment holdings,” it says.

The letter—whose 29 signatories include POGO and the chief ethics lawyers for Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama—says the American people deserve to know “that the policy decisions of foreign governments with respect to the United States are not unduly influenced by a desire to curry
favor with you and your family in your business enterprises.”

Hate Index Tracking the Toll of Intolerance Post-Election 2016
What is The Hate Index? The Hate Index represents a journalistic effort to chronicle hate crimes and other acts of intolerance since the Nov. 8, 2016 Presidential Election victory of Republicans Donald Trump and Mike Pence over Democrats Hillary Clinton and Tim Kaine. The idea is to tally as many verifiable incidents as possible, and create an easily searchable data base that lets users slice and dice the data points (e.g. location, type of incident, etc.) in various ways.
Who is behind The Hate Index? The Hate Index is a faculty-led product of the City University of New York Graduate School of Journalism’s NYCity News Service. Our volunteer crew consists primarily of students, staff and faculty members.
How are you doing this? Our team is scouring news accounts of verbal, physical and other kinds of attacks victimizing everyone from minority group members in the U.S. – among them Muslims, Latinos, African Americans and immigrants as well as the LGBT community – to Trump supporters. We’re going through the incidents, one by one, and breaking them into multiple, often overlapping, categories based on available details. We are including incidents that come from what we deem legitimate news organizations that performed due diligence in reporting the story (interviewing accusers, witnesses, investigative authorities, etc) and/or can be backed by official sources/documents (e.g. police reports, court documents, etc). With the launch of the site, we’re also collecting accounts from the public (go here to contribute).
Any incidents submitted will be vetted by our team. Our data collection system is not automated – at least not at this point. Anything that doesn’t pass our journalistic smell test won’t make onto The Index. We’ll be as transparent as possible as we go along.

ALA warns Members it is “Concerned” about Trump Administration
Statement from ALA Prez Julie Todaro confirms that she is concerned how core values of free access, intellectual freedom and privacy will fit with the president elect Donald Trump’s administration. [aren’t we all].
“It is clear many of those values are at odds with messaging or positions taken by the incoming administration.”
Will this statement soften the blow of Todaro’s statement on November 15? (reprinted below):
“We are ready to work with President-elect Trump, his transition team, incoming administration and members of Congress to bring more economic opportunity to all Americans and advance other goals we have in common.”
http://lisnews.org /ala_warns_members_it_is_concerned_about_trump_administrat

Library of Congress:
Library of Congress – Chronicling America searchable newspaper archive
Search America’s historic newspaper pages from 1789-1924 or use the U.S. Newspaper Directory to find information about American newspapers published between 1690-present. Chronicling America is sponsored jointly by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Library of Congress.

LC to harvest Twitter account of Donald J. Trump
As part of its web archiving program (https://www.loc.gov /webarchiving/), the Library of Congress is harvesting the Twitter account of Donald J. Trump as part of a collection for the 2016 election. The Library of Congress anticipates continuing to harvest this Twitter account if President Elect Trump continues to use it in addition to, or perhaps instead of, the existing POTUS Twitter account. These targeted web harvesting efforts are separate from the Library’s acquisition of the wider body of Twitter content. -Richard Yarnall, Library of Congress

Privacy:
Uber Should Restore User Control to Location Privacy
Uber has rolled out a new update to its iPhone App—Version 3.222.4—which removed the option to limit location tracking to “While Using,” a privacy setting in the iOS that provides users control of when their information is shared with the app.
You might not have noticed right away. The November 23 update was described simply as, “This update fixes an issue affecting some riders who weren’t able to request a ride,” with no mention of the sharp change in privacy practices.
After you open the app, however, it immediately hits you with a request for location data—users can now only choose “Always” or “Never,” eliminating the fine grain-based “While Using” control previously available. The first request includes an explanation and a URL for more information, but if you
Commentary: BART must be open about how its spies on its riders

In the aftermath of the election, many have come to understand a powerful surveillance state in the hands of the federal government, especially one that will have a CIA director who believes: “Legal and bureaucratic impediments to surveillance should be removed” is a serious danger to the freedoms of all Americans.

Surveillance in the Bay Area must be carefully weighed against our civil liberties, and having data fed into federal databases, to be used to target our Muslim and undocumented neighbors, is something we cannot continue to allow.

The Bay Area was shocked when news broke in April that BART had quietly installed automated license plate readers at the system’s crowded MacArthur BART transfer station. The test run would be recording the license plates of all cars entering the station, then transferring the data to the local Federal fusion center, the Northern California Regional Intelligence Center (NCRIC).


Open Government:

What’s at stake in the future of U.S. participation in the Open Government Partnership

The dominant political binary of the 21st century won’t be left versus right, but open versus closed.

That’s the observation that author Alec Ross shared more than six years ago, while he was still serving at the U.S. State Department. The events of the past decade have lent strength to this thesis about political polarities in our changing world, particularly in the wake of a presidential election saw his former boss at the State Department defeated by a candidate who defied traditional Republican orthodoxies on the campaign trail, including foreign policy, trade, economics, entitlements, family leave policy and a host of norms for disclosure and public rhetoric that spanned both parties.

In the United States, we cannot take for granted any democratic norms for transparency and accountability. President-elect Donald Trump was elected without disclosing his tax returns, a breach of political norms that spans more than four decades of presidential politics. To date, he and his transition team have given no sign that his stance towards disclosure will change in office, nor will his criticism of journalists or satirical programming that depicts his words or actions unfavorably.


Intersect Alert December 20, 2016


Open Access:

Germany-wide consortium of research libraries announce boycott of Elsevier journals over open access Germany’s DEAL project, which includes over 60 major research institutions, has announced that all of its members are canceling their subscriptions to all of Elsevier’s academic and scientific journals, effective January 1, 2017. The boycott is in response to Elsevier’s refusal to adopt “transparent business models” to “make publications more openly accessible.”

Elsevier is notorious even among academic publishers for its hostility to open access, but it also publishes some of the most prestigious journals in many fields. This creates a vicious cycle, where the best publicly funded research is published in Elsevier journals, which then claims ownership over the research (Elsevier, like most academic journals, requires authors to sign their copyrights over, though it does not pay them for their writing, nor does it pay for their research expenses). Then, the public institutions that are producing this research have to pay very high costs to access the journals in which it appears. Journal prices have skyrocketed over the past 40 years.

http://www.librarystuff.net/2016/12/16/germany-wide-consortium-of-research-libraries-announce-boycott-of-elsevier-journals-over-open-access/.

Government:
Senate passes historic endorsement of open government data
Amidst unanswered questions about the future of open government in the United States, the Senate has provided a unanimous endorsement of a set of enduring principles that the Sunlight Foundation has advanced and defended for a decade: that data created using the funds of the people should be available to the people in open formats online, without cost or restriction.

On Dec. 10, 2016, S.2852, the Open, Public, Electronic, and Necessary (OPEN) Government Data Act, passed the Senate with an amendment by unanimous consent. The OPEN Government Data Act has been a core priority of the Sunlight Foundation in Washington in 2016. We are thrilled that the Senate has acted to move it and grateful to the bill’s co-sponsors for their support for open government.

Reaching Out with RDA
This week, the National Archives took yet another step toward the Open Government goals of transparency, participation and collaboration, by joining the wider archival community in adopting the Resource Description and Access (RDA) standard for its authority records. The RDA standard was developed in 2010 as the successor to the Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules, Second Edition (AACR2).

Government Website Harvest Enlists Librarians, Educators, Students
As the United States—and the world—prepare for the January 20, 2017 presidential inauguration, libraries, institutions, and citizens are joining forces to identify federal government websites to be captured and saved in the End of Term (EOT) Web Archive.

The archive currently holds government web content from the administration changes of 2008 and 2012, and in July resumed collection efforts for EOT 2016 content. Government document and subject experts have been joined by librarians, academics, political and social science researchers, educators and their students, and other volunteer nominators in semester-long efforts and all-day “nominatathons” to identify URLs that are then submitted for inclusion in the EOT Archive. Those that are in-scope and not duplicates are assigned a weighted score by project specialists and given a priority level for web crawling.

Libraries:

The Grossly Exaggerated Death of the Library, or Why I Don’t Discourage Students from Attending Library School
hat do you say to the next generation of Librarians? Since I’m a First-Year Academic Librarian Experience I would assume the “next generation” is probably me, and it is a little too soon to play the grizzled older “in my day” type librarian. Because I work in a University Library, I know students finishing their undergraduate degrees considering graduate school or library school. They ask me if library school is a good idea and what a person like them should do if they’re interested in the humanities. I suspect that because I’m so close to having finished school I am sensitive to those questions. After my own negative experiences in undergraduate and graduate school, I have decided that I will not discourage anyone from the path that I succeeded on. I ask those who tell students not to pursue librarianship where else these students should focus their energies?

Libraries have a real crisis of confidence. Google “don’t go to library school” (I took a screen shot so you don’t actually have to google it) and you’ll see the kind of pessimism that plagues our students. The result of this is that students have a clear and unhealthy obsession (see any /r/Librarians Reddit posts), in some ways encouraged by current librarians, about whether or not they’ll get a job at the end of school. It doesn’t help that resources like Hiring Librarians, while a great source of information, often publishes the most pessimistic and disheartening interviews with “hiring” managers. Librarianship is dying, everyone abandon ship.

Stand, Fight, Resist
The idea that libraries are neutral spaces has been well and disabused over the last few years. From the services we offer to the collections that we curate, the decisions that libraries and librarians make are political ones that reflect values. Sometimes those are the values of the organization, sometimes the values of the individuals, and sometimes they are the values of the communities that the library serves. Those values are illustrated by our technologies, our ontologies, and our descriptors. Those who attempt to hold that “neutrality” of information access is an ideal for which to strive have had a hard time holding to that stance as increasing numbers of librarians question and deconstruct our profession. I would like to suggest something even stronger…that even if it were possible for libraries to be neutral spaces, that to create such a space would be morally questionable, and potentially actively morally wrong.
http://jasongriffey.net/wp/2016/12/16/stand-fight-resist/.
What Will Happen to the TPP Copyright Provisions?
Over the last several years, a group of countries, including Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, Vietnam and the United States negotiated a comprehensive regional trade agreement known as the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPP). This agreement was controversial for a number of reasons and, as a result of the recent elections in the United States, will almost certainly not come into force.

The TPP garnered heavy criticism, not only for the substantive provisions being negotiated, but also because of the lack of transparency in the negotiations; an official release of text occurred only after the agreement had been signed. One of the chapters included in the TPP is one on intellectual property, with detailed provisions on copyright. On October 5, 2015 the twelve ministers of the TPP countries announced that a deal had been reached and the final agreement on the copyright provisions had mixed results.


Net Neutrality:

Trump and His Advisors on Net Neutrality
Through the combined efforts of EFF and a coalition of public interest groups — and four million of you who wrote in to the FCC — we won carefully tailored and essential net neutrality protections in 2015 and defended them in court in 2016. But how will the incoming Trump administration impact net neutrality in 2017? We’ve collected a range of statements on the positions of Trump, his transition team, and those who are likely to guide the new administration on this issue.

Trump took a swipe at net neutrality in a November 2014 tweet, stating, “Obama’s Attack on the Internet is another top down power grab. Net neutrality is the Fairness Doctrine. Will target Conservative Media.”

The Republican Party platform [PDF] was also critical of net neutrality, and Trump’s transition team is stocked with staunch opponents to net neutrality.

Several key members of Trump’s transition team belong to a block of Republicans in Congress that have long sought to undermine net neutrality. Vice-President-elect Pence, the chair of Trump’s transition team, co-sponsored a 2011 bill that would have stripped the FCC of authority to govern Internet access services, as it did in the Open Internet Order. That bill, the Internet Freedom Act, was sponsored by Rep. Marsha Blackburn, and co-sponsored by Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers, Rep. Tom Reed, and Rep. Cynthia Lummis, all vice-chairs on Trump’s transition team. Pence (along with vice-chair Rep. Marsha Blackburn, and other members of the transition team) also voted against net neutrality as early as 2006.


Share this:

Intersect Alert December 29, 2016


Data Visualization

New Research Tool for Visualizing Two Million Hours of Television News
Today the Internet Archive announces a new interactive timeline visualization—the Television Explorer—that lets you trace how any keyword—think “emails”, “tax returns”, “alt-right”—has been covered on U.S. television news over the past half-decade.

When searching, you get back a visual timeline showing how often that word or phrase has appeared on American television news over the past half-decade. Nearly two million hours of television news totaling more than 5.7 billion words from over 150 distinct stations spanning July 2009 to present (though not all stations were monitored for the entire period) are searchable in this interface.


Indiana University tech tool ‘Hoaxy’ shows how fake news spreads
In the latest move in the battle against fake news, a new website dubbed “Hoaxy” offers free visual representations of how unverified news stories spread, mapping out who has shared them on social media and the degree to which they’ve gone viral.
Hoaxy, developed by researchers at Indiana University’s Center for Complex Networks and Systems Research, doesn’t pass any editorial judgements on the legitimacy of the stories’ content, but aims instead to provide a clearer look how such news makes its way around the internet. Creators of the tool see Hoaxy as an important first step toward better understanding, and eventually addressing, the roots of the fake news problem. And, unlike other recent efforts to curb the phenomenon, some of which have raised questions regarding censorship and political bias, it may offer a more even-handed approach.


Dear 2016: A letter from the L.A. Times Data Visualization Department

Dear 2016, You wore us out.

You brought horrific events like the Orlando, Nice and Brussels attacks, while you took away Prince and Bowie. The Rams returned to Los Angeles and Kobe walked off the court for the last time. And did we mention this was in the middle of an election cycle?

At the L.A. Times Graphics Department, we’ve tried to bring all of these stories to you visually — whether with a map, an interactive chart or a 3-D model of Dodgers ace Clayton Kershaw. Here are some of our favorites from a year we’re happy to bid farewell.


Artificial Intelligence:

The Great A.I. Awakening

How Google used artificial intelligence to transform Google Translate, one of its more popular services — and how machine learning is poised to reinvent computing itself.

Late one Friday night in early November, Jun Rekimoto, a distinguished professor of human-computer interaction at the University of Tokyo, was online preparing for a lecture when he began to notice some peculiar posts rolling in on social media. Apparently Google Translate, the company’s popular machine-translation service, had suddenly and almost immeasurably improved. Rekimoto visited Translate himself and began to experiment with it. He was astonished. He had to go to sleep, but Translate refused to relax its grip on his imagination.


Wikipedia:

Death, politics, and Vincent van Gogh: 2016 as seen through the lens of Wikipedia

As might be expected, politics features heavily—given the vote on ‘Brexit’, which seems likely to end in the United Kingdom’s departure from the European Union, and the United States’ presidential campaign between Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton. Four of the top five most-edited articles related to the American election.

Read on for the lists of most edited articles, for the year and by month.

https://blog.wikimedia.org/2016/12/21/death-politics-most-edited-articles/.

Cybersecurity:

An Election Hacking Select Committee Carries Both Promise and Risk

The select committee presents a unique opportunity to educate Congress and the American public on the threat that cyber-insecurity poses to civil liberties, privacy, and our democratic system. Public hearings, à la Watergate, may be a real teaching moment.

If the Senate does this right, the committee could serve as a counter-weight to the intelligence and armed services committees, which may favor giving spy agencies and the military extraordinary new authority to secure domestic networks in the private sector. Such authority should lie with a private sector actor, with assistance on a voluntary basis from a civilian entity, the Department of Homeland Security. There is a risk that new responsibility in a military or intelligence agency to secure domestic civilian networks would come with new domestic surveillance authority in the cyber realm. Crucially, if the select committee does it wrong, it runs the risk of being the agent of these new surveillance powers.


Libraries:

Ten Stories That Shaped 2016

Google Books Case Finally Ends, Open Data Initiatives, Intellectual Property Disputes Aplenty, Carla Hayden becomes the new Librarian of Congress, and more top library-related stories from the year.
Time for change: Library development 2016
Over the last 100 years, the local libraries have changed from books behind a counter to open shelves and self-service. Modern ideas about libraries in 2016 indicate that they should be ‘a third place’, a meeting place which is neither a home nor a workplace. Increasingly the users themselves are not only active participants, but also those who generate content.

StrengthsFinder for Librarians – Professional Development Workshop

On February 3rd you are invited to join us for a guided tour through Gallup’s StrengthsFinder program, presented by trainer Alicia Santamaria. In this class you will receive a personalized planning guide for applying your talents strengths in the next week, month, and year. Make this event part of your New Year’s resolution!

Applicable to everyone regardless of career or life stage, it’s never too late (or early) to think about your strengths. StrengthsFinder will help you identify your talents and develop a plan to put them into action.

Join your friends and colleagues for a personal learning journey and lively discussion. Afterwards, we will convene in the Dolby Library for a networking opportunity and brief tour. We hope you can join us.

We are pleased to announce that Soutron Global is graciously sponsoring this Professional Development Workshop at the Golden Gate level of $500. We appreciate their ongoing support of chapter activities.

Intersect Alert January 9, 2017

“As we start 2017 with a little trepidation of the unknown here in D.C., I am very pleased to be able to say 2016 was an awesome year for OITP’s Libraries Ready to Code project. Only a few things make me happier than talking about...
opportunities for kids to be excited about learning (and if libraries are involved, even better), so I’d like to share a few highlights of our work over the last year and give you a hint of what’s to come in 2017.”


Rethinking Education of Youth and Children’s Librarians

“Recent reports from a wide variety of sources including the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the Joan Ganz Cooney Center (leading researchers on media and young children), and the Young Adult Library Services Association are a clarion call to think differently about the education of youth and children’s librarians. The findings of the report outlined several areas for growth, including that libraries should ‘bridge the growing digital and knowledge divide,’ ‘leverage teens’ motivation to learn,’ ‘provide workforce development training’ and “serve as the connector between teens and other community agencies.”

http://www.districtdispatch.org/2017/01/rethinking-education-youth-childrens-librarians/

Professional Development

PostMARC’d: Delivering A New Approach to Cataloging

Event Date & Time: Wednesday, January 18th, 2017, 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM ET / 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM PT

“Join TLC and Library Journal at 3pm Jan. 18 for a webcast on LS2 Cataloging, which introduces a linked data approach to the cataloging experience that moves libraries beyond a traditional MARC editor. The innovative use of glossaries to maintain data consistency, a new series service supplying titles linked to genres and audience level, and improvements to batch editing of bibliographic, item, and authority records deliver an improved user experience for library staff and a better discovery experience for library users. Make sure your library is ready for the advantages of LS2 Cataloging by registering for this free one-hour webcast.”


Information Literacy

The Challenge Facing Libraries In An Era of Fake News

“Imagine, for a moment, the technology of 2017 had existed on Jan. 11, 1964 – the day Luther Terry, surgeon general of the United States, released ‘Smoking and Health: Report of the Advisory Committee to the Surgeon General of the United States.’”

“What would be some likely scenarios?”

“The social media noise machine explodes; conservative websites immediately paint the report as a nanny-government attack on personal freedom and masculinity; the report’s findings are hit with a flood of satirical memes, outraged Facebook posts, attack videos and click-bait fake news stories; Big Tobacco’s publicity machine begins pumping out disinformation via both popular social media and pseudoscientific predatory journals willing to print anything for a price; Republican presidential candidate Barry Goldwater characterizes ‘Smoking and Health’ as a ‘communist-inspired hoax.’”


Digital Archives

Internet Archive’s Trump Archive

“The Trump Archive launches today with 700+ televised speeches, interviews, debates, and other news broadcasts related to President-elect Donald Trump, created using the Internet Archive’s TV News Archive.”

“A work in progress, the growing collection now includes more than 520 hours of Trump video. The earliest excerpt dates from December 2009, and the collection continues through the present. It includes more than 500 video statements fact checked by FactCheck.org, PolitiFact, and The Washington Post’s Fact Checker covering such controversial topics as immigration, Trump’s tax returns, Hillary Clinton’s emails, and health care.”

http://blog.archive.org/2017/01/05/internet-archives-trump- archive-launches-today/

Privacy

Why a Tax Break for Security Cameras Is a Terrible Idea

“Law enforcement agencies around the country have been expanding their surveillance capabilities by recruiting private citizens and businesses to share their security camera footage and live feeds. The trend is alarming, since it allows government to spy on communities without the oversight, approval, or legal processes that are typically required for police.”
“EFF is opposing new legislation introduced in California by Assemblymember Marc Steinorth that would create a tax credit worth up to $500 for residents who purchase home security systems, including fences, alarms and cameras. In a letter, EFF has asked the lawmaker to strike the tax break for surveillance cameras, citing privacy concerns as well as the potential threat created by consumer cameras that can be exploited by botnets.”

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2017/01/why-tax-credits-security-cameras-terrible-idea

Jobline 2017/01/14


CORNERSTONE RESEARCH

Cornerstone Research is a consulting firm specializing in the analysis of complex financial, economic, accounting, and marketing issues. In recent years, Cornerstone Research has become one of the nation’s leading finance and economics consulting firms with more than 600 full-time staff members across eight offices.

We attribute our success to a unique combination of resources: a creative and energetic staff, cutting-edge research, and our network of academic and industry experts. Our consultants employ innovative problem solving approaches and achieve unparalleled analytic depth.

Cornerstone Research has consulted on a wide variety of projects involving numerous industries. Our clients include law firms, major corporations and financial firms, leading life sciences companies, major participants in energy markets, over one hundred Internet and other high-technology firms, and large telecommunications providers. These companies often have a large percentage of their net worth at stake when they seek our services. As such, our projects receive focused attention from chief executive officers, the general counsel and boards of directors of our clients.

INFORMATION SPECIALIST POSITION

The Information Specialist is responsible for providing research and reference services involving business, legal and specialized information sources to consulting and administrative staff for billable casework. The individual must be skilled in using a variety of databases and research tools. The Information Specialist also performs other research-related work for the firm such as conflict checks, assisting with BD research such as attorney tracking, and case.

- Conducts domestic and international business and legal research utilizing appropriate databases and research tools and directs consultants to appropriate sources.
- Reviews diverse sources of information for currency, reliability, relevance, and cost effectiveness, then chooses the best sources for answering research requests.
- Interfaces with experts, law firms, agencies, libraries and organizations; represents the firm in a professional manner.
- Compiles and organizes information obtained in research projects into a coherent, focused collection of information, accompanied by explanatory notes if relevant, so that the material is readily understandable to the user; logs new information about resources in both public and department databases for future use.
- Maintains familiarity with the library’s own information resources, in particular its research databases and physical collection.
- Maintains awareness of current developments on legal news and information services, specifically with developments regarding new specialized databases relevant to the firm’s practice areas.
- Recognizes new information resources, both in print and electronic form, and makes recommendations for new acquisitions to the Senior Director of Information Resources.
- Provides orientation and instruction regarding IR’s resources and working effectively with the IR department.
- Conducts ad hoc specialized database training sessions and scheduled general training on a variety of IR-related issues of interest to the firm.
- May perform other library administrative and technical services tasks.
- Completes special projects on various issues as assigned.
- Completes conflict checks for the firm in a timely and precise manner.
- This position will also support at least one practice area in their business development needs including docket tracks and searches, literature searches, expert searches, and more.

This position will be located in our San Francisco, Silicon Valley or Los Angeles, CA office.
CORNERSTONE RESEARCH’S CULTURE

Our uniquely collegial and supportive atmosphere makes Cornerstone Research a great place to work. Cornerstone Research invests in its people in a number of ways including providing development opportunities and organizing memorable social events. To many, our culture and our people are the most exciting and enriching aspects of a career at Cornerstone Research.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Master’s degree in Library Science (MLS) is preferred, however a Master’s degree in another specialty may be considered in lieu of the MLS if candidate also has significant research experience in a related industry.
- Working knowledge of MS Office required.
- Knowledge of automated business and legal database research systems.
- Experience with LegalKey and/or CMS a plus.

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Cornerstone Research is an equal employee opportunity employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, pregnancy, age, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, marital status, genetic information, protected veteran status, or other factors protected by law.

Interested candidates should apply via our online application system: https://corpadmin-chire.icims.com/jobs/1222/information-specialist/job

When applying, please mention that you found this position listing on SLA SV/SF Jobline. Thank you!

Intersect Alert January 16, 2017


Digital Preservation

Project Will Digitize Catholic Records of Boston Archdiocese

“BOSTON (AP) — Two of Boston’s most venerable institutions are teaming up to create an online database of hundreds of thousands of Roman Catholic Church documents to help people trace their family histories.”

“The New England Historic Genealogical Society and the Archdiocese of Boston on Tuesday announced the project that was first talked about two years ago. It’s the first time a significant number of sacramental records from any U.S. diocese have been digitized on this scale, the organizations said.”


Copyright

Library Experts Weigh in On Next Register of Copyrights

“In the wake of the October 29 resignation of Maria Pallante, the former Register of Copyrights, the Library of Congress (LC) has put out a call to the public for input on the expertise needed by the next Register of Copyrights. (On January 17, Pallante will join the Association of American Publishers as president and CEO). The survey, posted on the LC website on December 16, invites the public to answer a series of questions about the knowledge, skills, abilities, and priorities that the incoming Register should possess.”

“But the title comes with more concerns than merely an appropriate skill set. The position, and the next person to fill it, will influence the changes that the United States copyright system is weathering, as well as the role LC will play in its next phase—particularly whether the Copyright Office (CO) should continue to be housed in LC, as it has been since its establishment in 1870 (the CO became a separate department of LC in 1897, with the appointment of the first Register). H.R. 4241, a bill introduced in December 2015 by Congresswoman Judy Chu (CA-27), Congressman Tom Marino (PA-10) and Congresswoman Barbara Comstock (VA-10)—also known as the CO for the Digital Economy Act or the CODE Act—proposes to relocate the CO to the legislative branch.”


Privacy

Obama Expands Surveillance Powers on His Way Out

“With mere days left before President-elect Donald Trump takes the White House, President Barack Obama’s administration just finalized rules to make it easier for the
nation’s intelligence agencies to share unfiltered information about innocent people.”

“New rules issued by the Obama administration under Executive Order 12333 will let the NSA—which collects information under that authority with little oversight, transparency, or concern for privacy—share the raw streams of communications it intercepts directly with agencies including the FBI, the DEA, and the Department of Homeland Security, according to a report today by the New York Times.”

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2017/01/obama-expands-surveillance-powers-his-way-out

Congress Must Pass Long-Delayed Email Privacy Bill

“It’s time for Congress to put an end to a glaring loophole in privacy law. Thanks to the wording in a more than 30-year-old law, the papers in your desk are better protected than the emails in your inbox. Congress can fix that by finally passing the Email Privacy Act, reintroduced in the House by Reps. Kevin Yoder and Jared Polis and others today.”

“The bill would require law enforcement to get a warrant before searching through electronic communications—including things like emails, Facebook messages, and Dropbox files—regardless of how long they have been stored.”

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2017/01/congress-must-pass-long-delayed-email-privacy-bill

Fight for Email Privacy Act Passage Begins Now . . . Again

“It’s a pretty sure bet that, when James Madison penned the Fourth Amendment to assure the right of all Americans to be “secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures,” he didn’t have protecting emails, texts, tweets and cloud-stored photo and other files in mind. Fortunately, Congress attempted to remedy that understandable omission 197 years later by passing the Electronic Communications Privacy Act (ECPA) to require that authorities obtain a search warrant, based on probable cause, to access the full content of such material. But given the difficulty, expense and thus unlikelihood of storing digital information for extended periods in 1986, ECPA’s protections were written to sunset 180 days after a communication had been created.”


Libraries

A New Home Page for loc.gov

“The Library of Congress launched its first website in 1994. Since that time we have digitized and made available millions of items from our collections and added new features to help you take advantage of all that the Library offers.”

“During the past three years, the Library’s web team has been transitioning these vast online collections into a new format that is mobile friendly, enables faceted search across all formats — books, maps, photographs and more — and applies consistent information and presentation.”


He Fixes the Cracked Spines of Books, Without an Understudy

“ISSAQUAH, Wash. — Sometimes a book just gets loved to death. A Bible, or a copy of “Charlotte’s Web,” for that matter, can be opened only so many times, even by the gentlest reader, before its spine weakens and surrenders.”

“And here is a dirty little secret: Public libraries, despite their reputations for hushed wonder about the written word, can be rough places. Automated sorting machines, whirring conveyor belts and hard bins can break a book and shorten its life.”

“Donald Vass, who has spent the last 26 years mending and tending to books for the King County Public Library system here in the Seattle area, has seen both mechanical and human-inflicted damage and more. At 57 and with not many years left before retirement, he says he believes he will be the last full-time traditional bookbinder ever to take up shears, brushes and needles here. The skills take too long to learn, he said, and no one is being groomed to take his place in ‘the mendery,’ Room 111 at the library’s central service center, where not so many years ago 10 people worked.”


Library Extension Finds Books At Your Local Library While You Shop On Amazon

“Chrome: Amazon may be convenient, but nothing beats free. So, when you’re shopping for books on the site, Library Extension will find those same books at your local library. You can even drive to pick them up faster than Amazon can ship them.”

http://lifehacker.com/library-extension-finds-books-at-your-local-library-whi-179110485

SF Public Library’s Quest to Put Diversity on Shelves

“Crack open a book at the San Francisco Public Library, and you can find tales about dragons and castles, ancient cultures and traditions, mysteries and romances.”

“But here’s the thing: The characters will probably be white. Despite a push by book lovers for more ethnic diversity in published books, library shelves have remained largely uniform, with white authors penning tales about white people,
Intersect Alert January 23, 2017

Digital Literacy

Developing Librarian Resources to Enhance Patrons’ Digital Literacy

“Applying for jobs, social services, or food stamps. Obtaining health care. Filing taxes. Each of these tasks requires digital skills to transmit sensitive and private information about one’s finances, health, and location in a safe and secure manner through the Web. However, many low-SES individuals face compounding problems: they must use the Web or other communication technologies to get access to important resources but they often lack both direct access to the technologies and the requisite knowledge and skills to successfully navigate them.”

“Digital literacy is an increasingly critical skill in modern society to ensure that sensitive personal information submitted through online channels is not compromised. That said, many Americans—and especially those in economically disadvantaged groups—lack the proper knowledge or training to safely and securely navigate the Internet.”

Privacy

Data Breaches Increase 40 Percent in 2016, Finds New Report from Identity Theft Resource Center and CyberScout

“SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. and SAN DIEGO, Jan. 19, 2017 /PRNewswire/ — The number of U.S. data breaches tracked in 2016 hit an all-time record high of 1,093, according to a new report released today by the Identity Theft Resource Center (ITRC) and CyberScout (formerly IDT911). This represents a substantial hike of 40 percent over the near record high of 780 reported in 2015. This raises the question: are there actually more breaches or is it because more states are making this information publicly available?”

Publishing

Controversial Website that Lists ‘Predatory’ Publishers Shuts Down

“A widely read website that lists ‘potential, possible or probable predatory scholarly open-access publishers’ was wiped clean of all its content on 15 January — but its creator, Jeffrey Beall, won’t say why.”

“My blog is now unpublished,” said Beall, an academic librarian at the University of Colorado, Denver (UCD). He added that he couldn’t give reasons and declined to comment...
“A spokeswoman for UCD said that Beall made a ‘personal decision’ to close down his blog, and that Beall is still employed on the university’s faculty. In a statement, the university added that Beall would no longer maintain or publish his research on open-access journals and predatory publishers.”


Information Literacy

All I Know Is What’s on the Internet

“Fake news elected Donald Trump. At least, judging by media attention — social or otherwise — one might come to that conclusion. Something must be responsible for a result that defied polls and many Americans’ sense of propriety, and fake news has proved a useful scapegoat: It can be quickly identified, it is easy to loathe, and it is often readily debunked — never mind that fake news is neither new (forgery, quackery, and conspiracy theorizing are not recent inventions) nor exclusively right-leaning. The new form it has taken in readily sharable social media, however, has made it easy for conventional media to excuse themselves from responsibility for how the election was covered. They have made a fake-news story of sorts out of fake news’s rise, creating a climate of emotionally satisfying skepticism out of innuendo and invented causality. Meanwhile, the problem of how to verify knowledge festers: Attention is fixed on the spectacle of pizzagate, while the Wall Street Journal equates fact-checking Trump to a subjective application of morality, refusing to label his lies as such.”

http://reallifemag.com/all-i-know-is-whats-on-the-internet/

Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety; attribution appreciated.

The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.

Intersect Alert January 30, 2017


Privacy

How to Protect Your Digital Privacy in the Era of Public Shaming

“Every January, I do a digital tune-up, cleaning up my privacy settings, updating my software and generally trying to upgrade my security. This year, the task feels particularly urgent as we face a world with unprecedented threats to our digital safety.”

“We are living in an era of widespread hacking and public shaming. Don’t like your political rivals? Beg Russia to hack them, and their emails mysteriously show up on Wikileaks. Don’t like your ex-spouse? Post a revenge porn video. Don’t like your video game opponents? Find their address online and send a SWAT team to their door.”


Fear Materialized: Border Agents Demand Social Media Data from Americans

“The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) recently filed complaints against U.S Customs and Border Protection (CBP) for, in part, demanding social media information from Muslim American citizens returning home from traveling abroad. According to CAIR, CBP accessed public posts by demanding social media handles, and potentially accessed private posts by demanding cell phone passcodes and perusing social media apps. And border agents allegedly physically abused one man who refused to hand over his unlocked phone.”


Search

Google and the Misinformed Public

“Digital media platforms like Google and Facebook may disavow responsibility for the results of their algorithms, but they can have tremendous — and disturbing — social effects. Racist and sexist bias, misinformation, and profiling are frequently unnoticed byproducts of those algorithms. And unlike public institutions (like the library), Google and
Facebook have no transparent curation process by which the public can judge the credibility or legitimacy of the information they propagate.”

http://www.chronicle.com/article/Googlethe-Misinformed/238868

CourtListener

“Started in 2010, CourtListener is a core project of the Free Law Project, a federally-recognized 501(c)(3) public charity and a California non-profit public benefit corporation. Free Law Project seeks to provide free access to primary legal materials, develop legal research tools, and support academic research on legal corpora. CourtListener embodies all of these efforts, as the primary free repository of all the court opinions we have collected, as the platform on which we deploy legal research tools, and as the source of bulk downloads that enable academic researchers to study our collection.”

“We collect legal opinions from court websites and from data donations, and are aiming to have the best, most complete data on the open Web within the next couple years. We are slowly expanding to provide search and awareness tools for as many state courts as possible, and we already have tools for all of the Federal Appeals Courts.”

https://www.courtlistener.com/

Professional Development

Upcoming Webinar on Uneasy Sharing (AKA Piracy)

“Our February 2 CopyTalk is going to be quite interesting. Its title is ‘Open Access Piracy: Sci-Hub and #icanhazpdf as Resource Sharing’.”

“Many of you have probably heard about the infamous SciHub website that provides free access to costly scholarly journals that libraries often buy. Our speakers will discuss the use of popular resource sharing methods like SciHub that may violate copyright and database terms of service, including what these users think of the potentially copyright infringing action that they take. This webinar will include a review some empirical evidence that places these non-library resource sharing methods in context with their legal library counterparts. What motivates people who engage in this resource sharing? Do they have access through libraries? And what are the implications for libraries?”

Mark your calendars and set aside some time for this free webinar. You deserve it!
Date: Thursday, February 2, 2017
Time: 2:00 p.m. Eastern / 11:00 a.m. Pacific
Duration: One hour

http://www.districtdispatch.org/2017/01/upcoming-webinar-uneasy-sharing-aka-piracy/

Banned Books

The Banned Books Your Child Should Read

“More than 40 years ago, my seventh grade English teacher began the year by telling us that we were definitely not allowed to read “The Catcher in the Rye” because we weren’t “ready” for it. So naturally we all went out and read it immediately.”

“I told this story to my son when he was a seventh grader. I meant it as a funny story, and I pointed out that it had taken me years to appreciate that teacher’s pedagogic strategy. But then my son read the book himself right away. The mere long-ago echo of a possible ban was enough to make it interesting.”

https://www.nytimes.com/2017/01/16/well/family/the-banned-books-your-child-should-read.html?smid=nytcore-ipad-share&smprod=nytcore-ipad&_r=0

Open Data

Open Data Policy Wizard Helps You Create Your Own Policy

“One of the hardest parts of creating an open-data policy is figuring out where to start. Here at Sunlight, we have several resources to help with this, including our Open Data Policy Wizard.”

“We already have a sample ‘firestarter’ policy that incorporates our guidelines for open-data policies. This policy was developed in 2015 with feedback from many experts on open data, including Mark Headd, Josh Tauberer, Abhi Nemani, Ben Wellington, Joel Natividad, and Andrew Nicklin.”

“The Wizard asks you several basic questions about your city (or other place) and then emails you a version of the sample policy that has your place’s information included in it. You also get a link to a Google Doc version of the policy, which you can directly edit. This is a starting point, not an ending point. In particular, we advise you make sure you fully understand how this policy incorporates our policy guidelines, explore other places’ policies and (perhaps most importantly) work together with community stakeholders to make sure the policy meets local needs, desires and concerns.”


Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety; attribution appreciated.
The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations
IEEE Client Services Manager, Marketing – SAL0000010O: KNW-C

Job Summary: Full Time – Telecommuter

Job Type: Regular

The overall purpose of this position is to build relationships with IEEE online customers, encouraging usage and educating researchers about IEEE content, the IEEE Xplore digital library, and other IEEE online platforms. The incumbent in this position is primarily responsible for supporting IEEE online customers in a designated region, providing outreach, training, promotional activities and programs to grow usage and communicate the value of IEEE information. The role typically reports to the Manager, Client Services – Americas and requires minimal supervision.

This position supports customers on the West Coast.

Essential Functions:

Specific duties include but are not limited to:

- Support IEEE Global Sales in selected territory through programs of awareness, training, customer support and events.
- Develop and implement programs and events that build customer relationships and drive IEEE usage and awareness for user communities, including librarians, engineers, researchers, students and faculty.
- Train librarians, end-users, regional sales staff and local dealers in effective use of the IEEE Xplore digital library and other electronic information products through on-site visits, phone support, email support, and internet conferencing.
- Contact top revenue customers regularly. Contact territory Account Managers and sales staff regularly to exchange customer info, knowledge of risky accounts, travel itineraries, and strategies.
- Represent IEEE in designated territory by organizing complex events, such as IEEE Xplore customer meetings, IEEE Student Branch-sponsored activities, university/industry outreach programs, customized events, and public speaking opportunities.
- Assist with introductions of new products and platforms. Also, support customers during roll-out of new subscriptions and monitor usage to encourage promotion of new content or platforms.
- Travel as needed, for customer visits, conferences, training and awareness events.
- Report customer feedback to product development and design teams through weekly reports and updates to customer request lists. Report issues that interfere with usage during regular feedback sessions.
- Build society awareness and loyalty and support IEEE membership marketing as needed.
- Participate in the creation of custom promotional and training materials, as needed.
- Meet regularly with manager and Client Services team via internet conferencing.

Qualifications

Education and Experience:

- Bachelor’s degree is required.
- Masters degree in Library/Information Sciences strongly preferred.
- English fluency required.
- Additional languages beneficial.
- Five years’ experience in a university, corporate or government library preferred.
- Proven online search and demonstration expertise.
- Knowledge of information industry and library trends, methods and technologies.

Skills & Other Requirements:

- Ability to travel up to 50% of the time, both locally and internationally.
- Excellent public speaking and interpersonal skills.
- Excellent writing skills.
- Demonstrated ability to work independently and plan effective travel itineraries.
- In-depth understanding of the sales process and current market for high-end electronic subscription products.
- Strong training experience required — comfort with electronic information products and ability to demonstrate products one-on-one for large audiences, both in-person and online, is critical.
- Strong organizational skills; attention to detail.
Experience with scientific digital libraries strongly desired.

PC skills: Microsoft Excel, Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, WebEx

To apply, please visit:

https://ieee.taleo.net/careersection/2/jobdetail.ftl?job=SAL0000010O

For information on work demands and conditions required for this position, please consult the reference document, “Physical, Mental, and Work Environment Standards for IEEE Positions.” This position is classified under Category I—Office Position & Category II – Mobile Position.

IEEE is an EEO/AAP Employer/Protected Veteran/Disabled

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Disclaimer: This job description outlines the general nature and key features performed by various positions that share the same job classification. It is not designed to contain or be interpreted as a comprehensive inventory of all duties and qualifications required of all employees assigned to the job. Nothing in this job description restricts management’s right to assign or re-assign duties to this job at any time due to reasonable accommodations or other business reasons.

When applying, please mention that you found this position listing on SLA SV/SF Jobline. Thank you!

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Intersect Alert February 5, 2017


Take Action:

Uzbekistan Must Free Jailed Journalist Muhammad Bekzhanov

In 1999, Uzbekistani security forces tortured journalist Muhammad Bekzhanov, editor of a banned opposition newspaper. They beat him with rubber truncheons, suffocated him and gave him electric shocks until he confessed to “anti-state” offences. A judge used Muhammad’s ‘confession’ to send him to prison, where he remains to this day. He is one of the world’s longest-imprisoned journalists. Urge the President of Uzbekistan to release Muhammad and investigate his torture.

Take action here:

California Bills to Safeguard Privacy from the Federal Government Advance

New state bills that would create a database firewall between California and the federal government passed out of their respective Senate committees on Tuesday. Both are headed to the Appropriations Committee and then could soon see votes by the full California Senate. If passed, these critical bills would help prevent Muslim registries and mass deportations in California and would send a strong message to the Trump administration that Californians will resist his attacks on digital liberty.

Senate Bill 54, authored by Senate President Pro Tempore Kevin de León would prevent law enforcement agencies in California from sharing department databases or private information with the federal government for immigration enforcement. It would also require California state agencies to update their confidentiality polices so that they stop collecting or sharing unnecessary data about every Californian.

Senate Bill 31, authored by Sen. Ricardo Lara, would prevent local and state government agencies from collecting data, sharing data, or using resources to participate in any program that would create a registry of people based on their religion, ethnicity, or national origin. Police agencies would also be forbidden from creating a database of religious minorities in California.

Take action on these 2 bills now!

Thank a lawmaker

California’s senators and congresspeople are working extra hard these last weeks. If there’s a senator or congressperson who has taken action that you support, please give them a call to thank them.
Welcome to the new EPA website, overhauled by Trump’s team
The Environmental Protection Agency’s website has begun to transform under the Trump administration. A group of researchers have found what are likely the first steps in a major overhaul of a site that’s been closely watched since President Trump’s inauguration on Jan. 20. Federal climate plans created under former President Obama, tribal assistance programs, and references to international cooperation have been stricken from the site.

A mention of carbon pollution as a cause of climate change has also been removed and adaptation has been emphasized, indicating an attempt to separate the cause of climate change from the response. One common theme running through the alterations is removing references to Obama-era projects such as the Climate Action Plan and other federal roadmaps to address climate change. The international partnership page also lost a paragraph affirming the U.S. commitment to the United Nations climate negotiations. “They’re mostly scrubbing it of anything that has a hint of Obama,” said Gretchen Goldman, the research director for the Center for Science and Democracy at the Union of Concerned Scientists. “The United Nations stuff being removed is also maybe not surprising but definitely not positive.”

Public Policy:

Trump signs ‘2-for-1’ order to reduce regulations
President Trump on Monday signed an executive order that would require agencies to revoke two regulations for every new rule they want to issue. The executive order is aimed at dramatically rolling back federal regulations, one of his top campaign promises. The order requires agencies to control the costs of all new rules within their budget. Agencies are also prohibited from imposing any new costs in finalizing or repealing a rule for the remainder of 2017 unless that cost is offset by the repeal of two existing regulations. Trump’s order does make exceptions for emergencies and national security. Regulatory experts argue the “one in, two out” plan will in most cases kick in when an agencies issues a rulemaking. But there is uncertainty of how that would work, since the order comes amid a regulatory freeze imposed on agencies by the new administration. Pro-regulatory advocates called Trump’s order “ridiculous.” “This EO is just the next and most arbitrary attack in a litany of attacks against public protections,” said Lisa Gilbert, director of Public Citizen’s Congress Watch division.

Sessions vs. Crypto: AG Nominee Supports Backdoors
This week, Senators will vote on the nomination of Jeff Sessions to lead the Department of Justice as Attorney General. But Senator Sessions’s response to a written question about encryption should give his colleagues great pause:

Senator Leahy: Do you agree with NSA Director Rogers, Secretary Defense Carter, and other national security experts that strong encryption helps protect this country from cyberattack and is beneficial to the American people’s digital security?

Senator Sessions: Encryption serves many valuable and important purposes. It is also critical, however, that national security and criminal investigators be able to overcome encryption, under lawful authority, when necessary to the furtherance of national-security and criminal investigations. The response reveals Sessions’s support for building encryption backdoors, which would significantly weaken the security of our communications networks, making us more vulnerable to cyberattacks and data breaches. Like a broken lock, a backdoor intended for legitimate law enforcement needs
can also be used to facilitate warrantless intelligence surveillance and can be exploited by malicious actors. https://cdt.org/blog/sessions-vs-crypto-ag-nominee-supports-backdoors/.

FERC chair’s departure spells policy uncertainty and infrastructure delays
In his first week in office, President Donald Trump elevated Commissioner Cheryl LaFleur to serve as acting chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. This action removed that designation from then-Chairman Norman Bay, who promptly issued his resignation. Bay’s decision to leave is customary-most chairmen do not stay following demotion-but the surprising immediacy of the Feb. 3 effective date leaves FERC with only two sitting commissioners. That’s one short of the quorum required to issue orders. Commonly, if a quorum is at stake, a FERC commissioner will retain their position until a replacement is imminent. Bay’s unusually rapid departure leaves the agency’s policy apparatus and infrastructure-approval processes paralyzed.

The apparent motivation for the change was a perceived lack of alignment with the president’s agenda. It also suggests Bay never overcame the distrust of Republican leadership. During Bay’s confirmation, GOP leaders expressed concern that he would serve as a rubber-stamp for the Obama administration’s “extreme anti-coal agenda.” On the contrary, Bay’s policy record proved fuel-agnostic, in addition to being otherwise quite consistent with market principles and supportive of fossil-fuel infrastructure expansion. http://www.rstreet.org/2017/01/31/ferc-chairs-departure-spells-policy-uncertainty-and-infrastructure-delays/.

LC – Refugee Law and Policy In Selected Countries
“This report describes the law and policy on refugees and other asylum seekers in twenty-two geographically dispersed countries and, at the supranational level, in the European Union (EU). The individual surveys cover such topics as participation in relevant international conventions; laws and regulations governing the admission of refugees and handling refugee claims; procedures for handling refugees arriving at the border; procedures for evaluating whether an applicant is entitled to refugee status; the accommodations and assistance provided to refugees in the jurisdiction; requirements for naturalization; and whether asylum policy has been affected by international emergencies, such as the current refugee crisis in Europe. A bibliography of selected relevant English-language materials from recent years is included…” http://www.bespacific.com/lc-refugee-law-and-policy-in-selected-countries/.

Library associations’ responses to administration policies
Take a read and compare these messages. If you have any thoughts on the message from any association you are affiliated with, feel free to contact the association leadership. -ed.

ALA Opposes New Administration Policies That Contradict Core Values: “We are shocked and dismayed by recent executive orders and other actions by the new administration, which stand in stark contrast to the core values of the American Library Association. Our core values include access to information; confidentiality/privacy; democracy; equity, diversity and inclusion; intellectual freedom; and social responsibility.”

ACRL Board of Directors affirms commitment to equity, diversity, inclusion, access: The Association of College & Research Libraries (ACRL) is unwavering in its long-standing commitment to promoting the free exchange of different viewpoints and ensuring privacy and confidentiality in academic libraries. We will continue to advocate for and demand diversity, inclusion, equity and access in our college and university libraries.

Research Libraries, University Presses Oppose Trump’s Immigration Order: President Trump’s recent executive order temporarily barring entry into the US by individuals from seven countries is contrary to the values held by libraries and presses, and the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) and the Association of American University Presses (AAUP) stand unequivocally opposed to this immigration ban.

Open Societies are Healthy Societies (IFLA): Libraries are at the heart of healthy societies. By bringing people together – students, researchers, creators, citizens – they support learning, sharing, and the creation of new ideas. They also support the delivery of key human rights, as set out both in national constitutions and international conventions, most importantly the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: freedom of expression and access to information, as well as the right to participate in cultural life and enjoy the benefits of scientific progress.

However, arbitrary and unjustified barriers to the movement of people jeopardise this situation. Such policies run contrary to states’ obligations under international law, which prohibit discrimination of any kind on the basis of race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status, as set out in the UN’s New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants. IFLA condemns such policies, wherever they take place in the world. The recent Executive Order issued by US President Trump temporarily barring entry into the United States by individuals from seven countries is one such policy.

Special Message from the SLA Board of Directors: The Special Libraries Association is committed to the fair and equal participation and treatment of all citizens and especially the free flow of information, ideas, and people. Restricting the ability of talented individuals to travel to professional meetings, collaborate on projects, share ideas and information, and advance the interests of the global information industry runs counter to these values and does as much or more harm to
those who impose such restrictions as those who are targeted by them.

Internet Access:

What Happens If Net Neutrality Goes Away?
The “days are numbered” for the net neutrality rules enacted by the U.S. Federal Communications Commission under Barack Obama, at least if you take President Trump’s newly appointed FCC chairman Ajit Pai’s word for it. So what happens after they are gone?
Pai, an FCC commissioner since 2012, was a harsh critic of the agency’s “Open Internet Order,” which it passed in 2015 via a 3-2 party line vote. It bans Internet service providers from blocking or throttling legal content. It also prohibits them from engaging in business arrangements in which companies pay ISPs a premium to have their traffic prioritized, and gives the FCC the authority to police other practices it deems unfair or harmful to consumers on a case-by-case basis.
We are … likely to see the emergence of so-called paid prioritization arrangements, in which companies pay to have their data prioritized. Many net neutrality proponents adamantly oppose this, viewing it as anti-competitive. One argument, made famous by the comedian John Oliver, is that whereas a big player like Netflix can afford to pay for an Internet “fast lane,” a startup streaming video company may not be able to compete.

Privacy:

WhiteHouse.gov Violates Government Policy on Website Privacy
Visitors to the White House’s new website are greeted by a splash page that asks for their email address and zip code before they can proceed. It’s easy to understand why the new president might be eager to collect email addresses from visitors, but the Trump administration’s splash page violates a number of privacy norms and longstanding practices – it even violates the government’s own rules. The website doesn’t comply with guidance from the Office of Management and Budget. For a decade now, there’s an expectation that websites collecting personally identifiable information, like a user’s email address, should offer a public link to their privacy policy. This has been longstanding government policy under both the Bush and Obama administrations. Privacy policies on federal agency websites are governed by OMB Memo 17-06. The guidance explains that “agencies must post a link to that website’s Privacy Policy on any known, major entry points to the website as well as any webpage that collects PII.” The WhiteHouse.gov’s splash page should comply with this guidance and post a visible link to its privacy policy. This is an unfortunate continuation of poor online privacy policies and practices from both the Trump campaign and his organization as president-elect.

Federal workers turn to encryption to thwart Trump
Federal employees worried that President Donald Trump will gut their agencies are creating new email addresses, signing up for encrypted messaging apps and looking for other, protected ways to push back against the new administration’s agenda. Whether inside the Environmental Protection Agency, within the Foreign Service, on the edges of the Labor Department or beyond, employees are using new technology as well as more old-fashioned approaches – such as private face-to-face meetings – to organize letters, talk strategy, or contact media outlets and other groups to express their dissent.
The goal is to get their message across while not violating any rules covering workplace communications, which can be monitored by the government and could potentially get them fired. In recent days, career employees at the State Department gathered nearly 1,000 signatures for what’s known as a “Dissent Channel” memo, in which they express their anger over a Trump executive order that bars immigrants from seven Muslim-majority countries and halts refugee admissions to the country. The number of signatures was extraordinarily high, even though the letter was submitted after White House spokesman Sean Spicer essentially warned the dissenting diplomats they were risking their jobs. Current and former employees of the Labor Department, meanwhile, are using their private email accounts to send around a link to a letter asking senators to oppose the nomination of Andrew Puzder for secretary of their agency. The employees may sign on to the letter using Google Docs. The letter will not be submitted to the Senate HELP Committee, and the signatures will not be made public, unless 200 current employees sign on.

Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety; attribution appreciated.
The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.
Take Action:

If You See Something, Save Something – 6 Ways to Save Pages In the Wayback Machine

In recent days many people have shown interest in making sure the Wayback Machine has copies of the web pages they care about most. These saved pages can be cited, shared, linked to – and they will continue to exist even after the original page changes or is removed from the web. There are several ways to save pages and whole sites so that they appear in the Wayback Machine. Here are 6 of them. [More details in original post, -ed.]

1. Save Page Now
   Put a URL into the form, press the button, and we save the page. You will instantly have a permanent URL for your page.

2. Chrome extension
   Install the Wayback Machine Chrome extension in your browser. Go to a page you want to archive, click the icon in your toolbar, and select Save Page Now. We will save the page and give you a permanent URL.

3. Wikipedia JavaScript Bookmarklet
   Nobody loves a primary source more than a Wikipedia editor. To that end, they offer a Wayback Machine JavaScript Bookmarklet that allows you to quickly save a web page from any browser.

4. Volunteer for Archive Team
   Archive Team is an entirely volunteer driven group who are interested in saving Internet history. Many of the sites and pages they save end up in the Wayback Machine.

5. Sign up for an Archive-It Account
   Archive-It is a subscription service provided by Internet Archive that allows you to run your own crawling projects without any technical expertise.

6. End of Term Archive
   Every time the US government administration changes, Internet Archive works with partners to make a copy of government-related sites and web presences. We call it the End of Term Archive. You can help us discover new government sites by using the Nomination Tool to suggest pages or sites.

(May I add a 7th? Donate to the Internet Archive!) https://blog.archive.org/2017/01/25/see-something-save-something/.

Freedom of Information:

FBI axes FOIA requests by email, so dust off your fax machine

As tech-savvy government efforts like 18F and the USDS take technological strides forward, other parts of the government are abandoning modern technology altogether. Starting next month, the FBI will no longer accept Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests by email. In lieu of its popular email service, the FBI suggests sending a fax or snail mail, a procedural change that has more to do with obstructing the law than a dearth of resources.

The terms state that anyone making a FOIA request online is now “limited to making one request per day and one request per submission,” language that does not immediately appear to be supported by law. Then again, the FBI’s established use of outdated technology for FOIA requests does not necessarily sit well with its requirement to show that a search was “reasonably calculated to discover the requested documents,” as is required by law.

USDA abruptly purges animal welfare information from its website

The U.S. Department of Agriculture on Friday abruptly removed inspection reports and other information from its website about the treatment of animals at thousands of research laboratories, zoos, dog breeding operations and other facilities. In a statement, the USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service cited court rulings and privacy laws for the decision, which it said was the result of a “comprehensive review” that took place over the past year. It said the removed documents, which also included records of enforcement actions against violators of the Animal Welfare Act and the Horse Protection Act, would now be accessible only via Freedom of Information Act Requests. Those can take years to be approved.

Animal welfare organizations quickly condemned the removal of the information, which they called unexpected and said would allow animal abuse to go unchecked. “The USDA action cloaks even the worst puppy mills in secrecy and allows abusers of Tennessee walking horses, zoo animals and lab animals to hide even the worst track records in animal welfare,” said John Goodwin, senior director of the Humane Society’s Stop Puppy Mills Campaign, which uses the federal records, as well as state inspection reports, to publish its annual “Horrible Hundred” dog breeding operations that have been cited for welfare violations.

U.S. Republicans ax disclosure, emissions rules on energy

U.S. Republicans on Friday repealed a securities disclosure
rule aimed at curbing corruption at energy and mining companies and voted to ax emissions limits on drilling operations, part of a push to remove Obama-era regulations on extractive industries. In a 52-47 vote, the Republican-controlled Senate approved a resolution to eradicate a rule requiring companies such as Exxon Mobil and Chevron Corp to publicly state taxes and other fees paid to foreign governments like Russia. The House of Representatives already passed the measure. President Donald Trump is expected to sign it within days. On Thursday, the Senate repealed a rule that would have limited coal companies from dumping waste into streams.

After a number of legal battles, the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission in June 2016 completed the regulation, which supporters said could help expose questionable financial ties U.S. companies may have with foreign governments. Senate Democrats raised concerns that Exxon’s chief executive during those legal fights was Rex Tillerson, who was recently confirmed as U.S. secretary of state and has worked extensively in Russia.

“It should be lost on no one that in less than 48 hours, the Republican-controlled Senate has confirmed the former head of ExxonMobil to serve as our secretary of state, and repealed a key anti-corruption rule that Exxon Mobil and the American Petroleum Institute have erroneously fought for years,” Senator Ben Cardin of Maryland said, referring to the oil industry’s trade group. Exxon and other major energy corporations fought for years to block the rule, required by the 2010 Dodd-Frank Wall Street reform law.

Buy it, own it you do! “YODA” is back!

Blake Farenthold (R-TX) and Jared Polis (D-CO) have teamed up for the third Congress in a row to re-re-introduce their signature bill. This key copyright legislation will assure that when consumers in the age of the Internet of Things buy devices with built-in software – everything from cars, to tractors to toasters – they won’t have to get permission from the owner of that software to sell or give away the device in which it’s embedded. The bill’s called . . . wait for it . . . the You Own Devices Act (yup, “YODA”).

“The YODA bill, today, I did file,” said Congressman Farenthold. “YODA simply states that your device belongs to you. If you wish to sell that device, the software that enables it to work is transferred along with it, and that any right you have to security and bug fixing of that software is transferred as well.”

“Old copyright laws stifle innovation and block consumers from being able to access more affordable products and technology,” said Congressman Polis. “YODA will cut red tape and allow people to sell or give away devices without being strangled by paperwork and empty legal threats.”

Trump’s Watered-Down Ethics Rules Let a Lobbyist Help Run an Agency He Lobbied

Geoff Burr spent much of the last decade as the chief lobbyist for a powerful construction industry trade group. Burr sought to influence a host of regulations of the Department of Labor, opposing wage standards for federal construction contracts and working against an effort to limit workers’ exposure to dangerous silica dust. In the Obama administration, someone like Burr would have been barred by ethics rules from taking a job at an agency that he had lobbied. In the Trump administration, Burr now has a top job at the Labor Department.

Burr is the first publicly known example of a former lobbyist who was able to take a job in the government as a result of President Donald Trump’s watering down of ethics rules in place during the Obama administration. As a candidate, Trump regularly railed against lobbyists and led crowds in chants of “Drain the swamp!” But as president, Trump last month signed an executive order that weakened significant aspects of the Obama ethics policy, including scrapping a ban on lobbyists joining agencies they had recently lobbied. Ethics experts say Burr’s hiring is a troubling example of how the new administration has greased the revolving door.

Intellectual Property:

Internet Access:

Data Mining Reveals the Rise of ISIS Propaganda on Twitter

Twitter has closed 25,000 accounts that supported the terrorist organisation ISIS. An analysis of these tweets shows how ISIS emerged with a message of extreme violence. In the chaos that followed the American withdrawal from Iraq and the popular uprising in Syria, a number of groups began promoting various religious, political, and military agendas. Of all these, one has grown to dominate the region through fanatical religious ideology, sectarianism, and extreme violence. The so-called Islamic State of Iraq and Levant, or ISIS, as it has become known, is a militant group that follows a fundamentalist doctrine of Sunni Islam. In 2014, it proclaimed itself a caliphate while claiming religious, political and military authority over all Muslims. Through its military activities, ISIS gained control of huge swathes of land in Iraq and Syria while committing numerous war crimes and human rights abuses.
One factor behind this rapid rise to power was ISIS’s use of social media, and Twitter in particular, to spread its ideas. And that raises some interesting questions: what have ISIS members and sympathizers been talking about on Twitter? And why did that message prove so infectious?

Today we get an answer thanks to the work of Adam Badawy and Emilio Ferrara at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. These guys have analyzed some two million messages posted on Twitter by 25,000 members of ISIS. They say their analysis reveals important insights into the way the radical militant groups use social media and why its message spread so rapidly.


Open Observatory of Network Interference
“A free software, global observation network for detecting censorship, surveillance and traffic manipulation on the internet. OONI develops free software tests designed to examine the following:
Blocking of websites
Blocking of instant messaging apps
Blocking of Tor and other circumvention tools
Detection of systems that could be responsible for censorship and/or surveillance
Testing methodology
There are risks. Running a probe involves testing connections to websites that may be banned and using tools to attempt circumventing web censorship. It is not designed to protect the privacy of those running probes. Measurements are published and can include IP addresses or other identifying information.

Privacy:

Border Security Overreach Continues: DHS Wants Social Media Login Information
Now more than ever, it is apparent that U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and its parent agency, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), are embarking on a broad campaign to invade the digital lives of innocent individuals. The new DHS secretary, John Kelly, told a congressional committee this week that the department may soon demand login information (usernames and passwords) for social media accounts from foreign visa applicants—at least those subject to the controversial executive order on terrorism and immigration—and those who don’t comply will be denied entry into the United States. This effort to access both public and private communications and associations is the latest move by a department that is overreaching its border security authority.

In December 2016, DHS began asking another subset of foreign visitors, those from Visa Waiver Countries, for their social media handles. DHS defended itself by stating that not only would compliance be voluntary, the government only wanted to access publicly viewable social media posts: “If an applicant chooses to answer this question, DHS will have timely visibility of the publicly available information on those platforms, consistent with the privacy settings the applicant has set on the platforms.” There have been several reports recently of CBP agents demanding access to social media information and digital devices of both American citizens and legal permanent residents. Most disturbing are the invasive searches of Americans’ cell phones, where CBP has been accessing social media apps that may reveal private posts and relationships, as well as emails, texts messages, browsing history, contact lists, photos—whatever is accessible via the phone.


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Take or find a nice photo of your pet; Upload to your Twitter and send to your representative. A few “extra credit” steps are listed. Take action here: https://twitter.com/altusda/status/829384894308634627/.

Libraries:

Why these librarians are protesting Trump's executive orders
“Libraries Are For Everyone.” That’s the message of a series of images created by Rebecca McCorkindale in the days after President Donald Trump announced the temporary travel ban on seven Muslim-majority countries. She never expected her signs of inclusion to go further than a handful of libraries. But by the time she’d woken up the following day, she had received messages from librarians across the world wanting their languages represented. And libraries across the country – in Illinois, Minnesota, California, Virginia – had begun putting up the images as posters, along with displays about books on Islam, empathy and being a good neighbor.
McCorkindale, who is assistant library director and creative director at the Gretna, Nebraska, public library, said she created the images because she believes librarians can and should be activists. “Libraries are the heart of a community, for anyone and everyone that lives there, regardless of their background,” she said. “And so we strongly believe that libraries are not neutral. We stand up for human rights.” She is not the only one. Since Mr. Trump took office a little more than three weeks ago, a vocal and growing number of librarians across the country have begun to take a more politically active stance.

Public Policy:

Withdrawal from International Agreements, & More from CRS
Withdrawning from international agreements, as President Trump has proposed to do in certain cases, can be a complicated as well as a controversial step, a new report from the Congressional Research Service indicates. Aside from the wisdom of any such move, withdrawal raises distinct legal issues under both national and international law. “The legal regime governing withdrawal under domestic law may differ in meaningful ways from the procedure for withdrawal under international law.”
As for treaties, which are adopted with the advice and consent of the Senate, the Constitution “is silent as to how treaties may be terminated.” The new CRS report examines the legal questions raised by potential U.S. withdrawal from international agreements, with specific application to the Paris Agreement on climate change and the Iran nuclear agreement. See Withdrawal from International Agreements: Legal Framework, the Paris Agreement, and the Iran Nuclear Agreement, February 9, 2017.

Internet Access:

ProQuest Launches Displaced Researchers Program
ProQuest has launched a program to provide no-cost access to its databases for students and researchers who have been separated from their universities and libraries because of travel bans or other immigration changes. The company has an email hotline ContinueMyResearch@proquest.com where these displaced researchers can arrange for access to the materials they need to continue their work.
“ProQuest is an open and inclusive organization that takes its role in supporting research and learning very seriously,” said Kurt Sanford, ProQuest CEO. “We’re doing whatever we can to mitigate the interruptions facing our community of students and scholars around the world.” The program resolves authentication problems displaced researchers may face when trying to access to their institution’s holdings remotely. Individuals will be provided with personal credentials, as well as direct access to ProQuest support teams for help. There is no limit to the number of databases that can be requested. Free RefWorks accounts are also available to help with long-distance collaboration and to save, manage and organize their work.

Privacy:

Protecting Your Data at a Border Crossing
With the current US administration pondering the possibility of forcing foreign travelers to give up their social media passwords at the border, a lot of recent and justifiable concern has been raised about data privacy. The first mistake you could make is presuming that such a policy won’t affect US citizens. For decades, JTTFs (Joint Terrorism Task Forces) have engaged in intelligence sharing around the world, allowing foreign governments to spy on you on behalf of your home country, passing that information along through various databases. What few protections citizens have in their home countries end at the border, and when an ally spies on you, that data is usually fair game to share back to your home country. Think of it as a backdoor built into your constitutional rights.
To underscore the significance of this, consider that the president signed an executive order just today stepping up efforts at fighting international crime, which will likely result in the strengthening of resources to a JTF to expand this practice of “spying on my brother’s brother for him”. With this, the president also counted the most common crimes – drugs, gangs, racketeering, etc – as matters of “national security”. The implications of a password policy are quite severe.

Forensics software is designed to collect, index, organize, and make searchable every artifact possible from an information source. Often times, weak design can allow these tools to even recover deleted data, as was evidenced recently by Elcomsoft’s tool to recover deleted Safari history. Often times, the user isn’t even aware of how much content is still active and accessible, even if it’s not deleted. Once in an intelligence database, this can be correlated with other data, even including your interests, shopping habits, and other big data bought from retailers. All of this can be fed into even basic ML to spit out a confidence score that you are a terrorist based on some N-dimensional computation, or plot you on a K-nearest neighbor chart to see how close you plot to others under suspicion. The possibilities really are endless, and your freedom may someday depend on the results from machine learning algorithms.


**Freedom of Information:**

**Internet Archive Offers to Host PACER Data**

The Internet Archive has long supported the efforts of the Free Law Movement to make the laws and edicts of government of the United States more broadly available. With our colleague Aaron Swartz and the efforts of numerous groups across the country including the Free Law Foundation and Princeton’s Center for Information Technology Policy, we host the RECAP repository of documents from the federal district courts. Many of these public domain document were downloaded by users of the government’s PACER system for $0.10 per page and uploaded to the Internet Archive. The RECAP repository is available for free, and in bulk, which is useful for researchers. On Tuesday, February 14, the U.S. Congress will hold the first hearings in over a decade examining the operation of the PACER system. The hearing will be before the Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property and the Internet of the Judiciary Committee in the House of Representatives. The Internet Archive was pleased to accept the committee’s invitation to submit a statement for the record and we have submitted the following, which includes an offer to host the PACER data now and forever to make the works of our federal courts more readily available to inform the citizenry and to further the effective and fair administration of justice.

Our courts must function in the light of day, and in this day and age that means on the Internet. The Internet Archive is happy to try to help.


**Murray, Cantwell Seek Answers After Resource Website for Federal Law Protecting Students with Disabilities is Taken Down**

Washington state Senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell today called on new Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos to provide an immediate and detailed explanation for why the resource website for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) has disappeared. “The Department’s failure to keep this critical resource operational makes it harder for parents, educators, and administrators to find the resources they need to implement this federal law and protect the rights of children with disabilities,” wrote Senators Murray and Cantwell. For more than a decade this website, which was released by President George W. Bush’s Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings, has served as a one-stop-shop for resources related to IDEA and its regulations, and the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) has consistently updated this website as Congress has enacted new legislation and the Courts have interpreted the law. “The website has provided accessible and informative summaries of the law, training materials, sample educational forms, presentations for the public, and so many other user-friendly resources.” The website now redirects the public to a site that “lacks much of the information previously available.”

The Senators are seeking a detailed plan from Secretary DeVos to restore this critical information and to provide the following: Assurances that this website will not be stripped down in any way during your tenure…

A detailed timeline of when the centralized resources previously available at www.idea.ed.gov became inaccessible to public view…

A detailed plan for restoring the information previously available including all previously available resources for students, parents, schools, districts about their rights under IDEA…

The date by which all information previously available at www.idea.ed.gov will again be accessible to the public at a central location…

A detailed plan for how parents will be informed of the problems with the website and what has been done to address the problems…


**Durbin Demands Trump Administration Restore Animal Cruelty, Puppy Mill Records On USDA Website**

U.S. Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL) joined a group of 18 Democratic Senators in calling on the Trump Administration to immediately restore animal cruelty information recently purged from the United States Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) website.
APHIS makes inspection reports for all regulated entities and annual reports submitted by research laboratories available to the public in order to create greater transparency, accountability and enforcement of animal cruelty laws. “The public has a right to know if regulated entities have subjected animals in their care to abuse or otherwise failed to meet basic welfare standards. Public access to information can guide consumer decision making and plays an important role in deterring regulated entities from violating the law,” wrote the Senators in a letter to USDA Acting Deputy Secretary Michael Young. Seven states prohibit the purchase of animals from commercial breeders and so-called “puppy mills” with violations under the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) and the Horse Protection Act (HPA). They also rely on information to enforce state laws that, until now, was readily available on the APHIS website. “Lack of access to AWA and HPA documents not only undermines the effectiveness of these federal laws, but also interferes with state and local laws meant to protect animals and consumers,” the letter continued. “Without ready access to inspection reports, dog sellers in those states will have no practical way to comply with these laws, and state and local law enforcement efforts will be severely impeded.”

Public interest groups: Agencies must notify public before stripping online government data

Today, a group of 68 public interest organizations dedicated to open and accountable government, free speech, civil rights, consumer protection, the environment, and other issues called on federal agencies to fulfill their legal requirement to provide the public with adequate notice before removing public information from government websites. Amid reports that information has gone missing from the US Department of Agriculture, Environmental Protection Agency, and Department of Education websites, the groups urge the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to remind agencies that they are required to give adequate public notice when making significant changes to public information. The letter further calls on agencies to provide the public with appropriate justification in advance of any removal of significant information, as well as instructions on how to access the information once it has been removed from the agency website. Without appropriate notice, the letter notes, the public is left wondering whether information missing from government websites has been removed permanently, is temporarily inaccessible, or has been moved elsewhere on the site. Volunteers from government and civil society have been scrambling to preserve government data they believe is at risk for removal, but if agencies fail to give notice, years of government work on important issues could be effectively lost to the public.

http://www.openthegovernment.org/node/5427.

HHS Only Department to Meet Obama’s FOIA Backlog Reduction Order

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is the only cabinet level agency that was able to meet President Obama’s 2009 instruction to reduce FOIA backlogs by 10 percent per year. Out of the 15 federal departments surveyed, HHS reduced its backlog by 12.7 percent per year. The average for all federal departments was an 8.21 percent increase. The departments of Homeland Security, State, and Housing and Urban Development are some of the worst offenders, with an average increase of nearly 30 percent per year.

In a 2009 memorandum, President Obama’s Office of Management and Budget called for the creation of an Open Government Directive, based on the “principles of transparency, participation and collaboration” to create a more accountable and open government. As part of this Directive, the administration instructed that “Each agency with a significant pending backlog of outstanding Freedom of Information requests shall take steps to reduce any such backlog by ten percent each year.” Holding agencies accountable for their FOIA backlogs, where in some instances requests have gone unanswered for years, was a giant step towards “creating and institutionalizing a culture of open government.”

Digital History:

Move Over, Wikipedia. Dictionaries Are Hot Again

In the hours after Senator Elizabeth Warren, Democrat of Massachusetts, was silenced by her Republican colleagues for “impugning” a fellow senator by reading aloud a letter Coretta Scott King had written that was critical of Jeff Sessions, Republican of Alabama (later confirmed as attorney general), thousands of Americans did what they always do: They tapped away at their phones. But they weren’t checking text messages or liking a photo on Facebook. They were thumbing through online dictionaries, looking for a definition of “impugn.” On Wednesday morning, the dictionary publisher Merriam-Webster posted on its website that searches on the word had surged.

“It’s been at the top for almost 12 hours now,” said Peter Sokolowski, the company’s editor at large.

At a time when many are questioning the definition of common words they thought they understood, after years of the English language being degraded by text messages and hashtags, dictionaries have made a surprising comeback in the United States. On dictionary apps and websites, “lookups” (which, according to Merriam-Webster, is one word) of words or phrases related to news events have precipitously increased. Bibliophiles are becoming social media stars. Sales of print dictionaries remain brisk and are a profit center for some publishers.
Intellectual Property:

Library Copyright Alliance Files Amicus Brief in GSU E-Reserves Case
On Monday, February 13, 2017, ARL together with the American Libraries Association, Association of College and Research Libraries and the Electronic Frontier Foundation filed an amicus brief in support of Georgia State University (GSU) in the e-reserves fair use case. After years of litigation and two opinions by the district court and one by the Eleventh Circuit, the case is once again before the Eleventh Circuit. The brief opens by noting that the continued appeals in the case are unnecessary:

“Appellant Publishers (“Publishers”) and their amici don’t know when to quit. Publishers could have declared victory in 2009, when GSU modified its e-reserves policy in response to the initiation of this lawsuit. Publishers could have declared victory in 2014 after this Court reversed the district court’s 2012 decision and provided detailed guidance on how fair use principles should be applied to e-reserves. Publishers could have concluded this litigation after the district court refused to re-open the record on remand. Instead, Publishers doggedly pursue their claims concerning excerpts used in three school terms, eight years ago.”


International Outlook:

Civil Society Condemns Malware Attacks Against Mexican Public Health Advocates
A group of Mexican nutrition policy makers and public health workers have been the latest targets of government malware attacks. According to the New York Times, several public health advocates were targeted by spyware developed by NSO Group, a surveillance software company that sells its products exclusively to governments. The targets were all vocal proponents of Mexico’s 2014 soda tax—a regulation that the soda industry saw as a threat to its commercial interests in Mexico.

It’s no secret that Mexico has a deeply-rooted culture of secrecy surrounding surveillance. Mexican digital rights NGO, Red en Defensa de los Derechos Digitales, has been raising awareness about the lack of control of communications surveillance in the country and advocating for surveillance law that complies with human rights standards. Today, EFF joins more than 40 organizations in expressing our concern about the use of highly intrusive software against these public health advocates and demand that the Mexican government identify and punish those responsible for conducting illegal surveillance in Mexico.


CSO decries poor compliance to FOI Act, demands 5-year reports from govt. agencies
A Civil Society Organisation, Media Initiative against Injustice, Violence and Corruption (MIIVOC), has decried poor compliance to the [Nigerian] Freedom of Information (FOI) Act by government agencies and demanded for five-year details of Annual Compliance Reports from them. In a statement signed on Monday by MIIVOC’s FOI Officer, Phillip Inyang, the CSO said: “We are concerned about the low compliance level with the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act by Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) of the Federal Government, the raging controversy over the whereabouts of immediate past EFCC Chairman, Ibrahim Lamorde and the status of the arrest warrant issued by the Senate on him as well as the Regulation allegedly issued by the immediate past Attorney General and Minister for Justice, Mohammed Adoke SAN and submitted to the Egmont group on the situation with Nigeria’s Anti-money laundering and counter-financing of terrorism compliance. Considering the controversy trailing the above and more, we invoke the FOI Act, 2011 to demand for clarifications.” The group said it would not hesitate to drag the justice ministry to court for “violation of the FOI Act” if it failed to ensure that MDAs made their annual compliance reports available to the public.


Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety; attribution appreciated.
The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.
freedom of information, intellectual property, international outlook, libraries, public policy, research, social media, take action

private information about yourself. What you browse, what you purchase, who you communicate with—all reveal something personal about you. Long ago, Congress made privacy a legal right, so that your telephone company was prohibited from using its position as your communications provider to exploit your personal information. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) recently updated the protections to apply when you use your broadband provider. Now in the near future, Comcast, Verizon, AT&T, and other major cable and telephone companies must get your permission before they can use sensitive information you reveal through your online activity. However, the cable and telephone industry are actively lobbying Congress to not only eliminate your new privacy protections, but to go even further and potentially make it illegal for the federal government to protect your personal information online. Leading the charge to dismantle your legal protections, but to go even further and potentially make it illegal for the federal government to protect your personal information online. Leading the charge to dismantle your legal right to privacy online from the cable and telephone industry are Senator Flake (R-AZ) in the Senate and Congresswoman Blackburn (R-TN) in the House. In fact, they appear so determined to eviscerate consumer privacy laws that have been on the books for more than two decades that they intend to use a rare and far reaching tool known as the Congressional Review Act (CRA). A Congressional Review Act Repeal of Consumer Privacy Would Eliminate Your Right to Control Your Personal Information Do something to protect your rights online today and tell your representatives in Congress to oppose efforts to undo the FCC’s crucial broadband privacy rules. Take action here: https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2017/02/congress-contemplating-making-it-illegal-protect-consumer-privacy-online.

Congress Contemplates Making it Illegal to Protect Consumer Privacy Online Cable and telephone companies are pushing Congress to make it illegal for the federal government to protect online consumer privacy. When you go online you reveal a tremendous amount of private information about yourself. What you browse, what you purchase, who you communicate with—all reveal something personal about you. Long ago, Congress made privacy a legal right, so that your telephone company was prohibited from using its position as your communications provider to exploit your personal information. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) recently updated the protections to apply when you use your broadband provider. Now in the near future, Comcast, Verizon, AT&T, and other major cable and telephone companies must get your permission before they can use sensitive information you reveal through your online activity. However, the cable and telephone industry are actively lobbying Congress to not only eliminate your new privacy protections, but to go even further and potentially make it illegal for the federal government to protect your personal information online. Leading the charge to dismantle your legal right to privacy online from the cable and telephone industry are Senator Flake (R-AZ) in the Senate and Congresswoman Blackburn (R-TN) in the House. In fact, they appear so determined to eviscerate consumer privacy laws that have been on the books for more than two decades that they intend to use a rare and far reaching tool known as the Congressional Review Act (CRA). A Congressional Review Act Repeal of Consumer Privacy Would Eliminate Your Right to Control Your Personal Information Do something to protect your rights online today and tell your representatives in Congress to oppose efforts to undo the FCC’s crucial broadband privacy rules. Take action here: https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2017/02/congress-contemplating-making-it-illegal-protect-consumer-privacy-online.

One Way You Can Help Fight Against Political Interference in Science: Tell Us About It Since Election Day and into the first weeks of the Trump presidency, we’ve heard a lot about “alternative facts” and clampdowns on the ability of scientists to present scientific evidence or speak to the press. Congress last week signaled its intent to neutralize the Environmental Protection Agency and other federal departments by cutting science out of the way they make policy. But together, we can raise the political price of manipulating science or censoring scientists by exposing these actions and publicly communicating their consequences for public health and the environment. Sometimes, this requires people within government or who are funded by government to speak up and share challenges that they experience or perceive. Learn how to securely and/or anonymously communicate with Union of Concerned Scientists at www.uccusa.org/secureshare. UCS has many years of experience working with government employees, journalists, and members of Congress to get stories out in a way that protects those with information to share. We want to hear about actions that compromise the ability of science to fully inform the policymaking process—and the consequences of those actions. We also want to hear your stories that describe how government data and government experts protect public health and safety. Just as there are many steps in the policymaking process, so too are there many ways to attack and politicize science. People often think of the muzzling of scientists, or the censorship of documents. This happens, of course. But there are other, more subtle ways of inappropriately influencing how science is used to make decisions. A partial list:

Freedom of Information:

The Breakthrough: Uncovering the FBI’s Secret Rules During the 1960s, the Federal Bureau of Investigation covertly targeted civil-rights leaders, women’s movements and anti-war protestors, all in the name of domestic security. The secret practices led to a Senate investigation – the so-called Church Committee – which revealed that the FBI had infiltrated
1. Prevent scientists from publishing research, or delay publication of research (see: former EPA clearance process)
2. Prevent scientists from presenting at or attending scientific meetings that are relevant to their work (see: airborne bacteria)
3. Diminish or destroy agency scientific libraries and library content or similar resources (See EPA, Department of Fisheries Canada)
4. Allow agencies with conflicts of interest to second-guess or undermine the work of agency scientists through the inter-agency review process (see: the chemical perchlorate)
5. Require scientists to manipulate scientific methods (See: lead in children’s lunch boxes)
6. Restrict the types of information and methods that experts can use (See: attempts to prevent climate scientists from using scientific models)
7. Manipulate or censor scientific information in testimony before Congress (see: CDC testimony on climate change and public health)
8. Place misinformation on official government websites (see: breast cancer)
9. Redefine terms to prevent the successful application of science to policymaking (see: OMB peer review guidelines, critical habitat under the Endangered Species Act)

Public Policy:

Trump Plan: Deport to Mexico Immigrants Crossing Border Illegally, Regardless of Nationality

Buried deep in the Trump administration’s plans to round up undocumented immigrants is a provision certain to enrage Mexico — new authority for federal agents to deport anyone caught crossing the southern border to Mexico, regardless of where they are from. If present immigration trends continue, that could mean the United States would push hundreds of thousands of Guatemalans, Hondurans, Salvadorans, Brazilians, Ecuadorians, even Haitians into Mexico. Currently, such people are detained in the U.S. and allowed to request asylum. President Trump wants them to do so from Mexico, communicating via videoconference calls with U.S. immigration officials from facilities that Mexico would presumably be forced to build.

“This would say if you want to make a claim for asylum or whatever we’ll hear your case but you are going to wait in Mexico,” a DHS official said. “Those are details that are being worked out both within the department and between the US government and the government of Mexico … there are elements that still need to be worked out in detail.”


You Can Now Access the EPA Website As It Existed Before Trump

Should sections of the Environmental Protection Agency’s website go the way of the civil rights and climate-change pages of the White House website-in other words, disappear—the agency is prepared. Even if Donald Trump takes the whole EPA site offline, a mirror copy of the website exists online, and it reflects the way the site looked the day before Donald Trump took power. “The Web Snapshot consists of static content, such as web pages and reports in Portable Document Format (PDF), as that content appeared on EPA’s website as of January 19, 2017,” according to a statement on the mirror site. Live databases and large information sources are not mirrored, so if you want those, you should grab them from the regular EPA site right now; the mirror site provides links.

This move would have seemed paranoid just a month ago, but the Trump regime has already doctored the United States Department of Agriculture and Department of Education sites, and trimmed most of the Obama-era facts from the White House’s website. Even if preserving these government sites is relatively easy, it is troubling that they need to be protected from vandalism by the President and his team. Sites like the Internet Archive and the Memory Hole mean that the information stays online, and is all but impossible for the President to remove. But still, regular folks who might look to the government to find out about climate change, for instance, are unlikely to know that they now have to search the web for deleted and censored content.


Big Pharma Quietly Enlists Leading Professors to Justify $1,000-Per-Day Drugs

As it readies for battle with President Trump over drug prices, the pharmaceutical industry is deploying economists and health care experts from the nation’s top universities. In scholarly articles, blogs and conferences, they lend their prestige to the lobbying blitz, without always disclosing their corporate ties. Over the last three years, pharmaceutical companies have mounted a public relations blitz to tout new cures for the hepatitis C virus and persuade insurers, including government programs such as Medicare and Medicaid, to cover the costs. That isn’t an easy sell, because the price of the treatments ranges from $40,000 to $94,000 – or, because the treatments take three months, as much as $1,000 per day. To persuade payers and the public, the industry has deployed a potent new ally, a company whose marquee figures are leading economists and health care experts at the nation’s top universities. The company, Precision Health Economics, consults for three leading makers of new hepatitis C treatments: Gilead, Bristol-Myers Squibb, and AbbVie. When AbbVie funded a special issue of the American Journal of Managed Care on hepatitis C research, current or former associates of Precision Health Economics wrote half of the issue. A Stanford professor who had previously consulted for the firm served as guest editor-in-
The pharmaceutical industry is digging in, with one of its trade associations — including what they pay for critical medications.

Registry Suspends Secretive Copyright-Policing Plan

Shadow Regulation Withers In The Sunlight: Dot-Org Intellectual Property:

For years, it has spent millions of dollars lobbying politicians, hoping to enlist their support on a wide range of legislation. It has similarly wooed doctors, seeking to influence what they research, teach and prescribe. Now, it’s courting health economists.


Shadow Regulation Withers In The Sunlight: Dot-Org Registry Suspends Secretive Copyright-Policing Plan

Yesterday, the group that runs the .org top-level domain announced that they will suspend their plans to create a new, private, problematic copyright enforcement system. That’s welcome news for tens of millions of nonprofits, charities, businesses, clubs, bloggers, and personal website owners that use .org. It’s also surprising, because most of those Internet users had no idea that a new copyright system, strongly reminiscent of the failed SOPA/PIPA Internet censorship bills, might be forced on them.

The possibility was easy to miss. Public Interest Registry, the nonprofit organization that administers the .org domain, never mentioned the new policy on its blog before yesterday, nor on the registrar websites where people actually register and renew their domain names. It was announced two weeks ago on a news website that covers the domain industry. And it was referenced in a proposal by the Domain Name Association, an industry group, titled “Registry/Registrar Healthy Practices,” a day later. What was the proposal? Public Interest Registry has never provided any details, but the Domain Name Association’s plan [PDF], which is labeled “PIR Proposal,” calls for creating a system of private arbitrators who would hear complaints of copyright infringement on websites. The arbitrators would wield the power to take away a website’s domain name, and possibly transfer it to the party who complained of infringement. It’s based on a system already in place for resolving trademark disputes on domain names themselves, but it extends that concept to cover the contents of websites and services.


Data Visualization:

Visualizing Spills Data from Unconventional Oil and Gas Activity/Study of fracking in four states uncovers over 6,600 spills

A new study investigating spills from hydraulically fractured oil and gas uncovered 6,648 spills in just four states over a ten-year period. Part of the SNAP Partnership, the study examined data from Colorado, New Mexico, North Dakota, and Pennsylvania. Significant differences in reporting requirements across states made this analysis difficult. For example, North Dakota required spills of 42 gallons or more to be reported, whereas Colorado and New Mexico required reporting only if spills exceed 210 gallons. Lauren Patterson, a water policy specialist at Duke University, and her coauthors say making this kind of state-level data more uniform and transparent would help regulators and industry reduce the number of incidents.

The [data] dashboard displays spills data from unconventional oil and gas wells located in four states. Users are able to filter spills based on selections in the left panel. The map and charts in the panel to the right update with the selection. Click on the tab of interest to see where spills occurred and explore rates, volumes, and pathways. Pathways refer to where the spill occurred — such as tanks and flowlines. The focus of this dashboard is to show how spill frequency, volume, and pathways vary with the age of the well and the underlying cause of the spill (human error, equipment failure or environmental conditions). This work was made possible by an interdisciplinary SNAPP working group focused on hydraulic fracturing.

http://snappartnership.net/groups/hydraulic-fracturing/webapp/spills.html;

Social Media:

Museums and libraries fight ‘alternative facts’ with a #DayofFacts

First the National Parks went rogue, sharing climate change data on Twitter. Now museums and libraries have taken up arms — or at least typing fingers — to fight on behalf of facts. Using the hashtag #DayofFacts, more than 280 scientific and
cultural institutions are devoting Friday to dropping 140-character truths on Twitter. Many of the facts seem pointedly political – like the National Museum of American Jewish History’s tweet about a George Washington letter affirming religious freedom in the country, or a placard held up in a video by Chicago’s Field Museum that stated “Climate change is accelerating the extinction of plants and animals.”

The idea for a “Day of Facts” came to Alli Hartley (a museum educator from Virginia) a few weeks ago, just after President Trump took office. The National Park Service Twitter account had been temporarily shut down after it retweeted an image comparing inauguration crowd sizes. Then senior adviser Kellyanne Conway tried to explain the dust-up over the attendance by saying the administration had “alternative facts.” Then an ex-employee at Badlands National Park briefly took control of the park’s twitter account to fire off a series of factual tweets about climate change. The missives were quickly deleted, but other parks (and a cadre of “alt” twitter accounts) took up the cause.


International Outlook:

Australia’s Battle Over Fair Use Boils Over

Public submissions on the Australian Productivity Commission’s proposal to introduce a fair use right into Australian copyright law have just closed, and Australian rightsholders are frothing at the mouth in their attempts to block this long-overdue reform. A joint letter that rightsholder groups issued last week repeats the already-debunked claim that the adoption of fair use would “smash GDP to the tune over 1 billion dollars” [sic], and a separate letter from Screen Producers Australia [PDF] predicts that with the adoption of fair use, “the Australian film and television sector would go from an internationally renowned industry … to a cottage industry overnight.”

Against this, the Australian Digital Alliance—which includes educational institutions, libraries, and technology companies—responded with its own letter which cogently argues that: Australia’s existing system of fixed, technologically-specific copyright exceptions has led to the situation where many socially beneficial uses of copyright works remain presumptively unlawful in Australia unless and until an exception is introduced to permit them. This is the case even where there is strong public interest in allowing these uses, and where there is no harm caused to copyright owner markets. It has resulted in Australia’s copyright laws being out of date and not fit for purpose in the digital economy.

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2017/02/australias-battle-over-fair-use-boils-over.

Libraries:

Librarians Mobilize Resources, Information, and Solidarity in Response to New Administration

The results of the 2016 presidential election caught many by surprise. With the election of Donald Trump as the 45th president of the United States, and his immediate remaking of American policy through executive orders—including actions to halt travel from many Muslim-majority countries, threats to a number of federal agencies and their flow of information, the endorsement of “alternative facts,” and a series of often controversial appointments—public and academic librarians began to mobilize. From book displays addressing resistance and inclusivity, to graphics proclaiming that all are welcome in the library, to topical LibGuides, to online groups organized by discipline or principles, library staff and supporters across the country joined forces with like thinkers to do what they do best: share information where it’s most needed.

The #LibrariesResist Resource List, targeted to librarians, archivists, records managers, curators, and other information management professionals, addresses potential areas of action and access to critical information, as well as an impressively comprehensive range of human and civil rights issues.

Matthew Haugen, rare book cataloger at Columbia University, began compiling the list on January 29, in response to the rapid developments put into motion by the new administration. That weekend—which also saw the launch of the @MuseumsResist Twitter account—“There just seemed to be a lot of energy about defending cultural institutions, fact-based discourse, and arts and humanities from funding cuts and censorship,” as well as other converging issues, he told LJ. “I’d been thinking a lot about how to play to my strengths, to do something that felt productive and activist.”


Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety; attribution appreciated.

The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.
Intersect Alert March 8, 2017


Internet Access:

ALA and advocacy groups letter to FCC and Congress supporting Net Neutrality
Letter in Support of Net Neutrality, March 7, 2017: Protecting net neutrality is crucial to ensuring that the internet remains a central driver of economic growth and opportunity, job creation, education, free expression, and civic organizing for everyone. The principles of net neutrality— that all data on the internet should be treated equally, and internet service providers (ISPs) should not discriminate or provide preference to any data, regardless of its source, content, or destination—are the foundation that has made the internet the engine of opportunity it is today. The continued growth of net neutrality is essential to the continued growth of the country and to ensuring access to social, political, and economic empowerment for all. In 2015, millions of people made their support for net neutrality clear in comments to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) supporting the Open Internet Order. http://www.bespacific.com/ala-and-advocacy-groups-letter-to-fcc-and-congress-supporting-net-neutrality/.

Net Neutrality Will Not Fade Away
Two years ago, after months of deliberation and nearly 4 million public comments, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) voted to approve rules enshrining the concept of net neutrality: the idea that ISPs should treat all traffic on their networks the same regardless of sender, receiver, or application. These rules, described and discussed in the FCC’s 2015 Open Internet Order (OIO), were immediately challenged in court by several telecommunications companies opposed to the change. Nevertheless, the legal challenge was unsupported. Last June, the D.C. Circuit upheld the OIO and the FCC’s authority to regulate ISPs under Title II of the Communications Act. After a decade of thoughtful examination and leadership, the FCC had successfully secured meaningful protection for consumers and the open internet.

A free and open internet is vital to democracy because it enables access to information from incredibly diverse sources, provides a means of distributing political messages, and facilitates organized action and engagement. Net neutrality regulations with meaningful oversight and enforcement ensure that ISPs cannot interfere with or unduly influence how we interact with online sources. In this, the interests of users across the political spectrum are united. https://cdt.org/blog/net-neutrality-will-not-fade-away/.

ALA adds name to keep the net neutral
Today, the American Library Association (ALA) joined a diverse group of consumer, media, technology, library, arts, content creators, civil liberties, and civil rights advocates urging federal lawmakers to oppose legislation and regulatory actions that would threaten net neutrality and roll back the important protections put in place by the Federal Communications Commission in 2015, and to continue to enforce the Open Internet Order as it stands. In a letter to Federal Communications Commission Chairman Ajit Pai, Senate Commerce Committee Chairman John Thune (R-SD) and Ranking Member Bill Nelson (D-FL) we joined other organizations to emphasize that continued economic, social, and political growth and innovation, is dependent on an open and accessible internet.

Equitable access to information is a core principle for libraries. And the rules put in place in 2015–and affirmed by an appeals court– ensure the strongest possible protections for equitable access to online information, applications and services for all. The letter we co-signed today is in response to statements by Chairman Pai and news reports that indicate strong net neutrality protections may be in danger. ALA will continue to be vigilant on this issue and more action may be needed soon. We ask library advocates to stand by http://www.districtdispatch.org/2017/03/ala-supports-net-neutrality/.

Privacy:

FCC Move to Stay Broadband Rules Threatens Internet Users’ Privacy
The chairman of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) announced today that he will block critical privacy and data security protections from taking effect on March 2. Chairman Pai intends to stay at least part of the FCC’s broadband privacy rule, which gives internet users the ability to control how ISPs use and share their personal information, and requires ISPs to take reasonable measures to protect the security of customer data. The broadband privacy rule is the only protection for internet users’ sensitive information — including browsing history and location information — in the hands of ISPs. Staying the rules will expose internet users to increased risks that their private information will be shared without their consent, or breached without their knowledge. CDT expressed these concerns to the FCC when we formally opposed a stay of the rules. We will continue to fight for internet users’ rights to know and control how companies use and share their information.
Public Knowledge Urges Congress to Protect Broadband Privacy in the Digital Era

Today, the Senate introduced its first major telecommunications bill under the new administration, and it’s targeting online consumer privacy. Senator Flake has proposed using the Congressional Review Act to completely eliminate the rules that the FCC put in place to protect the information internet providers collect about subscribers, but removing these rules leaves consumer data vulnerable.

“In a world where consumers can’t function day-to-day without sharing some of their most personal private information on the internet, the FCC had tried to give consumers more control over how and when such personal information is used. Now Senator Flake and some of his colleagues seek to wipe out consumers’ rights to control personal data. Passing this bill will leave a huge gap in consumer privacy protections with no end in sight, and no future relief from the FCC. This is a part of a broader assault on consumer privacy from congressional members when combined with legislative proposals to weaken the FTC’s ability to protect consumers.

“A Americans expect better from Congress. We urge all senators to oppose this repeal and allow consumers the right to choose how their personal information is used.

Demanding Passwords at the Border Would Undermine Human Rights and Personal Security

Anyone who has traveled internationally knows that uncomfortable feeling when you go through customs. As you hand over your passport, and other documentation, you are at the mercy of the border agent. Will they let you in? Did you fill everything out correctly? For many of us, that twinge of discomfort passes quickly as they hand back our passport. But for some, there are even more questions and sometimes a secondary screening. For those who experience this, their sense of vulnerability is unquestionably heightened.

Based on remarks by the Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly, the U.S. government is considering taking advantage of this fraught interaction to collect social media account passwords of non-citizens entering the country. In the past, there were proposals to make it optional for visitors to share their social media identifier information on certain visa applications, but this proposal is light-years beyond that. Secretary Kelly did not suggest that providing passwords would be optional, and even if they were, can you imagine saying no to a customs agent’s request? That is far easier said than done, especially if you are hoping to seek asylum or need to visit a sick relative.

Copyright:

Fair Use/Fair Dealing Week 2017 Highlights Balance in Copyright System

The fourth annual Fair Use/Fair Dealing Week took place February 20–24, 2017, growing to 140 organizations—as well as numerous individuals—celebrating the important and flexible doctrines of fair use and fair dealing. This year’s event was organized by the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) and participants included universities, libraries, library associations, and many other organizations, such as Authors Alliance, Creative Commons, the Electronic Frontier Foundation, Public Knowledge, the R Street Institute, and Re:Create. Forty-five ARL member institutions contributed a wide range of resources this year. Fair Use/Fair Dealing Week was observed worldwide, with participants in such countries as Australia, Canada, Colombia, Israel, Korea, the Netherlands, New Zealand, and the United States.

Throughout the week, participants celebrated the essential limitations and exceptions to copyright that fair use and fair dealing provide, allowing the use of copyrighted materials without permission from the copyright holder under certain circumstances. While fair use and fair dealing are employed on a daily basis, Fair Use/Fair Dealing week provides a time to promote and discuss the opportunities presented, share successful stories, and explain these doctrines.

Gender Equality:

The Gender Gap Persists Online

Despite all the evidence pointing to the fundamental importance of closing the gender gap, according to data collected by the ITU all over the world women are less likely to have access to the internet than men, resulting in 250 million less women connected that to the internet. And the historical trends are not positive: UN Women highlights how the global internet user gender gap grew from 11 percent in 2013 to 12 percent in 2016.

In addition, research by the Web Foundation shows that the dramatic spread of mobile phones is not enough to get women online, or to achieve empowerment of women through technology. A survey of thousands of poor urban men and women across nine developing countries found that “while
nearly all women and men own a phone, women are still nearly 50% less likely to access the Internet than men in the same communities, with Internet use reported by just 37% of women surveyed. Once online, women are 30-50% less likely than men to use the Internet to increase their income or participate in public life.”

And of those lucky women that manage to have access to the internet, three quarters have been exposed to some form of cyber violence. This happens everywhere: According to the Pew Research Center, American women are twice as likely to be harassed and stalked online than men. Young women are particularly vulnerable, being twice as similar as the average internet user to be stalked, harassed, called names or embarrassed in online environments.


Government Information:

Activists Rush to Save Government Science Data — If They Can Find It

It is illegal to destroy government data, but agencies can make it more difficult to find by revising websites and creating other barriers to the underlying information.

Already there have been a handful of changes to the websites of federal science agencies, according to the Environmental Data and Governance Initiative, a new organization with researchers monitoring the content. On the E.P.A.’s website, for instance, the science and technology office had described as its mission the development of “scientific and technological foundations to achieve clean water.” Now the office says the goal is to develop “economically and technologically achievable performance standards.”

Pie charts on a Department of Energy website illustrating the link between coal and greenhouse gas emissions also have disappeared. So has the description on an Interior Department page of the potential environmental effects of hydraulic fracturing on federal land.

Changes like these appear only to reflect the publicly stated priorities of the new administration and there have been few signs as yet that federal databases are being systematically manipulated or restricted.


Cuts to NOAA Climate Change Information Gathering

One of the ways that the government decreases public access to important information is to just stop collecting it. The Trump administration has proposed cutting research funding to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), a leading climate science agency. The biggest cut would be to NOAA’s satellite division, known as National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service, which includes a key repository of climate and environmental information, the National Centers for Environmental Information.

http://freegovinfo.info/node/11823.

Jobline 2017/03/09

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2017/03/jobline-20170309/ March 9, 2017 Categories: Jobline

Job Description

Taylor & Associates’ client has an opening for a Librarian in its Silicon Valley office.

Job Responsibilities

- Manage vendor contracts and negotiate contracts based on need and usage
- MCLE tracking and event coordination
- Monitor expenses and subscriptions
- Evaluate current subscriptions to continually assess need and justify costs
- Oversee the legal, business and financial research using print and electronic resources
- Manage Library Assistant

Job Requirements

- Minimum of three years of experience in a librarian
position in a multi-practice (corporate, finance, M&A, etc.) law firm

- Excellent knowledge of legal and business databases and electronic resources such as LexisNexis, Bloomberg BNA, PLC, Knowledge Mosaic, Wolters Kluwer Databases, Checkpoint, etc.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills and problem-solving abilities.
- Strong work ethic with proven organizational and administrative skills
- Working knowledge of bibliographic classification systems and cataloging rules
- Proficiency with Microsoft Office suite, including Word, Excel, Outlook, Access and PowerPoint
- Capacity to handle multiple requests with conflicting deadlines in a results-driven environment

Educational Requirements

- Master’s Degree in Library Science from an ALA accredited institution.

Schedule

- Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Status

- Full Time, Exempt.

Benefits

In addition to offering competitive salaries, we also offer an excellent benefit package, which includes full medical, dental and vision coverage; 401(k) with employer match; Flexible Spending Account and Paid Time Off.

To apply, send resume to Catherine Ghent at taylorlb@taylorlib.com

When applying, please mention that you found this position listing on SLA SV/SF Jobline. Thank you!

Jobline 2017/03/13

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2017/03/jobline-20170313/ March 13, 2017 Categories: Jobline

Systems Librarian

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory

Livermore, CA 94550

We have an opening for a Systems Librarian. You will be responsible for administration and support of the Library systems; cataloging electronic resources and participating in special projects in support of Laboratory research. This position is in the Technical Information Department.

Essential Duties

- Modify and maintain Library web pages.
- Maintain database records in support of electronic resources and linking; support software cataloging format policies for Machine Readable Cataloging (MARC), Dublin core and XML.
- Provide access to electronic resources using link resolver software to direct users to resources.
- Analyze and determine library-computing requirements; develop new means of delivering services; coordinate and implement new electronic services.
- Develop test parameters for new library software releases; implement updated software on production server, test and evaluate systems to ensure integrality and performance.
- Write Application Program Interface (API) scripts to support subscription renewals.
- Prepare statistical reports for Library Manager using Common Gateway Interface (CGI) scripts, APIs, Perl and staff reported statistics.
- Conduct literature, scientific, engineering, legal, regulatory, patent, and other searches with multiple search parameters; analyze search results.
- Perform other duties as assigned.

Qualifications

- Bachelor’s Degree in a scientific discipline or equivalent combination of education and related experience.
- Experience creating Application Program Interface (API) scripts and with one or more scripting languages and coding HTML, JavaScript, Perl, Drupal, XML or Shell scripts.
- Extensive knowledge of Machine Readable Cataloging (MARC) rules.
– Knowledge of integrated library systems, link resolvers and discovery tools.

– Experience troubleshooting systems, documenting progress, and communicating solutions, regarding electronic products and services.

– Extensive reference experience and knowledge of print and electronic reference sources in the physical sciences or health sciences; knowledge of scientific, technical, and patent databases and scientific resources.

– Ability to explore new technologies as needed and keep current with new developments in information systems technology.

– Demonstrated ability to maintain effective working relationships with other agencies, publishers, vendors, library staff, and representatives of IT departments.

Desired Qualifications

– Experience with SirsiDynix integrated library system and ExLibris products.

– Master’s Degree in Library and Information Services.

Pre-Employment Drug Test: External applicant(s) selected for this position will be required to pass a post-offer, pre-employment drug test.

Anticipated Clearance Level: Q (Position will be cleared to this level). Applicants selected will be subject to a Federal background investigation and must meet eligibility requirements for access to classified information or matter. In addition, all L or Q cleared employees are subject to random drug testing. If you hold multiple citizenships (U.S. and another country), you may be required to renounce your non-U.S. citizenship before a DOE L or Q clearance will be processed/granted.

Note: This is a Career Indefinite position. Lab employees and external candidates may be considered for this position.

About Us

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL), located in the San Francisco Bay Area (East Bay), is a premier applied science laboratory that is part of the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) within the Department of Energy (DOE). LLNL’s mission is strengthening national security by developing and applying cutting-edge science, technology, and engineering that respond with vision, quality, integrity, and technical excellence to scientific issues of national importance. The Laboratory has a current annual budget of about $1.5 billion, employing approximately 6,000 employees.

LLNL is an affirmative action/ equal opportunity employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, marital status, national origin, ancestry, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, medical condition, protected veteran status, age, citizenship, or any other characteristic protected by law.

To apply, visit http://careers-ext.llnl.gov/jobs/6473934-systems-librarian

When applying, please mention that you found this position listing on SLA SV/SF Jobline. Thank you!

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**Jobline 2017/03/15**


Taylor & Associates has an opening for a reference librarian for an academic library on the Peninsula. This is a full-time position, Monday through Thursday, and includes evening hours.

**Reports to:** Library Director

**Specific Responsibilities/Duties:**

**Reference:** Provides reference assistance and extended research consultation to students, faculty and staff. Directs researchers to materials found at other libraries and generates interlibrary loans as needed.

**Information Literacy and Technology Instruction:** Plans, develops, promotes and conducts library lectures using a variety of teaching techniques to build information literacy and technology skills.

**Collection Development:** Assists in the management of the Library’s print and electronic collections to support the University’s curricular and research needs. Selects, organizes, and annotates resources for library users.

**Professional Development:** Serves the Library and NDNU through participation in faculty committees, academic governance, professional associations, and other scholarly activities.
Qualifications:

- Master’s degree in librarianship [MLS or MLIS] from an ALA accredited library school
- Minimum 2 years of full-time experience in an academic library preferred
- Demonstrated competency in reference work, preferably in an academic library
- Experience with information literacy instruction and assessment
- Knowledge of the principles of collection development work
- Excellent interpersonal, verbal, and written communication skills
- Strong computer skills
- Commitment to diversity in higher education

Please send your resume to:

Elyse Eisner
Taylor & Associates
eisner@taylorlib.com

When applying, please mention that you found this position listing on SLA SV/SF Jobline. Thank you!

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Intersect Alert March 15, 2016

 Government Information:

Three out of Five Federal Agencies Flout New FOIA Law
The National Security Archive at George Washington University reports that only 38 of 99 federal government agencies have updated their FOIA Regulations as required by law.

The FOIA Improvement Act of 2016 (Public Law 114-185) (PDF) set new requirements for agencies including providing requesters with no less than 90 days to file an appeal and prohibiting agencies from charging search or duplication fees under certain conditions. The law requires that agencies update their FOIA regulations to meet these new requirements by December 27, 2016.

Among the agencies that have not updated their regulations are the departments of State, Commerce, Treasury, Agriculture, Veterans Affairs, and Education.

http://freegovinfo.info/node/11881.

Fears Raised About Access to Government Data
McClatchy News Service outlines the things that the Trump administration has done that have alarmed groups with a stake in public access to information including historians, librarians, journalists, climate scientists, internet activists. In the article, Alex Howard, deputy director of the Sunlight Foundation, addresses the explanation given by Trump supporters that “detractors are overreacting” saying, “The reaction we are seeing is driven by concerns unique to this administration. It’s because of the antipathy this president has shown toward government statistics and scientific knowledge.”

Issues mentioned in the article include:
The suspension of an Obama regulation aimed at protecting whistleblowers who work for Department of Energy contractors.
The decreased access to White House visitor logs which enabled journalists to track lobbying.
The removal of the phone book of employees at the U.S. Department of Energy from DOE’s website.
The removal of two pie charts reporting the link between coal and greenhouse gas emissions from the educational website “Energy Kids.”

http://freegovinfo.info/node/11868.

Senators Express Concerns Over Trump Admin. Records Compliance
The letter re-expresses concerns the Senators had already sent about reports that four senior Administration officials are maintaining active email accounts on a private email system, the President’s use of an unsecured smartphone, and White House officials’ use of social media platforms, such as Twitter, that may not comply with federal recordkeeping requirements.

The letter raises new concerns about the use by White House staff, including staff from the National Security Council and the Office of the Press Secretary, of the smartphone app known as Confide, which allows individuals to communicate digitally through messages that self-destruct, for work-related communications. The Senators say, “While our goal is not to
encourage inappropriate leaks of presidential or federal records, prevention of any such leaks is not a recognized exception to federal recordkeeping requirements, nor does it outweigh statutory recordkeeping requirements.”
http://freegovinfo.info/node/11858.

Government Technology:

New CIO Council Report on Developer Platforms and Common APIs and Services
The CIO Council has released a report, Developer Platforms: Shared Services for Common Developer-Focused APIs and Services, developed by an interagency collaboration that seeks to identify and share best practices for Federal departments and agencies on how to internally leverage a new generation of common platform capabilities powered by cloud and hosted application programming interfaces (APIs). The report was developed to support interagency coordination and provide technical and policy innovations to accelerate the Federal Government’s transition from legacy processes and infrastructure to modern approaches.

The report explores examples and lessons from other governments and from the private sector where cloud and hosted APIs provide functionality such as payments, analytics, and data storage or simplify and accelerate testing, hosting, deployment, monitoring, and other aspects of the software development process. Based on this background, the report highlights opportunities to support the maturation and growth of existing developer platforms and services and the development of new offerings. This includes the application of the shared services model previously applied to administrative and other back-office functions to developer platforms and services, analysis of existing public and private sector platforms and services including 27 potential service areas, and policy reform opportunities that could accelerate the availability and adoption of developer platforms and services.


Libraries:

Disappearing books: How Russia is shuttering its Ukrainian library
First, armed police seized some of its books. Next, its director was put on trial accused of stirring up ethnic hatred. And now, quietly, its shelves have been emptied and its volumes packed up, ready to be merged into another library’s collection. A year and a half after Russia’s only state-run Ukrainian language library, Moscow’s Library of Ukrainian Literature, was dragged into a political dispute between the two countries, Reuters has learnt that authorities are quietly winding it down.

Officially, what is happening to the library — its 52,000 books are being transferred to Russia’s main foreign language library — is “a change of address” not a closure. But the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry, some of the library’s employees, and members of Russia’s large Ukrainian diaspora say it is a closure in all but name.


Missouri Gov. Eric Greitens’ Budget Plan Could Cost Public Libraries Millions
Missouri’s public libraries could lose about $6 million in state and federal funding if Gov. Eric Greitens gets his way. As part of his $27.6 billion budget plan for the state, Greitens has recommended cutting about $3 million from public libraries. This reduction places Missouri’s libraries at risk of losing another $3 million in federal funding.

“The three million in cuts [proposed by Greitens] leave the libraries on the brink of losing federal funding,” says Mid-Continent Public Library’s Jim Staley, also a member of the Missouri Library Association. “Any cuts during the fiscal year, which have happened each of the last three years, would trigger that funding loss.” Mid-Continent Public Library is one of the biggest library districts in the state, consisting of 31 branches across three counties in the Kansas City metro area. Staley says the cuts would have the biggest impact at small, rural libraries.

http://kcur.org/post/missouri-gov-eric-greitens-budget-plan-
Are Library Vendors a Necessary Evil?
The raison d’être of a business is to maximize earnings and shareholder value. When Facebook made a censored version of itself for China, or retailers became champions of gay rights, or circuses and aquariums started phasing out the use of captive animals, or when Simon & Schuster finally made the call not to publish a book by Milo Yiannopoulos, those decisions were all primarily driven by the impact on the bottom line. While I don’t work for free either, there are professional standards about the freedom to read, intellectual freedom, and patron privacy which I don’t need to sacrifice because they might interfere with our profit model.

We should never be more focused on preserving our own job security than achieving the benefits of embracing progress, even if it would render our current role obsolete. Many industries, on the other hand, have a vested interest in maintaining the status quo, to the point of attacking useful discoveries and innovations that potentially undermine their revenue stream. It’s important to remember those capitalistic concepts when navigating the library information and product marketplace.

https://medium.com/@hubbard/are-library-vendors-a-necessary-evil-a58dfd7a7c84#.vasaqf37b.

Internet:

Tim Berners-Lee: I invented the web. Here are three things we need to change to save it
“Today marks 28 years since I submitted my original proposal for the worldwide web. I imagined the web as an open platform that would allow everyone, everywhere to share information, access opportunities, and collaborate across geographic and cultural boundaries. In many ways, the web has lived up to this vision, though it has been a recurring battle to keep it open. But over the past 12 months, I’ve become increasingly worried about three new trends, which I believe we must tackle in order for the web to fulfill its true potential as a tool that serves all of humanity. 1) We’ve lost control of our personal data…2) It’s too easy for misinformation to spread on the web…3) Political advertising online needs transparency and understanding…”

The Effect of Encryption on Lawful Access to Communications and Data
Many have drawn parallels between today’s debate over “Going Dark” and the “Crypto Wars” of the 1990s, but much has changed since then. First, the Internet has become central to global economic activity, politics, and security. The security environment has changed, as we face much more aggressive state actors in espionage. The Snowden revelations in 2013 damaged the credibility of U.S. tech companies operating abroad, and any requirement that they facilitate U.S. government access to their customers’ communications could affect their international competitiveness. Terrorists and criminals find creative ways to leverage the latest technologies to evade law enforcement. Technology continues to evolve, making unrecoverable encryption easier for individuals to obtain and use. Furthermore, any U.S. policy on encryption might set a precedent that other countries would be tempted to follow. While the debate thus far has pitted privacy and individual security against the critical task of stopping criminals and terrorists, there may be technical and policy solutions that can balance national security and public safety with protection of privacy, civil liberties, and a functioning global Internet ecosystem.

Why Europeans are less eager consumers of online ranting than Americans
Europe’s populists were early adopters of social media….But in other ways Europe is less suited to internet-based populism than America. Enthusiasm for social media is related to scepticism towards traditional media, says Cornelius Puschmann of the Alexander von Humboldt Institute, a Berlin-based think-tank—and Americans have plenty of both. In 2016, 16% of American internet users accessed Twitter at least once a month, according to comScore, a research firm. That year, Americans’ trust in news fell to just 33%, according to the Reuters Institute, a research centre at Oxford University.

Europeans, by contrast, have more confidence in traditional media and are less active on social media. Nearly 13% of Dutch internet users log on to Twitter once a month, but only 6% of Italians, 5% of French and 4% of Germans do. Facebook use is more common, but still lower than in America. Meanwhile, 54% of Dutch and 52% of Germans trust the news, according to the Reuters study. For German public radio and TV, the figure is over 70%, according to a survey by WDR, a public broadcaster based in Cologne. Just 8% trust what they see on Facebook and Twitter.

Share this:
SUPERVISORY LIBRARIAN

ASRC Mission Solutions (ASMS), a Subsidiary of ASRC Federal Holding Company, is currently seeking a Supervisory Librarian in San Francisco, CA.

Requisition Type: Exempt (Professional) Full Time

Required Education Level: Master’s Degree

Degree Field: Library Science

How to Apply: asrcfederal.com

ASRC Mission Solutions holds a nationwide contract for library and records management services with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. ASMS librarians, record managers and support staff collect, organize and maintain library and records materials, safeguard Confidential Business Information (CBI), maintain Superfund Record Centers, manage the EPA Docket Center operations, provide National Records and Content Management Branch Support, assist EPA and external customers with document delivery/ILL, reference and research services, etc.

KEY ROLE:

- Support the reference and research needs of EPA staff and the public for information.
- Answer reference questions using a variety of print and online resources and provide interlibrary loan and document delivery services to EPA patrons.
- Circulate library materials and maintain circulation records.
- The Librarian will supervise, hire and arrange for annual evaluations of library staff and perform outreach and marketing support for the Library.
- Provide training to library patrons as needed.
- Maintain library statistics and other records to document work performed.
- Provide written and statistical reports as required and participate in the EPA Library Network via teleconferences, library workgroups, etc.
- Catalog library materials using OCLC and update local catalog records in EPA’s Online Library System (OLS) as needed.
- Inventory library materials and provide input for collection development policy and acquisitions.

BASIC QUALIFICATIONS:

- A Master’s degree in Library Science from a ALA-accredited institution.
- 2 years of library administrative or supervisory experience.
- 3 years of experience providing professional librarian services in the field of chemistry or allied fields such as toxicology, medical science, environmental science, biology, etc.
- Strong background working with chemical, technical and legal reference materials and electronic resources desired.
- Ability to communicate clearly and effectively in person and in writing.
- Demonstrated ability to work both independently and within a team environment.
- Proficiency with spreadsheets, databases and office applications (MS Office).
- Proficiency with internet searching and research.
- Experience in customer service, library services required.
- S. citizenship or permanent resident status and ability to pass a government sponsored background check.

ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATIONS:

- Experience in preparing analytic reports and statistics, use of applications such as Excel and development of logical express and database queries.

ASRC Federal and its Subsidiaries are Equal Opportunity / Affirmative Action employers. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, gender, color, age, sexual orientation, gender identification, national origin, religion, marital status, ancestry, citizenship, disability, protected veteran status, or any other factor prohibited by applicable law.

When applying, please mention that you found this position listing on SLA SV/SF Jobline. Thank you!
Market Research Portal Contractor

Full time | Late June through early December 2017 | Mountain View, California

Symantec’s Global Insights team has developed a company-wide, highly-regarded information portal, which integrates primary and secondary IT industry information. We are seeking a contractor to manage the portal while a teammate goes on maternity leave. The successful candidate will possess solid experience with IT market research, knowledge management, and information services as well as maintain excellent organizational and technology skills.

JOB RESPONSIBILITIES

Knowledge Management:
- Oversee the portal’s Content Management System, including taxonomy and business rules for manually uploading documents
- Analyze web, search, and database logs to produce a variety of site metrics, using these usage statistics to help drive portal enhancements
- Respond to, troubleshoot, and guide resolution of technical problems as they arise, keeping portal in continuous and successful operation
- Prepare and ensure execution of work specifications for the third-party developer that handles the technical operations of the portal

Content Distribution:
- Address secondary market research inquiries, quickly locating and clearly synthesizing relevant information for stakeholders
- Upload primary and secondary market research reports to the portal, providing appropriate metadata to render reports searchable

Information Outreach:
- Implement and lead back-end and front-end user training sessions on the portal
- Highlight new primary and secondary market research to various internal groups and on portal’s home page

EDUCATION
- Master’s Degree, Library or Information Science

QUALIFICATIONS
- 5-7 years’ experience managing and/or developing research portals, online libraries, information databases, or content-rich intranet sites in a corporate environment
- Working knowledge of IT industry and business market research resources
- Experience applying information knowledge and expertise to answering inquiries
- Demonstrated ability to collaborate and work in a team environment

SKILLS
- Manage multiple responsibilities in a timely manner
- Strong organizational and information skills
- Sharp focus on customer service
- Excellent communication skills
- Detail-oriented mindset—good with numbers
- Strong aptitude with Excel and PowerPoint
- Basic understanding of HTML and CSS

Please direct resumes and/or questions to Jeff Coldani (jeff_coldani@symantec.com), Director, Global Insights, Symantec

When applying, please mention that you found this position listing on SLA SV/SF Jobline. Thank you!

Share this:
It’s time for the popular SLA-SF neighborhood dinners! Host a dinner, learn about what’s going on in other nearby libraries, and be the catalyst for sharing and fun. Here is our current neighborhood dinner offerings! We hope you can attend one and please let me know if you wish to HOST!

**What is required?** Hosting means that you’ll choose a date and make the restaurant reservations. You’ll also get the conversation going if it needs help and introduce attendees to each other. Basically, just make folks feel welcome. You aren’t responsible for paying for the group!

**If you’d like to give it a try**, here’s what to do:
1. Pick a date and a neighborhood
2. Choose a local restaurant and make a reservation.
3. Send an email to the program organizers Heather.heen@tr.com and Belinda Beardt bbeardt.aimuza@gmail.com with the details.
4. Collect RSVP’s. You might want to use evite.com to communicate details and collect RSVP’s.
5. Enjoy dinner with your colleagues!

### Scheduled Dinners

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date/Time:</th>
<th>Location:</th>
<th>Host(s):</th>
<th>RSVP:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 12th @ 7pm</td>
<td>Pizza Moda in Berkeley</td>
<td>Kendra Levine</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kklevine@berkeley.edu">kklevine@berkeley.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 13th @ 6:30pm Cocktails/7pm Dinner</td>
<td>Boulevard Café in Daly City</td>
<td>Jaye Lapachet &amp; Craig Cruz</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jlapac@gmail.com">jlapac@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 20th @ 6pm</td>
<td>Tony’s Slice House on 2nd in SOMA</td>
<td>Mimi Calter</td>
<td><a href="mailto:m_calter@hotmail.com">m_calter@hotmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 26th @ 6:30pm</td>
<td>Fusion Delight in San Leandro</td>
<td>Sandy Malloy, Marlene Vogelsang, &amp; Deborah Hunt</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sandy.malloy@businesswire.com">sandy.malloy@businesswire.com</a> by 4/21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 27th @ 6:45pm</td>
<td>LaVier Latin Fusion in San Rafael</td>
<td>Diane Rosenberger</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dianerosenberger@yahoo.com">dianerosenberger@yahoo.com</a> by 4/25</td>
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</tbody>
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**Intersect Alert March 21**

Take Action:

#ALAWO is tracking #SaveIMLS and collecting your stories
Since 11 a.m. last Thursday (and as of 5 p.m. this afternoon), there have been 3,838 tweets under the #saveIMLS hashtag on Twitter. That is over 767 tweets a day. Or, sliced another way, there are currently 1,800 people who are participating in the conversation on Twitter. Anyway you dice it, we need this momentum to continue.

Right now, the ALA Washington Office is collecting your tweets and stories via TAGS, the Twitter Archiving Google Sheet. You can see the conversion as it has unfolded via this afternoon’s snapshot: http://www.districtdispatch.org/2017/03/alawo-track-saveimls-collect-stories/.

Sunshine Week: How to Get Involved
Launched in 2005, Sunshine Week has grown into an enduring annual initiative to promote open government and push back against excessive official secrecy.

Citizens from across the country are now gearing up for this year’s Sunshine Week to once again spark a nationwide discussion about the critical importance of access to public information.

You can help make Sunshine Week burn even brighter in 2017. There are endless ways to participate, regardless of whether you’re part of a group or simply an individual who cares about freedom of information. No matter how you choose to participate or where you come from, you’ll find an array of examples in our Idea Bank, which includes links to some Sunshine Week “Bright Ideas.” http://sunshineweek.rcfp.org/how-to-get-involved/.
Libraries:

President’s budget proposal to eliminate federal library funding
This morning, President Trump released his budget proposal for FY2018. The Institute of Museum of Library Services (IMLS) is included in the list of independent agencies whose budgets the proposal recommends eliminating. Library funding that comes through other sources such as the Department of Education, the Department of Labor and the National Endowment for the Humanities is also affected. Just how deeply overall federal library funding is impacted is unclear at this point. The Washington Office is working closely with our contacts in the federal government to gather detailed information. We will provide the analysis of the total impact when it is complete and as quickly as possible.


Net Neutrality:

Meanwhile in India... the TRAI Continues Progress Toward Net Neutrality Regulation
As the United States once again slips back into battle mode over the preservation of an open internet through regulation, India continues its efforts to develop a thoughtful and effective regulatory approach to the concept of net neutrality. These efforts began in 2015, but net neutrality writ large was not the focus until 2016, when the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) asked the public for comments on what that concept meant in the Indian context and how they might go about preserving it through regulation.


Internet Access:

Could New York’s Plan to Erase Its Digital Divide Work for America?
The state, which has huge rural areas, aims to bring broadband Internet to all its residents by next year.

The U.S. has a long-standing problem with Internet access: the wealthy and urban get more of it, while people who are less well-off or live in rural areas often go without. But a plan in New York state might offer a way toward connecting millions of Americans to a service that’s become nearly as important as electricity.

The state is moving aggressively under Governor Andrew Cuomo’s “Broadband for All” initiative to connect all its residents by 2018. That’s no easy task: outside New York City and a few urban areas, the rest of state is replete with small towns and rural counties.


Government Data:

A War on Data
Engadget makes the case that the Trump administration is waging a “war on data.” It says that, although removal and manipulation of existing data are a concern, the biggest threat to data is budgetary.


The administration seems focused on two avenues of attack: one, make data harder to find, and two, slash funding until collecting data becomes difficult for government agencies.

Defunding agencies and programs that collect data doesn’t just mask potential problems within the government and harm our ability to make informed decisions — it provides useful political cover for even deeper budget cuts down the road.

The article gives several examples of how the administration is damaging access to the accurate information that citizens require to evaluate government programs and that elected officials require to govern wisely.

http://freegovinfo.info/node/11913.

LGBT Questions Removed From HHS Surveys
The Center for American Progress reports that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), has eliminated questions about lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people from two critical surveys. This policy decision will make it impossible to assess whether key programs for seniors and people with disabilities are meeting the needs of LGBT Americans.

The Trump Administration Is Rolling Back Data Collection on LGBT Older Adults, By Sejal Singh, Laura E. Durso, and Aaron Tax, Center for American Progress (March 20, 2017, 7:00 am).

The surveys affected are the National Survey of Older Americans Act Participants and the annual Program Performance Report for Centers for Independent Living.

Privacy:
The White House Is Paranoid Over Its Privacy, and Consumers Should Be Too
In the early months of the Trump Administration, damaging leaks have come out of the White House ranging from stories of staff infighting to descriptions of the President’s calls with heads of state. According to a recent Politico report, the leaks have caused a culture of paranoia to spread among White House staff. Staffers are taking extreme measures to protect their privacy by turning off work-issued smartphones when they get home, and using encrypted messaging apps that automatically delete messages once they’ve been read. Others are leaving their personal mobile devices at home in the event their bosses and Administration lawyers engage in phone checks and search for leaks. While White House staffers scramble to protect their private communications, Congress is moving in the opposite direction to eliminate any expectations of Americans having private communications networks.

Intersect Alert April 4, 2017
April 4, 2017 Categories: Intersect Alert Tags: freedom of information, government, intellectual property, open access, privacy, publishing, research, take action
Congress Moves to Strike Internet Privacy Rules From Obama Era
Republican senators moved Thursday to dismantle landmark internet privacy protections for consumers in the first decisive strike against telecommunications and technology regulations created during the Obama administration, and a harbinger of further deregulation.
The measure passed in a 50-to-48 vote largely along party lines. The House is expected to mirror the Senate’s action next week, followed by a signature from President Trump.
How President Trump and Congress Just Dismantled Your Online Privacy Rights
Last night, President Trump quietly signed away our broadband privacy protections. The rules, passed by the Federal Communications Commission in October 2016, were years in the making, but only took a month for Congress and President Trump to dismantle. This unprecedented situation merits a further review.
States Step Up to Protect Privacy In Wake of FCC Ruling
In the wake of this week’s Congressional repeal of the FCC’s broadband privacy rules, states appear poised to enact legislation aimed at protecting their citizens’ privacy. The Illinois General Assembly debated yesterday morning the merits of two bills that would give state consumers more transparency and control over the collection and sharing of their personal information. Both bills were reported out of committee with the promise that they would be discussed and amended again next week.
How to set up a VPN in 10 minutes for free (and why you urgently need one)
Soon every mistake you’ve ever made online will not only be
available to your internet service provider (ISP)—it will be available to any corporation or foreign government who wants to see those mistakes.

Thanks to a decision by Congress, ISPs can sell your entire web browsing history to literally anyone without your permission. The only rules that prevented this are all being repealed, and won’t be reinstated any time soon (it would take an act of congress).

ISPs can also sell any information they want from your online activity and mobile app usage—financial information, medical information, your children’s information, your social security number—even the contents of your emails.


A VPN can protect your online privacy. But there’s a catch
Your internet service provider can sell your browsing history to the highest bidder…But if you’re feeling creeped out, you might be wondering: What’s a VPN, anyway? And will it keep the Comcasts, Verizons and other internet service providers of the world out of your business?

…Well, it’s complicated. “People have to, unfortunately, take privacy matters into their own hands,” said Ajay Arora, CEO of cybersecurity company Vera. “There’s no silver bullet.”

…”This ruling has shined a light on carriers’ and ISPs’ data practices,” Khatibloo said in an email, “and we expect that will mean an uptick in the number of consumers changing how they do things — VPNs, the Tor browser, and HTTPS Everywhere.”


Take Action:

Next Steps to Save the Institute of Museum and Library Services
In a time where our country is facing the dangers of a crumbling infrastructure system the administration’s federal budget proposal makes inappropriate cuts to the information and education infrastructure that millions of Americans depend upon. That’s why we are working so hard to fight against budgets that cut funding for libraries and museums but we need your help! There’s much more we can do together.


Top 10 things to know (and do) about saving library funding
The talk of Washington and the library community (when people aren’t talking about the President’s tweets, anyway) is the recent recommendation by the President to completely eliminate funding for the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), including their library funding implementing the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) and the Innovative Approaches to Literacy program within the Department of Education. Here are the top ten things that you need to know about saving IMLS and more than $210 million in annual federal library funding that will be going on all year.


After calling Congress, write a letter to the editor
The single most impactful action you can take to save funding for libraries right now is to contact your member of Congress directly. Once you’ve done that, there is another action you can take to significantly amplify your voice and urge public support for libraries: writing a letter to the editor of your local newspaper.


‘The Fight of Our Generation’: At conference for academic and research librarians, attendees begin to fight back against proposed federal funding cuts.
Seeking to energize its thousands of members to act before then, the Association of College and Research Libraries, a division of the American Library Association, used last week’s biennial national conference to give the roughly 3,500 in attendance a crash course in advocacy. While librarians were browsing the latest in library technology, connecting with colleagues from around the world and learning how to do yoga at their desks, they also wrote to their representatives in Congress and rehearsed scripts for calling lawmakers to voice their support for library funding.

…”We can’t afford to view it as a political statement,” Irene M. H. Herold, president of the ACRL, said in an interview about the budget plan. “We need to treat it as the serious threat that it is.”


Copyright:

Partisan Politics Won’t Cure What Ails the Copyright Office
This Wednesday, the House Judiciary Committee is scheduled to markup the Register of Copyrights Selection and Accountability Act (H.R. 1695). The legislation would change how the director of the Copyright Office is chosen, subjecting the Register of Copyrights to the presidential appointment and Senate confirmation process. In CDT’s view, it would politicize the important work of the Copyright Office while not doing enough to incorporate necessary reforms to modernize the Office. By requiring the Register to go through the appointment and confirmation process, this legislation will only serve to introduce partisan politics into a non-partisan position.

Bill to make Copyright Register a Presidential appointment “mystifying”
In a sharply worded statement, the Library Copyright Alliance (LCA) unqualifiedly opposed the bill on multiple grounds, particularly that it would politicize the Register’s position to the public’s detriment and inevitably slow the critically needed modernization of the Copyright Office. LCA, comprised of ALA, ACRL and ARL, also called the bill “mystifying” given that – if passed – Congress would voluntarily give up its power to appoint its own copyright advisor to the President to whom the bill also grants the power to fire the appointee at any time (despite the bill also confusingly specifying a 10-year renewable term of office for the Register)!

If you publish Georgia’s state laws, you’ll get sued for copyright and lose
Malamud thinks reading the law shouldn’t cost anything. So a few years back, he scanned a copy of Georgia’s official laws…[and]sent the USB drives to the Georgia speaker of the House, David Ralson, and the state’s legislative counsel, as well as other prominent Georgia lawyers and policymakers. …Georgia lawmakers’ response to Malamud’s gifts was anything but peachy. “Your unlawful copying… Infringes on the exclusive copyright of the state of Georgia,” read the response letter, written by the chairman of Georgia’s Code Revision Commission, Josh McKoon. “Accordingly, you are hereby notified to CEASE AND DESIST ALL COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT.”

Open Access:

Open access campaigners toughen stance towards publishers
Open access advocates want universities to be prepared to “pull the plug” on their subscription deals with big publishers, in a sign of an escalation in tactics to open up more research. This new willingness to walk away from the negotiating table, at the risk of losing access to journals, is being tested in Germany. At least a dozen German institutions lost access to Elsevier material at the beginning of the year after talks with the publisher broke down.
Open access campaigners toughen stance towards publishers.

3 UC libraries sign Expression of Interest committing to achieve open access for scholarly journals
Three University of California libraries, including UC Berkeley’s, signed an Expression of Interest with Open Access 2020, or OA2020, a movement aimed at increasing accessibility to scholarly journals.
http://www.dailycal.org/2017/03/23/3-uc-libraries-sign-expression-interest-committing-achieve-open-access-scholarly-journals/.

Government Data:

Activists Use FOIA to Ensure Availability of Thousands of Federal Datasets
he Center for Biological Diversity has announced an effort to prevent hundreds of environmental datasets on government websites from being removed by the Trump administration. Three separate Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests for data sets have been submitted to eight federal agencies. Many (perhaps most) of the datasets requested are currently available on government websites. The eight agencies are: the Army Corps of Engineers, the Council on Environmental Quality, the Environmental Protection Agency, NASA, and the departments of agriculture, commerce, energy and interior.
http://freegovinfo.info/node/11950.

New database details White House officials’ finances
On Friday night, the White House began releasing financial disclosures for scores of key employees — including familiar names such as Press Secretary Sean Spicer, Counselor to the President Kellyanne Conway and Chief Strategist Stephen K. Bannon. …Reporters from dozens of news organizations, including the Associated Press, the New York Times, ProPublica and the Washington Post, then compiled and reported on the documents, which the White House released one-by-one. …The Center for Public Integrity compiled data from those disclosures into a searchable, sortable database.

Check out NASA’s new searchable database of space pics and video!
NASA just made my day! The U.S. space agency launched a new web-based search engine for much of its catalog of images, video and audio files, browsable by keyword and metadata. All the content on the site is embeddable, and there are multiple resolutions to choose from for downloads. The site also shows image metadata, so you can see what equipment was used when they were captured. There’s also a caption file available for all video, so you can easily include subtitles with clips when reposting.
http://freegovinfo.info/node/11970.

Publishing:
From frenemy to friend: How Google won publishers over
Google needs publisher content to keep people coming to its search engine, and publishers’ inventory drives its display advertising business. Google and publishers also both want to preserve the open web as a counterpoint to Facebook and Snapchat’s walled gardens…Others point out that at the end of the day, there’s still great inequality in the relationship.

Intersect Alert April 10, 2017

April 10, 2017 Categories: Intersect Alert Tags: intellectual property, open access, privacy, professional development

Open-Access

How a Browser Extension Could Shake Up Academic Publishing

“Open-access advocates have had several successes in the past few weeks. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation started its own open-access publishing platform, which the European Commission may replicate. And librarians attending the Association of College and Research Libraries conference in March were glad to hear that the Open Access Button, a tool that helps researchers gain free access to copies of articles, will be integrated into existing interlibrary-loan arrangements.”

“Another initiative, called Unpaywall, is a simple browser extension, but its creators, Jason Priem and Heather Piwowar, say it could help alter the status quo of scholarly publishing.”


Professional Development

Open Access: Advocating for Change

Title: Open Access: Advocating for Change
Date: Tuesday, April 25, 2017
Time: 03:00 PM Eastern Daylight Time
Duration: 1 hour

“Two main forces drive the OA movement: the need to find an alternative to current subscription models and the overwhelming benefits to providing freely available, peer-reviewed research findings to more people. Despite the momentum, and despite significant backing from institutional and government funding sources, widespread acceptance of open access has progressed more slowly than many advocates had hoped.”

“Join this webcast to gain insight and perspective from our experts on the barriers and common misconceptions about OA, and offer some strategic and practical advice. They’ll discuss how OA can emerge as a key asset for authors, publishers and researchers—and essentially benefit humanity as a whole.”


Privacy

How Online Privacy Protection Could Become a Campaign Issue in 2018

“Now that Republicans in Congress and President Donald Trump have successfully killed stringent new online privacy rules, public interest groups sense they may have a potent campaign issue to use in upcoming elections.”

“Trump signed the anti-privacy legislation on Monday that had been approved on party-line votes in both houses of Congress last month with only Republican support. The bill cancels rules adopted by the Federal Communications Commission last fall, which would have required Internet service providers to get permission from customers before sharing personal information they collect like web browsing histories and app usage. The rules hadn’t gone into effect yet.”


Copyright

Copyright: The Immoveable Barrier that Open Access Advocates Underestimated

“In calling for research papers to be made freely available open access advocates promised that doing so would lead to a
simpler, less costly, more democratic, and more effective scholarly communication system. To achieve their objectives they proposed two different ways of providing open access: green OA (self-archiving) and gold OA (open access publishing). However, while the OA movement has succeeded in persuading research institutions and funders of the merits of open access, it has failed to win the hearts and minds of most researchers. More importantly, it is not achieving its objectives. There are various reasons for this, but above all it is because OA advocates underestimated the extent to which copyright would subvert their cause. That is the argument I make in the text below, and I include a personal case study that demonstrates the kind of problems copyright poses for open access. I also argue that in underestimating the extent to which copyright would be a barrier to their objectives, OA advocates have enabled legacy publishers to appropriate the movement for their own benefit, rather than for the benefit of the research community, and to pervert both the practice and the concept of open access.

http://www.richardpoynder.co.uk/Copyright.pdf

If You Publish Georgia’s State Laws, You’ll Get Sued for Copyright and Lose

“In some states, you can’t read the law without paying a corporation.”

“If you want to read the official laws of the state of Georgia, it will cost you more than $1,000.”

“Open-records activist Carl Malamud bought a hard copy, and it cost him $1,207.02 after shipping and taxes. A copy on CD was $1,259.41. The ‘good’ news for Georgia residents is that they’ll only have to pay $385.94 to buy a printed set from LexisNexis.”

“Malamud thinks reading the law shouldn’t cost anything. So a few years back, he scanned a copy of the state of Georgia’s official laws, known as the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, or OCGA. Malamud made USB drives with two copies on them, one scanned copy and another encoded in XML format. On May 30, 2013, Malamud sent the USB drives to the Georgia speaker of the House, David Ralson, and the state’s legislative counsel, as well as other prominent Georgia lawyers and policymakers.”


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Open Data

Pittsburgh Libraries Join Initiative to Protect Data

“On the second floor of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh on Sunday, Priya Donti could be found hunched over a laptop, combing through government databases on monthly normal temperatures across different states.”

“The Carnegie Mellon University student’s participation in the first Data Rescue Pittsburgh event was driven by just as much a passion for open and transparent data as fear. Disturbed by reports that Donald Trump’s presidential administration might review Environmental Protection Agency climate data before it’s published, she joined more than 40 programmers, activists, librarians and researchers in the library in an effort to pinpoint and secure publicly accessible data sets.”


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The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.

Jobline 2017/04/14

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2017/04/jobline-20170414/ April 14, 2017 Categories: Jobline
Santa Clara University (SCU) University Library has three full-time staff positions open:

- Learning Commons Supervisor (Evening): https://jobs.scu.edu/postings/5651 close date: 4/24/2017
- Technical Services Assistant, https://jobs.scu.edu /postings/5648 close date: 4/28/2017

Please consider applying to the SCU University Library, one of the 2017 ACRL Excellence in Academic Libraries Award winners.
Intersect Alert April 17, 2017


April 17, 2017 Categories: Intersect Alert Tags: libraries, privacy, professional development, publishing, research

Privacy

Americans and Cybersecurity

“Cyberattacks and data breaches are facts of life for government agencies, businesses and individuals alike in today’s digitized and networked world. Just a few of the most high-profile breaches in 2016 alone include the hacking and subsequent release of emails from members of the Democratic National Committee; the release of testing records of dozens of athletes conducted by the World Anti-Doping Agency; and the announcement by Yahoo that hackers had accessed the private information associated with roughly 1 billion email accounts. Finally, in late 2016 and early 2017 U.S. intelligence agencies (the FBI, CIA and Department of Homeland Security) both issued statements and testified before Congress that the Russian government was involved in the hack of the DNC with the aim of influencing the 2016 presidential election.”

http://www.pewinternet.org/2017/01/26/americans-and-cybersecurity/

When Did You First Realize the Importance of Online Privacy?

“Was there a moment in your life when you had an awakening about the importance of digital privacy?”

“Maybe your parents snooped around an email account when you forgot to log out. Maybe photos you thought were private ended up online. Maybe you didn’t land your dream job, and you suspect an old LiveJournal account still visible in search results of your name may be the culprit. Maybe you got hacked.”

“We’re collecting stories from people about the moment digital privacy first started mattering in their lives. Through this collection, we’re hoping to illustrate the varied, often deeply personal reasons that people care about digital privacy. This isn’t a dry policy issue; corporate data practices have lasting ramifications on people’s everyday lives. And the recent vote by Congress to allow companies like Comcast and Time Warner to have unfettered access to our browsing habits puts our privacy even more at risk.”

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2017/04/when-did-you-first-

Databases

Introducing Project Toxidocs

“Columbia University’s Center for the History and Ethics of Public Health, located at its Mailman School of Public Health, and the City University of New York’s Graduate Center are proud to jointly present Toxic Docs. This dataset and website contain millions of pages of previously secret documents about toxic substances. They include secret internal memoranda, emails, slides, board minutes, unpublished scientific studies, and expert witness reports — among other kinds of documents — that emerged in recent toxic tort litigation.”

“Over the next couple years, we’ll be constantly adding material from lawsuits involving lead, asbestos, silica, and PCBs, among other dangerous substances. Innovations in parallel and cloud computing have made conversion of these documents into machine-readable, searchable text a far faster process than would have been the case just a decade ago.”

https://www.toxicdocs.org/

Professional Development

Copyright First Responders Webinar Now Available

“If you missed last week’s CopyTalk “Copyright First Responders” webinar, it’s alright – we have an archived copy!”

“Kyle Courtney of Harvard University’s Office for Scholarly Communication talked about the development of a decentralized model of copyright expertise in an academic setting — the Copyright First Responders (CFR) program. We know that copyright guidance is needed more now than ever before, and it is impossible for one lone copyright specialist or scholarly communications librarian to reach every academic department. The CFR program starts with a subject specialist and then adds on copyright expertise through a rigorous training model developed by Kyle. After taking the course, the subject specialist is ready to address the more basic queries of
their department faculty. The more difficult questions are forwarded on to the more experienced level of CRPs and if necessary, then on to Kyle himself.”

http://www.districtdispatch.org/2017/04/copyright-first-responders-webinar/

Publishing

Book Publishing in the Digital Age

“In 2012, we launched Thought Catalog Books. With Thought Catalog the website, we mastered producing short-form writing for the web and we wanted a new challenge. We hoped to build a counterweight to Thought Catalog’s trendy digital brand with a more contemplative spin-off brand as a book publisher.”

“There were two questions driving the identity of our book startup: In the age of algorithms and social media, can we create an enclave where creative and intellectual sophistication still matter? Can we build a publishing model where readers instead of advertisers are the main stakeholders?”


Libraries

Are School Libraries Headed Toward Extinction?

“Five more LA Unified high schools may divert their funding for teacher librarians this fall as principals decide to spend their budgets on other pressing needs, meaning 15 of the 84 high school libraries would not be fully staffed.”

“The state’s Local Control Funding Formula allows more autonomy for district schools, and library staffing is among the discretionary items. But at an April committee meeting, three school board members indicated they would like to see library positions required at schools. If they enlist a fourth board member, they could make the positions required at schools, even though principals have repeatedly indicated they need autonomy over their budgets.”

http://laschoolreport.com/are-school-libraries-headed-toward-extinction-lausd-principals-are-choosing-other-ways-to-spend-limited-budgets-but-some-board-members-want-to-change-that/

California Today: GoPros, Audiobooks and Other Perks of the Library

“Too few Californians take advantage of one of the great perks of simply being a resident.”

“The humble library card.”

“At libraries across the state, you can check out millions of digital books, audiobooks and movies, get career advice, learn a language, reserve a meeting room or borrow a GoPro.”

“I think we live in a world where people honestly think that they have to buy this stuff. And they don’t,” said Rivkah Sass, director of the Sacramento Public Library. “My thing is: get it from the library and then use the money to have a nice dinner.”

• San Francisco

“Never finished high school? The San Francisco Library, along with a number of other libraries in the state, offers a fully accredited online diploma and career certification program.”

“The library card also gets you free passes to more than a dozen Bay Area museums and attractions.”


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Follow these steps to download search results.

Execute a search from any search page including the homepage search, quick search, query builder, advanced legislation or command line.

Look for the Download Results link on the top left side of the search results page, next to the Save this Search link.

Click on the Download Results link.

Click OK on the popup that appears.

Use your browser controls to open or save the file.

Congress.gov search results are delivered as a comma-separated file, with a .csv filename extension. This format works well when opened by a spreadsheet application, such as Microsoft Excel.

https://www.congress.gov/help/downloads

GlobalTreeSearch: The First Complete Global Database of Tree Species and Country Distributions

“This article presents, for the first time, an overview of all known tree species by scientific name and country level distribution, and describes an online database — GlobalTreeSearch — that provides access to this information. Based on our comprehensive analysis of published data sources and expert input, the number of tree species currently known to science is 60,065, representing 20% of all angiosperm and gymnosperm plant species. Nearly half of all tree species (45%) are found in just 10 families, with the 3 most tree-rich families being Leguminosae, Rubiaceae, and Myrtaceae.

Geographically, Brazil, Colombia, and Indonesia are the countries with the most tree species. The countries with the most country-endemic tree species reflect broader plant diversity trends (Brazil, Australia, China) or islands where isolation has resulted in speciation (Madagascar, Papua New Guinea, Indonesia). Nearly 58% of all tree species are single-country endemics. Our intention is for GlobalTreeSearch to be used as a tool for monitoring and managing tree species diversity, forests, and carbon stocks on a global, regional, and/or national level. It will also be used as the basis of the Global Tree Assessment, which aims to assess the conservation status of all of the world’s tree species by 2020.”


Killing Privacy Is Fine Because “Nobody’s Got To Use The Internet,” House Rep Says

“From a distance, it can often be easy to criticize Congress as being out of touch, no matter what members are actually doing or what policies they’re proposing. But every once in a while, you get a response so staggeringly clueless you wonder if a lawmaker is living on the same planet you are.”

“This week’s gem comes from Wisconsin Rep. Jim Sensenbrenner, who doesn’t think anyone actually needs to use the internet for anything and that opting out of the 21st century is a valid ‘choice’ for consumers.”


Professional Development

Join Us for the Next CopyTalk Webinar: Code + Copyright = The Durationator.

“For the last decade, the Copyright Research Lab at Tulane University has been building the Durationator — a tool, helpdesk and resource for solving copyright questions. Designed to be used by libraries, archives, museums, artists and content owners (and everyone else!), the Durationator Copyright System combines complex legal research + code + human experts. The Durationator looks at every kind of cultural work (poems, films, books, photographs, art, sound recordings) in every country and territory of the world. It even covers state sound recordings! Elizabeth Townsend Gard will discuss what was learned during the ten-year development process. She will touch on basic information that is available for determining whether a work is under copyright or in the public domain, and how to think through copyright questions at the help desk.”

Details:
Date: Thursday, May 4, 2017
NYPL Acquires Lou Reed Archives

“On March 2—which would have been Lou Reed’s 75th birthday—the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts (NYPLPA) announced its acquisition of the late musician’s complete archives. The press conference, held at NYPLPA’s Dorothy and Lewis B. Cullman Center, in Lincoln Center, touched off a two-week celebration showcasing Reed’s work, including displays of selected items from the archives at NYPLPA and the Stephen A. Schwarzman Building, as well as several public programs.”

“At approximately 300 linear feet of paper records, electronic records, and photographs, plus approximately 3,600 audio and 1,300 video recordings, the Lou Reed archives document a prodigious and influential career—from his 1958 high school band to a final performance in Paris months before his death, from liver cancer, in September 2013.”

NEH Awards Leading San Francisco Institutions $315,000

“San Francisco, CA – The Archives and Special Collections department of the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) Library, in collaboration with the San Francisco Public Library (SFPL) and the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender (GLBT) Historical Society, has been awarded a $315,000 implementation grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The collaborating institutions will digitize about 127,000 pages from 49 archival collections related to the early days of the AIDS epidemic in the San Francisco Bay Area and make them widely accessible to the public online. In the process, collections whose components had been placed in different archives for various reasons will be digitally reunited, facilitating access for researchers outside the Bay Area.”

Libraries

How Libraries Became Public

“Of all of our cultural institutions, the public library is remarkable. There are few tax-supported services that are used by people of all ages, classes, races, and religions. I can’t think of any public institutions (except perhaps parks) that are as well-loved and widely used as libraries. Nobody has suggested that tax dollars be used for vouchers to support the development of private libraries or that we shouldn’t trust those “government” libraries. Even though the recession following the 2008 crash has led to reduced staff and hours in American libraries, threats of closure are generally met with vigorous community resistance. Visits and check-outs are up significantly over the past ten years, though it has decreased a bit in recent years. Reduced funding seems to be a factor, though the high point was 2009; library use parallels unemployment figures – low unemployment often means fewer people use public libraries. A for-profit company that claims to run libraries more cheaply than local governments currently has contracts to manage only sixteen of over 9,000 public library systems in the U.S. Few public institutions have been so impervious to privatization.”

Record-Setting Senate Support Needed to Save Federal Library Funding!

“If you have visited this page in the last few weeks, you know the President has proposed wiping out all library funding – and the agency, the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), that administers much of it – in his initial FY18 budget proposal. You also know thousands of librarians, library supporters, users, vendors and citizens in every Congressional district in the country used the ALA Legislative Action Center and many other channels to insist that their Representative in the House sign two “Dear Appropriator” letters to the
Appropriations Committee asking them to preserve funding this year for the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) and Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL) program.”

“One-third of the entire House of Representatives signed each of those Dear Appropriator letters and nearly 170 Members signed at least one — an 18% increase in support for IAL and a record-shattering 64% increase for LSTA. (Visit this House tracker to see whether your Representative in the House signed.)

“Now, it’s time for you to break records for support in the U.S. Senate by asking both of your Senators to sign Dear Appropriator letters for LSTA and IAL. Our goal is to put a majority of all 100 Senators on record in support of these critical programs! Check this Senate tracker to see if your Senator signed last year and if they have already agreed to sign this year. If not, we have until just May 19 to convince them to add their names to both the LSTA and IAL letters. There’s no time to lose.”

http://www.ala.org/advocacy/advleg/federallegislation/fight-for-libraries

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Health Literacy

Use Health Literacy Online to Improve the User Experience for Everyone

“Up to half of all American adults have limited literacy skills, and as many as 9 in 10 have limited health literacy skills. Online health information can be tricky for users with low literacy skills to understand — and it presents a unique set of challenges for professionals who create online health content, too.”

“People with low literacy skills are more likely to have difficulty finding, processing, and using information on the web. They may get distracted easily, give up reading quickly, and struggle with dense text and complex navigation.”


NIH Launches Spanish Health Information Portal

“The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has launched a Spanish-language health information website, Portal de Información de Salud de NIH, in Summer 2016, although some may not be aware of the site. The site offers free, evidence-based health information from across the NIH, on topics ranging from child health to aging. The mobile-friendly site includes translations of many articles from the NIH News in Health publication, popular for its clear and to-the-point content, and clinical trials information from the Clinical Research Trials and You website. The new site also features a monthly column called Ask Carla, designed as an opportunity for readers to learn about Spanish-language resources available from the NIH.”


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Workplace Communication

Leading a Difficult Conversation: There is Help

“A tough skill for leaders to master is the art of the difficult conversation. Good leaders know how to manage the conversation to achieve a positive resolution. Here’s a new source of guidance for those who want to improve.”

“Whatever it was that initially drew you to library leadership, the prospect of engaging in difficult conversations with colleagues and subordinates was likely far down the list. Confrontations with employees or colleagues are inevitable. How to manage them was no doubt covered in a leadership development program or in an advice column or two. Despite those learning opportunities, these situations remain troublesome for many leaders, especially the less experienced. Tackling the problem before it festers and worsens is an important first step, but what’s the strategy for having the actual conversation?”


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International Outlook

A Cuban Book Trip: Reading Flourishes at the Havana Book Fair

“The captivating country of Cuba has welcomed readers, authors, publishers, and librarians to the Havana International Book Fair since 1982. Organized by the Ministry of Culture and the Cuban Book Institute, this standout cultural extravaganza, which originated as part of a government campaign to boost literacy on the island, celebrated its 26th anniversary this past February with a family-oriented festival dedicated to the pleasures of reading under the motto, ‘To read is to grow.’”

“In 2016, after the decades-old U.S. embargo of Cuba was partially lifted, the American Library Association (ALA) sponsored a tour of about 30 people whose goal was to attend the fair as well as to visit major Cuban libraries and other cultural and social institutions. Traveling from New York, Virginia, Illinois, New Jersey, California, the District of Columbia, Massachusetts, Texas, New Hampshire, Arizona, and the Virgin Islands, tour group members included professionals from an array of libraries, three library schools,
two professional associations, and a consulting firm.”


Search

New Website Brings 9 Decades of University History Online

“The newly launched University of Chicago Campus Publications website allows researchers to readily explore more than nine decades of University history, from 1892 to 1995. At launch, the site provides digital access to four periodicals: Cap and Gown, the College yearbook; the University of Chicago Magazine, the official alumni publication; Quarterly Calendar, an early omnibus publication; and the University Record, its successor. By visiting campub.lib.uchicago.edu, members of the UChicago community and researchers around the world can conduct a simultaneous keyword search of all four publications, using an interface built and maintained by the University of Chicago Library.”

“The Campus Publications site is an exciting new resource for faculty, students, and alumni of the University and provides a wealth of historical information for other researchers examining the history of the University and its impact on higher education. Genealogists researching University connections may also find the site particularly helpful. For many, research into University history will no longer require careful and laborious browsing of multiple volumes of bound print publications. For the first time, the complete content of some of the most heavily used University periodicals will be fully accessible online across publications and chronological time periods.”


The Secret Lives of Google Raters

“Something disturbing has been happening to Google’s advertising algorithms. These are the programs responsible for placing ads in appropriate contexts; serving up travel-related ads to people searching for hotels or music-related ads to people watching the latest Beyoncé video. But in the UK, government ads for the Royal Navy, the Home Office, and Transport for London recently ran before YouTube videos featuring Holocaust-denying pastor Steven Anderson, who enthusiastically endorsed the man who killed 49 people in Florida’s gay nightclub Pulse. According to the UK government, its taxpayer-sponsored ads also ran on videos from “rape apologists” and on white supremacist speeches from David Duke.”

“Google’s business immediately took a hit: prominent European ad agencies cut ties with the company, while AT&T and Verizon cut all video ad buys. Acknowledging the gravity of the problem, Google assured advertisers and users that it would make sure no ads ran alongside “upsetting-offensive” content. The company said it was unleashing its army of over 10,000 raters, people who work around the clock to make sure Google’s algorithms don’t return results that are unhelpful, offensive, or downright horrific.”

https://arstechnica.com/features/2017/04/the-secret-lives-of-google-raters/

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The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.

Neighborhood Dinner Recap: San Leandro April 26, 2017


Neighborhood Dinner Recap provided by Sandy Malloy.

Marlene Vogelsang, Deb Hunt and I hosted a Neighborhood Dinner at Fusion Delight in San Leandro Wednesday night (April 26th) for a total of 9 people, many of whom had never been there before in its current incarnation. Apparently it had been a Hometown Buffet at one point and a dinner guest drily remarked that it looked a bit different.

The participants, with one notable exception, are in the photo:
Bill O'Brien (spouse of Sandy Malloy); Maureen Mason (Dropbox); Ron Rodrigues (U.S. Geological Survey); Deb Hunt (Mechanics Institute); Sandy Malloy (Business Wire); Claudia Fenelon (Kaiser); Susan Krauss (Hellman & Friedman); Marlene Vogelsang (PG&E) and Richard Geiger (retired but far from idle.) Not pictured is Susan Geiger, the spouse of Richard, who took the photo.

Neighborhood Dinners are valued by our members for several reasons and I think this one hit all the marks. First, it’s close to your neighborhood (thought in my case, I apparently don’t know my neighborhood well enough as I was a bit late!) Second, if you are a long-time Chapter member, you get to see people you know well and are always happy to see again. Third, if you are new to the chapter (Hi, Maureen), you get to meet Chapter members. Fourth, you might get a chance to catch up with people you haven’t seen in a while (I can’t say for sure but it looked like some of that was going on across the table, and it was definitely happening on our side.) In my case, I had the bonus of one guest filling me in on the colorful background of a mutual former co-worker – in other words, we were gossiping shamelessly.

I’m confident that everyone had a good time with the good food and excellent company. Many thanks to the Chapter leaders facilitating Neighborhood Dinners this year, Heather Heen and Belinda Beardt, and to Marlene for the restaurant suggestion.

Intersect Alert May 7, 2017

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2017/05/intersect-alert-may-7-2017/ May 7, 2017 Categories: Intersect Alert Tags: archives, international outlook, open access, open data, privacy, public policy, take action

Take Action:

California: Let’s End Unchecked Police Surveillance
All surveillance is political. Nowhere is this more evident than on the local level when law enforcement acquires new surveillance technology. Too often, the political process advantages police over the public interest. In California, a new bill-S.B. 21-offers the rare opportunity to shift the balance in favor of privacy.

Police know that once they acquire a new spy gadget or system, it’s difficult for elected officials to take it away, lest they seem “soft on crime” during the next election. When police do seek approval of privacy-invasive technology law enforcement agencies often provide only the barest amount of information to policymakers and the public about how a system works and how they intend to use it. Sometimes police officials will avoid the approval process altogether by purchasing equipment with asset forfeiture slush funds, by having them purchased for them by outside nonprofits, or by accepting free trials from vendors. EFF urges the California legislature to pass S.B. 21, a surveillance technology reform bill introduced by State Sen. Jerry Hill. This legislation would require that police departments, before acquiring or using new spying technology, obtain approval in advance to do so from an elected board during a public hearing. When police obtain such approval, they must also get approval of a use policy that includes privacy safeguards.

Take action here:

Public Policy:

UNESCO Adopts Policy Concerning Information
UNESCO has quietly adopted an access to information policy. The policy has been up and running since March 1, according to an official from UNESCO (the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization). A link to the policy is contained at the bottom of the UNESCO web page, although not on the UNESCO “transparency portal.” The policy was developed in a closed internal process, despite calls by civic groups for UNESCO to issue a draft policy and hold consultations. (See previous FreedomInfo.org article.) Freedominfo.org in August reported on UNESCO’s intention to write a policy. UNESCO had some internal rules on what should be confidential, but no disclosure policy resembling a national FOI law. UNESCO is the UN agency charged with supporting access to information internationally.

“The Policy is guided by the presumption that any information...
concerning UNESCO’s policies, strategies, programmes and operations…,” it states. The policy describes what information should normally be made available. This includes “The Organization’s main strategy and programme/budget documents. UNESCO Country Programming Documents (UCPDs), “procurement information,” evaluation reports on programmes and projects, and results of all internal audits. The policy established a number of exceptions, including for sensitive information and internal deliberations. [Link](http://www.freedominfo.org/2017/05/unesco-adopts-policy-concerning-information/).

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Open Data:

**Atlas of Sustainable Development Goals 2017**
The Atlas is built around World Development Indicators 2017 – the World Bank’s compilation of statistics from over 200 economies about global development and the quality of people’s lives. For each of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, selected indicators have been identified and visualized to analyze trends and challenges, and to stimulate discussion on measurement issues. You can browse the Atlas online, or download it as a PDF. It is accompanied by interactive dashboards of SDG data and all the underlying data is available in the World Development Indicators database.
The 17 SDGs are:
No Poverty
Zero Hunger
Good Health and Well-being
Quality Education
Gender Equality
Clean Water and Sanitation
Affordable and Clean Energy
Decent Work and Economic Growth
Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
Reduced Inequalities
Sustainable Cities and Communities
Responsible Consumption and Production
Climate Action
Life Below Water
Life on Land
Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions
Partnerships for Global Development
[Link](http://datatopics.worldbank.org/sdgalas/).

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**Insurgency, Terrorism and Organised Crime in a Warming Climate – Analysing the Links Between Climate Change and Non-State Armed Groups**
Over the past ten years, both our understanding and awareness of the links between climate change and security have increased tremendously. Today the UN, the EU, the G7 and an increasing number of states have classified climate change as a threat to global and/or national security. However, the links between climate change, conflict and fragility are not simple and linear. The increasing impacts of climate change do not automatically lead to more fragility and conflict. Rather, climate change acts as a threat multiplier. It interacts and converges with other existing risks and pressures in a given context and can increase the likelihood of fragility or violent conflict.
Taking the state of play on the links between climate change and fragility as a starting point, the report Insurgency, Terrorism and Organised Crime in a Warming Climate addresses the question of how the impacts of climate change are a contributing factor in the rise and growth of non-state armed groups. Four case studies that span the whole spectrum of non-state armed groups and patterns of violence, conflict and fragility explore in depth the specific role non-state armed groups play in the complex dynamics of climate change and fragility and try to identify how climate change acts as a risks multiplier in regards to non-state armed groups.

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Open Access:

**40 Orgs & 25 CRS Alums Call on Congress to Release Congressional Research Service Reports**
Today Demand Progress and a bipartisan coalition of more than 40 organizations and 25 former CRS staff called on Congress to comprehensively publish Congressional Research Service (CRS) Reports online. CRS reports are written by
Congress’s think tank and explain important policy matters in a comprehensive, even-handed way. While they are made available to the 20,000 staff on Capitol Hill, and are readily available to lobbyists and other insiders, public access often is limited by a paywall. Many, but not all, reports are available freely online, and there’s no way to know whether you’re looking at the most recent version. The first letter, sent by more than 40 organizations from across the politics spectrum, calls for public access to CRS reports and addresses frequent questions about online publication. The second letter, from 25 former CRS employees with more than 570 years of combined experience, explains the importance of public access and expresses strong support for the availability of CRS reports. Last Congress, bipartisan bicameral legislation was introduced by Sens. McCain and Leahy and Reps. Lance and Quigley to make the reports available to the public. Public access is expected to come up at Wednesday’s Legislative Branch Appropriations Subcommittee hearing, scheduled for 10 a.m. in HT-2 (in the Capitol).

https://demandprogress.org/518706-2/

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**Archives:**

**Massive UAlbany death penalty archive goes digital**

During his life, M. Watt Espy searched libraries and courthouses across the country gradually building what is widely considered the most comprehensive record of executions in the country. For decades the archive sat in stacks of boxes in his Alabama home. Next year the archive, which is now housed on the far shelves of the special collections library at the University at Albany, will be available digitally to researchers across the world.

The collection includes over 28,000 handwritten index cards describing individual executions as well as supporting documents from news sources, courthouses, local histories and countless sources. The execution archive – dubbed the Espy File – documents over 15,000 government-sanctioned executions dating to 1608. Before his work, researchers thought there had been closer to 5,000 legal executions in American history. The Espy File, which Espy donated to UAlbany in 2008, is the centerpiece of the broader UAlbany Death Penalty Archive, which also includes records from advocacy groups, lawyers and others.

Thanks to a Council on Library and Information Resources grant, the university is undertaking an 18-month long project to digitize the Espy archive and organize it in an easily accessible and searchable format. Once complete, researchers will be able to log in and search thousands of executions by name, state, method and much more. The material will be far more usable that in its current form.


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**Privacy:**

**Three Core Security & Privacy Issues of Connected Vehicles**

Connected vehicles have tremendous potential to reshape the transportation landscape – bringing important safety and efficiency benefits but also creating new security and privacy risks. In addition, there are long-standing security and privacy issues that, if not resolved, will be compounded with the continued trends towards greater use of software and connectivity in motor vehicles. Our comments focus on three main issues: the need for secure software, the increasing dependence on critical information infrastructures, and the need for greater transparency around data privacy.

1. **The Need for Secure Software**

Motor vehicle security research is in its infancy, and public information about the state of automotive security is lacking in general. This is a concern given the very high likelihood of extensive bugs in existing motor vehicle software.

2. **Risks of Critical Information Infrastructures Reliance**

As software and connectivity continue to be integrated into motor vehicles, these vehicles will become subsequently dependent on critical information infrastructures, which include network-level connectivity, transport-level connectivity, and application-level connectivity. This connectivity creates dependency, and associated risks of cascading failure.

3. **The Need for Additional Transparency into Data Privacy**

Connectivity significantly impacts privacy. Forty-five percent of new car buyers are concerned about the privacy impacts of new in-car technologies. Responding to these concerns, nineteen automakers adopted in 2014 a set of “Privacy Principles for Vehicle Technology and Services” that went into effect for model year 2017. Two-and-a-half years later, it continues to be unclear what precisely the principles require of automakers. Now is the time to resolve this and a slew of other issues related to the principles.


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**How One Major Internet Company Helps Serve Up Hate on the Web**

Cloudflare, a prominent San Francisco outfit, provides services to neo-Nazi sites like The Daily Stormer, including giving them personal information on people who complain about their content. Since its launch in 2013, the neo-Nazi website The Daily Stormer has quickly become the go-to spot for racists on the internet. Women are whores, blacks are inferior and a shadowy Jewish cabal is organizing a genocide against white people. The site can count among its readers Dylann Roof, the white teenager who slaughtered nine African Americans in Charleston in 2015, and James Jackson, who fatally stabbed an elderly black man with a sword in the streets of New York earlier this year. Traffic is up lately, too, at white supremacist
sites like The Right Stuff, Iron March, American Renaissance and Stormfront, one of the oldest white nationalist sites on the internet.

The operations of such extreme sites are made possible, in part, by an otherwise very mainstream internet company – Cloudflare. Based in San Francisco, Cloudflare operates more than 100 data centers spread across the world, serving as a sort of middleman for websites – speeding up delivery of a site’s content and protecting it from several kinds of attacks. The widespread use of Cloudflare’s services by racist groups is not an accident. Cloudflare has said it is not in the business of censoring websites and will not deny its services to even the most offensive purveyors of hate.

“A website is speech. It is not a bomb,” Cloudflare’s CEO Matthew Prince wrote in a 2013 blog post defending his company’s stance. “There is no imminent danger it creates and no provider has an affirmative obligation to monitor and make determinations about the theoretically harmful nature of speech a site may contain.”

Cloudflare also has an added appeal to sites such as The Daily Stormer. It turns over to the hate sites the personal information of people who criticize their content. For instance, when a reader figures out that Cloudflare is the internet company serving sites like The Daily Stormer, they sometimes write to the company to protest. Cloudflare, per its policy, then relays the name and email address of the person complaining to the hate site, often to the surprise and regret of those complaining. This has led to campaigns of harassment against those writing in to protest the offensive material. People have been threatened and harassed.


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The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.

The main sticking points were whether the Directive would require those who adapt works into accessible formats to pay compensation to the publishers of the original works, whether there should be a ban on creating accessible copies of works when copies are also commercially available, and whether only “authorized entities” would be permitted to create accessible-format works. On most of these issues the interests of blind and print disabled users have prevailed, with one exception: Individual European countries may require that publishers be paid compensation when adaptations of works are made by authorized entities such as charities and libraries in that country.

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2017/05/european-publishing-lobby-forces-compromise-marrakesh-treaty.

Privacy:

How private are your favourite messaging apps?
We’ve ranked 11 companies that run the world’s most popular messaging apps – including Skype, Snapchat and Facebook Messenger – on how well they’re using encryption to protect your online privacy. In particular, we’ve looked at whether they apply end-to-end encryption – a way of making your photos,
videos and chats unintelligible to anyone but you and the people you’re talking to. This is how they fared – [see post]. Please note that this is an assessment of each company’s key policies and practices in relation to encryption. We have not assessed other privacy aspects of the apps or their overall security. If you’re a journalist or activist, or if you believe you might be personally targeted for electronic surveillance, you need a comprehensive digital security plan. Please consult a digital security expert and do not rely on any one app to protect your information.

Our communications are under constant threat from cybercriminals, malicious hackers, and unjustified spying by state authorities. Young people, activists and journalists who share personal details over messaging apps are especially at risk. Many of us trust these apps with intimate details of our personal life. Companies that fail to take basic steps to protect our communications are failing that trust. Amnesty International is calling on companies to apply end-to-end encryption as a default. It is also calling on technology companies to clearly inform users of the level of encryption applied to their messaging services.


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Public Policy:

How the Affordable Care Act Drove Down Personal Bankruptcy

As legislators and the executive branch renew their efforts to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act this week, they might want to keep in mind a little-known financial consequence of the ACA: Since its adoption, far fewer Americans have taken the extreme step of filing for personal bankruptcy. Filings have dropped about 50 percent, from 1,536,799 in 2010 to 770,846 in 2016. Those years also represent the time frame when the ACA took effect. Although bankruptcy and legal experts agree that medical bills had been a leading cause of personal bankruptcy before public healthcare coverage expanded under the ACA. Unlike other causes of debt, medical bills are often unexpected, involuntary, and large. “If you’re uninsured or underinsured, you can run up a huge debt in a short period of time,” says Lois Lupica, a bankruptcy expert and Maine Law Foundation Professor of Law at the University of Maine School of Law. “It’s absolutely remarkable,” says Jim Molleur, a Maine-based bankruptcy attorney with 20 years of experience. “We’re not getting people with big medical bills, chronically sick people who would hit those lifetime caps or be denied because of pre-existing conditions. They seemed to disappear almost overnight once ACA kicked in.”


Social Media:

Don’t Let Facebook Make You Miserable

It is now official. Scholars have analyzed the data and confirmed what we already knew in our hearts. Social media is making us miserable. We are all dimly aware that everybody else can’t possibly be as successful, rich, attractive, relaxed, intellectual and joyous as they appear to be on Facebook. Yet we can’t help comparing our inner lives with the curated lives of our friends. Just how different is the real world from the world on social media? In the real world, The National Enquirer, a weekly, sells nearly three times as many copies as The Atlantic, a monthly, every year. On Facebook, The Atlantic is 45 times more popular. Americans spend about six times as much of their time cleaning dishes as they do golfing. But there are roughly twice as many tweets reporting golfing as there are tweets reporting doing the dishes.

In the United States, the desire to show off and exaggerate wealth is universal. Caucasians, Asian-Americans, African-Americans and Hispanic-Americans are all two to three times as likely to associate on Facebook with a luxury car they own than with a non-luxury car they own.

But different people in different places can have different notions of what is cool and what is embarrassing. Take musical taste. According to 2014 data from Spotify Insights on what people actually listen to, men and women have similar tastes; 29 of the 40 musicians women listened to most frequently were also the artists most frequently listened to by men. On Facebook, though, men seem to underplay their interest in artists considered more feminine. For example, on Spotify, Katy Perry was the 10th most listened to artist among men, beating Bob Marley, Kanye West, Kendrick Lamar and Wiz Khalifa. But those other artists all have more male likes on Facebook.

As our lives increasingly move online, I propose a new self-help mantra for the 21st century, courtesy of big data: Don’t compare your Google searches with other people’s Facebook posts.


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TAKE ACTION!

Interior Department Releases List of Monuments Under Review, Announces First-Ever Formal Public Comment Period for Antiquities Act Monuments

The Department of the Interior today announced the first ever formal public comment period for members of the public to officially weigh in on monument designations under the Antiquities Act of 1906, and the Department released a list of monuments under review under the President’s Executive Order 13792, issued April 26, 2017. [Note: 6 are in California]. Comments may be submitted online after May 12 at http://www.regulations.gov by entering “DOI-2017-0002” in the Search bar and clicking “Search,” [Note: see also link below] or by mail to Monument Review, MS-1530, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street NW, Washington, DC 20240.

To ensure consideration, written comments relating to the Bears Ears National Monument must be submitted before May 26, 2017. Written comments relating to all other National Monuments must be submitted before July 10, 2017.

In making the requisite determinations, the Secretary [of the Interior] is directed to consider:

(i) the requirements and original objectives of the Act, including the Act’s requirement that reservations of land not exceed “the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected”;

(ii) whether designated lands are appropriately classified under the Act as “historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, [or] other objects of historic or scientific interest”;

(iii) the effects of a designation on the available uses of designated Federal lands, including consideration of the multiple-use policy of section 102(a)(7) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (43 U.S.C. 1701(a)(7)), as well as the effects on the available uses of Federal lands beyond the monument boundaries;

(iv) the effects of a designation on the use and enjoyment of non-Federal lands within or beyond monument boundaries;

(v) concerns of State, tribal, and local governments affected by a designation, including the economic development and fiscal condition of affected States, tribes, and localities;

(vi) the availability of Federal resources to properly manage designated areas; and

(vii) such other factors as the Secretary deems appropriate.

Take action to help preserve the archive of history that

these monuments represent here:

International Outlook:

[Note: Having just spent time in London, please forgive this indulgence]

The Wilde Side: Oscar Wilde and the London Library

On 19 May 1897, exactly 120 years ago today Oscar Wilde was released from Reading jail. There was no more sensational trial or public fall from grace in the Victorian era than that of the writer, playwright and cultural icon, Oscar Wilde. Secreted in the Library’s Victorian membership ledgers are the names of Oscar Wilde’s wife, Constance; his publishers John Lane and Algernon Marshall Methuen; and his illustrator Aubrey Beardsley. Constance appears in the Library’s membership records in 1894 giving her occupation or position as “Wife of Oscar Wilde Esq”. Within a year of joining the Library her husband was serving a two year prison sentence with hard labour and the family home at Tite Street, along with all its contents, had been auctioned off.

After his release from prison Wilde wrote two letters to the editor of the Daily Chronicle about the need for prison reform. The letters were reproduced in pamphlet form in 1898 by Murdoch and Co. and sold for a penny. In Children in Prison and Other Cruelties of Prison Life Wilde describes the dehumanizing effect of the prison system on all who came into contact with it. He made a direct request for the case of prisoner A.2.11 (a young soldier whose inhumane treatment Wilde witnessed at first hand) to be looked into as a matter of urgency.

As Wilde prepared to leave prison he wrote “I know that on the day of my release I shall be merely passing from one prison into another…Still I do see a sort of possible goal towards which, through art, I may progress … On the other side of the prison wall there are some poor black soot-besmirched trees which are just breaking out into buds of an almost shrill green. I know quite well what they are going through. They are finding expression.”

http://blog.londonlibrary.co.uk/?p=17654.

Privacy:
How to Opt Out of Twitter’s New Privacy Settings
Since Wednesday night, Twitter users have been greeted by a pop-up notice about Twitter’s new privacy policy, which will come into effect June 18. Contrary to the inviting “Sounds good” button to accept the new policy and get to tweeting, the changes Twitter has made around user tracking and data personalization do not sound good for user privacy. For example, the company will now record and store non-EU users’ off-Twitter web browsing history for up to 30 days, up from 10 days in the previous policy. Worst of all, the “control over your data” promised by the pop-up is on an opt-out basis, giving users choices only after Twitter has set their privacy settings to invasive defaults. If you already clicked through the privacy policy pop-up, you can still go into your settings to make changes.

Twitter has stated that these granular settings are intended to replace Twitter’s reliance on Do Not Track. However, replacing a standard cross-platform choice with new, complex options buried in the settings is not a fair trade. Although “more granular” privacy settings sound like an improvement, they lose their meaning when they are set to privacy-invasive selections by default. Adding new tracking options that users are opted into by default suggests that Twitter cares more about collecting data than respecting users’ choice.


San Francisco sues Uber in battle over driver privacy
The City of San Francisco filed suit last week against the ridesharing service Uber after the company filed a motion in court to block the release of a drivers’ personal information. This sets up the latest battle between the city and one of the leading transportation network companies over an issue that has privacy implications beyond the ridesharing industry. San Francisco’s tax collector wants the home addresses and other information of drivers to post on a web site that includes a map that pinpoints the exact location of registered business owners in the city. Because these drivers are independent contractors, most of them use their home addresses as their official business address.

The web site is publicly searchable, which means that anyone can easily find where these drivers live. “We’ve asked the city to allow us to get the consent of drivers and to remove their personal information from the public web site, but they have refused,” said Uber Northern California’s general manager, in a statement last week. The city’s treasurer, Jose Cisneros, portrayed Uber’s actions as an effort to “circumvent the tax laws that apply to all businesses in San Francisco.” He notes that 130,000 other businesses – ranging from big ones such as Pacific Gas & Electric to small hairdressers – must also provide the information. “San Francisco needs this information to determine whether Uber’s drivers are complying with San Francisco’s Business Registration Certificate requirement and paying annual registration fees,” the city wrote in its legal brief filed in San Francisco Superior Court. In a statement, City Attorney Dennis Herrera referred to privacy concerns as a “red herring.”


Public Policy:
House Votes to Give Some Powers of Librarian of Congress to Donald Trump
Dr. Carla Hayden, the current and 14th Librarian of Congress, is many things: a brilliant scholar, a forty year veteran of libraries, a defender of equal access, a former president of the American Library Association (ALA), and a rescuer of baby ducks. She is also the first African American and the first woman to hold her position as the highest ranked librarian in the United States. And it just so happens that Congress recently voted to limit her powers. On April 26, 2017, the House of Representatives voted 378 to 48 in favor of the Register of Copyrights Selection and Accountability Act (H.R. 1695). The bill’s name implies that it focuses on the mundane details of copyright law, and to some extent, it does. But it also limits the position of Librarian of Congress. In particular, if it is passed by the Senate, the act will prevent Hayden from appointing the next Register of Copyrights. Instead, the power to choose the next Register of Copyrights will fall to the executive branch. More specifically, it will rest in the hands of current President Donald Trump.

For starters, many in the music, publishing, and entertainment industries support the bill. In 2016, Hayden removed Maria Pallante from her position as Register of Copyrights. Pallante is now the President and CEO of the Association of American Publishers, a group that has broadly praised the proposed act. The Authors Guild has likewise supported potential changes to copyright law. Allowing the President to choose the new Register of Copyrights would allow lobbyists from these and similar groups to more easily promote potential Register of Copyrights candidates who support their interests.

And of course it is important to note that Congress is voting on this bill when it will affect the, and I can’t say this enough, first African American and first woman to ever hold the position of Librarian of Congress. Though the previous Librarian of Congress received heavy criticism, Congress did not vote to hamper his abilities in the way that they are attempting to hinder Hayden’s. Perhaps this is simply because Congress moves at the pace of an iceberg. Perhaps enough new faces were voted into office in 2016 to inspire change. Or perhaps some legislators find it easier to take power away from an African American woman than from a white man.

Open Data:

What Kinds of Libraries Are Needed to Support Data-driven Discovery?
The National Library of Medicine supports discovery. We help investigators disseminate their findings, and we help others see what has been done and build on those results. And, analyzing the library collection itself—the journal articles on a topic or the sequences in our gene databases—can yield its own discoveries as researchers look beyond the specifics to discern patterns or trends in the whole.

In this era of data-driven discovery, however, we need to do more. First, we need a PubMed-equivalent for data. After all, data-driven discovery begins with discovering the data. We must make that as easy as possible. Just as PubMed provides citations to articles in selected journals, we need to compile a common catalog of biomedical data sets. And, as the NLM Literature Selection Technical Review Committee brings together experts to review journals and assess their quality to identify what should be indexed in PubMed, we need an experienced group to identify and select data sets based on predetermined criteria. Those criteria, in turn, will help set the standard for quality data. Some PubMed citations link to the full-text article. That full-text might be in PubMed Central—which means the article is stored here—but most are not, so we simply link to them where they are, whether that’s a publisher’s site or another library’s repository. Similarly, while some data sets might be deposited in NIH-hosted repositories, most won’t need to be. We can link to them instead.

Data-driven discovery also relies upon proven methods to investigate the data, create predictive or explanatory models, and conduct a range of operations, so we need to think about how to create a library of models, both those based on statistics and those drawn from operations research and optimization.


Library Offers Largest Release of Digital Catalog Records in History: 25 Million Free Records of Bibliographic Metadata

The Library of Congress announced today that it is making 25 million records in its online catalog available for free bulk download at loc.gov/cds/products/marcDist.php. This is the largest release of digital records in the Library’s history. The records also will be easily accessible at data.gov, the open-government website hosted by the General Services Administration (GSA). Until now, these bibliographic records have only been available individually or through a paid subscription. “The Library of Congress is our nation’s monument to knowledge and we need to make sure the doors are open wide for everyone, not just physically but digitally too,” said Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden. “Unlocking the rich data in the Library’s online catalog is a great step forward. I’m excited to see how people will put this information to use.”

The data covers a wide range of Library items including books, serials, computer files, manuscripts, maps, music and visual materials. The free data sets cover more than 45 years, ranging from 1968, during the early years of MARC, to 2014. Each record provides standardized information about an item, including the title, author, publication date, subject headings, genre, related names, summary and other notes. In addition to their traditional value to libraries, the rich data included in these records can be used for a wide range of cultural, historical and literary research. “The Library of Congress catalog is literally the gold standard for bibliographic data and we believe this treasure trove of information can be used for much more than its original purpose,” added Beacher Wiggins, the Library’s director for Acquisitions and Bibliographic Access. “From more efficient information-sharing and easier analysis to visualizations and other possibilities we cannot begin to predict, we hope this data will be put to work by social scientists, data analysts, developers, statisticians and everyone else doing innovative work with large data sets to enhance learning and the formation of new knowledge.”

https://www.loc.gov/item/prn-17-068/

35 Years Of American Death: Mortality rates for leading causes of death in every U.S. county from 1980 to 2014

Researchers have long argued that where we live can help predict how we die. But how much our location affects our health is harder to say, because death certificates, the primary source for mortality data, are not always complete. They frequently contain what public health experts call “garbage codes”: vague or generic causes of death that are listed when the specific cause is unknown. Garbage codes make it difficult to track the toll of a disease over time or to look for geographical patterns in how people die. The data shown in the map [on the website] represents one research group’s effort to fill in these gaps. That group – the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation – designed a statistical model that uses demographic and epidemiological data to assign more specific causes of death to the records containing garbage codes in the National Vital Statistics System, which gathers death records (and other information such as births) from state and local jurisdictions into a national database. The institute also age-standardized the data so that places with larger populations of older people, who die at higher rates, do not have inflated numbers. The result is a set of more complete estimates of mortality across the country, one revealing regional and local variations in causes of death.

https://projects.fivethirtyeight.com/mortality-rates-united-states/
Every Color Of Cardigan Mister Rogers Wore From 1979–2001

While y’all were watching the world fall apart this week, I was watching Fred Rogers build it back up. For the past few days I’ve been transfixed by the “Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood” marathon that began on Monday afternoon over on Twitch. Like watching the “Joy of Painting” with Bob Ross, zoning out to “Mister Rogers” is an exercise in escapism. After Rogers helped reset my brain I began to wonder about all the handsome, colorful sweaters he famously wore. Did Rogers have a favorite?

Fortunately, Tim Lybarger, a 40 year-old high school counselor from just outside of Champaign-Urbana, Illinois, wondered the same thing a few years ago. Back in 2011, on his blog devoted to all things Mister Rogers, neighborhoodarchive.com, Lybarger recorded the color of every sweater Rogers wore in each episode between 1979 and 2001. “When I realized such a resource didn’t exist,” Lybarger told me over email, “I just felt like somebody needed to do it…might as well be me.”

Some sweaters were worn once and then never again, like the neon blue cardigan Rogers wore in episode 1497. Others, like his harvest gold sweaters, were part of Rogers’ regular rotation and then disappeared. And then there were the unusual batch of black and olive green sweaters Rogers wore exclusively while filming the “Dress-Up” episodes in 1991. To this day, members of the Neighborhood Archive message board claim those are the only sweaters Rogers wore that were store bought. The rest were hand knit by his mother.


Intellectual Property:

Recording Industry Claims Imaginary Value Gap as a Bigger Threat Than Piracy

One of the most significant events that took place at this month’s meeting of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), that EFF attended, wasn’t part of the meeting’s formal agenda. It came at a side-meeting organized by the International Federation of the Phonographic Industry (IFPI), an affiliate of the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA). At that meeting, IFPI panelist David Price made the startling admission that copyright infringement is no longer the recording industry’s biggest concern. Apparently, the industry’s biggest concern is no longer those who distribute music illegally for free. It’s platforms like YouTube that do pay copyright holders, but don’t pay enough. According to the IFPI, YouTube’s reliance on the U.S. DMCA and Europe’s E-Commerce Directive to allow it to host user-uploaded music videos has created a “value gap” that deprives the recording industry of royalties they believe should be theirs. The sudden elevation of this supposed “value gap” above the bugaboo of piracy is all the more surprising because term didn’t even exist until about 2016, when it was created out of whole cloth as a device to explain why copyright holders should be entitled to a larger slice of Internet platform revenues.

The record labels’ contention is that YouTube streaming depresses the rates that subscription-based music streaming services, such as Spotify, are willing to pay for streaming licenses. That’s an interesting theory, but research released by Google casts significant doubt on it. At least according to the Google-sponsored research, YouTube actually diverts users not from other paid services, but from infringement. Were YouTube to go away, 85% of views would simply disappear, or would move to lower-value alternatives such as illegal file sharing.

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2017/05/recording-industry-claims-imaginary-value-gap-bigger-threat-piracy.

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Publishing:

Cheap books, high price: why Amazon.com’s ‘one-click’ sales can cost authors dear

It is a hard sell: the idea that cheaper books might be a bad thing. But an adjustment to how Amazon sells books on its site is being attacked by authors’ groups, which claim secondhand copies of new books sold at rock-bottom prices are selling in such high quantities from the retailer that authors are unable to earn a living.

A week ago, buyers on Amazon.com, the US site, began seeing heavily discounted secondhand copies of books sold by third-party sellers being presented as the default buying option, instead of new copies supplied to Amazon by publishers. Using that “buy-in-one-click” button for, say, George Saunders’s novel Lincoln in the Bardo, you’ll get it for a bargain $10.52 – but that’s an “as-new” copy from a secondhand seller, not a new copy sourced by Amazon.com (which will cost you $14.64). As long as their books are “brand new, unused, unread”, third-party sellers can now secure that buy button by meeting certain criteria, including availability, delivery time and pricing. And while this switcheroo might seem like good news for readers plumping up their bookshelves, critics are worried that it will undermine authors, who earn nothing from secondhand sales (but would pocket around 7% from each new copy sold).


Freedom of Information:

CIA’s release of ORIS database could change the way FOIA requests are made to the Agency

The results of the Agency’s ambitious project to track all the information its made public will soon become a valuable tool for government transparency. In 1985, citing concerns regarding “difficulty determining what has been publicly disclosed,” the CIA had a truly great idea that would serve both the Agency and the public’s interest in government transparency – a “proposal to establish a focal point to record CIA information released to the public.” The resulting Officially Released Information System, or ORIS, would take years to finally implement, and thanks to a recent FOIA – and the CIA’s agreement to release and waive all fees – it might finally become the transparency tool it has the potential to be.


FOIA Lawsuits Reach Highest Level Recorded in 25 Years

The latest available case-by-case records from the federal courts show that Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) lawsuits challenging the withholding of records have risen since President Trump assumed office. The number of recorded FOIA filings in April climbed to 63 – the highest level recorded for at least 25 years. And although the month is not complete, additional filings during May appear headed even higher with 60 new FOIA lawsuits already filed. If the pace of FOIA filings during the first seven-plus months of this fiscal year continues at the same rate, FY 2017 will see upwards of 579 FOIA suits filed. This would be up from 512 such suits filed during the last fiscal year of the Obama Administration. Each week the FOIA project posts a rundown describing new FOIA cases filed over the last seven days. Full details on each particular case, including the complaint filed in that action, are also available on FOIAproject.org using the “Lawsuit Search” tool.


Intellectual Property:

Supreme Court makes it harder for ‘patent trolls’ to find friendly court

A unanimous Supreme Court on Monday made it more difficult for companies to sue for patent infringement in courts that they consider friendly to their cause. The justices affirmed a decades-old ruling that said such lawsuits should be filed in the judicial district where the alleged offender is incorporated. It reversed a ruling of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit that gave plaintiffs greater leeway and resulted in a huge number of cases being filed in a receptive federal court in east Texas.

Justice Clarence Thomas, writing for the court, said that subsequent actions by Congress and other courts had not altered the Supreme Court’s 1957 decision that a lawsuit alleging patent infringement must be filed where the defendant “resides,” and a corporation resides only in its state of
incorporation. Under the Federal Circuit ruling, patent lawsuits can be filed wherever a company has even minimal sales of its products. That has resulted in nearly half of the lawsuits being filed in the Eastern District of Texas in Marshall, where cases move quickly and the court is seen as sympathetic to plaintiffs. One U.S. district judge, Rodney Gilstrap, received about one-quarter of all the patent cases initiated between 2014 to 2016 — more than were assigned to all federal judges in California, New York and Florida combined, according to Mark A. Lemley, a Stanford University law professor who filed the brief at the Supreme Court on behalf of himself and other professors. The Supreme Court’s decision will represent a “seismic shift” and “deals a severe blow to non-practicing entities or ‘patent trolls,’ and shifts home court advantage to companies accused of patent infringement,” said Paul Cronin, an intellectual property specialist in Boston.


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Social Media:

How Facebook flouts Holocaust denial laws except where it fears being sued

Facebook’s policies on Holocaust denial will come under fresh scrutiny following the leak of documents that show moderators are being told not to remove this content in most of the countries where it is illegal. The files explain that moderators should take down Holocaust denial material in only four of the 14 countries where it is outlawed, if reported. One document says the company “does not welcome local law that stands as an obstacle to an open and connected world” and will only consider blocking or hiding Holocaust denial messages and photographs if “we face the risk of getting blocked in a country or a legal risk”. A picture of a concentration camp with the caption “Never again Believe the Lies” was permissible if posted anywhere other than the four countries in which Facebook fears legal action, one document explains. Facebook contested the figures but declined to elaborate. The social media service has also decided that migrants, refugees and asylum seekers should be regarded as a “quasi-protected category” – so they will not receive the protections given to other vulnerable groups. Documents show Facebook has told moderators to remove dehumanising speech or any “calls for violence” against refugees. Content “that says migrants should face a firing squad or compares them to animals, criminals or filth” also violates its guidelines. But it adds: “As a quasi-protected category, they will not have the full protections of our hate speech policy because we want to allow people to have broad discussions on migrants and immigration which is a hot topic in upcoming elections.”

In a report published earlier this month, British MPs said it was “shockingly easy to find examples of material that was intended to stir up hatred against ethnic minorities on all three of the social media platforms that we examined – YouTube, Twitter and Facebook”. They added: “On Facebook we found community pages devoted to stirring up hatred, particularly against Jews and Muslims. We found openly antisemitic and Islamophobic community pages.” The Facebook documents on Holocaust denial highlight the company’s complicated relationship with state censorship.


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Open Access:

UN Audiovisual Library of International Law

A virtual training and research centre in international law, includes:

The Historic Archives provides a unique resource for the teaching, studying and researching significant legal instrument on international law. Each entry is devoted to a particular instrument and contains an introduction to the instrument prepared by an eminent international law scholar or practitioner with special expertise on the subject, information on its procedural history and related documents, as well as the text and status of the instrument. It is accompanied by audiovisual materials, as available, relating to the negotiation and adoption of the instrument at meetings or diplomatic conferences. The Lecture Series contains a permanent collection of lectures of enduring value on virtually every subject of international law given by leading international law scholars and practitioners from different regions, legal systems, cultures and sectors of the legal profession. The Research Library provides an extensive online library of international law materials, including treaties, jurisprudence, documents, legal publications, research guides and selected scholarly writings, as well as international law training materials.


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Privacy:

Apple: Report on Government and Private Party Requests for Customer Information

This report provides information regarding requests Apple received from government agencies and private parties from July 1 through December 31, 2016. Apple receives various forms of legal process requesting information from or actions by Apple. We receive requests from governments globally where we operate and from private parties. Government request circumstances can vary from instances where law
enforcement agencies are working on behalf of customers who have requested assistance locating lost or stolen devices, to instances where law enforcement are working on behalf of customers who suspect their credit card has been used fraudulently to purchase Apple products or services, to instances where an account is suspected to have been used illegally. Requests can also seek to preserve an Apple account, restrict access to an Apple account or delete an Apple account. Additionally, requests can relate to emergency situations where there is imminent harm to the safety of any person. Private party request circumstances generally relate to instances where private litigants are involved in either civil or criminal proceedings.

The type of customer data sought in requests varies depending on the case under investigation. For example, in stolen device cases, law enforcement generally seek details of customers associated with devices or device connections to Apple services. In credit card fraud cases, law enforcement generally seek details of suspected fraudulent transactions. Depending on what the legal request asks, Apple will provide subscriber or transaction details in response to valid legal process received. In instances where an Apple account is suspected of being used illegally, law enforcement may seek details of the customer associated with the account, account connections or transaction details or account content. Any government agency seeking customer content from Apple must obtain a search warrant issued upon a showing of probable cause. International requests for content stored in our data centers in the U.S. must comply with the U.S. Electronic Communications Privacy Act (ECPA). A request under a Mutual Legal Assistance reaty or Agreement with the U.S. is in compliance with ECPA. https://images.apple.com/legal/privacy/transparency/requests-2016-H2-en.pdf (PDF).

Open Data:

The New Tool That Could Revolutionize How We Measure Justice

The enormity of the country’s criminal justice system – 15,000 state and local courts, 18,000 local law enforcement agencies, more than two million prisoners – looks even more daunting when you consider how little we know about what is actually going on in there. Want to know who we prosecute and why? Good luck. Curious about how many people are charged with misdemeanors each year? Can’t tell you. How about how many people reoffend after prison? We don’t really know that, either. In an age when everything is measured – when data determines the television we watch, the clothes we buy and the posts we see on Facebook – the justice system is a disturbing exception. Agencies exist in silos, and their data stays with them. Instead, we make policy based on anecdote, heavily filtered through a political lens.

This week the nonprofit Measures for Justice is launching an online tool meant to shine a high beam into these dark corners. It is gathering numbers from key criminal justice players – prosecutors offices, public defenders, courts, probation departments – in each of America’s more than 3,000 counties. Staffers clean the data, assemble it in an apples-to-apples format, use it to answer a standard set of basic questions, and make the results free and easy to access and understand. The portal itself is like a video game for criminal justice nerds. Users can compare counties, click on interactive maps and bar charts, and layer one data point upon another. The interface is clean and easy to use, if a little wonky. https://www.themarshallproject.org/2017/05/23/the-new-tool-that-could-revolutionize-how-we-measure-justice#avQzxHkC9.

Internet Access:

Digital gap between rural and nonrural America persists

Rural Americans have made large gains in adopting digital technology in recent years, but they remain less likely than nonrural adults to have home broadband, smartphones and other devices. Nearly two-thirds (63%) of rural Americans say they have a broadband internet connection at home, up from about a third (35%) in 2007, according to a Pew Research Center survey conducted in fall 2016. Rural Americans are now 10 percentage points less likely than Americans overall to have home broadband; in 2007, there was a 16-point gap between rural Americans (35%) and all U.S. adults (51%) on this question.

Mobile technology use among rural adults has also risen rapidly, with the share of those owning smartphones and tablets increasing sharply. Ownership of desktop or laptop computers, by contrast, has only slightly risen since 2008. Despite recent gains in digital technology adoption, rural adults remain less likely than urban and suburban adults to have and use these technologies. For example, rural Americans are 7 to 12 percentage points less likely than those in urban and suburban areas to say they have a smartphone, traditional computer or tablet computer. Rural adults also are less likely to have multiple devices that enable them to go online.


Trump’s FCC won’t provide evidence of supposed attack, will accept half a million comments from bots

As if manhandling reporters wasn’t enough of an attack on democracy, Ajit Pai’s FCC has taken recent moves to shut down transparency as it moves to end the open internet. First, Pai is refusing to disclose the supposed evidence he has that the FCC’s comment system was shut down by a denial of service attack, a claim the agency made after John Oliver directed his viewers and social media followers to make their comments in support of net neutrality. The FCC immediately claimed that it wasn’t overwhelming public support for the open internet that swamped their servers, but hackers. The whole internet-and
two U.S. senators-demanded proof, but Pai won’t cough it up. At the same time, the FCC is going to honor half a million identical anti-net neutrality comments made by bots. A ZDNet investigation showed that many of the real names behind those comments came from people who swear they didn’t make them, in some cases people who don’t even know what net neutrality means. Someone, somehow got their names and addresses and a bot used them to file the same anti-net neutrality comments tens of thousands of times. And Pai is going to count them, because otherwise he would be able to show no public support for his effort to end the open internet.


International Outlook:

Watchdog Accuses Govt Of Violating Access to Information Act

The [Afghanistan] Oversight Commission on Access to Information (OCAI) on Monday said a number of government institutions are not implementing the Access to Information act. In a new report, the OCAI said that several government institutions, such as the administrative office of the president, the Ministry of Information and Culture (MoIC), Lower House of Parliament and the Independent Administrative Reforms and Civil Service Commission (IARCSC) have failed to implement this Act. OCAI chief Sayed Ekram Afzali said that by establishing the commission, government tried to mislead the people. He said that nothing has changed on the ground and the commission is merely symbolic. He said that government has tried to portray the establishment of the commission as beneficial. Based on the report, many government institutions are violating the Act and try to keep information secret, critics claim. According to the report, the Ministry of Public Works (MoPW), Ministry of Mines and Petroleum (MoMP), Ministry of Commerce (MoC), Ministry of Counter Narcotics (MoCN), Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat (DABS) and the Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled (MoLSAMD) are accused of not cooperating in terms of releasing information.


Archives:

Sexual Minorities Archives Will Hold Grand Opening Soon

A grand opening event for the LGBTQIA community will be held on Saturday, June 3 at 3:00 p.m. to celebrate the settlement of the Sexual Minorities Archives (SMA) in its permanent home in Holyoke, Massachusetts and to inaugurate the Leslie Feinberg Library within the SMA. The Sexual Minorities Archives is a 43-year-old, grassroots community repository of LGBTQIA literature, history, and art located in curator Ben Power’s residence at 135 Lincoln Street in Holyoke. After a hard-won struggle through displacement from its former home in Northampton, the SMA relocated and is experiencing new growth in Holyoke as one of the largest LGBTQIA archives and educational research centers in the United States.

Transgender author and activist Leslie Feinberg donated their entire personal research library to support the SMA a few months before s/he passed away. By doing so, Leslie gifted the entire LGBTQIA community with access to the powerful body of intersectional knowledge s/he had assembled in hopes it would be useful to generations of researchers. In addition to the SMA’s vast archives of more than 12,000 books, periodicals, subject files, multi-media and art, the SMA is now also home to the 1,250 books and archival materials in the library that Leslie Feinberg created and studied, and which formed the basis for author’s historical and theoretical analyses of oppression and resistance.

Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety; attribution appreciated.

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Intersect Alert June 4, 2017

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2017/06/intersect-alert-june-4-2017/

June 4, 2017 Categories: Intersect Alert Tags: archives, freedom of information, intellectual property, public policy, research, take action, technology, values

Take Action!

Thank the Senators who signed the LSTA/IAL letters
Thanks to your hard work, 45 Senators signed the Library Services and Technology Act “Dear Appropiato” letter and 37 signed the Innovative Approaches to Literacy letter. Those Senators are now on record, in writing, supporting funding for LSTA and Innovative Approaches to Literacy! Now, it’s time to thank them for their support. Use this table [in the article] to find out if your Senators signed one or both letters, and then let them know that you appreciate their support.

Public Policy:

Inside Trump’s war on regulations: The push to block, rewrite and delay scores of Obama-era rules may be the administration’s biggest untold success.
The chaos of Donald Trump’s first four months as president has overshadowed a series of actions that could reshape American life for decades – efforts to rewrite or wipe out regulations affecting everything from student loans and restaurant menus to internet privacy, workplace injuries and climate change. Trump and his agencies have already wielded executive actions and Republican control of Congress to postpone, weaken or outright kill dozens of regulations created by Barack Obama’s administration, often using delays in the courtroom to buy time to make those changes. Their targets have included protections for streams from coal-mining pollution and a directive on the rights of transgender students. Administration officials also note that Trump-appointed Supreme Court Justice Neil Gorsuch has shown some skepticism toward federal regulations, a position that could help them if legal challenges reach the high court. Trump has also chosen Neomi Rao, a former George W. Bush appointee well-liked in conservative circles, to head the White House’s Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, the gatekeeper for new regulations.
Some Democrats are still deeply skeptical of the Trump administration’s boasts about reshaping the government. “The vast majority of what he’s done so far is purely symbolic,” said Shaun Donovan, who was Obama’s OMB director from 2014 to 2017.

Chemical Industry Backs Supporters of Pesticide Permit Changes with Campaign Money
The House of Representatives voted to eliminate a permit requirement for pesticides last week, as sponsors of the measure received 12 times more in campaign contributions from the agricultural chemical industry than the bill’s opponents. A MapLight analysis of campaign contributions found the 48 sponsors of the bill received an average of $6,863 from individuals and political action committees connected to fertilizers and pesticides during the 2016 election cycle. Representatives who voted against the bill received an average of $574 during the same period. The bill received overwhelming support from Republicans, who were joined by 25 Democrats supporting the measure. Democrats voting in favor of the bill received almost 10 times more money from the agricultural chemical industry (an average of $5,630) than their Democratic colleagues who voted against the bill (an average of $577). Top contributors to the agricultural chemical industry include employees of The Fertilizer Institute, Scotts Miracle-Gro Co., CF Industries Holdings Inc. and Monsanto Co. Brian FitzPatrick, a Pennsylvania Republican who represents suburban Bucks County, was the lone Republican to vote against the bill. He received no money from the agricultural chemicals industry last election cycle.

Freedom of Information:

Now is the Time for Archivist of the US to Call the Torture Report a Federal Record
The Trump Administration reportedly is returning copies of the Senate Intelligence Committee’s report on the CIA’s torture
program to Congress. The pernicious move, which would effectively hide the report from FOIA and public scrutiny, comes after years of FOIA lawsuits to win access to the historically significant document and hold accountable those responsible for torture. The New York Times reports today that “The C.I.A., the office of the Director of National Intelligence and the C.I.A.’s inspector general” have already returned their copies. The Archivist of the United States, David Ferriero, should now use his statutory authority to declare the report a federal record and preserve it for history.

Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), then the head of the Senate Intelligence Committee, initiated the torture report in 2009 after learning that Jose Rodriguez, the former CIA official in charge of the agency’s defunct torture program, authorized the destruction of 92 video recordings of suspected Al-Qaeda leader Zain Abidin Mohammed Husain Abu Zubaydah being waterboarded 83 times in one month at a black site prison in 2005. The Committee sent the completed report – 6,700 pages – to eight federal agencies, including the CIA, the Defense Department, and the State Department, in December 2014. Sen. Feinstein asked “that they incorporate the report into their records.”

That same year the ACLU sued the CIA under the FOIA for access to the report. In January 2015 Sen. Richard Burr (R-NC), the new head of the Senate Intelligence Committee and staunch critic of the report compiled under Sen. Feinstein, sent a letter to the Obama White House requesting that all federal agencies and departments in possession of the report return it to the Committee immediately. In 2016, Archivist of the United States, David Ferriero, denied a formal request from the National Security Archive and others to call the Senate Intelligence Committee’s report on the CIA torture program a federal record.


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**Intellectual Property:**

**Supreme Court Protects Consumer Rights in Impression Products v. Lexmark International**

Today, the United States Supreme Court announced that patent owners may not override consumer ownership rights by license agreements. The decision, in a case titled Impression Products v. Lexmark International, also holds that the doctrine of “patent exhaustion,” which ensures that a patent owner may not sue an authorized purchaser of a patented product, applies to sales of patented products outside the United States.

The following may be attributed to Charles Duan, Director of the Patent Reform Project at Public Knowledge:

“The Supreme Court’s decision is a strong recognition that consumer rights have primary importance. Consumers purchase patented products every day, and companies who manufacture and sell these products have long sought to leverage patent law into a tool to control how consumers use and resell those products now owned by the consumer.”


**Supreme Court Victory for the Right to Tinker in Printer Cartridge Case**

The Supreme Court struck a blow today for your right to own the things you buy, reversing a lower court decision that had given patent owners the power to sue customers who paid in full for a patented item but then used it in a way the patent owner didn’t care for. The Court’s reasoning will help us protect your rights from overbroad copyright and other restrictions, like the ones written into “end user license agreements” for software or imposed by technological restrictions given legal teeth by Section 1201 of the DMCA.

Lexmark tried every legal trick in the book to keep you from refilling your own printer cartridges, and had finally found a sympathetic ear at the Federal Circuit, the Federal Court of Appeals with jurisdiction over patent law. The Federal Circuit agreed with Lexmark that a patent owner could write their own rules that customers would have to follow or face liability for patent infringement. Even someone who later acquired a product, like the companies that refill printer cartridges, would have to abide by these restrictions.

Together with Public Knowledge and R Street, EFF filed an amicus brief [PDF] at the Supreme Court. We explained that the ability of patent owners to sell products into the stream of commerce while also writing a wishlist of anti-competitive restrictions, would be a disastrous expansion of patent law, hindering competition, innovation, and your freedom to tinker with and repair your own stuff. The Supreme Court agreed, explaining that when a patent owner “chooses to sell an item, that product is no longer within the limits of the monopoly and instead becomes the private individual property of the purchaser, with the rights and benefits that come along with ownership.”


**Drake Beats Lawsuit Over Sampling With Winning “Fair Use” Argument**

Drake, along with various associated record labels and music publishers, pulled off an impressive achievement on Tuesday by convincing a judge that his song “Pound Cake/Paris Morton Music 2,” off the 2013 album Nothing Was the Same, fairly sampled a 1982 spoken-word recording, “Jimmy Smith Rap,” and that there is no liability for copyright infringement. What makes Drake’s summary judgment victory against the Estate of James Oscar Smith particularly noteworthy is that rulings of copyright “fair use” are rare in the realm of songcraft. When it comes to documentaries and less abstract art forms, judges can parse meaning and figure out whether use of
copyrighted material is transformative. But in disputes over song sampling, parties have long tended to wage fights over other issues like ownership records and whether the copying is sufficiently substantial. This “Pound Cake” case had those elements as well, but this one is now ending at the trial court because U.S. District Court judge William H. Pauley III has taken the unusual step of addressing Drake’s purpose in sampling. 

Information Industry:

Accused of underpaying women, Google says it’s too expensive to get wage data
Google argued that it was too financially burdensome and logistically challenging to compile and hand over salary records that the government has requested, sparking a strong rebuke from the US Department of Labor (DoL), which has accused the Silicon Valley firm of underpaying women. Google officials testified in federal court on Friday that it would have to spend up to 500 hours of work and $100,000 to comply with investigators’ ongoing demands for wage data that the DoL believes will help explain why the technology corporation appears to be systematically discriminating against women. Noting Google’s nearly $28bn annual income as one of the most profitable companies in the US, DoL attorney Ian Eliasoph scoffed at the company’s defense, saying, “Google would be able to absorb the cost as easy as a dry kitchen sponge could absorb a single drop of water.”

Digital History:

LGBT Pride Month [at the National Archives]
The National Archives holds extensive records created or received by the U.S. Government on issues of sexual identity and rights. We not only hold these records, we provide access to them. Collections include:
– It Gets Better: U.S. National Archives – NARA staff share personal stories for LGBT youth with the It Gets Better Project
– Keynote address and other videos from the National Conversations on #RightsAndJustice: LGBTQ Human and Civil Rights
– “The Wedding Heard ‘Round the World: America’s First Gay Marriage,” a program at the National Archives, October 6, 2016
– My name is Harvey Milk—and I want to recruit you (Pieces of History)
– Archived WhiteHouse.gov Web Pages

Media:

A Global Guide to Initiatives Tackling “Fake News”
Here’s a list of initiatives that hope to fix trust in journalism and tackle “fake news”. There’s a lot. I’ve tried to collect an extensive list of projects, initiatives and tools created to fix trust in journalism and false/fake news and misinformation. This also includes efforts and initiatives around verification. Where possible I’ve also tried to attach where the funding has come from for each initiative.
Categories on the list are: Fact Checking & Verification; Guides; Restoring Trust; Funding Opportunities; and Events/Conferences.
http://gijn.org/2017/05/08/a-global-guide-to-initiatives-tackling-fake-news/.

Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety; attribution appreciated.
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Intersect Alert June 12, 2017
http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2017/06/intersect-alert-june-12-2017/
June 12, 2017 Categories: Intersect Alert Tags: archives, international outlook, internet access, libraries, open data, take action, technology, values

Free Speech / International Outlook:

Russian Librarian Convicted of ‘Extremism’
This morning, in the latest example of Russia’s misuse of its
vague anti-extremism legislation, a district court in Moscow found Natalia Sharina, the director of the Moscow Library of Ukrainian Literature, guilty of “inciting hatred,” an extremist crime, and handed down a four-year suspended sentence.

The trial left little doubt that the authorities targeted Sharina for running a Ukrainian library at a time when Russian-Ukrainian relations are in dire straits.


Take Action / Net Neutrality:

Internet Archive: Help Us Defend Net Neutrality!
Please stand with the Internet Archive and over 50 allies in the effort to protect free speech by adding your name in support of net neutrality and writing to your Congressperson today. We have only 40 days left to stop a current FCC proposal that could upend the government’s prior commitment to net neutrality and seriously threaten free speech online. If you represent an organization, please consider participating in the movement on July 12 to inform the public on how to take action.

The end of net neutrality could be devastating to the Internet community at large in a multitude of ways. For example, relatively small organizations like the Archive don’t have the resources to negotiate special deals with ISPs, let alone pay new tolls in order to reach users who rely on our service to broadcast their voice. Many like us could be relegated to an Internet “slow lane” while bigger sites and closer partners of ISPs enjoy faster speeds.


CDT Joins Massive Net Neutrality Day of Action on July 12, 2017
The United States is built upon a foundation of citizen advocacy and action. Our nation was founded out of protest, and we owe many of our civil liberties to the work of dedicated activists over the course of decades. We have inherited a legacy of organized, purposeful dissent, and we can see threads of this proud tradition in the efforts of users and stakeholders to preserve a free and open internet. For example, millions of Americans successfully flooded the FCC with comments to affirm the need for strong net neutrality protections in 2014, which led to the drafting and implementation of the 2015 Open Internet Order.

Unfortunately, the rights of internet users are once again being threatened. The proposed net neutrality repeal recently approved by the FCC would strip users and internet-based companies of critical open internet protections. In this spirit, CDT will join a broad coalition of civil society organizations, internet-based companies, and users in a day of action to support net neutrality on July 12, 2017. During the day of action, the coalition will provide tools to raise awareness, contact members of Congress, and submit comments to the FCC. Stay tuned for more details regarding planned actions and steps that you can take as we approach the end of the FCC comment period on July 17.


The FCC is Trying to Kill The Open Internet – What That Means and How to Stop It
It’s safe to say we are most of us in an era of unpredictability. Take comfort, then, in this case study in predictability, for at the very least, FCC Chairman Ajit Pai has so far been everything and done everything you could expect from someone who vowed to “take a weed whacker” to the open Internet. Since his ascension, Pai’s agenda has been one of systematic rollback of consumer safeguards, one by one by one, and the latest and greatest commenced at last Thursday’s Open Meeting vote to dismantle critical net neutrality protections.


Public Knowledge Joins Amazon, Reddit, and Fight for the Future to Save Net Neutrality
Today, Public Knowledge announced plans to join with other internet advocacy groups and companies like Amazon and Reddit in an internet-wide day of action to preserve the Federal Communications Commission’s landmark net neutrality rules. The rules prevent internet service providers from blocking websites, throttling connection speeds, and accepting paid-prioritization deals.

Consumer advocacy groups, including Public Knowledge, Fight for the Future, Free Press, and the ACLU, will coordinate a massive online protest scheduled for July 12 to oppose FCC Chairman Pai’s efforts to roll back the agency’s 2015 Open Internet Order that forces broadband providers to treat all internet content and services equally. Other confirmed participants include Amazon, Dreamhost, Etsy, GitHub, Kickstarter, Mozilla, Pantheon, Patreon, Reddit, Vimeo, and Y Combinator.


Technology / Archives:

Videotapes Are Becoming Unwatchable As Archivists Work
To Save Them
Most tapes were recorded in the 1980s and '90s, when video cameras first became widely available to Americans. That means even the best-kept tapes will eventually be unwatchable.

Lukk estimates there are billions of tapes sitting around. There are plenty of services out there to digitize tapes — local stores, online services, even public libraries and universities. Some services are free; some cost a lot of money.

The thing is, many people don’t realize their tapes are degrading. 
http://www.npr.org/sections/alltechconsidered/2017/06/03/529155865/videotapes-are-becoming-unwatchable-as-archivists-work-to-save-them.

Open Data:

Database of Trump administration officials’ personal finances grows
The Center for Public Integrity today added more than 100 new Trump administration officials’ financial disclosures to a searchable, sortable database first launched in April.

The database allows anyone to easily understand the wealth, assets and business interests of many of the people working for President Donald Trump. These include Senate-confirmed appointees, White House aides and members of so-called “beachhead teams” sent to prepare executive agencies for the new administration.

San Francisco joins 11 cities in posting deleted climate data
More than a month after the Trump administration purged data tracking climate change from the Environmental Protection Agency’s website, the numbers are going back online in some unexpected places.

San Francisco and 11 other cities, including Atlanta, Boston, Houston and Seattle, were set to launch their own websites Sunday publishing the numbers. The information — posted here on a San Francisco city website — includes the science behind climate change, how weather patterns are impacted by it, and detailed data charting greenhouse gas emissions and temperatures around the globe.

Data systematically wiped from federal government sites
The Occupational Safety and Health Administration, for instance, has dramatically scaled back on publicizing its fines against firms. And the Agriculture Department has taken offline animal-welfare enforcement records, including abuses in dog breeding operations and horse farms that alter the gait of horses through the controversial practice of “soring” the animals’ legs. In other cases, the administration appears to be dimming the prior spotlight on the background and conduct of top officials. The administration no longer publishes online the ethics waivers granted to appointees who would otherwise be barred from joining the government because of recent lobbying activities. Nor is the White House releasing logs of its visitors, making it difficult for the public to keep track of who is stopping by to see President Trump’s inner circle. The administration has also removed websites and other material supporting Obama-era policies that the White House no longer embraces. Gone, for instance, is a White House Web page that directed prospective donors to private groups that aid refugees fleeing Syria and other embattled nations

My Tribal Area
The U.S. Census Bureau created My Tribal Area, a tool that gives quick access to tribal area statistics from the American Community Survey (ACS). The broad categories include People, Jobs, Housing, Economy, and Education. More detailed views display income, health insurance coverage, occupations, and many more stats collected by the ACS.

Libraries:

U. Chicago Undergrad Library Workers Unionize
Undergraduate library workers at the University of Chicago (UC) have voted to unionize, forming the first union of its kind at a private U.S. university. The new Student Library Employees Union (SLEU) could represent up to 220 members, the majority of them undergraduates, and will negotiate with UC on wages, hours, and third-party legal representation.

Embattled Evanston librarian returns from leave; could be fired over Facebook post
Lesley Williams, the Evanston Public Library’s Adult Services librarian, said she could be fired after being placed on disciplinary leave again for posting, “Some organizations are true leaders in practicing equity and inclusion. And some prefer to post signs on their bulletin boards. Evanston Public Library” on her Facebook page.

Williams has worked for Evanston Public Library for 21 years. Her disciplinary and termination hearings drew dozens of supporters, protesting the administration’s actions. Williams
said previously that the community support was born out of, in part, the fact that she is the only African American librarian in a city where African American residents make up 20 percent of the population. 


Intersect Alert June 19, 2017


Government Information:

The State of Open Government Data in 2017
The updated Global Open Data Index has been published today, along with our report on the state of Open Data this year. The report includes a broad overview of the problems we found around data publication and how we can improve government open data. 

Center for Public Integrity sues Federal Election Commission
The lawsuit, filed Wednesday with the U.S District Court for the District of Columbia, stems from the FEC’s refusal to make public emails between agency officials and the Office of Management and Budget during the initial days of President Donald Trump’s administration. 

International Outlook:

May And Macron’s Ridiculous Adventure In Censoring The Internet
For some observers, struggling UK Prime Minister Theresa May and triumphant French President Emmanuel Macron may seem at somewhat opposite ends of the current political climate. But… apparently they agree on one really, really bad idea: that it’s time to massively censor the internet and to blame tech companies if they don’t censor enough. We’ve been explaining for many years why this is a bad idea, but apparently we need to do so again. First, the plan: The prime minister and Emmanuel Macron will launch a joint campaign on Tuesday to tackle online radicalisation, a personal priority of the prime minister from her time as home secretary and a comfortable agenda for the pair to agree upon before Brexit negotiations begin next week. 
In particular, the two say they intend to create a new legal liability for tech companies if they fail to remove inflammatory content, which could include penalties such as fines.

Net Neutrality:

Why Netflix Decided to Back Net Neutrality After All
Netflix has long been the poster child of companies that might not exist if the Internet had been locked down and controlled more heavily by the cable and telecommunications industry in its early days. But as the video streaming pioneer has become a powerful player with nearly 100 million subscribers, it has been less obvious how strongly the company would fight to keep the Internet free and open for new businesses, including possible new competitors. 

There Is No Loophole in the Net Neutrality Rules
One of the stranger ideas going around among the anti-net neutrality crowd (and in the Federal Communication Commission’s proposal to roll back the net neutrality rules) is the idea that the current rules, adopted by the previous FCC, contain a loophole that allows Internet Service Providers to block whatever websites they want to and generally avoid the rules, provided they use the right magic words—namely, that if they simply say ahead of time they intend to violate the rules, they’re no longer subject to them. This is wrong—the rules only cover broadband ISPs, which are defined quite precisely, but there’s no way for an ISP to continue offering what anyone would recognize as “internet access” without being covered by the rules. 
User Experience:

**Improving Customer Experience with Digital Personas**
User personas are fictional, but realistic representations of key audience segments that are grounded in research and data. We recently applied customer data from a variety of sources including website analytics and online surveys to inform the creation of eight personas that represent our digital customers: Researchers, Veterans, Genealogists, Educators, History Enthusiasts, Curious Nerds, Museum Visitors, and Government Stakeholders. These personas not only help us capture knowledge about our customers and their needs and preferences, but also help NARA staff empathize with the individuals who use our services. User personas are often used by designers and developers to place the customer’s perspectives and needs at the center of the digital design and development process.


Privacy:

**Feds and States Must Work Together on Consumer Privacy**
So far, 2017 has been a bad year for consumer privacy protections at the federal level. Congress repealed rules protecting internet customers’ browsing histories and other personal information from unwanted disclosure. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) proposed a rollback of Title II “net neutrality” rules that includes a provision ceding its privacy protection role to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), which has less authority to make and enforce privacy rules. In response, Americans have been showing up to their representatives’ town hall meetings to decry the broadband privacy repeal and demand stronger protections for their personal information. Enter the states. State lawmakers are working to protect consumer privacy where the federal government has fallen short. The California legislature is considering privacy rules for IoT devices, and a geolocation privacy bill has received bipartisan support in Illinois. In May, 47 state attorneys general reached an $18 million settlement with Target over its 2013 data breach. And lawmakers in dozens of states have introduced bills attempting to codify the broadband privacy protections that Congress wiped away.


Opposing Trump, conservative bloc demands reforms to internet spy law
An influential conservative bloc of Republican lawmakers on Thursday said it opposed renewal of an internet surveillance law unless major changes were made in how the U.S. government collects and uses American data, reflecting disagreement within the majority party.

A week ago, President Donald Trump’s administration and 14 Republican U.S. senators said they wanted the spying authority to be renewed without any changes before it expires at the end of the year.


**GOP Data Firm AccidentallyLeaks Personal Details of Nearly 200 Million American Voters**
Political data gathered on more than 198 million US citizens was exposed this month after a marketing firm contracted by the Republican National Committee stored internal documents on a publicly accessible Amazon server. The data leak contains a wealth of personal information on roughly 61 percent of the US population. Along with home addresses, birthdates, and phone numbers, the records include advanced sentiment analyses used by political groups to predict where individual voters fall on hot-button issues such as gun ownership, stem cell research, and the right to abortion, as well as suspected religious affiliation and ethnicity. The data was amassed from a variety of sources—from the banned subreddit r/fatpeoplehate to American Crossroads, the super PAC co-founded by former White House strategist Karl Rove.


Digital Archives:

**Webcomics and Web Cultures Archives Now on loc.gov**
The Library of Congress today announced two new born-digital collections are now available on loc.gov – the Webcomics Web Archive and the Web Cultures Web Archive. The Webcomics Web Archive – Webcomics selected for this collection include award-winning comics as well as webcomics that are significant for their longevity, reputation or subject matter. The collection includes sites such as Dinosaur Comics, Hyperbole and a Half, and XKCD. Also included are works by artists and subjects not traditionally represented in mainstream comics, including women artists and characters, artists and characters of color, LGBTQ+ artists and characters, as well as subjects such as politics, health and autobiography.


Libraries:

**LIBRARIANS IN THE 21ST CENTURY: IT IS BECOMING IMPOSSIBLE TO REMAIN NEUTRAL**
Working in such a visible position, over the years, I have been constantly reminded that my interactions with patrons are a reflection of my body: my black, female-presenting body. In ways small and large, I have been reminded that nothing about libraries is neutral. Not the desks or furniture that are sometimes built by incarcerated individuals who can’t protest
their labor. Not the buildings, some of which lack physical access for individuals who can’t climb stairs or walk over uneven stones and bricks. Not the collections development theories, not the leadership opportunities, not the vacation and break schedules, or the computer use policies. Not our co-workers, our funding models, and certainly not the patrons we serve. Neutrality as we use it in libraries leaves people standing at the margins, demanding to be acknowledged as capable and professional, as human, as having histories and lived experiences reflective of the bodies we inhabit. Our bodies, like the bodies of knowledge we provide access to, are not and never were neutral.


Share this:

Jobline 2017/06/24


Library Services Group Leader

Science and Technology on a Mission!

For more than 60 years, the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) has applied science and technology to make the world a safer place.

We have an opening for the Library Services Group Leader. You will be responsible for the leadership and overall management of the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) Scientific and Technical Library services, collections, and staff. In addition, you will develop a vision and strategy for modernizing the Library and its services to support a world-class scientific staff. This position is in the Laboratory Technical Information Department (TID) and is responsible to the Office of the Deputy Director for Science and Technology (DDST).

**Essential Duties**

– Collaborate with management to develop a strategy for the future of digital library services and collections specific to the evolving needs of the research and development activities of the Laboratory. Provide the leadership necessary to guide and implement approved plans.
– Ensure availability of both traditional library reference and research services as well as lead the creation and adoption of new services technologies.
– Oversee the day-to-day operations and activities of the library including establishing and monitoring library budgets. Manage library staff including hiring, performance management, mentoring, and training and development.
– Direct, develop, organize, manage, and maintain the services of a modern scientific digital library; evaluate library contents to ensure alignment with the Laboratory’s research priorities; collect and analyze statistical data for electronic resources and print collections; negotiate appropriate price, terms, and conditions for the licensing or acquisition of information resources.
– Serve as primary point of contact and interact with internal senior management and external contacts (e.g., Department of Energy Office of Scientific and Technical Information (OSTI), other Laboratories). Maintain awareness of local, national, and international library and information initiatives and best practices, through active participation in professional networks.
– Respond to inquiries involving library related matters; negotiate and resolve complex, sensitive, and/or controversial issues and complaints.
– Manage and/or conduct information searches using specialty database sources (e.g., physics, biology, patent, legal, regulatory, chemical, etc.) on classified and unclassified systems; synthesize and summarize search results, identify key research findings and deliver to customers.
– Partner with the Laboratory’s Information Technology (IT) Organization services for assistance and guidance on implementing digital initiatives and library software.
– Perform other duties as assigned.

**Essential Qualifications**

– Bachelor’s Degree in a scientific discipline or equivalent combination of education and related experience.
– Knowledge of current trends, issues, and methods of information access to library resources as well as emerging technologies.
– Expert knowledge of and experience with all aspects of modern libraries including collection development and management, acquisitions, cataloging, metadata control, document delivery, inter-library loan, reports, electronic resources, and reference.
– Demonstrated leadership skills including ability to manage library budgets and monitor expenditures, mentor and develop team members, and manage projects.
– Demonstrated collection development and resource analysis skills. Ability to negotiate appropriate price, terms, and conditions for licensing or purchasing information resources, journals, books, databases, patents, and standards.
– Demonstrated ability to maintain effective working relationships with other agencies, publishers, vendors, internal customers, managers, and programmers from the information technology departments.
– Experience resolving complex problems, identifying, developing, and implementing technology solutions to meet information management and retrieval requirements.
– Expert reference experience and knowledge of print and
electronic resources in science and technology; knowledge of scientific, technical, and patent databases, and related scientific resources; and knowledge of local, national, and international information sources.

**Desired Qualifications**
- Master’s Degree in Library and Information Services.
- Experience with SirsiDynix integrated library system and ExLibris products, knowledge of HTML and other web technologies.
- Experience leading and managing a diverse library staff of exempt and non-exempt employees including ability to hire, supervise, train, develop, and evaluate library staff.

**Pre-Employment Drug Test:** External applicant(s) selected for this position will be required to pass a post-offer, pre-employment drug test.

**Anticipated Clearance Level:** Q (Position will be cleared to this level). Applicants selected will be subject to a Federal background investigation and must meet eligibility requirements for access to classified information or matter. In addition, all L or Q cleared employees are subject to random drug testing. If you hold multiple citizenships (U.S. and another country), you may be required to renounce your non-U.S. citizenship before a DOE L or Q clearance will be processed/granted.

**Note:** This is a Career Indefinite position. Lab employees and external candidates may be considered for this position.

To apply, visit [http://apptrkr.com/1034706](http://apptrkr.com/1034706)

**About Us**
Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL), located in the San Francisco Bay Area (East Bay), is a premier applied science laboratory that is part of the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) within the Department of Energy (DOE). LLNL’s mission is strengthening national security by developing and applying cutting-edge science, technology, and engineering that respond with vision, quality, integrity, and technical excellence to scientific issues of national importance. The Laboratory has a current annual budget of about $1.5 billion, employing approximately 6,000 employees.

LLNL is an affirmative action/ equal opportunity employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, marital status, national origin, ancestry, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, medical condition, protected veteran status, age, citizenship, or any other characteristic protected by law.

When applying, please mention that you found this position listing on SLA SV/SF Jobline. Thank you!
speaking for five members of the Court, Justice Anthony Kennedy started with the general principle that the Court has always recognized the “fundamental principle of the First Amendment … that all persons have access to places where they can speak and listen, and then, after reflection, speak and listen once more.” Then, using soaring language that will surely be widely quoted in future cases, he said While in the past there may have been difficulty in identifying the most important places (in a spatial sense) for the exchange of views, today the answer is clear. It is cyberspace—the “vast democratic forums of the Internet” in general, and social media in particular.


Privacy:

An Obscure Case with Big Implications for Privacy
The government has just fired its latest salvo in a long running effort to circumvent privacy protections for electronic communications. An obscure case of civil fraud may have dramatic implications for when and how the government can access your emails, texts, and photos held online. CDT jointly filed a brief in the case, Securities and Exchange Commission v. North Star Finance LLC, opposing government efforts to obtain email content in a civil case with just a subpoena to an email service provider.


Open Access:

Getting serious about open access discovery—Is open access getting too big to ignore?
There seems to be something in the water. Out of the blue, interest in helping users find free/open access articles seems to have blossomed since earlier this year when Unpaywall was unveiled. With all the intense interest Unpaywall is getting (See coverage in academic sites like Nature, Science, Chronicle of Higher education, as well as more mainstream tech sites like Techcruch, Gimzo), you might be surprised to know that Unpaywall isn’t in fact the first tool that promises to help users unlock paywalls by finding free versions.

https://medium.com/a-academic-librarians-thoughts-on-open-access/getting-serious-about-open-access-is-open-access-getting-too-big-to-ignore-37ac15b9edb5.

Libraries:

This Is the Future of Libraries in the Digital Age
The most innovative library designs…are those that “don’t just conceive of books as sources of information but of the social and intellectual practices that develop around reading and research.” “It’s critical and vital to our communities that we create inspiring spaces where they can interact with each other and with our materials,” Honig said. To that end, when designing for the future, perhaps the most important feature of all is not an architectural element, but the site itself.


IMLS Funding:

Institute of Museum and Library Services Funding Report by State FY 2011 – 2016
This compilation of IMLS funding reports for all states and the District of Columbia includes detailed information, maps and charts about IMLS museum and library awards from FY 2011 to FY 2016. This is a nationwide file containing reports of all states. You may also find individual states’ IMLS funding report files on our website.


CRS reports set to become public!
The issue of public access to Congressional Research Service (CRS) reports has been something for which librarians have advocated for at least 20 years. It’s been an uphill battle
because some in Congress and the Library of Congress have long viewed CRS reports — which provide non-partisan analysis of important policy issues before Congress — as “privileged communication” between Congress and the CRS. And because of this narrow thinking about *public domain* government information, Libraries and the public have been forced to pay for these reports from private publishers, subscribe to expensive databases for access or find them serendipitously on the web.

http://freegovinfo.info/node/12115.

Technology:

Yelp’s Six-Year Grudge Against Google
Yelp and other American technology companies pushed hard to get regulators to issue a bold condemnation of Google’s behavior toward competitors, signing a letter that accused Google of “destroying jobs and stifling innovation.” And by affirming that Google is the dominant company in online search — something most people take for granted — Tuesday’s decision is likely to help Yelp’s case.


Library History:

The Librarian Who Guarded the Manhattan Project’s Secrets
One of the most significant features of this elaborate security apparatus was the scientific library, a virtually unknown space that, during the 1940s, housed the secrets of the nuclear bomb...The library had two sections: the main area, pictured at the top, and the document room—a locked vault containing reports and designs from Los Alamos and the other Manhattan Project sites. The library’s all-female staff—a mix of wives and Women’s Auxiliary Army Corps officers—needed to catalog, secure, and distribute thousands of books and manuscripts in a matter of months.


Decline of textbooks in the digital world causes new challenges
For decades, textbooks were seen as the foundation for instruction in American schools. These discipline-specific tomes were a fundamental part of the educational infrastructure, assigned to students for each subject and carried in heavy backpacks every day – from home to school and back again. The experience of students is much different today. As a scholar of learning technologies and a director for outreach and engagement at Ohio State’s College of Education and Human Ecology, we’ve seen how technological advances and an increase in digital curriculum materials have hastened the move away from textbooks. Does all of this technology spell the end of traditional textbooks? And if so, is that actually a good thing for students and teachers?


Publishing:

US court grants Elsevier millions in damages from Sci-Hub
One of the world’s largest science publishers, Elsevier, won a default legal judgement on 21 June against websites that provide illicit access to tens of millions of research papers and books. A New York district court awarded Elsevier US$15 million in damages for copyright infringement by Sci-Hub, the Library of Genesis (LibGen) project and related sites.


Is the staggeringly profitable business of scientific publishing bad for science?
But Elsevier’s business model seemed a truly puzzling thing. In order to make money, a traditional publisher first has to cover a multitude of costs: it pays writers for the articles; it employs editors to commission, shape and check the articles; and it pays to distribute the finished product to subscribers and retailers…The way to make money from a scientific article looks very similar, except that scientific publishers manage to duck most of the actual costs. Scientists create work under their own direction – funded largely by governments – and give it to publishers for free; the publisher pays scientific editors who judge whether the work is worth publishing and check its grammar, but the bulk of the editorial burden – checking the scientific validity and evaluating the experiments, a process known as peer review – is done by working scientists on a volunteer basis. The publishers then sell the product back to government-funded institutional and university libraries, to be read by scientists – who, in a collective sense, created the product in the first place…It is as if the New Yorker or the Economist demanded that journalists write and edit each other’s work for free, and asked the government to foot the bill. Outside observers tend to fall into a sort of stunned disbelief when describing this setup.

Privacy Legislation Falls Short of Providing Consumers With Comprehensive Online Privacy Protections

Ever since Congress repealed the Federal Communication Commission’s broadband privacy rules, consumers have expressed outrage over their lack of privacy protections when accessing broadband networks. The FCC’s rules prevented broadband providers from sharing sensitive customer information without permission. Repealing these privacy rules left a significant gap in consumer protection in the internet ecosystem.


States reject demand to provide all voter personal info to Trump election fraud commission

At least 29 states are pushing back or outright refusing to comply with the Trump administration’s request for voter registration data. The Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity, formed by President Trump to investigate his widely debunked claim that millions of illegal votes cost him the popular vote in the 2016 presidential election, sent letters this week to the 50 secretaries of state across the country requesting information about voters. The letter, signed by commission vice chairman and Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach (R), asked for names, addresses, birth dates and party affiliations of registered voters in each state. It also sought felony convictions, military statuses, the last four digits of Social Security numbers and voting records dating back to 2006, according to a copy of the letter obtained by The Hill. Many states immediately raised concerns and voiced their opposition to providing the information.


Intersect Alert July 10, 2017


Privacy

Everyone Should Have a Real Chance to Defend Their Anonymity

“In the United States, everyone – even people accused of offensive conduct – has the right to communicate anonymously, and that right should never be infringed without due process. Our Constitution guarantees this, whether your speech is popular or distasteful. At the same time, people who have been harmed by an anonymous speaker also have a right to seek justice, and, where necessary, that process can include unmasking the speaker.”

“Following a rash of bogus defamation lawsuits designed primarily to unmask anonymous online speakers and retaliate against them, courts around the country adopted legal tests to determine when people suing anonymous speakers are entitled to unmask them. Recognizing the First Amendment interests at stake, these tests require plaintiffs to establish the legitimacy of their claims and their need for the information.”

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2017/07/everyone-should-have-real-chance-defend-their-anonymity

Cutter Research

“Do universities generate banal, wasteful research through the relentless focus on publications as a performance indicator? It’s a question I began asking myself while working in a research unit that specialised in social care. A seminar by a visiting researcher confirmed my suspicions.”

“The researcher had received local public funding in a town where welfare agencies were worried about 16- and 17-year-olds dabbling with drugs. The agencies wanted the research to help them understand how peer group influences were affecting such risky behaviour. At the seminar, the researcher described how he designed research based on academic sociology literature on risk among young people. This approach ignored the reason why he had been granted funding in the first place: he didn’t even interview any young substance abusers in the local area.”


Textbook-Counterfeiting Cage Match

“Three major textbook publishers sue the bookstore provider Follett, alleging failure to stop selling pirated versions of their books.”

“Amid other woes as their core business shrinks, textbook publishers say they lose tens of millions of dollars a year when
students buy pirated versions of their works. Technology and improved distribution have made it easier for counterfeiters to make and sell their alternatives, and while publishers have ramped up their own defensive tactics, the producers of the faked texts are often faceless and nameless.”

“The producers frequently sell to wholesalers, who sell to distributors, who ultimately sell to consumers — have names and faces, though, and the publishers have stepped up their efforts to encourage, or force, them to try to combat piracy. In recent months, Cengage and McGraw-Hill said they would institute new measures aimed at identifying pirated materials. And three publishers — Cengage, McGraw-Hill and Pearson Education — reached an agreement with the distributors Chegg and Ingram to embrace a set of Anti-Counterfeit Best Practices that will involve significant changes in how the distributors operate.”


International Outlook

Hand Copyright Control Back to Authors

“The cut-price paperback was not, as the likely apocryphal story goes, invented in 1934 by a bored publisher waiting for a train, but two hundred years earlier by a canny Scottish bookseller who exploited inconsistencies in the laws of England and Scotland to build one of the first international publishing empires. The intellectual fallout from this period forms the backbone of New Zealand copyright law and that isn’t necessarily a bad thing.”

“In the 18th century, publishing in England was controlled by a cartel of London booksellers. Though Parliament had passed the country’s first real copyright legislation in 1710, which appeared to limit copyright terms to a maximum of 28 years, booksellers in practice recognised perpetual copyright. It was not unusual for booksellers to claim a copyright in Shakespeare and Milton and defend those rights in court (as the infamous publisher, Jacob Tonson did).”

https://www.newsroom.co.nz/2017/07/04/37056/thomas-coughlan-column-copyright

Public Knowledge Urges FCC to Investigate Verizon Customer Data Breach

“Today, reports indicate that one of Verizon’s business partners, Nice Systems, exposed millions of Verizon customer records. According to ZDNet, “as many as 14 million records of subscribers who called [Verizon’s] customer services in the past six months were found on an unprotected Amazon S3 storage server” controlled by a Nice Systems employee, with data available for public download. Public Knowledge urges the Federal Communications Commission to investigate this breach in customer data security and take appropriate enforcement action.”


Search

Textise

“Textise is a new way of looking at the Web. It’s an Internet tool that removes everything from a web page except for its text. In practice, this means that images, forms, scripts, pretty
fonts, they all go, leaving plain text. What’s really cool, though, is that links are retained, although these are no ordinary links: click one and you’re transported to another text-only page, and that page leads to another, and another, and another… You stay in Textise’s world until you click the ‘Back To Original Page’ link.”

“Because forms are removed by Textise, you might think that searching isn’t possible. Well, think again – the Textise home page allows you to search using a variety of popular search engines (Bing, Google and Yahoo) and display the results in a text-only format. Plus, Textise can optionally display a search box on some sites (BBC, Metacritic, YouTube and many others – see this blog post for the full list).”

https://textise.wordpress.com/about-textise/

Library Extension

“As you browse books and e-books, the Library Extension can check your library’s online catalog and display the availability of that item on the same page.”

https://www.libraryextension.com/

Publishing

Biology’s Roiling Debate Over Publishing Research Early

“Five years ago, Daniel MacArthur set out to build a massive library of human gene sequences—one of the biggest ever. The 60,706 raw sequences, collected from colleagues all over the globe, took up a petabyte of memory. It was the kind of flashy, blockbuster project that would secure MacArthur a coveted spot in one of science’s top three journals, launching his new lab at the Broad Institute into the scientific spotlight. But before all that happened, he did something that counted as an act of radicalism in the world of biology: He put it on the internet.”

“Posting scientific papers online before peer review—in so-called preprint archives—isn’t a new idea. Physicists have been publishing their work this way, free to the public, for decades. But for biologists, preprints are uncharted territory. And that territory is rapidly expanding as academia and its big-time funders shift toward a culture of openness. As preprints become more popular, they’re throwing the field into a state of uncertainty.”

https://www.wired.com/story/biologys-roiling-debate-over-publishing-preprint-research-early

Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety; attribution appreciated. The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association

Intersect Alert July 25, 2017


July 25, 2017 Categories: Intersect Alert
Tags: archives, freedom of information, privacy, publishing, research

Search

National Archives Begins Online Release of JFK Assassination Records

" July 24, 2017 – Today at 8 a.m., the National Archives released a group of documents (the first of several expected releases), along with 17 audio files, previously withheld in accordance with the JFK Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992. The materials released today are available online only. Access to the original paper records will occur at a future date.”

“Highlights of this release include 17 audio files of interviews of Yuri Nosenko, a KGB officer who defected to the United States in January 1964. Nosenko claimed to have been the officer in charge of the KGB file on Lee Harvey Oswald during Oswald’s time in the Soviet Union. The interviews were conducted in January, February, and July of 1964.”


The Real “Black Box” Dilemma of Legacy Legal Research Tools

“Recently, while following coverage from the 2017 Center for Computer-Assisted Legal Instruction (CALI) conference, I came across this blog post from the LII blog. It put me on to University of Colorado Law Library Director Susan Nevelow Mart’s study, “The Algorithm as a Human Artifact: Implications for Legal {Re}Search.” Mart tested search query performance across the six legacy services: Casetext, Fastcase, Google Scholar, Lexis Advance, Ravel and Westlaw. I was blown away by the study’s findings.”
“The good here is that this study put the six legacy services to the test. The goal of the article was, ’in part, a call for more algorithmic accountability.’ This search for great accountability was interesting, as it mirrored one of the greatest criticism folks have towards AI—that they can’t trust the ‘black box’ nature of some machine learning techniques. What always puzzled me was the fact that everyone is currently living with mysterious black boxes when it comes to legal research due to the unknown human-made decisions that go into how results are shown when searching on any legacy legal research software tool.”


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Publishing

Major German Universities Cancel Elsevier Contracts

“In Germany, the fight for open access and favorable pricing for journals is getting heated. At the end of last month (June 30), four major academic institutions in Berlin announced that they would not renew their subscriptions with the Dutch publishing giant Elsevier once they end this December. Then on July 7, nine universities in Baden-Württemberg, another large German state, also declared their intention to cancel their contracts with the publisher at the end of 2017.”

“These institutions join around 60 others across the country that allowed their contracts to expire last year.”

http://www.the-scientist.com/?articles.view/articleNo/49906/title/Major-German-Universities-Cancel-Elsevier-Contracts/

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Privacy

‘I’ve Got Nothing to Hide’ and Other Misunderstandings of Privacy

“In this short essay, written for a symposium in the San Diego Law Review, Professor Daniel Solove examines the nothing to hide argument. When asked about government surveillance and data mining, many people respond by declaring: “I’ve got nothing to hide.” According to the nothing to hide argument, there is no threat to privacy unless the government uncovers unlawful activity, in which case a person has no legitimate justification to claim that it remain private. The nothing to hide argument and its variants are quite prevalent, and thus are worth addressing. In this essay, Solove critiques the nothing to hide argument and exposes its faulty underpinnings.”


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Freedom of Information

The War on the Freedom of Information Act

“The health-care clusterfudge continues. Senator John McCain has brain cancer. President Trump throws another public tantrum. Russia, Russia, Russia.”

“That about covers the Big Political Headlines of the week. Now for something really sexy: the creeping assault on the Freedom of Information Act.”

“Stop right there! No clicking over to that Tucker Carlson YouTube rant. This is another one of those ticky-tacky, below-the-radar issues that may sound like a nonprescription substitute for Ambien but is, practically speaking, super important—especially in the Age of Trump.”

“FOIA is what enables regular people to pester powerful federal agencies into handing over information about what they’ve been up to. FOIA's website calls it “the law that keeps citizens in the know about their government.” Though a tad grandiose, that characterization is pretty much accurate. And never has such a tool been quite so vital as with the current White House, which has adopted a policy of unabashedly lying about pretty much everything.”


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Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety; attribution appreciated. The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association
Publishing

Sci-Hub’s Cache of Pirated Papers Is So Big, Subscription Journals Are Doomed, Data Analyst Suggests

“There is no doubt that Sci-Hub, the infamous—and, according to a U.S. court, illegal—online repository of pirated research papers, is enormously popular. (See Science’s investigation last year of who is downloading papers from Sci-Hub.) But just how enormous is its repository? That is the question biodata scientist Daniel Himmelstein at the University of Pennsylvania and colleagues recently set out to answer, after an assist from Sci-Hub.”

“Their findings, published in a preprint on the PeerJ journal site on 20 July, indicate that Sci-Hub can instantly provide access to more than two-thirds of all scholarly articles, an amount that Himmelstein says is “even higher” than he anticipated. For research papers protected by a paywall, the study found Sci-Hub’s reach is greater still, with instant access to 85% of all papers published in subscription journals. For some major publishers, such as Elsevier, more than 97% of their catalog of journal articles is being stored on Sci-Hub’s servers—meaning they can be accessed there for free.”


The Fair Access to Science & Technology Research Act (FASTR)

“The bipartisan Fair Access to Science and Technology Research Act (FASTR) was introduced in the US House of Representatives on July 26, 2017. Co-sponsored by Representatives Kevin Yoder (R-KS-3), Mike Doyle (D-PA-14), and Zoe Lofgren, (D-CA-19), FASTR will accelerate scientific discovery and fuel innovation by making articles reporting on publicly funded scientific research freely accessible online for anyone to read and build upon.”

“Every year, the federal government funds over sixty billion dollars in basic and applied research, and most of this funding is concentrated within 11 departments/agencies. This research results in a significant number of articles being published each year—approximately 100,000 papers are published annually as result of NIH funding alone. Because U.S. taxpayers directly fund this research, they have a right to expect that its distribution and use will be maximized, and that they themselves will have access to it.”

https://sparcopen.org/our-work/fastr/

Community Resources

Find Summer Meals in Your Community

“Nutritious free meals are available for children and teens 18 and younger at many locations throughout the nation throughout the summer while school is out of session. Use the mapping tool below to find a site near you.”

https://www.fns.usda.gov/summerfoodrocks

Helping People in a Crisis

“In times of crisis, access to timely, actionable information is crucial. Working alongside trained responders and volunteers on the ground, technology plays a vital role in providing information to help keep you and loved ones safe and informed. SOS alerts is a new set of features in Google Search and Maps to help you quickly understand what’s going on and decide what to do during a crisis.”

“During a crisis, you may see an SOS Alert at the top of search results when searching for the incident or location. You’ll see maps, top stories and—when available—authoritative local information such as emergency phone numbers, websites, and translations of useful phrases. Depending on how close you are to the affected area, you may also get a notification on your mobile device that directs you to this information.”

https://www.blog.google/products/search/helping-people-crisis/

U.S. Federal Documents Program Update

Federal Documents within the HathiTrust Digital Library, as of July 1, 2017

422,616 bibliographic records
1,044,551 separate digital objects
397,067 monographs
25,206 serial titles

Searchable U.S. Federal Documents collection

“HathiTrust and Michigan staff have developed a new access point for federal documents within HathiTrust, the U.S. Federal Documents collection. This new collection enables users to search and browse a set limited to only federal documents in HathiTrust.”


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https://www.blog.google/products/search/helping-people-crisis/

Search

U.S. Federal Documents Program Update
FOIA Lawsuit Filers Among Nonprofits/Advocacy Groups

“This is a sortable list of nonprofit and advocacy organizations who have filed FOIA federal lawsuits since FY 2001. Select period to change cases displayed. Click on the link to view details on each of these lawsuits, including full court docket information for each case. Click on heading to sort by that column. Please email us if you know of a FOIA case that should be added.”

http://foiaproject.org/plaintiff-nonprofit/

New Members Fall Happy Hour

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2017/07/fall-happy-hour/ July 31, 2017 Categories: Bayline, Chapter Programs & Events Tags: events
Wednesday, August 30, 2017. 5:30-7:30 PM
Patriot House Pub
2 Embarcadero Center, San Francisco

The San Francisco Bay Region Chapter of the Special Libraries Association invite you to our New Members Fall Happy Hour. Are you a student or new to the Bay Area? Are you a librarian and want to meet new librarians in the area? Come join us for an evening with friends and colleagues. Meet librarians from all walks of life and find out what the SLA in the Bay Area is about.

The event will be free for new and prospective members, students, and for current members who bring along one or more prospective member. The fee for all others is $10.

Come and join us for an evening with friends and find out just what SLA in the Bay Area is all about. The first drink is on us! We hope to see you there.

To register as a FREE attendee, please email Sarah Cook at president-elect@sanfrancisco.sla.org with your name, current SLA membership status, and who you’re going to bring. If you’ll be paying $10 for this night of drinks and frivolity, you can send a check made out to San Francisco Bay Chapter of SLA to me at:

Sarah Cook
44 Montgomery St.
32nd Floor
San Francisco, CA 94104

Or you can pay by cash or check the night of the event. Either way, please email me to let me know you’re coming.

Please RSVP by August 28.

Can’t wait to see you!!

Grace Kim, Academic Relations Chair
Sarah Cook, President-Elect

Jobline 2017/08/01

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2017/08/jobline-20170801/ August 1, 2017 Categories: Jobline

Information Specialist

Health Advances is a strategy consulting firm that focuses exclusively on the healthcare industry. We are scientists, clinicians, researchers, and business professionals who share a passion for supporting healthcare product commercialization and driving adoption of innovations that improve healthcare. We help clients realize growth opportunities worldwide for healthcare technologies, products and services. Our consultants partner with senior executives and investors on their highest-stakes strategic decisions.

Health Advances employs over 140 full-time professionals in full-service offices in Boston, San Francisco, and Zug, Switzerland. These offices perform analyses worldwide; nearly one-third of Health Advances’ projects are ex-US. Health
Advances has performed studies in over 70 different countries.

Health Advances is seeking a full-time Information Specialist to join the Knowledge Management team to assist project teams with secondary research and to help build our proprietary knowledge base. Experience in one or more healthcare areas (biopharma, medtech, diagnostics & life science tools, healthcare services, health IT, health economics, market access) is strongly preferred. The position is based in San Francisco, CA. The successful candidate will be the only Information Specialist in the San Francisco office, but will work closely with colleagues in Weston.

Key Responsibilities

- Work closely with project and business development teams, assisting with data and literature research
  - Respond to requests by creatively surveying both Health Advances’ internal holdings as well as external resources, including specialized databases and search tools and the Internet
  - Using in-depth knowledge of industry sources, proactively advise project teams of resources that may be helpful to complete specific projects
  - Provide ongoing support for one or more business development teams

- Participate in building Health Advances’ knowledge base, including some or all of the following:
  - On an ongoing basis, identify, evaluate, and document external resources for use by project teams, focusing on one or more areas of healthcare
  - Help to develop and implement new knowledge products and services
  - Support information, data, and resource discovery by describing and tagging both internal and external content

- Work with HA Knowledge Services in Weston as part of a seamless team to address the spectrum of information and knowledge needs of Health Advances staff
  - Act as primary researcher for San Francisco staff
  - Conduct research to support other offices as needed

- Perform other duties as required, including dissemination of current awareness materials and training

Qualifications

- A minimum of 2 years year of experience in the healthcare industry, preferably corporate information services, marketing, business development, or knowledge management; the ideal candidate will have 5+ years of experience
- Experience conducting research and analysis
- Detailed knowledge of healthcare industry resources, including data and statistics, business, and clinical materials strongly preferred. At a minimum, interest in the healthcare industry and ability to develop expertise in a complex subject area
  - Experience with a variety of healthcare resources, particularly in the use of pharmaceutical/biotechnology and pipeline databases and products from QuintilesIMS, Evaluate, Informa, Springer
  - Expertise using ThomsonOne, LexisNexis, Informa’s Strategic Transactions Database, and other similar databases
  - Experience evaluating resources and vendors
- Master’s Degree in Library/Information Science, or equivalent education and experience a plus
- Undergraduate degree in healthcare-related field a plus
- Strong customer service orientation and demonstrated ability to exercise creativity in resolving customers’ information needs
- Excellent communication (both oral and written), time management, organization, and teamwork skills
- Attention to detail with the ability to multitask
- Ability to work as a solo practitioner, and also to team with geographically dispersed colleagues
- Willingness to travel to Boston for ~1 week of training

Key Relationships

- Reports to Chief Knowledge Officer
- Works closely with San Francisco office staff, HA Library Services team, and Chief Knowledge Officer
- Works with Knowledge Management Committee members for resource evaluations and continued database development
- Interacts regularly with project teams, business development teams, and all levels of consulting and functional staff

Hours:

- 8:00am-5:00pm or 9:00am-6:00pm
- Full time: 45 hours a week
- Must be on site (working remotely is not feasible)

Health Advances offers a creative and stimulating work environment, a comprehensive compensation and benefits package, and a challenging career opportunity.

To apply, please submit a resume and cover letter to Dana Gaughan, Director of Recruiting and Professional
Intersect Alert August 6, 2017


August 6, 2017 Categories: Intersect Alert Tags: freedom of information, intellectual property, international outlook, libraries, publishing

Take Action!:

California: Restore Our Online Privacy Rights
Internet users in California have to speak up now if they want to reclaim the online privacy protections stripped away by Congress earlier this year.
A California bill sponsored by Assembly member Ed Chau, A.B. 375, would reinstate online privacy rules that would keep ISPs like AT&T, Comcast, and Verizon from selling information about what you do online without your permission.
Californians need to call their state senators now to see these online privacy protections restored.
Congress narrowly voted earlier this year to repeal the FCC’s online privacy rules that kept ISPs from selling information about what you do online without your permission. Because of the way Congress repealed those rules, the FCC can’t put similar privacy protections in place going forward. And the current legal landscape means that no other federal agency may be able to clearly police ISPs’ bad behavior when it comes to online privacy.
That’s why state legislators are taking up the charge, and it’s crucial that California lawmakers move ahead with this legislation.
Tell your state senator to support A.B. 375 and restore our Internet privacy protections.
Take action here: https://act.eff.org/action/california-restore-our-online-privacy-rights.

Freedom of Information:

The War on the Freedom of Information Act
A conservative group is resisting congressional efforts to kneecap FOIA. The health-care clusterfudge continues. Senator John McCain has brain cancer. President Trump throws another public tantrum. Russia, Russia, Russia. That about covers the Big Political Headlines of the week. Now for something really sexy: the creeping assault on the Freedom of Information Act.
FOIA is what enables regular people to pester powerful federal agencies into handing over information about what they’ve been up to. FOIA’s website calls it “the law that keeps citizens in the know about their government.” Though a tad grandiose,

Judge Orders FBI to Release Docs on 1950s-Era Anti-Gay Purge
A U.S. District Court judge in Washington on July 28 handed down a ruling ordering the FBI to search for and release thousands of documents it initially said it could not find or declined to release that pertain to an anti-gay “purge” in the 1950s that resulted in the firing of thousands of gay federal employees. Judge Royce C. Lamberth’s ruling came in response to a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit filed last year by the Mattachine Society of Washington, D.C., an LGBT rights group that called on the FBI to release all government documents in its possession generated by a 1953 executive order issued by President Dwight Eisenhower.
Known as Executive Order 10450, the order gave the FBI and federal agency heads the authority to investigate and dismiss federal employees linked to “sexual perversion.” Historians knowledgeable in LGBT history say that term was a pretext used to purge gays from the government. Mattachine Society President Charles Francis said the group filed its lawsuit after the FBI balked at releasing and searching for thousands of documents the group requested in what the lawsuit says was a violation of the Freedom of Information Act.
Accreditors Can Keep Their Hospital Inspection Reports Secret, Feds Decide

Federal health officials have backed down from a controversial proposal that would have required private accreditors to publicly release reports about errors, mishaps and mix-ups in the nation’s hospitals and health care facilities. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services had proposed in April that accreditors publicly detail problems they find during inspections of hospitals and other medical facilities, as well as the steps being taken to fix them. Nearly nine in 10 hospitals are directly overseen by these accreditors, not the government. But in a notice released Wednesday afternoon, the government withdrew the proposal. CMS said that federal law prohibits the agency from disclosing the results of inspections performed by the accrediting organizations and that the proposal – though it required accreditors, not the agency, to release the reports – “may appear as if CMS was attempting to circumvent” the law.

Leah Binder, president and CEO of The Leapfrog Group, a coalition of employers that advocates for quality and transparency in health care, criticized the CMS decision to back down. “This is disgraceful, unfair to patients as well as employers and other purchasers of health care,” she said in an email. “The public deserves full transparency on how the health care industry performs. Instead, transparency has been sacrificed to accommodate special interests that lobby to avoid disclosing embarrassing information about health care quality.”


Public Policy:

Bi-partisan bill would support library wi-fi

Earlier this week, the Advancing Innovation and Reinvigorating Widespread Access to Viable Electromagnetic Spectrum (AIRWA VES) Act, S. 1682, was introduced by Senators Cory Gardner (R-CO) and Maggie Hassan (D-NH). As described by Sen. Hassan, “The bipartisan AIRWA VES Act will help ensure that there is an adequate supply of spectrum for licensed and unlicensed use, which in turn will enhance wireless services to our people, stimulate our economy, and spur innovation.” Senator Gardner stated, “This legislation offers innovative ways to avoid a spectrum crunch, pave the way for 5G services, and provide critical resources to rural America.” The legislation would encourage a more efficient use of spectrum, the airwaves over which signals and data travel, while helping to close the urban-rural digital gap. Specifically, The AIRWA VES Act would direct the Federal Communications Commission to free up unused or underused spectrum currently assigned to government users for commercial providers to expand their broadband offerings and for the expansion of services like Wi-Fi. The auctioned spectrum would include low-band, mid-band, and high-band frequencies, enabling the deployment of a variety of new wireless technologies. It also includes a proposal to auction other spectrum and would require that 10 percent of the auction proceeds be dedicated to funding wireless infrastructure projects in unserved and underserved rural areas.


Privacy:

Saving face: Facebook wants access without limits

When Chicago resident Carlo Licata joined Facebook in 2009, he did what the 390 million other users of the world’s largest social network had already done: He posted photos of himself and friends, tagging the images with names. But what Licata, now 34, didn’t know was that every time he was tagged, Facebook stored his digitized face in its growing database. Angered this was done without his knowledge, Licata sued Facebook in 2015 as part of a class action lawsuit filed in Illinois state court accusing the company of violating a one-of-a-kind Illinois law that prohibits collection of biometric data without permission. The suit is ongoing.

Facebook denied the charges, arguing the law doesn’t apply to them. But behind the scenes, the social network giant is working feverishly to prevent other states from enacting a law like the one in Illinois.

Since the suit was filed, Facebook has stepped up its state lobbying, according to records and interviews with lawmakers. But rather than wading into policy fights itself, Facebook has turned to lower-profile trade groups such as the Internet Association, based in Washington, D.C., and the Illinois-based trade association CompTIA to head off bills that would give users more control over how their likenesses are used or whom they can be sold to. That effort is part of a wider agenda. Tech companies, whose business model is based on collecting data about its users and using it to sell ads, frequently oppose consumer privacy legislation. But privacy advocates say Facebook is uniquely aggressive in opposing all forms of regulation on its technology.

And the strategy has been working. Bills that would have created new consumer data protections for facial recognition were proposed in at least five states this year – Washington, Montana, New Hampshire, Connecticut and Alaska – but all failed, except the Washington bill, which passed only after its scope was limited.

https://www.publicintegrity.org/node/21027.

Publishing:

Zines defy death by digital

The subterranean arcade under Flinders Street Station seems the ideal place for a thriving underground artistic community. A sheltered location for a niche industry that has defied the worldwide magazine publishing trend. Zines live here – the low-cost, low-fi, handcrafted and independent print publications – bucking the trend of death by digital. Ironically, it is the internet that has helped this publishing alternative to
thrive.
“Zines are always made for love and not for profit,” says Luke Sinclair, one of the founders of the arcade’s Sticky Institute. Sticky is a store that specialises in zines and Sinclair has been making the publications for 20 years. During that time, he has watched the zine community in Melbourne flourish, and witnessed its work become more widely recognised as an art and literary form, one that presents an alternative snapshot of society. “Every day there’s piles of stuff coming in, 20 to 25 new titles each week. We could be 10 times the size,” says Sinclair. “Instead of the internet killing zines, all of a sudden it was really easy to get zines because you could go online … instead of destroying them, it all worked to feed them,” says Sinclair.

It certainly caught the attention of Des Cowley, the State Library of Victoria’s rare printed collections manager. Under Cowley’s eye, the State Library started collecting zines in the late ’90s, as part of its mandate to preserve the print heritage of Victoria. It has 10,000 zines now in its Swanston Street home, which Cowley says is the largest collection “by far” in Australia. It may help future scholars unravel parts of late 20th-century life and culture. “History will judge whether collecting them was a good idea,” Cowley says. “Imagine if we had a vast amount of personal rants and statements about things people loved and hated from the 1890s in Melbourne. Historians would be all over it.”


Elsevier Acquires bepress

Today, Elsevier announces its acquisition of bepress. In a move entirely consistent with its pivot to beyond content licensing to preprints, analytics, workflow, and decision-support, Elsevier is now a major if not the foremost single player in the institutional repository landscape. If successful, and there are some risks, this acquisition will position Elsevier as an increasingly dominant player in preprints, continuing its march to adopt and coopt open access.

The acquisition target is a company with an interesting history and product portfolio. Like SSRN, Elsevier’s last major acquisition of a standalone company, bepress was founded by academics who saw opportunities to transform scholarly communications. In both cases, they have profited richly from their vision.

Originally started by scholars at Berkeley in the fields of law and economics as Berkeley Electronic Press, bepress was first established to publish journals with improved time to publication using an innovative incentive structure to reward peer reviewers. The journals portfolio grew to 67 titles and was sold in 2011 to DeGruyter. Today, bepress is focused not on journal publishing but on the infrastructure of scholarly communication and showcasing scholarship. When I asked him yesterday to define the company, CEO Jean-Gabriel Bankier began by saying, “We build research showcases.” Elsevier has moved to become a substantial player in the gold open access marketplace, by its own account the second largest publisher of open access articles. While some efforts to transition national site licenses to hybrid publishing agreements have been fraught, this may be little more than transitional pains. Consortial cancellations and threats to do so notwithstanding, Elsevier’s science business remains strong. While the largest publisher, Elsevier has relatively close competitors, and as SpringerNature merges its two content bundles together in library sales and better integrates its open offerings it is worth watching closely.

https://scholarlykitchen.sspnet.org/2017/08/02/elsevier-acquires-bepress/.

International Outlook:

Under Near-Constant Assault, Ukraine Is Desperately Trying to Bolster Its Cyber Defenses

It bears the brunt of many hacks that target the wider world, like the recent NotPetya attack. But it also struggles in the face of something more troubling: not once, but twice, parts of the country have been plunged into darkness as a result of hackers taking aim at the nation’s energy infrastructure. These aren’t the kind of hacks that mean tech-savvy folks need to change their login credentials, but precursors to something far more serious: potentially devastating and life-threatening infrastructure disruptions that could leave thousands or millions of people without electricity or other utilities. As Wired recently explained, some of the attacks targeted at the Ukraine are likely to be tests by Russia as it perfects tools to use in larger-scale cyberwar.


Intellectual Property:

Trademark for n-word, swastika filed after legal ruling

Inspired by a recent Supreme Court ruling, two entrepreneurs offended by the n-word filed to trademark the epithet to keep it out of the hands of racists. The court ruled in June that disparaging words can receive trademark protection. It said rejecting disparaging trademarks violates the First Amendment, clearing the way for an Asian-American rock group called the Slants to trademark its name – and for the Washington Redskins’ maligned moniker to stay protected as well. Steve Maynard, an Alexandria, Va., attorney, and Curtis Bordenave of Columbus, Miss., filed to trademark a variation of the n-word the same day the court decision came down. Bordenave sought use of the term in “retail store services featuring clothing, books, music and general merchandise,” among other uses, according to one of his trademark applications.

His goal: To prevent racist groups from making money from the word. “If an individual organization tries to use it to gain finances for their organization … that is not something we think is right, we’re going to protect our mark,” he said. Bordenave, 47, said he was inspired to “censor” the n-word
because of his experiences as a black man living in the South, particularly when a police officer in New Orleans used the slur during a traffic stop nearly two decades ago. “I was so humiliated, embarrassed,” he said. “For him to talk to me in that way in front of my children was a real big problem.” Maynard, who also filed to trademark the Nazi swastika, said he wanted to quash hate by getting the rights to it. “We hope to flood the market with T-shirts and clothing and end up opening up a discussion,” said Maynard, who described himself as “having a light skin tone,” but was reluctant to disclose his skin color because of threats he said he has received related to his trademark application.

Gene Quinn, founder of the intellectual property blog IP Watchdog, said trademarking epithets to limit their use was a “laudable purpose,” but difficult to achieve. To be maintained, trademarks must be used in interstate commerce, he said, and are awarded in different classes, such as clothing, food or video games. Anyone trying to erase these words from the marketplace would simultaneously need to put them into the marketplace. “I doubt they’re going to want to use the n-word in commerce themselves,” he said. “If they’re going down this path, they’re going to be in real trouble.”


Libraries:

Millennials are the ones keeping libraries alive

Long live the public library! It’s not dead yet. The internet hasn’t rendered physical reference centers obsolete, thanks to millennials. According to a new analysis of Pew Research Center data on US library attendance, millennials more than other generations appear to have a use for physical libraries. They may not always come for the books, but the country’s youngest adults show up. That works out well because librarians have been designing with them in mind.

Pew researchers surveyed a nationally representative population of 1,600 Americans in 2016. It found that millennials—arguably the first generation to grow up online-use public libraries more than other, older adults. More than half-53% of survey respondents ages 18-35 visited a public library or bookmobile within the previous year. That’s not bad for a tech-obsessed bunch deemed lost to the screen. It’s notable too that the results did not include attendance at academic libraries. That means millennials answering affirmatively weren’t college students referring to campus institutions, which would naturally skew the outcome. By comparison, only 45% of disaffected gen-Xers (36-51 years old) and 43% of enthusiastic baby boomers (52-70 years old) visited a public reference center in the 12 months prior to being surveyed.

Today’s library is a location of exchange and illumination, not somber contemplation, and it reflects a community’s values. In Berkeley, California that means being green—the Berkeley Public Library’s West Branch has won numerous awards for its zero-net-energy construction that’s efficient, aesthetic, and sunlit—an illuminated design, literally and figuratively.

Gloomy, quiet rooms with tall stacks of shelves packed with books are unfashionable. The hip library is bright and cheery, with open areas where talk is encouraged and groups can exchange freely, sometimes called “learning commons.”


Jobline 2017/08/07

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2017/08/jobline-20170807/ August 7, 2017 Categories: Jobline

Taylor & Associates is recruiting for a Research Analyst – IP

Please send resumes to Catherine Ghent: taylorlb@taylorlib.com

Call Catherine with questions at 510-559-1540

Our client, a large international law firm, is seeking a Research Analyst for its Seattle office. This position will be part of a team of attorneys, paralegals and support staff providing a high level of service to both internal and external clients.

ESSENTIAL JOB FUNCTIONS:

- Provide comprehensive research and reference services, in particular patent research, and preliminary analysis for
the firm’s attorneys and staff on legal and non-legal issues.
- Provide training and support in research, in particular in using IP research tools.
- Assist users in the selection and use of print and electronic research tools.
- Prepare training materials and provides instruction in the use of library resources, legal databases, and Internet resources.
- Work with practice groups and marketing department on competitive intelligence projects.
- Coordinate interlibrary loans and document delivery.
- Participate in collecting and developing intranet resources.
- Compile legislative histories and bibliographies.
- Monitor online databases for practice-specific information.
- Review professional publications, establish personal networks, and participate in professional associations.
- Other library administrative duties as assigned.

KNOWLEDGE/SKILLS REQUIRED:
- MLS or equivalent advanced degree required, or equivalent experience that demonstrates the ability to perform the duties of the position.
- Minimum 5 years’ experience in a law or corporate library environment with a focus on patent research.
- Experience with a wide variety of electronic resources, in particular Westlaw, Orbit, Patbase, Docket Navigator, Bloomberg BNA, Proquest Dialog, and CCH Intelliconnect.
- Experience conducting in-depth research and analysis of Intellectual Property data to assemble, analyze and deliver patent, trademark and copyright information to attorneys and legal administrators.
- Proficiency using library OPAC.
- Demonstrated aptitude for research and analysis.
- Communicates effectively orally and in writing.
- Loyalty to the interests of the firm, cooperative and flexible, with a team-oriented attitude.
- Displays professional conduct and courtesy in relationships with attorneys and staff.
- Takes initiative and responsibility in the areas of assigned work.
- Dependable with attendance and punctuality.
- Maintains honesty, confidentiality, and ethical conduct.

When applying, please mention that you found this position listing on SLA SV/SF Jobline. Thank you!

Intersect Alert August 13, 2017


Take action here: https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2017/08/open-access-cant-wait-pass-fastr-now.

Public Policy:

Open Access Can’t Wait. Pass FASTR Now
When you pay for federally funded research, you should be allowed to read it. That’s the idea behind the Fair Access to Science and Technology Research Act (S.1701, H.R.3427), which was recently reintroduced in both houses of Congress. FASTR was first introduced in 2013, and while it has strong support in both parties, it has never gained enough momentum to pass. We need to change that. Let’s tell Congress that passing an open access law should be a top priority.

The proposal is pretty simple: Under FASTR, every federal agency that spends more than $100 million on grants for research would be required to adopt an open access policy. The bill gives each agency flexibility to implement an open access policy suited to the work it funds, so long as research is available to the public after an “embargo period” of a year or less.

Bringing Transparency and Accountability to Private Prisons
One of the hallmarks of the first six months of the Trump administration has been its dramatic walkback of the federal role in protecting the civil rights of communities of color—with Attorney General Jeff Sessions leading the charge as head of the Department of Justice. On voting rights, hate crimes, federal criminal law and mass incarceration, police reform, immigration, and general civil rights enforcement, Sessions has moved swiftly since his February confirmation to overhaul DOJ and take the agency in disturbing new directions. One of
Sessions’ earliest acts was to make good on President Trump’s campaign rhetoric praising private prisons and bring them back to life in the federal correctional system. Sessions did so by ignoring a 2016 DOJ Inspector General finding that private prisons are less safe and secure and overturning an Obama directive that phased out their use.

It’s hard for Americans to know the full extent of the private prison problem because private prisons operate under a veil of secrecy by claiming exemption from public records laws that apply to government-operated facilities. Senator Ben Cardin of Maryland wants to do something about that, and on August 2 he introduced the Private Prison Information Act. People For the American Way joined OpenTheGovernment and more than two dozen other organizations on a letter that exposes the private prison transparency and accountability crisis and supports Senator Cardin’s legislation. http://www.pfaw.org/blog-posts/bringing-transparency-and-accountability-to-private-prisons/.

TRAC’s New Web Tool Maps Cases Pending in Immigration Court
The Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse (TRAC) at Syracuse University has just released a brand new web mapping application that allows the public to examine for the very first time the number of individuals residing in each state, county, and local community within a county, who have pending cases before the Immigration Court. Using this new interactive web tool, the location of individuals involved in Immigration Court cases can be displayed based upon each individual’s recorded home address. Where the individual is detained, the address shown may be that of the detention facility where the individual is being held. Users can therefore pinpoint with great precision just where cases are located throughout the country.

Currently pending court cases directly involve residents in 11,894 communities across the country. Indeed, a startling 2,507 separate counties in the United States—more than three out of every four counties (78%)—have residents with cases currently pending before the Immigration Court. And a total of 39 out of the 50 states have 1,000 or more residents now before the Immigration Court. http://trac.syr.edu/immigration/reports/476/.

USDA Staff Were Coached Not to Say ‘Climate Change,’ Emails Show
Four days after President Donald Trump took the oath of office, an official at the Department of Agriculture sent an email, the first in a string of messages signaling to staff that the term “climate change” could soon be erased from the agency’s vocabulary. “It has become clear one of the previous administration’s priorities is not consistent with that of the incoming administration,” wrote Jimmy Bramblett, a deputy chief in the agency’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). “Namely, that priority is climate change. Please visit with your staff and make them aware of this shift in perspective within the Executive Branch.”

Over the course of the next six months, Bramblett and other officials sent emails to staff, coaching them to avoid using the term “climate change” and instead use the term “weather extremes.” In one email, a department head suggested that the agency “remove or significantly alter” an internal survey and report in which staff discussed whether climate change is “human induced.”

The American Farm Bureau Federation, the industry’s powerful lobbying group, has cast doubt on the scientific consensus behind human-induced climate change, even as it has acknowledged that its members are battling its impacts. Those preferred terms—”variability” and “extremes”—have now migrated to the USDA, an agency run by Sonny Perdue, a former Georgia governor who has expressed doubts about the human impact on the climate.


Libraries:

Nazi-looted books found in German libraries
A man in California holds a book in his hand. It contains a personal dedication from his former school teacher. The elderly man was the only member of his family to survive the Holocaust. Beyond a family photo and one item of clothing, the book is the only thing that he has from his former home country. He has tears in his eyes.

The book was recently returned to him, its rightful owner. “Such moments are truly filled with happiness, because we see that all of our work is really worth it,” says Uwe Hartmann, head of provenance research at the German Lost Art Foundation in Magdeburg. The Lost Art Foundation has organized a program called “Initial Check” in order to enable the search for stolen books in smaller German libraries. The program has tasked three experienced provenance researchers to scour libraries in Saxony-Anhalt, and look for suspicious items. Their aim is to find out whether such inventory items are in fact looted goods. Elena Kiesel is conducting research related to the Magdeburg City Library. The historian knows exactly which Jewish families or political parties in the region were dispossessed. “She has the lists compiled during earlier studies,” says librarian Cornelia Poenicek, referring to inventories put together after German reunification. In the early 1990s, researchers were looking at a completely different chapter in Germany’s history of confiscations – namely those of estate owners in the early stages of East Germany’s nascent communist era. “In the end, she will go through the library’s shelves and look through the books, at least part of them,” adds Poenicek. “She won’t make it through all 80,000 volumes but she will make random samples.”

Open Data:

Mapping Public Lands in the United States
The Protected Areas Database of the United States (PAD-US) is the official inventory of public parks and other protected areas in all U.S. states and territories. The growing database contains more than three billion public land and marine acres managed by nearly 15,100 agencies and nongovernmental organizations, covering 200,000 separate parks and protected areas. PAD-US is a product of Core Science Analytics, Synthesis, and Library (CSAS&L) in the USGS Core Science Systems Mission Area.

What can you do with PAD-US? Explore the different types of public lands in the United States. National, state, regional, and local organizations all manage protected lands. From the PAD-US map you can identify protected areas managed by various federal agencies such as the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Forest Service, and the National Park Service. Or you can view information for recreational areas such as State Parks. If you need to prepare a map with public lands or conduct analysis involving public land boundaries and designations you can access PAD-US data by download or through web services. You can also download printable maps.

Work by the Trust for Public Land is helping to fill in missing data for many urban area parks, data that will be shared with PAD-US by the end of 2018. The next update to PAD-US will be published in late 2017. This update builds on major improvements made in the 2016 release by providing an easier to use data structure that better manages overlapping designations (for example, Wilderness), along with extensive new data additions.


International Outlook:

Myanmar libraries after the ‘opening up’
Abstract: This article assesses the recent development of libraries in Myanmar and efforts to build the sector’s capacity leading up to and after the first democratic elections held in the country in nearly 50 years. Cyclone Nargis in 2008 is viewed as a ‘framing event’, which led to an increase in national and international projects to support development of Myanmar libraries in parallel with legal and policy reforms, and the strengthening of local actors including the Myanmar Library Association to coordinate and lead such activities. Although in need of modernisation, networking and professional skills, the existence of a widespread number of all library types across the country provides an important foundation for further development. In a country that has made a rapid leap from limited to more widely available access to information and technology, the current status and readiness of libraries to support users in this transition is explored.


Privacy:

Court pits privacy versus safety in prescription drug case
The California Supreme Court just armed would be challengers to the state’s prescription drug tracking system. In 2014, the state’s doctor lobby, the California Medical Association, sued the state physician oversight board, the Medical Board of California, to bar it from using prescribing patterns as a way to police physicians. Dr. Alwin Lewis of Burbank, creator of the “Five Bite Diet” and the subject of a Medical Board investigation, also sued, and, in the process, attacked the board’s use of the Controlled Substance Utilization Review and Evaluation System (CURES), saying the board had violated the privacy rights of Lewis’ patients. Last month, the Supreme Court of California ruled that the Board was justified in using CURES to monitor Lewis. But if you read carefully what Justice Goodwin Liu wrote there is a new avenue that has opened up for the association or others interested in going after CURES. Let’s begin with the first mention of privacy in the ruling. Note that the court spoke out of both sides of its mouth: “The question in this case is whether the Medical Board of California (Board) violated patients’ right to privacy under article I, section 1 of the California Constitution when it obtained data from CURES without a warrant or subpoena supported by good cause in the course of investigating the patients’ physician, Dr. Alwin Carl Lewis. We hold that it did not because, even assuming that accessing prescription records without good cause constitutes a significant intrusion on a legally protected privacy interest, the Board’s actions in this case were justified.”

So, yes, your phones were tapped. But the government had good reason to do so. The problem with this will arise when another court down the road decides that the reason simply wasn’t good enough. Requiring the board to secure a warrant every time it wanted to get access to CURES would be too cumbersome and costly, but the board could secure more structural protections through a bill in the state legislature.

https://osf.io/preprints/socarxiv/zf76v.

Publishing:

These Are the Most and Least Trusted Brands in News
A study of close to 9,000 people found that the most trusted source of news is The Economist, while the Occupy Democrats organization was the least trusted source. The University of Missouri recently ran a questionnaire distributed by 28 newsrooms across the country. Those newsrooms asked their audiences to answer questions about the types of content they consume and how much they’re willing to pay for that content. About 67 percent of people who replied
consider themselves likely or very likely to trust the news, which means nearly 33 percent of them are unlikely or very unlikely to trust the news.

Additionally, both white and liberal respondents were more likely to trust and pay for the news than non-white and conservative respondents. Older respondents were also more likely to pay for their news regardless of race or political leaning. [In the story] is a chart detailing the broad scope of trusted and not trusted news sources and brands, which includes vague terms like “social media” and “public television.” The highest scoring trusted sources were The Economist, public television and Reuters, while the least trusted sources were Occupy Democrats, BuzzFeed and Breitbart [and Trump].


Internet Access:

If Cable Won’t #UnlockTheBox, Why Would ISPs #ProtectNetNeutrality?
The recent Internet Day of Action for net neutrality illustrates how intensely consumers feel about net neutrality protections, as more than 50,000 people, websites, and organizations demonstrated in favor of a free and open internet. Many Internet Service Providers claim that they, too, want net neutrality, but with one exception: they don’t want any rules that can be enforced against them. Asking giant internet providers like Comcast to behave is, quite frankly, implausible given their history of anti-competitive behavior.

Ajit Pai, Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, is moving quickly to repeal the 2015 net neutrality rules put in place by the Commission and the previous Chairman. Part of Chairman Pai’s proposal for replacing the rules includes asking broadband providers to pledge to uphold net neutrality through “voluntary commitments.” Although advocates of Chairman Pai’s proposal to replace net neutrality enforcement with “voluntary commitments” argue that these commitments are “binding,” these policies are often dubious and shifting, providing internet service providers with flexibility to update and reconfigure the terms at any moment. Moreover, the likelihood of obtaining voluntary consensus without federal regulations incentivizing cable and internet providers is slim. Their history shows, unfortunately, that ISPs do not honor their voluntary commitments.

Big Cable’s #DitchTheBox proposal is one of the most recent examples of an industry’s inability to self-regulate in the absence of federal regulation, and many of the same companies offering pay-TV services are the same companies providing broadband internet. Big Cable developed the #DitchTheBox plan as an alternative to the FCC’s #UnlockTheBox proposal. The FCC’s #UnlockTheBox proposal would have allowed third-party manufacturers to create their own cable set-top box, saving consumers an estimated $231 dollars a year. For years the cable and satellite TV industry fought to prevent TV customers from switching to online providers like Netflix and Hulu, so the FCC’s war to liberate consumers’ cable boxes was met with Big Cable’s #DitchTheBox retaliation. This plan simply served to mislead viewers and regulators into trusting that cable companies would provide consumers with free apps to watch TV rather than making them pay monthly fees for cable boxes. Ironically, Chairman Pai’s rationale behind his net neutrality agenda is undermined by the dissent he authored during the #UnlockTheBox proceedings.


Maybe Americans don’t need fast home Internet service, FCC suggests

By saying mobile is good enough, FCC could find that deployment problem is solved. Americans might not need a fast home Internet connection, the Federal Communications Commission suggests in a new document. Instead, mobile Internet via a smartphone might be all people need. The suggestion comes in the FCC’s annual inquiry into broadband availability. Section 706 of the Telecommunications Act requires the FCC to determine whether broadband (or more formally, “advanced telecommunications capability”) is being deployed to all Americans in a reasonable and timely fashion. If the FCC finds that broadband isn’t being deployed quickly enough to everyone, it is required by law to “take immediate action to accelerate deployment of such capability by removing barriers to infrastructure investment and by promoting competition in the telecommunications market.”

Last year, the FCC updated its analysis with a conclusion that Americans need home and mobile access. Because home Internet connections and smartphones have different capabilities and limitations, Americans should have access to both instead of just one or the other. The FCC concluded under then-Chairman Tom Wheeler. But with Republican Ajit Pai now in charge, the FCC seems poised to change that policy by declaring that mobile broadband with speeds of 10Mbps downstream and 1Mbps upstream is all one needs. In doing so, the FCC could conclude that broadband is already being deployed to all Americans in a reasonable and timely fashion, and thus the organization would take fewer steps to promote deployment and competition. Although the FCC might conclude that mobile broadband can replace a cable or fiber connection, the commission also says consumers can’t expect mobile to be as fast. “We anticipate that any speed benchmark we set [for mobile] would be lower than the 25Mbps/3Mbps benchmark adopted for fixed broadband services, given differing capabilities of mobile broadband,” the FCC said.


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The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.
Intersect Alert August 20, 2017

Take Action:

Tyler’s Stroke of Genius Recovery (GoFundMe)
Tyler Magill, vanquisher of Charlottesville nazis, suffered a stroke on August 15. This stroke was the result of blunt force trauma to his carotid artery after he was hit with a torch on Friday night. Unfortunately, Tyler used up most of his leave time at his place of employment when his father passed away. Please help us lessen his financial burden a little as he recovers. If you are able to contribute: https://www.gofundme.com/tylers-stroke-of-genius

Technology:

AI Programs Are Learning to Exclude Some African-American Voices
All too often people make snap judgments based on how you speak. Some AI systems are also learning to be prejudiced against some dialects. And as language-based AI systems become ever more common, some minorities may automatically be discriminated against by machines, warn researchers studying the issue. Brendan O’Connor, an assistant professor at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and one of his graduate students, Su Lin Blodgett, looked at the use of language on Twitter. Using demographic filtering, the researchers collected 59.2 million tweets with a high probability of containing African-American slang or vernacular. They then tested several natural-language processing tools on this data set to see how they would treat these statements. They found that one popular tool classified these posts as Danish with a high level of confidence. “If you analyze Twitter for people’s opinions on a politician and you’re not even considering what African-Americans are saying or young adults are saying, that seems problematic,” O’Connor says.

The pair also tested several popular machine-learning-based APIs that analyze text for meaning and sentiment, and they found that these systems struggled, too. “If you purchase a sentiment analyzer from some company, you don’t even know what biases it has in it,” O’Connor says. “We don’t have a lot of auditing or knowledge about these things.” He says the problem extends to any system that uses language, including search engines.

Privacy:

Justice demands 1.3M IP addresses related to Trump resistance site
The Department of Justice has requested information on visitors to a website used to organize protests against President
DreamHost claimed that the complying with the request from the Justice Department would amount to handing over roughly 1.3 million visitor IP addresses to the government, in addition to contact information, email content and photos of thousands of visitors to the website, which was involved in organizing protests against Trump on Inauguration Day.

“That information could be used to identify any individuals who used this site to exercise and express political speech protected under the Constitution’s First Amendment,” DreamHost wrote in the blog post on Monday. “That should be enough to set alarm bells off in anyone’s mind.”

The web provider published a search warrant issued by the Superior Court of the District of Columbia that asks for records and information related to the website and its owner, along with information that could be used to identify subscribers of the website. This includes “names, addresses, telephone numbers and other identifiers, e-mail addresses, business information, the length of service (including start date), means and source of payment for services (including any credit card or bank account number), and information about any domain name registration.”


Government:

**Trump Has Broad Power to Block Climate Change Report**

Earlier this month, someone involved in the government’s latest report on climate change provided The New York Times with a copy of the version submitted to the Trump administration for final approval. The main intent of the leak, according to several people tracking the report, was to complicate any attempt to suppress the study or water down its findings.

Publication of the document inflamed an already-fraught debate about climate change. Administration officials and Republican lawmakers accused the leaker and journalists of manufacturing a dispute. They said the report, which was required by law, was moving through a normal process of White House review. The report was submitted in late June and the Trump administration has broad authority to review its findings. Any one of a number of government agencies can block its release, which is ultimately subject to presidential review.

What makes the report significant now is the challenge it poses to a White House that has been moving aggressively to reverse the Obama administration’s policies and rules on climate change. So far, the Trump administration has begun withdrawing the U.S. from the 2015 Paris Agreement, cut relevant environmental agency budgets and removed from some government websites language describing the risks of unabated global warming.


International Outlook:

**Thai Activist Jailed for the Crime of Sharing an Article on Facebook**

Thai activist Jatuphat “Pai” Boonpattaraksa was sentenced this week to two and a half years in prison for the crime of sharing a BBC article on Facebook. The Thai-language article profiled
Coal Subsidies: America’s worst policy idea?

If someone produced “America’s Worst Policy Idea” as a weekly televised contest with Simon Cowell as a judge, West Virginia Gov. Jim Justice’s most recent proposal on coal would be a serious contender to win for the month of August, if not the entire year. Justice’s idea, which he says President Donald Trump is “really interested” in, would have the federal government pay $15 for every ton of Appalachian coal burned in U.S. power plants for an undetermined time. The proposal may be part of a larger political gambit that involves Justice’s recent change of political parties, along with rumored shifts of cabinet officials and Senate appointments. Whatever Justice’s motivations, it’s a bad idea, deserving of 15 minutes of infamy, not fame.

To start, it’s an unjustifiable subsidy by taxpayers at a time when natural gas prices are low and renewable energy costs are falling. U.S. power plants burned at least 110 million short tons of Appalachian coal in 2016, according to Bloomberg Intelligence. A payment of $15 for each of those tons would cost taxpayers at least $1.65 billion per year. Were Justice’s subsidy to be implemented, it also would serve as a direct attack on coal miners in Wyoming and Montana, who produce two-thirds of U.S. coal at a lower cost and with fewer greenhouse gas emissions (thanks to western coal’s lower sulfur content). In 2015, 74 coal mines west of the Mississippi provided two-thirds of U.S. coal production, while 760 mines in the Midwest and Appalachian East – places like Illinois, Kentucky, and West Virginia – produced the remainder. It’s tough to make an “America First” argument when your primary target is red, white, and blue as well.


Freedom of Information:

The Fifty-Year Rule: Its Use and Misuse

The Department of Defense and military agencies use the foreign policy exemption in Executive Order 13526 to deny or heavily excise documents that are well over 50 years old. According to Pentagon claims, declassifying information from that far back could cause significant harm to U.S. diplomacy. That many of the same documents have been declassified since the 1990s raises questions about the discernment of those agencies and whether they should be in a position to unilaterally substitute their judgment on U.S. diplomatic necessities for the State Department’s. Under Executive Order 13526 signed by President Barack Obama in December 2009, and still in effect, classified documents 50 years or older, must be declassified unless they include the names of confidential intelligence sources or information on weapons of mass destruction technology. The executive order includes an escape clause for the 50-year rule; under section 3.3 (h) (2), “in extraordinary cases” agencies can request permission to exempt “additional specific information.” In practice, this means, for example, that agencies can use the standard Executive Order exemptions deny information. For example, Defense can apply Section 3.3 (b) (6) of the executive order to restrict old documents whose content would supposedly “reveal information, including foreign government information, that would cause serious harm to relations between the United States and a foreign government, or to ongoing diplomatic activities of the United States.” As it turns out, this gives the Pentagon authority that it has misused. In recent decisions on mandatory review cases, Defense Department reviewers used the E.O. foreign policy exemption to deny or heavily excise documents that have been in the declassified public record for a number of years.


Removal of animal welfare data from USDA site sparks FOIA requests

People who care about animal welfare are demanding information from USDA. “The Agriculture Department abruptly removed all animal welfare reports from its website in February, sparking public outcry, denouncements from Congress and a lawsuit. Six months later, we’re no closer to understanding exactly why the reports were taken down or when all might be restored. But recently published information shows one result of the records sweep: The agency has been inundated with Freedom of Information Act requests for the documents, which include inspection and enforcement records about the treatment of animals at more than 10,000 dog-breeding operations, research labs, roadside zoos and other facilities. The USDA has cited privacy concerns and litigation for its decision to remove the online records. They were regularly accessed by animal protection advocates, who used them to monitor government enforcement of animal welfare laws, as well as by pet vendors, journalists and researchers. The agency says it has since restored thousands of the inspection and annual reports to the website, but many more –
including all inspections of dog breeders and show-horse events regulated by the Horse Protection Act – remain available only through a FOIA request, which can take months or years to be approved.”

Cambridge University Press accused of ‘selling its soul’ over Chinese censorship
The world’s oldest publishing house, Cambridge University Press, has been accused of being an accomplice to the Communist party’s bid to whitewash Chinese history after it agreed to purge hundreds of politically-sensitive articles from its Chinese website at the behest of Beijing’s censors. The publisher confirmed on Friday that it had complied with a Chinese request to block more than 300 articles from the China Quarterly, a leading China studies journal, in order “to ensure that other academic and educational materials we publish remain available to researchers and educators” in China. A list of the blocked articles, published by CUP, shows they focus overwhelmingly on topics China’s one-party state regards as taboo, including the 1989 Tiananmen massacre, Mao Zedong’s catastrophic Cultural Revolution, Hong Kong’s fight for democracy and ethnic tensions in Xinjiang and Tibet.

In its statement, CUP insisted it was committed to freedom of thought and expression and had been “troubled by the recent increase in requests of this nature” from China. The publisher vowed to raise the issue with the “relevant agencies” in Beijing at an upcoming book fair. But on Saturday, as reports of the publisher’s move spread, it faced a growing outcry from academics and activists who called for the decision to be reversed.
Advertisement. “Pragmatic is one word, pathetic more apt,” tweeted Rory Medcalf, the head of the national security college at the Australian National University.

Jobline 2017/08/23


Chief Administrative Office

Business Research Consultant (Analytic Consultant 2)

Location(s):
Charlotte, NC; New York, NY; San Francisco, CA

Job Opening ID:
5351505

Job Description
Participate on a centralized team (Information Research Services) of Research Consultants and Analysts responsible for providing valuable business research within the Wholesale Bank, with primary focus on Corporate & Investment Banking, Middle Market Banking, and Small Business Banking. The primary goal of Information Research Services is to extend WF’s competitive edge by positioning our professionals to successfully do the following:

1. Understand their clients (i.e., credit/risk assessments, prospecting, market intelligence, relationship & portfolio management, public information books – PIBS).
2. Pitch engagements or compete for business (i.e., preparation and pitchbooks).
3. Execute deals/transactions (i.e., confidential information memorandums, prospectuses, lender’s presentations, advisory, hedges, etc.).

Research Consultant will serve as a senior member of the team, and report to the Head of Information Research Services.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDE:

- Utilize a variety of online resources to help fulfill the daily volume of ad-hoc requests for research.
- Focus on complex research requests including industry & market research, M&A data analytics, real estate research, topical research/studies, comprehensive research projects, vendor comparisons & assessments, and global research.
- Support the training, growth and development of junior members of the team (e.g., Research Analysts). Research Consultants will regularly consult with clients on clarifying, fine-tuning or narrowing requests to help manage expectations and improve search results.
- Support team lead with administrative initiatives and other special projects including online tool development, work-flow queue oversight, marketing, training (e.g., LOB clients), LOB outreach & relationship management, and vendor management & development.
• A typical day will consist of reviewing requests, sourcing & screening information, and distributing material in a time sensitive manner.
• With innovation and continuous improvement at the forefront, Research Consultant will help team monitor sources for relevance and effectiveness; identify appropriate resources consistent with the developing research needs of the client; and help evaluate ways to improve internal operating processes.

DIVISIONAL INFORMATION

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Required Qualifications
• 4+ years of reporting experience, analytics experience, or a combination of both; or a BS/BA degree or higher in a quantitative field such as applied math, statistics, engineering, physics, accounting, finance, economics, econometrics, computer sciences, or business/social and behavioral sciences with a quantitative emphasis and 2+ years of reporting experience, analytics experience, or a combination of both

Desired Qualifications
• Strong analytical skills with high attention to detail and accuracy
• Excellent verbal, written, and interpersonal communication skills
• Ability to execute in a fast paced, high demand, environment while balancing multiple priorities
• Ability to interact with integrity and a high level of professionalism with all levels of team members and management
• Intermediate Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, Outlook, and PowerPoint) skills
• Master of Library & Information Science (MLIS) with investigative and research skills
• 4 years of experience performing research in a financial institution; or exposure to investment banking, and/or market data
• Knowledge of online sources including but not limited to S&P, Moody’s, Fitch, MergerMarket, Thomson Reuters, Dow Jones, Frost & Sullivan, LexisNexis, CoStar, Euromonitor, and Dun & Bradstreet
• Experience in researching across a broad range of industries and entities, including consumer products; energy; financial institutions; technology; financial sponsors; healthcare; industrial growth; media & telecom; and private equity

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Intersect Alert August 27, 2017

Take Action!

Donate to Texas Diaper Bank
There’s a lot of places to donate to for Harvey relief. I’m sure you can find a worthy entity.
I like this: Texas Diaper Bank.
You may be interested to read ProPublica’s series on the American Red Cross.

International Outlook:

Vietnam’s president calls for tougher internet controls
Vietnam’s president called on Sunday for tougher controls on the internet in the face of dissidents who are using it to criticize the ruling Communist Party, and to combat threats to cybersecurity. Vietnam’s government has stepped up a crackdown on activists this year, but despite the arrest and sentencing of several high profile figures, there has been little sign of it silencing criticism on social media. President Tran Dai Quang made the call in an article published on the government website.
He said hostile forces had used the internet to organize offensive campaigns that “undermined the prestige of the leaders of the party and the state, with a negative impact on cadres, party members and people”. Quang said Vietnam needed to pay greater attention to controlling online information, especially on social networks, and needed an effective solution “to prevent news sites and blogs with bad and dangerous content”. Quang’s own standing had been the subject of internet rumor and gossip in recent days because he has been largely absent from the public eye. Vietnam has intensified crackdowns on both government critics and officials accused of corruption since security-minded conservatives gained greater sway within the Communist Party early last year. Vietnam is in the top 10 countries for Facebook users by numbers and Google’s YouTube is also a popular platform.

Open Data:

Nonprofit Explorer Update: Full Text of 1.9 Million Records
Nonprofit Explorer includes summary data for nonprofit tax returns and PDFs of full Form 990 documents. We have updated our Nonprofit Explorer news application, adding raw data from more than 1.9 million electronically filed Form 990 documents dating back to 2010. This new trove includes the full text of more than 132,000 forms for which we did not previously have complete data.
In addition to making the machine-readable XML files available to download, we are publishing the full text of many of these documents as human-readable web pages. These appear similar to the PDFs that have appeared on Nonprofit Explorer in the past, but their text can be copy-and-pasted, and they are easier to browse and analyze.

Government:

OSHA scrubs worker deaths from home page
The federal department charged with protecting workers erased data on workplace deaths from the home page of its website Friday — and changed its policy to disclose fewer fatal accidents in the future. For the past several years, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration had maintained a running list of workers killed on the job — including the date, name and cause of death — near the top of its home page. The list included every worker death reported to OSHA, regardless of whether the company was issued a citation. On Friday, the box on the home page disappeared and was replaced with information on how companies can voluntarily cooperate with OSHA to reduce safety risks. That information was available before but is now displayed more prominently. The new fatality list, buried on an internal page of the website, does not include incidents where a worker was killed if the company was not cited for violations. The change could leave about 20 percent of worker deaths off the log, said Debbie Berkowitz, an adviser at OSHA during the Obama administration and currently a senior fellow at the National Employment Law Project. The change immediately raised alarms among worker advocates, who accused the Trump administration of restricting access to information that could save lives.

Freedom of Information:

It’s Time to Strengthen California’s Public Records Law
In 2015, the Center for Public Integrity undertook a major investigation aimed at grading all 50 states to ascertain their transparency and accountability. When it came to California, the state received an abysmal ‘F’ rating in the category focusing on public access to information. That is unacceptable. Transparency advocates for years have complained about the enforcement measures in the California Public Records Act (CPRA). There is no appeal process when an agency rejects or ignores a records request. The burden is on the requester to go to court to fight for the documents. While the agency may have to pick up the requester’s legal bills, there is no penalty for agencies that willfully, knowingly, and without any good reason violate the law.

The union’s most populous state and the sixth largest economy in the world should be setting an example rather than lagging behind the many states—such as North Dakota and New Mexico—that penalize agencies that improperly handle or reject request for public records. A.B. 1479 is a bill by Assemblymember Rob Bonta that aims to strengthen California’s public records law by creating a financial penalty for government agencies that improperly withhold public records, assess outrageous fees to produce those records, or unreasonably delay their release. The California Assembly passed the bill with a near-unanimous vote, and a bipartisan majority in the Senate Judiciary Committee approved it. A.B. 1479 is now before the Senate Appropriations Committee, where it is up to the chair—Sen. Ricardo Lara—to bring it up for a full vote.


Social Media:

Highly ideological members of Congress have more Facebook followers than moderates do
The most liberal and conservative members of the 115th Congress have attracted more Facebook followers than moderates, according to a new Pew Research Center analysis. In both legislative chambers, members’ ideology is a strong predictor of the number of people who follow them on Facebook. The most liberal and most conservative House members had a median of 14,361 followers as of July 25, compared with 9,017 followers for those in the middle of the ideological spectrum. The median number of followers for the Senate’s most liberal and conservative lawmakers was 78,360, while moderates had 32,626.

Republican Rep. Trey Gowdy of South Carolina, who chaired the high-profile Select Committee on Benghazi, had more Facebook followers than any other House member, with slightly over 1.3 million. Next were Illinois Democrat Luis Gutierrez, Democratic Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi of California and GOP Speaker Paul Ryan of Wisconsin, with between 500,000 and 600,000 each.


Technology:

Identity Thieves Hijack Cellphone Accounts to Go After Virtual Currency
Hackers have discovered that one of the most central elements of online security – the mobile phone number – is also one of the easiest to steal. In a growing number of online attacks, hackers have been calling up Verizon, T-Mobile U.S., Sprint and AT&T and asking them to transfer control of a victim’s phone number to a device under the control of the hackers. Once they get control of the phone number, they can reset the passwords on every account that uses the phone number as a security backup – as services like Google, Twitter and Facebook suggest.

A wide array of people have complained about being successfully targeted by this sort of attack, including a Black Lives Matter activist and the chief technologist of the Federal Trade Commission. The commission’s own data shows that the number of so-called phone hijackings has been rising. In January 2013, there were 1,038 such incidents reported; by January 2016, that number had increased to 2,658. But a particularly concentrated wave of attacks has hit those with the most obviously valuable online accounts: virtual currency fanatics.
Machines Taught by Photos Learn a Sexist View of Women

Last fall University of Virginia computer science professor Vicente Ordóñez noticed a pattern in some of the guesses made by image-recognition software he was building. “It would see a picture of a kitchen and more often than not associate it with women, not men,” he says. That got Ordóñez wondering whether he and other researchers were unconsciously injecting biases into their software. So he teamed up with colleagues to test two large collections of labeled photos used to “train” image-recognition software.

Their results are illuminating. Two prominent research-image collections—including one supported by Microsoft and Facebook—display a predictable gender bias in their depiction of activities such as cooking and sports. Images of shopping and washing are linked to women, for example, while coaching and shooting are tied to men.

Machine-learning software trained on the datasets didn’t just mirror those biases, it amplified them. If a photo set generally associated women with cooking, software trained by studying those photos and their labels created an even stronger association. One point of agreement in the field is that using machine learning to solve problems is more complicated than many people previously thought. “Work like this is correcting the illusion that algorithms can be blindly applied to solve problems,” says Suresh Venkatasubramanian, a professor at the University of Utah.


Pro-Russian Bots Take Up the Right-Wing Cause After Charlottesville

Angee Dixson joined Twitter on Aug. 8 and immediately began posting furiously—about 90 times a day. A self-described American Christian conservative, Dixson defended President Donald Trump’s response to the unrest in Charlottesville, criticized the removal of Confederate monuments and posted pictures purporting to show violence by left-wing counterprotesters. “Dems and Media Continue to IGNORE BLM and Antifa Violence in Charlottesville,” she wrote above a picture of masked demonstrators labeled “DEMOCRAT TERROR.”

But Dixson appears to have been a fake, according to an analysis by Ben Nimmo and Donara Barojan of the Digital Forensic Research Lab at the Atlantic Council think tank. The account has been shut down. Dixson’s profile picture was stolen from a young Instagram celebrity (a German model rumored to have dated Leonardo DiCaprio). Dixson used a URL shortener that is a tell for the sort of computer program that automatically churns out high volumes of social media posts whose authorship is frequently disguised. And one of her tweets attacked Sen. John McCain for his alleged support of Ukrainian neo-Nazis, echoing language in tweets from Russian outlets RT and Sputnik.

The same social media networks that spread Russian propaganda during the 2016 election have been busily amplifying right-wing extremism surrounding the recent violence in Charlottesville, according to researchers who monitor the activity. It’s impossible to tell how much of the traffic originates from Russia or from mercenary sources. But there were hordes of automated bots generating Twitter posts and much more last week to help make right-wing conspiracy theories and rallying cries about Charlottesville go viral. A sample of 600 Twitter accounts linked to Russian influence operations have been promoting hashtags for Charlottesville such as “antifa,” a term for activists on the far left; and “alt-left,” a term Trump used, which was interpreted by many as suggesting an equivalence between liberal demonstrators and white nationalists in the so-called alt-right.


Open Access:

Institutional Repositories and Academic Social Networks: Competition or Complement? A Study of Open Access Policy Compliance vs. ResearchGate Participation

Abstract

INTRODUCTION The popularity of academic social networks like ResearchGate and Academia.edu indicates that scholars want to share their work, yet for universities with Open Access (OA) policies, these sites may be competing with institutional repositories (IRs) for content. This article seeks to reveal researcher practices, attitudes, and motivations around uploading their work to ResearchGate and complying with an institutional OA Policy through a study of faculty at the University of Rhode Island (URI). METHODS We conducted a population study to examine the participation by 558 full-time URI faculty members in the OA Policy and ResearchGate followed by a survey of 728 full-time URI faculty members about their participation in the two services. DISCUSSION The majority of URI faculty does not participate in the OA Policy or use ResearchGate. Authors’ primary motivations for participation are sharing their work more broadly and increasing its visibility and impact. Faculty who participate in ResearchGate are more likely to participate in the OA Policy, and vice versa. The fact that the OA Policy targets the author manuscript and not the final published article constitutes a significant barrier to participation. CONCLUSION Librarians should not view academic social networks as a threat to Open Access. Authors’ strong preference for sharing the final, published version of their articles provides support for calls to hasten the transition to a Gold OA publishing system. Misunderstandings about the OA Policy and copyright indicate a need for librarians to conduct greater education and outreach to authors about options for legally sharing articles.


Digital Preservation:
How The Great 78 Project is saving half a million songs from obscurity

When Sir Tim Berners-Lee first put digital pen to pad on his world-altering creation – the World Wide Web – he did so with the aim, as stated on the world’s very first website, of kick-starting an initiative that would “give universal access to a large universe of documents.” In many ways, non-profit digital library The Internet Archive, with its stated mission of “universal access to all knowledge”, is the natural extension of this founding vision.

One of the latest projects undertaken by the Archive is the Great 78 Project. The brainchild of the Archive’s founder, Brewster Kahle, the project is dedicated to the preservation and discovery of 78rpm records. It involves at least three different organisations, including New York’s Archives of Contemporary Music, George Blood Audio, and of course The Internet Archive, working together to manage, clean, digitise and archive around a thousand records a day.

“We’re currently delivering 5-6,000 sides per month,” says George Blood, president of the audio-visual digitisation company that bears his name, “and we’ll be working to get to 20,000.” The goal, Blood says, is to create a “reference collection of sound recordings from the period of approximately 1880 to 1960.” No mean feat.

Most of the recordings collected so far have never previously been preserved in any form – other than their original 78 pressings – and, Blood says, the real joy comes from discovering the titles that would’ve typically be of much monetary (or even musical) interest to collectors. “Sound effects discs, poetry readings, comedy records,” he lists with aplomb, “not just Christmas discs but Hanukkah, Purim and other religious holidays.” Lots of the discs, he says are far from politically correct and, through the archival process, are shedding light on social norms of the times in which the recordings were made. And, in a neat reflection of today’s world, each archived disc is available for free download in a range of digital formats – there’s even a Twitter bot tweeting out a newly digitised disc every ten minutes.

https://thevinylfactory.com/features/great-78-project-archive-interview/.

Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety; attribution appreciated.

The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.

Join us for a tour of the David Rumsey Map Center at Stanford!


TOUR THE “DOPEST MAP COLLECTION ON EARTH” ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 31st

Do you “geek out” over maps? Even if you don't, do you have an interest in digitization? History? Special collections? Unusual collections? The David Rumsey Map Center at Stanford University's Green Library inspired writer Nick Stockton to dub it the “dopest map collection on Earth” in a Wired magazine article from last year. Blending old and new might be a cliché but could not be any more appropriate to describe the scope and mission of the Center. The (very much alive) David Rumsey wanted Stanford to continue his work of not only collecting rare and important maps but making them available to researchers in both the physical and digital realms. The Center is the happy result.

As Stockton describes it, the Center features “approximately 150,000 historical cartographic artifacts. Many are stored in wooden cabinets that take up an entire wall. Along the other walls are globes galore, banquet table-sized plats, and massive, many-paneled digital touchscreens capable of calling up millions of megabytes of high-resolution historical maps stored on Stanford's servers.”

We will be touring the Center from 4-5 PM, and anyone who wants to stay for refreshments can enjoy them from 5-6. The tour is just $10 per person.

Please register here no matter how you plan to pay.

If you wish to pay via PayPal, here is that link:
www.paypal.me/SLASFEvents/10

If you have any difficulty accessing the registration form or PayPal link, please contact Sandy Malloy – sandymalloy@earthlink.net

NOTE: We will not be making name tags – I’ll bring some blanks for you to write your lovely names and affiliations. You may pay for more than one attendee through PayPal by indicating additional attendees in the Notes field. If you do, please make sure you are both registered on the above registration link. We are using this link for the first time so please let us know if it presents any difficulties.

If you would prefer, you can bring your $10 registration fee with you.

DETAILS:

Date: Thursday, August 31st
Time: 4-5 P.M. Optional refreshment, 5-6 P.M.
SF Bay Region and Silicon Valley Chapter’s Joint Meeting


Developing Your Cultural Intelligence In The Workplace: What It Is and Why It Matters
Presented by Dr. Michele A. L. Villagran, President and CEO of CulturalCo, LLC.

Tuesday, September 19, 2017, 5:30 – 9:00 pm
Fattoria e Mare
1095 Rollins Road
Burlingame, CA 94010

San Francisco Bay Region and Silicon Valley Chapters jointly present a dinner program...

Our workplaces are becoming more diverse than ever with a range of cultures, including ethnic, national, generational, and organizational. Do you want to learn how to develop and apply cultural intelligence at your organization? How can you improve your effectiveness when working with culturally diverse colleagues and clients? Dr. Villagran will share with us how we can use Cultural Intelligence to address these concerns.

Agenda
5:30pm Check in/networking
6:00pm Dinner
6:45pm Introductions
7:00pm Speaker presentation
8:30pm Closing remarks

Menu
A variety of delicious food including vegetarian & gluten free

SLA Program Cost
$30 SLA Member
$40 Non- SLA Member
$20 Student/Retired/Unemployed

DEADLINE
Please register online or ensure your mail-in registration form (available on next page) and check are received no later than Friday, September 15, 2017.

REGISTRATION
2017 SF Bay Region and Silicon Valley Chapter’s Joint Meeting
Tuesday, September 19, 2017, 5:30 – 9:00 pm

Online registration: [https://www.eventbrite.com/e/developing-your-cultural-intelligence-in-the-workplace-tickets-37311097497]

Paper registration:
Register by mail by sending this page with your check to:
Heather Heen, Attn: SLA SF, 573 Paradise Rd., Salinas CA 93907
E-mail: heather.heen@thomsonreuters.com
Intersect Alert September 3, 2017


Take Action:

Trump Likely to End DACA – Here’s What You Can Do Now
Politico broke the news earlier today that President Donald Trump has decided to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, which had provided deportation protection and employment authorization for registered undocumented immigrants who had been brought to the United States as children. The program had been implemented by the Obama administration in 2012, and enjoys broad popularity in the United States. Here is a bunch of things you can do right now, including contacting your senator and representative, as well as the attorneys general threatening Trump to end DACA. Forgive me if this is not “information professional related.” TAKE ACTION at: http://reappropriate.co/2017/09/breaking-trump-likely-to-end-daca-heres-what-you-can-do-now/.

Will Rural Texas Ever Get Its Phone Service Back After Harvey?
According to the official Federal Communications Commission statistics (current to August 30), Hurricane Harvey is having a predictably significant impact on telecommunications in the path of its devastation. We won’t actually know the final damage for awhile yet, but it appears that cell sites are pretty much gone in the counties where Harvey made landfall (but service is being steadily restored). Over 265,000 landline phones have been rendered inoperative. No one expects a communications network to come through an epic flood like Harvey without serious disruption. Indeed, from the very surface look of things, it appears that the communications network in the impact area is performing much better than it did during either Hurricane Katrina or Superstorm Sandy. But looking ahead, I have a different question. Once the floodwaters recede and the reconstruction begins, when can residents see their phone service – and broadband service – return. For rural residents of Texas still dependent on traditional landlines, the answer to that may be “never.” Why never? Back in 2011, Texas deregulated its telephone system. Of particular relevance here, Texas made it ridiculously easy for phone companies to get rid of their “carrier of last resort” (COLR) obligations – the obligation for the incumbent telephone network to provide service to everyone its service territory. As a result, phone companies in Texas do not have a state-based legal obligation to repair or replace service once it goes down. So in places where the telephone network has been damaged or destroyed by Harvey, AT&T (the primary legacy phone company in the impacted area) has no state responsibility to restore service. https://www.publicknowledge.org/news-blog/blogs/will-rural-texas-ever-get-its-phone-service-back-after-harvey.

Internet Access:

Pai Huddles Mostly With Allies Ahead of Net Neutrality Rewrite
The Federal Communications Commission is taking dozens of meetings with companies, trade groups and public policy advocates as it gears up to change its regulatory classification of broadband and loosen its net neutrality rules. But GOP chairman Ajit Pai’s own calendar mostly has been filled with proponents of redoing the commission’s broadband classification and rewriting the rules, a Bloomberg BNA analysis of FCC records shows. The existing rules bar internet providers such as AT&T Inc. and Comcast Corp. from blocking or slowing data flowing over their networks in most circumstances. The net neutrality battle historically has pitted the providers against tech companies, including Alphabet Inc.’s Google and Facebook Inc., and public policy groups that favor the existing rules as the FCC weighs how to rewrite them. https://www.bna.com/pai-huddles-mostly-n73014463811/.
Open Access:

Knowledge sharing in global health research – the impact, uptake and cost of open access to scholarly literature

Abstract

Background: In 1982, the Annals of Virology published a paper showing how Liberia has a highly endemic potential of Ebola warning health authorities of the risk for potential outbreaks; this journal is only available by subscription. Limiting the accessibility of such knowledge may have reduced information propagation toward public health actors who were indeed surprised by and unprepared for the 2014 epidemic. Open access (OA) publication can allow for increased access to global health research (GHR). Our study aims to assess the use, cost and impact of OA diffusion in the context of GHR.

Method: A total of 3366 research articles indexed under the Medical Heading Subject Heading “Global Health” published between 2010 and 2014 were retrieved using PubMed to (1) quantify the uptake of various types of OA, (2) estimate the article processing charges (APCs) of OA, and (3) analyse the relationship between different types of OA, their scholarly impact and gross national income per capita of citing countries.

Results: Most GHR publications are not available directly on the journal’s website (69%). Further, 60.8% of researchers do not self-archive their work even when it is free and in keeping with journal policy. The total amount paid for APCs was estimated at US$1.7 million for 627 papers, with authors paying on average US$2732 per publication; 94% of APCs were paid to journals owned by the ten most prominent publication houses from high-income countries. Researchers from low- and middle-income countries are generally citing less expensive types of OA, while researchers in high-income countries are citing the most expensive OA.

Conclusions: Although OA may help in building global research capacity in GHR, the majority of publications remain subscription only. It is logical and cost-efficient for institutions and researchers to promote OA by self-archiving publications of restricted access, as it not only allows research to be cited by a broader audience, it also augments citation rates. Although OA does not ensure full knowledge transfer from research to practice, limiting public access can negatively impact implementation and outcomes of health policy and reduce public understanding of health issues. Since the APCs are mainly paid to the ten same publishers creating an oligopoly, there is little incentive to keep APCs low. This oligopoly may also run much deeper than costs; it creates an important inequity in publication. Although publishers may wish to include researchers from LMICs through waivers, they have not really included LMICs in the publication industry itself. After witnessing significant inequities and issues related to exploitation in global health, the impetus behind GHR was to provide a space for equal partnerships. Broadening these partnerships to the publication industry, which is a significant gatekeeper in research, may provide for a stronger voice for researchers in LMICs with the goal of reducing power inequities in global health more broadly.


Internet Users:

Who falls for fake news? The roles of analytic thinking, motivated reasoning, political ideology, and bullshit receptivity

Inaccurate beliefs pose a threat to democracy and fake news represents a particularly egregious and direct avenue by which inaccurate beliefs have been propagated via social media. Here we investigate the cognitive psychological profile of individuals who fall prey to fake news. We find a consistent positive correlation between the propensity to think analytically – as measured by the Cognitive Reflection Test (CRT) – and the ability to differentiate fake news from real news (“media truth discernment”). This was true regardless of whether the article’s source was indicated (which, surprisingly, also had no main effect on accuracy judgments). Contrary to the motivated reasoning account, CRT was just as positively correlated with media truth discernment, if not more so, for headlines that aligned with individuals’ political ideology relative to those that were politically discordant. The link between analytic thinking and media truth discernment was driven both by a negative correlation between CRT and perceptions of fake news accuracy (particularly among Hillary Clinton supporters), and a positive correlation between CRT and perceptions of real news accuracy (particularly among Donald Trump supporters). This suggests that factors that undermine the legitimacy of traditional news media may exacerbate the problem of inaccurate political beliefs among Trump supporters, who engaged in less analytic thinking and were overall less able to discern fake from real news (regardless of the news’ political valence). We also found consistent evidence that pseudo-profound bullshit receptivity negatively correlates with perceptions of fake news accuracy; a correlation that is mediated by analytic thinking. Finally, analytic thinking was associated with an unwillingness to share both fake and real news on social media. Our results indicate that the propensity to think analytically plays an important role in the recognition of misinformation, regardless of political valence – a finding that opens up potential avenues for fighting fake news.

The present results indicate that analytic thinking plays an important role in people’s self-inoculation against political disinformation. Contrary to the popular motivated reasoning account of political cognition, our evidence indicates that people fall for fake news because they fail to think; not because they think in a motivated or identity-protective way. This suggests that interventions that are directed at making the public more thoughtful consumers of news media may have promise. Ironically, the invention of the internet and social media – which resulted from a great deal of analytic thinking – may now be exacerbating our tendency to rely on intuition.

Public Policy:

Trump Killed Flood Safety Plan Before Hurricane Harvey Struck
Just 10 days before Hurricane Harvey began to devastate Texas coastal regions, President Trump rolled back regulations designed to help infrastructure projects survive this kind of flood. The regulations were part of the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard, established under President Obama in 2015. According to The New York Times, Trump’s elimination of the regulations are part of his effort to unravel the former administration’s climate change agenda, citing cost issues as a reason. The Times writes: “But environmental activists, flood plain managers and some conservatives had urged the Trump administration to preserve it, arguing that it protected critical infrastructure and taxpayer dollars.”

Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune said in a statement: “This is climate science denial at its most dangerous, as Trump is putting vulnerable communities, federal employees, and families at risk by throwing out any guarantee that our infrastructure will be safe.” Many environmental advocates have cited the impossibility of predicting the magnitude of flooding as a key reason for the regulations to be reinstated. Especially in light of Hurricane Harvey, the president’s first priority should be protecting infrastructure and lives, not trying to erase the Obama years.


Social Media:

Have You Experienced Hate Speech on Facebook? We Want To Hear From You
Earlier this month, in the wake of the Charlottesville attack on protesters, a post began circulating on Facebook titled: “Heather Heyer, Woman Killed in Road Rage Incident was a Fat, Childless 32-Year-Old Slut.” You might have thought that the post violated Facebook’s rules against hate speech. But, in fact, it did not. Facebook’s arcane hate speech rules, revealed by ProPublica in June, only prohibit hate speech attacks against “protected categories” of people – based on gender, race or religious affiliation – but not against individuals. We’re launching an effort to learn more about Facebook’s secret censorship rules. (Details of how you can help are included in post.) These rules, which it distributes to thousands of human censors it employs across the world – draw elaborate distinctions between hate speech and legitimate political expression. One Facebook training slide published by ProPublica was particularly surprising to many of our readers.

It asked which group was protected against hate speech: female drivers, black children or white men. The correct answer was noted as being “white men.” The reason: Facebook doesn’t protect what it calls “subsets” of its protected categories. Black children and female drivers were both considered subsets under Facebook’s rules, while white men were protected based on race and gender.

We’re hoping you can join us in investigating Facebook’s handling of hate speech. To make it easy to participate, we built a Facebook bot – which is a tiny computer program that automatically converses with you over Facebook Messenger. To use the bot, all you have to do is send a Facebook message to ProPublica’s page and click the “Get Started” button. Our bot will ask you questions about your experience with hate speech. If you or someone you know reported a hateful post, or had one flagged as hateful, we’d like to hear about it, regardless of the outcome. Screenshots, links and exact wording are especially helpful, but please share whatever you have.


How Russian & Alt-Right Twitter Accounts Worked Together to Skew the Narrative About Berkeley
The narrative surrounding last weekend’s protests in Berkeley took shape on social media and was picked up, at least in part, by mainstream news outlets. The result was a skewed presentation of events that was almost entirely devoid of the context in which they took place. Even more troubling: that narrative was influenced by pro-Russian social media networks, including state-sponsored propaganda outlets, botnets, cyborgs, and individual users.

In the case study below, I describe how the narrative surrounding Berkeley was picked up and shaped by Russian-linked influence networks, which saw a chance to drive a wedge in American society and ran with it. Next, I look at the individual accounts and users that were identified as top influencers on Twitter, and explore what they were posting, how they worked together to craft a narrative, and the methods they used to amplify their message. Finally, I look at how news coverage of the events in Berkeley was shaped by the skewed narrative that emerged on social media. This is just a single case study in a larger story, but it serves as an important reminder that Russia is still exploiting social media to harm U.S. interests— and that plenty of Americans are willing to join in on the effort. Russian-linked influence networks and propaganda arms quickly took interest in the Berkeley protests last weekend. On Sunday afternoon, the top story on the front page of Russian propaganda outlet RT was about the events in Berkeley.

What was missing from the skewed narrative described above was context. By focusing on the isolated fights and outbursts by individual actors, a handful of Twitter accounts (amplified by bots & cyberborgs) shifted the focus away from the widespread, ongoing, and orchestrated activities of groups like the Proud Boys and their “military division” known as the Fraternal Order of Alt-Knights (FOAK), as well as provocateurs and instigators like Kyle Chapman, aka “Busted Stickman”, leader of FOAK), Gavin McInnes (leader of the Proud Boys), Nathan Damigo (leader of the white supremacist group Identity Evropa), Joey Gibson (leader of Patriot Prayer, and the organizer of Saturday’s canceled rally in San
Francisco), Mike Peinovich (aka Mike Enoch, founder of the racist and anti-Semitic website “The Right Stuff”), Milo Yiannopoulos, Tim “Treadstone” Gionet (aka “Baked Alaska”, former Buzzfeed editor and current “Internet personality” who manged the speaking tour of Yiannopoulos), Jack Posobiec (formerly of Rebel Media), and “alt-right” leader Richard Spencer, among others. By traveling to liberal cities where [far-right extremists] know they’ll encounter resistance, they can then frame their violence as a defense against “intolerant leftists” trying to “shut down free speech.” This, in turn, gives mainstream conservatives and right-wing figures a reason (or, in some cases, an excuse) to support their cause.

https://www.hrw.org/news/2017/09/01/ukraine-foreign-

International Outlook:

Ukraine: Foreign Journalists Barred or Expelled

Ukrainian authorities have detained and expelled several foreign journalists in recent weeks, most recently Russian reporter Anna Kurbatova, Human Rights Watch said today. In just over a month, the Security Services of Ukraine (SBU) have expelled or denied entry to at least five foreign journalists – three from Russia and two from Spain – for allegedly engaging in anti-Ukrainian “propaganda.” “The Ukrainian government’s practice of accusing journalists of anti-Ukraine bias, then expelling them or denying them entry, is a serious violation of its international human rights commitments, said Tanya Cooper, Ukraine researcher at Human Rights Watch. “Barring journalists is short-sighted and vindictive, and undermines Ukraine’s pledges on democratic reforms and the rule of law.” The Representative on Freedom of the Media of the Organization for the Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), Harlem Desir, expressed concern over the detentions and expulsions of journalists. Ukraine is a member of the OSCE and the Council of Europe, as well as a party to the European Convention on Human Rights and has taken on specific obligations to respect and protect freedom of expression and support media freedom.

https://www.hrw.org/news/2017/09/01/ukraine-foreign-

Freedom of Information:

Electronic Frontier Foundation, ACLU Win Court Ruling That Police Can’t Keep License Plate Data Secret

The Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF) and the ACLU won a decision by the California Supreme Court that the license plate data of millions of law-abiding drivers, collected indiscriminately by police across the state, are not “investigative records” that law enforcement can keep secret. California’s highest court ruled that the collection of license plate data isn’t targeted at any particular crime, so the records couldn’t be considered part of a police investigation.

“This is a big win for transparency in California,” attorney Peter Bibring, director of police practices at the ACLU of Southern California, which joined EFF in a lawsuit over the records. “The Supreme Court recognized that California’s sweeping public records exemption for police investigations doesn’t cover mass collection of data by police, like the automated scanning of license plates in this case. The Court also recognized that mere speculation by police on the harms that might result from releasing information can’t defeat the public’s strong interest in understanding how police surveillance impacts privacy.”

The ruling sets a precedent that mass, indiscriminate data collection by the police can’t be withheld just because the information may contain some criminal data. This is important because police are increasingly using technology tools to surveil and collect data on citizens, whether it’s via body cameras, facial recognition cameras, or license plate readers. The panel sent the case back to the trial court to determine whether the data can be made public in a redacted or anonymized form so drivers’ privacy is protected.

Automated License Plate Readers or ALPRs are high-speed cameras mounted on light poles and police cars that continuously scan the plates of every passing car. They collect not only the license plate number but also the time, date, and location of each plate scanned, along with a photograph of the vehicle and sometimes its occupants. The Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) and the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department (LASD) collect, on average, three million plate scans every week and have amassed a database of half a billion records.

https://www.eff.org/press/releases/electronic-frontier-

Archives:

Labor Day: National Archives and Records Administration

The National Archives holds extensive records created or received by the U.S. Government on issues of labor and labor rights, including records on: unions, strikes, and responses; debates about women and children in the workplace; and the Government’s role in providing economic security and workplace rights. These records document and detail the struggle to define and assert workplace rights. We not only hold these records, we provide access to them.

Labor Day Related Record Groups include:
National Recovery Administration
Records of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration [OSHA]
Records of the Children’s Bureau (child labor laws)
National Bituminous Coal Commission
General Records of the Department of Labor
President’s Committee on Migratory Labor
Records of the Bureau of Labor Statistics
Records of the Economic Stabilization Programs
Intersect Alert September 10, 2017


Take Action:

Regulations.gov: Make a difference. Submit your comments and let your voice be heard.
Regulations.gov includes Proposed Rules and Rules, as well as Notices from the Federal Register. How about taking a few minutes to comment on some policy-making? Do you have an opinion on any of the following?:

- National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Manufacture of Amino/Phenolic Resins
- Control Techniques Guidelines for the Oil and Natural Gas Industry
- Benefit-Risk Assessments in Drug Regulatory Decision-Making
- Endangered and Threatened Species: Final Determination on Proposed Endangered Status for Texas Hornshell (Popenaias popeii)
- Requests for Information: Reducing Unnecessary Regulatory Burden

Take action at https://www.regulations.gov/.

Internet Access:

Internet companies can legally shut out alt-right
Daniel Lyons for AEIdeas: For the past six months, the alt-right has stepped out of the shadowy nether regions of the Internet and begun to shape national discourse. Its emergence has become an inflection point for tech policy, as Silicon Valley has slowly come to terms with its role in incubating the movement. Following the violence in Charlottesville, Va., Google, GoDaddy, and several other tech companies cut ties with the Daily Stormer, a neo-Nazi website. Earlier this year, YouTube announced that “hateful” videos would be ineligible for advertising revenue, following a revolt by advertisers that did not want their brands associated with hate speech. And Twitter has been irregularly banning alt-right accounts for nearly a year in an effort to clean up its corner of cyberspace.

Absent some contractual provision to the contrary, companies should not be compelled to carry speech with which they disagree. In fact, you might argue that a law forcing Facebook or Twitter to carry content against its will violates the company’s own First Amendment rights—and you would generally be correct. In Miami Herald Publishing Co. v. Tornillo, the Supreme Court explained that such laws interfere with the publisher’s right of editorial control. Similar concerns led to the repeal of the FCC’s infamous Fairness Doctrine.


Government:

Federal Criminal Prosecutions Fall Under Trump
Despite tough talk on cracking down on crime from the President and from Attorney General Sessions, actual criminal prosecutions and convictions secured by federal prosecutors have dropped. The latest available data from the Justice Department show that during the first ten months of FY 2017 the government reported 86,537 new criminal convictions. If this activity continues at the same pace, the annual total of convictions will be 103,844 for this fiscal year. According to the case-by-case government records analyzed by the Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse (TRAC) at Syracuse University, this estimate is down 12.3 percent over the
Will Donald Trump let the Federal Election Commission rot?
The Federal Election Commission is running low on commissioners. President Donald Trump on Thursday nominated Republican Matthew Petersen to a federal judgeship, meaning the FEC is poised to putter on with the minimum number of commissioners – four – required to take official action on most anything of consequence. Three of those remaining four commissioners are themselves waverers on whether they'll continue serving. With 2018 midterm campaigns already afoot, what would it mean if the FEC fell short of a quorum? Plenty. No penalizing candidates and committees found breaking campaign laws. No completing new investigations of political actors suspected of misdeeds. No new rules or opinions governing how campaign cash must be raised and spent. For example, in July, the commission ruled that members of Congress, still reeling from the shooting of House Majority Whip Steve Scalise, R-La., could use campaign funds for home security systems. And certainly no action on what's easily the thorniest topic now before the commission: whatever to do about Russian influence in U.S. elections.

https://www.publicintegrity.org/node/21164.

Research:

5 studies about fact-checking you may have missed last month
The fake news phenomenon led to an explosion in media coverage of fact-checking in the final months of 2016. Now academia, with its slower publication process, is catching up. Since November, studies have failed to replicate the backfire effect and tested the power of corrections on partisan voters in both the United States and France. In the past few weeks, several studies with interesting findings for fact-checkers were published. Below, I summarize five that caught my eye; to find out more click through to the full studies.


* Voters with more information may be less likely to vote along party lines. (Peterson, E. (forthcoming). The Role of Evidence in Politics: Motivated Reasoning and Persuasion among Politicians. British Journal of Political Science, 1-24.

Libraries:

Senate boosts funding for IMLS, LSTA thanks to ALA grassroots
Congress delivered good news for library funding after returning from its August recess this week. Yesterday, the Senate Appropriations Committee approved an increase of $4 million in funding for the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), all of which would go to the formula-based Grants to States program. he Senate Committee’s bill, approved by the Labor-HHS Subcommittee on Wednesday, would boost IMLS funding to $235 million. Grants to States would receive $160 million. The bill also includes increased funding in FY 2018 for a number of other library-related programs. The Committee’s funding measure now heads to the full Senate for consideration. If passed, it must eventually be reconciled with House legislation that proposes to fund IMLS and Grants to States for FY2018 at FY2017’s level of $231 million and $156 million, respectively. While yesterday’s vote does not guarantee increased direct library funding, Senate approval of the Appropriations Committee’s bill would leave libraries in a very strong position to avoid any cuts for FY2018 – in spite of the Administration’s proposals (reiterated again this week in a “Statement of Administration Position”) to effectively eliminate IMLS and federal library funding.

Facebook says likely Russian-based operation funded U.S. ads with political message

Facebook Inc said on Wednesday it had found that an operation likely based in Russia spent $100,000 on thousands of U.S. ads promoting divisive social and political messages in a two-year-period through May. Facebook, the dominant social media network, said 3,000 ads and 470 “inauthentic” accounts and pages spread polarizing views on topics including immigration, race and gay rights. Another $50,000 was spent on 2,200 “potentially politically related” ads, likely by Russians, Facebook said. U.S. election law bars foreign nationals and foreign entities from spending money to expressly advocate the election or defeat of a candidate. Non-U.S. citizens may generally advertise on issues. Other ads, such as those that mention a candidate but do not call for the candidate’s election or defeat, fall into what lawyers have called a legal gray area.

Facebook briefed members of both the Senate and House of Representatives intelligence committees on Wednesday about the suspected Russia advertising, according to a congressional source familiar with the matter. Both committees are conducting probes into alleged Russian interference in the 2016 U.S. election, including potential collusion between the campaign of President Donald Trump and Moscow. Facebook also gave its findings to Robert Mueller, the special counsel in charge of investigating alleged Russian interference in last year’s presidential election, a source familiar with the matter said. The company produced copies of advertisements as well as data about the buyers, the source said.


Librarians:

“Do You Miss Me Yet?” – Reestablishing the Corporate Librarians

It almost never fails when I run into someone I used to work with. The conversation starts with “Hey… how’s the law library world? It’s gotta be tough with all those books being online now.” (The implication being “aren’t you worried about becoming irrelevant?”) I reply with “Yeah, that makes it a whole lot more difficult to manage with all that information in a dozen different places than it did when it was a book in the library.” I’m not sure who they think is managing the information which is usually behind a very expensive paywall. I would guess they either think that it is managed directly by the vendor, or worse, that the Information Technology department is the de facto library managers.

One of the benefits I get from being the current President of the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) is that I get to go to different types of meetings and engage with legal professionals who are not law librarians. These are law professors, recruiters, marketers, technology/security professionals, legal administrators, in-house counsel, and others in the legal industry. One of the questions that I’ve heard, especially from in-house and corporate lawyers is the fact that they need help managing their legal information. When I ask if they have a librarian or some type of specialized legal information professional, the answer is typically “no.” When I prod further, I find that many corporations downsized or eliminated their corporate library staff during the Great Recession period. I don’t think that is a...
sorprise to many of us. Corporate libraries were devastated at the beginning of this decade. I think that is coming back to haunt some corporations. This isn’t to say all corporate libraries were eliminated. There are still many out there that are around and thriving. But, more often than not, most were severely affected by the economic downturn, and seen as an easy cost reduction because the corporate management saw libraries as books and space, and librarians as keepers of books and space. In reality, librarians are managers of information, and we have more information at our disposal than ever. It is time for the corporations to rethink how they are managing their information.


Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety; attribution appreciated.
The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.

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Intersect Alert September 18, 2017


Libraries:

**House approves full IMLS, LSTA and IAL funding for FY 2018**

Today, the full House of Representatives voted as part of a large spending package (H.R. 3354) not to make any cuts in federal funding for the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), including all funding for its programs under the Library Services and Technology Act, and for the Department of Education’s Innovative Approaches to Literacy program. Notably, the package also increased funding for the National Library of Medicine by $6 million. http://www.districtdispatch.org/2017/09/house-approves-funding-fy-2018/.

**Information literacy lost: Most CPS schools no longer have librarians**

Students in three out of four Chicago Public Schools won’t have access to a librarian this fall — one result of years of budget cuts. The district has budgeted for fewer than a third as many librarians in 2017-18 as it did in 2012, when nearly every school library was staffed.


**Libraries from Puerto Rico to Florida Respond to Hurricane Irma**

In addition to helping residents connect to relatives, insurers, and FEMA, said director Kelvin Watson, the library would be providing story times, simple crafts, and community puzzles and games, as well as showing movies. One branch put up an “Irma Tree,” designating space on the wall where customers and staff can share their Irma experiences on Post-it notes. The library is also providing operating space for the county’s Emergency Management Agency and its Cultural Division. http://lj.libraryjournal.com/2017/09/academic-libraries/libraries-puerto-rico-florida-respond-hurricane-irma/.

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**Internet Access:**

**How The FCC is Using Legal Gymnastics to Excuse Itself From Getting Americans Internet Access**

The FCC is currently in the process of redefining much of rural and low-income America in reverse when it comes to internet access. There is still time to tell them that’s a bad idea. In fact, just recently, the FCC listened to calls from stakeholders, as well as 12 members of the U.S. Senate, to extend the time allotted for people to weigh in. (That’s your hint to do so, here!) https://www.publicknowledge.org/news-blog/blogs/how-the-fcc-is-using-legal-gymnastics-to-excuse-itself-from-getting-americans-internet-access#When:19:30:00Z.

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**Publishing:**

**German universities looking to pursue alternatives to Elsevier journal access**

German universities have coped “easily” when cut off from Elsevier journals and do not need to rely on pirate article-sharing sites such as Sci-Hub, according to a negotiator from Germany’s biggest network of research centres… A consortium of all German research organisations is locked in hostile and so far unsuccessful contract negotiations with Elsevier, demanding full open access for German-authored
papers and a model in which they pay per article published, not a flat journal subscription fee. Part of their strategy is to demonstrate that German academics can operate without Elsevier subscriptions, and an increasing number of institutions have said they will not renew their contracts at the end of the year.


**Politicians Write Lots Of Books. Here’s How Far Into Them People Read.**

Hillary Clinton’s new book, “What Happened,” comes out Tuesday and features her reflections on the 2016 election… Political books written around a presidential election are usually a mixture of ghostwritten policy proposals slammed together with a series of mediocre pseudo-biographical stories that often backfire on a contender mid-race. These paperweights are defined by long subtitles and the struggle of making a politician a likable protagonist.

But people still read them. Well, sort of. I was curious how far readers typically make it through these books. [https://fivethirtyeight.com/features/politicians-write-lots-of-books-heres-how-far-into-them-people-read/](https://fivethirtyeight.com/features/politicians-write-lots-of-books-heres-how-far-into-them-people-read/)

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**Free Speech:**

**Study Looks At How People Think About Free Speech**

Some new research says that many people use free speech arguments only when convenient, and as a cover for their own feelings. Free speech debates are unfolding on college campuses all over the country. That’s after students at many schools have turned away controversial speakers and after Charlottesville, where white nationalists clashed with counter-protesters. Psychological research suggests that free speech arguments aren’t always what they might seem, though. [http://www.npr.org/2017/09/08/549373754/study-looks-at-how-people-think-about-free-speech](http://www.npr.org/2017/09/08/549373754/study-looks-at-how-people-think-about-free-speech)

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**Privacy:**

**Privacy Protections Won’t Make You More Vulnerable To Being Hacked**

Californians are very close to getting privacy protections for their web browsing history. But a dangerous new ad campaign is using misinformation to trick internet users into opposing a bill that would give them more control over their personal information. An anonymous advertiser is telling Californians that they will be more vulnerable to hacking or data breach if the legislature passes broadband privacy protections. These claims are not just false – they shamefully exploit internet users’ understandable fears about data security. [https://cdt.org/blog/privacy-protections-wont-make-you-more-vulnerable-to-being-hacked](https://cdt.org/blog/privacy-protections-wont-make-you-more-vulnerable-to-being-hacked/)

**The Right Response to Equifax**

We can pass national data breach legislation. A national standard would not have prevented the Equifax breach, but it would clarify for consumers and companies the types of information subject to protection and the penalties for failing to do so. While respecting the valuable role of the states, we clearly need a basic federal standard to ensure that all Americans can expect adequate data protection allowing companies to better deploy security and training so that the next breach is less damaging for consumers. [https://www.publicknowledge.org/news-blog/blogs/the-right-response-to-equifax](https://www.publicknowledge.org/news-blog/blogs/the-right-response-to-equifax)

**There are hundreds of companies besides Equifax tracking what you do**

There are consumer-reporting companies that track truckers, small business owners and payments of child support obligations. People who have payday loans are being tracked; those who buy furniture from a rent-to-own store are being tracked, too.

Unfortunately, many consumers are completely unaware. They don’t know who the companies are, what they track or that they even exist. Consumer advocates say that at the very least, companies should have to disclose the information they’re collecting. [http://nbr.com/2017/09/14/there-are-hundreds-of-companies-besides-equifax-tracking-what-you-do/](http://nbr.com/2017/09/14/there-are-hundreds-of-companies-besides-equifax-tracking-what-you-do/)

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**Intersect Alert September 26, 2017**


**Librarians:**

**Keepers of the Secrets**

I was told that the most interesting man in the world works in the archives division of the New York Public Library, and so I
went there, one morning this summer, to meet him. My guide, who said it took her a year to learn how to get around the Schwarzman Building on 42nd Street, led us to an elevator off Astor Hall, up past the McGraw Rotunda, through a little door at the back of the Rose Main Reading Room. Our destination was Room 328.


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Freedom of Information:

My Journey to the Heart of the FOIA Request

Every presidential administration dating back to Lyndon Johnson has tried to subvert or evade the spirit and letter of FOIA in some way or another, but the act poses a unique threat to the Trump administration. In the past two years especially, Donald Trump and his associates have closely guarded potentially damning information about Trump’s taxes, businesses, and dealings with Russia. In the short term, at least, FOIA responses are unlikely to reveal any salacious details about the commander in chief. Under the Presidential Records Act, documents from Trump’s office won’t be subject to open-records requests until at least five years after he leaves the White House.


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Government Information:

Dear Congress, here’s how to ensure public access to government information

On Sept. 15, ALA President Jim Neal sent the committee a letter highlighting the vital role of libraries and the FDLP in providing equitable and long-term access to a wealth of information resources created by the federal government… In order to ensure the public’s continued access to government information, ALA has made specific and detailed recommendations to Congress.


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Copyright:

The Fight Over DRM Standards for Streaming Video Is Over and Big Business Won

A fight over the future of video streaming has been brewing for years—and it finally came to a head today, with a major electronic privacy organization bowing out of the consortium that sets standards for the web. The Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF) resigned from the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) today over the W3C’s freshly-released recommendations on protecting copyright in streaming video. W3C, which is directed by the inventor of the internet Tim Berners-Lee, should be a natural ally of the EFF—but the fight over protecting security researchers who uncover vulnerabilities in video streaming has driven a wedge between the two organizations.

“The whole problem that we have here is this is a super technical, relatively boring, unbelievably important issue. That’s such a horrific toxic cocktail,” Cory Doctorow, the EFF’s advisory committee representative to W3C, told Gizmodo. “The W3C is using its patent pool and moral authority to create a system that’s not about empowering users but controlling users.”


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Transparency:

Your favorite companies may be political black boxes

You book a hotel on Expedia.com. You buy a Garmin to navigate highways. Finally, you stream Netflix movies to keep the kids occupied on the trip. Just know you’re patronizing companies that volunteer virtually nothing about their political practices and spending, according to a new study on corporate political disclosure and accountability by the nonpartisan Center for Political Accountability and the Zicklin Center for


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Publishing:

Authorship for sale: Some journals willing to add authors to papers they didn’t write

Got $300? Then you can be added as an author to a paper — even if you had no role in the research. That’s right — some journals are willing to add authors to papers they didn’t write, often for a fee. This realization comes from one of the many sting experiments we’ve witnessed over the years, designed to expose the perils of the publishing industry, in which some journals will claim to peer review and publish any manuscript for a fee — no matter how nonsensical the content. Pravin Bolshete, a medical writer and researcher from India, wanted to explore a different side of predatory publishing — would journals agree to add a fictional author to a manuscript he/she didn’t write?

Business Ethics Research at the University of Pennsylvania’s Wharton School. Scores are calculated based on 24 indicators that range from whether a company publicly discloses corporate contributions to political committees and organizations — including politically active nonprofit organizations that don’t themselves disclose their donors — to whether it posts a detailed report of its corporate political spending on its website. The study also awards points to companies that have established clear political spending and disclosure policies.


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Intersect Alert October 2, 2017


Social Media:

Big Tech’s latest headache: An unwanted role in politics
Tech companies cannot be held responsible for what people post online — that’s the argument deployed by the likes of Facebook, Twitter and Google whenever their services are used to promote terrorist propaganda, hate speech or other digital misinformation.

That’s no longer going to fly.

Regulators from Brussels and Berlin to Washington and elsewhere are now pushing for tech companies to take greater ownership of the reams of content posted on their digital platforms.


Twitter in the news – terms of service – tweet length increases to 280 characters – role in Russian election interference
Columbia Journalism Review – “This week, following an incendiary tweet by President Trump toward North Korea, Twitter is making an update to its terms of service. The social media company will now consider newsworthiness alongside its other criteria in determining whether to allow speech on its platform…By deciding what is newsworthy, Twitter will effectively be making editorial decisions, moving its platform even further into the role of a media company. A recent release from Pew shows that two thirds of Americans get at least some news from social media. And the proportion of Twitter users who get news from Twitter is now 75 percent, up 15 percentage points from last year. By comparison, 68 percent of Facebook users get news there…”

See also Business Insider – Twitter is doubling the length of tweets to 280 characters for some people and Trump isn’t in the test group for the double-length 280-character tweets.


Publishing:

Google drops “first click free,” loathed by many publishers
Google will try to help newspapers and other publishers boost subscriptions by ending a decade-old policy that required them to provide a limited amount of free content before people were asked to pay for it.

The “first click free” policy at the world’s biggest search engine was loathed by publishers because while the stories, videos and images appearing on Google have been free for its users, it is expensive to produce.

Publishers had been required to provide at least three free items under the search engine’s previous policy.


Government Information:

Census Bureau Releases Statistics of U.S. Businesses
The U.S. Census Bureau released the 2015 Statistics of U.S. Businesses data tables by establishment industry. This release includes single-year estimates of the number of firms, number of establishments, employment and annual payroll. Data are presented by state, industry and enterprise employment size.


After 20 years, House hearing focuses on depository libraries
On September 26, Congress’ Committee on House Administration held a hearing to discuss the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) – the first such hearing in
The hearing was part of the committee’s initiative to examine Title 44 of the U.S. Code, which is the basis for the FDLP and the Government Publishing Office (GPO). While much of the law has not been substantially changed since 1962, today’s meeting is further evidence of growing momentum in Congress to develop legislation that will bolster the FDLP and help libraries connect Americans to their government.

The committee heard today from four librarians, testifying as individual experts rather than for their institutions, about their ideas for strengthening the program to improve the public’s access to government information. In addition, Laurie Hall, GPO’s acting Superintendent of Documents (and a librarian!), testified about the office’s oversight of the program.


Hearing on Title 44 and FDLP libraries now available for viewing

For all you documents nerds out there, the Committee on House Administration’s hearing on GPO and the FDLP is now available for your viewing pleasure. All of the witnesses’ written testimonies are now also available from the Committee’s repository. I’m glad that the FDLP community was able to represent. Enjoy!

https://freegovinfo.info/node/12358.

Librarians:

‘Racist propaganda’: Librarian rejects Melania Trump’s gift of Dr. Seuss books

The first lady, who is increasingly carving out a public profile for herself, chose the classic children’s book and nine other Dr. Seuss titles to send to an elementary school in Cambridge, Mass., in celebration of “National Read a Book Day.”

But a librarian at Cambridgeport School refused to accept the gift, criticizing Trump administration education policies and images in the books.

Seuss’s illustrations are “steeped in racist propaganda, caricatures, and harmful stereotypes,” librarian Liz Phipps Soeiro wrote in a letter to Trump on Tuesday.


Copyright:

Libraries again oppose unneeded, risky Section 108 update

As reported last month, ALA and the other members of the Library Copyright Alliance (LCA) have been scrutinizing the Copyright Office’s extensive new analysis of and recommendations for statutory changes to Section 108 of the Copyright Act. Section 108 (a.k.a. “the library exception”) allows libraries to make copies for preservation and other purposes, including interlibrary loan. The report was released on September 15.


Internet Access:

Public Knowledge Urges Senate to Reject FCC Chairman Pai’s Renomination

Today, the U.S. Senate plans to vote on Federal Communications Commission Chairman Ajit Pai’s nomination to remain at the agency. Chairman Pai’s term expired in June 2016. Public Knowledge contends that Chairman Pai should not be confirmed due to his failure to protect consumers and promote competition.

The list of protections rolled back by Chairman Pai are long. He supported a highly unpopular repeal of broadband privacy rules. He blocked companies from participating in the Lifeline program to give subsidies to their low-income broadband and phone customers without evidence of fraud. He ignored Congressional mandate by closing the proceeding to promote cable set-top box competition, which would have lowered cable costs for consumers.

https://www.publicknowledge.org/press-release/public-knowledge-urges-senate-to-reject-fcc-chairman-pais-renomination#When:18:00:00Z.

Intersect Alert October 10, 2017


Publishers Seek Removal of Millions of Papers from ResearchGate
“Leading publishers are stepping up their fight against ResearchGate by ordering the academic social network to take down papers that they say infringe copyright.”

“The move could see millions of articles removed from the site, as the publishers say up to 40 per cent of papers on ResearchGate are copyrighted.”

“James Milne, a spokesman for the group of five academic publishers, which includes Elsevier, Wiley and Brill, said that the first batch of take-down notices would be sent ‘imminently’.”

“‘We’re not doing this in any way against the researchers, we’re doing this against ResearchGate,’ he told Times Higher Education. The site was ‘clearly hosting and happily uploading material that they know they don’t have the licence or copyrights’ to, and was ‘refusing to work with us to solve that problem’, he added.”


Mobile Security

iOS 11’s Misleading “Off-ish” Setting for Bluetooth and Wi-Fi is Bad for User Security

“Turning off your Bluetooth and Wi-Fi radios when you’re not using them is good security practice (not to mention good for your battery usage). When you consider Bluetooth’s known vulnerabilities, it’s especially important to make sure your Bluetooth and Wi-Fi settings are doing what you want them to. The iPhone’s newest operating system, however, makes it harder for users to control these settings.”

“On an iPhone, users might instinctively swipe up to open Control Center and toggle Wi-Fi and Bluetooth off from the quick settings. Each icon switches from blue to gray, leading a user to reasonably believe they have been turned off—in other words, fully disabled. In iOS 10, that was true. However, in iOS 11, the same setting change no longer actually turns Wi-Fi or Bluetooth ‘off.’”


Privacy

LinkNYC Improves Privacy Policy, Yet Problems Remain

“Since first appearing on the streets of New York City in 2016, LinkNYC’s free public Wi-Fi kiosks have prompted controversy. The initial version of the kiosks’ privacy policy was particularly invasive: it allowed for LinkNYC to store personal browser history, time spent on a particular website, and lacked clarity about how LinkNYC would handle government demands for user data, among others issues. While CityBridge, the private consortium administering the network, has thankfully incorporated welcome changes to its use policy, several problems unfortunately remain.”

“The LinkNYC system, announced by the Mayor’s office in November 2014 after inviting competitive bids from private industry, includes over 1,000 public kiosks spread across all five boroughs of New York City. Each kiosk offers free high-speed wifi, phone calls, a charging station for mobile devices, and a built-in tablet capable of accessing various city services, such as emergency services, maps, and directions. Funded by advertisers who pay for time on the two 55 displays on either side of each kiosk, the system requires no payment from users or taxpayers.”

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2017/09/linknyc-improves-privacy-policy-yet-problems-remain

DHS Should Stop the Social Media Surveillance of Immigrants

“The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) last month issued a notice that it is storing social media information on immigrants, including lawful permanent residents and naturalized U.S. citizens, apparently indefinitely, in a government database that contains “Alien Files” (A-Files). This is an invasive new feature of DHS’s previously known programs on collecting social media information. DHS’s collection and storage of this sensitive information will chill and deter the free speech and association of immigrants to the United States, as well as the U.S. persons who communicate with them.”

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2017/10/dhs-should-stop-social-media-surveillance-immigrants

Publishing

A Dangerous Withdrawal

“‘The Case for Colonialism’ has been revoked — not over claims of shoddy scholarship or publication irregularities but rather threats to the journal editor. Some call it a disturbing precedent that could make academics less safe.”

“Bruce Gilley’s eyebrow-raising essay in favor of colonialism has been scrubbed from the scholarly record, but not for any of the reasons cited by its critics. (Among them: that it was historically inaccurate, that it ignored the vast literature on colonialism and colonial-era atrocities, that it was rejected by three peer reviewers, and that Gilley himself requested it be pulled.)”

“Rather, the article has been withdrawn because the editor of
Third World Quarterly, the journal in which it appeared, has received credible threats of violence. That’s according to a note posted online by journal’s publisher, Taylor & Francis.”

https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2017/10/09/pro-colonialism-article-has-been-withdrawn-over-threats-journal-editor

Librarians

The Radical Reference Librarians Who Use Info to Challenge Authority

“From August 29 through September 2, 2004, a series of protests erupted in New York in response to the 2004 Republican National Convention and the nomination of George W. Bush for the impending election. Nearly 1,800 protesters were arrested during the convention, and later filed a civil rights suit, citing violation of their constitutional rights.”

“During the protests, a steady team provided support to anyone who needed information amid the confusion: a modest group of socially conscious librarians from around the United States, armed with folders of facts ranging from legal rights in dealing with police to the locations of open bathrooms.”

“We wanted to operate as if we were bringing a reference desk to the streets,’ explains Lia Friedman, Director of Learning Services at University of California San Diego, who was at one of the protest marches in 2004. At the time, fewer people had smartphones, making this service both new and important. When someone asked a question that wasn’t included in their traveling reference desk folders, other librarians waiting at their home computers were poised to research and deliver information by phone.”

http://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/radical-reference-collective

Government Information

Classifying Changes to Public Access to Information on US Government Websites

“What did this government website look like yesterday? A month ago? A year ago? Why does this URL redirect? When did this link stop working? These are questions we rarely ask when browsing the Web, but the answers can be important, especially as we seek to hold the United States government accountable for what information is made available on federal websites, how agencies choose to present that information, and what alterations to content and access are made.”

“Even when you do decide to ask these questions, the tools to clearly understand changes to Web content and websites can be difficult for the public to use – and the language to describe the technical aspects of these changes is often not well defined.”

“There has been ongoing confusion in the media about the nature of the many changes to federal websites and removals of information that have occurred since the beginning of the Trump administration.”

https://sunlightfoundation.com/2017/10/04/classifying-changes-to-public-access-to-information-on-us-government-websites/

Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety; attribution appreciated.

The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.

On the merger between the San Francisco on Silicon Valley Chapters

Categories: Bayline, Chapter Leadership Tags: President's message

After receiving feedback on the proposed merger of our two chapters, we have decided to delay the vote on the merger by a couple of weeks to give members more time to comment and provide more information about the process. You can read the proposed terms of the merger and the proposed recommended practices of the new chapter for all of the details. We will be soliciting feedback for revisions until October 23, 2017. On October 25, 2017 we will send out the finalized version of both documents for consideration. The ballot for the merger will be sent on October 30, 2017 and will close on November 6, 2017.

Last summer at SLA 2016 in Philadelphia, leadership of our two chapters broached the possibility of merging. It was an intriguing idea at a time when many other units in SLA were exploring restructuring. Given the decline in membership across the association, merging units makes sense with a smaller pool of volunteers to keep things running and better
allocate resources. So together, we began the process of exploring the merger. This included talking to other chapters that had recently merged, working with the SLA board, and surveying the membership.

In 2016 we compared membership of the San Francisco Bay Region and Silicon Valley chapters to see what merging would mean in terms of numbers. At the time, San Francisco had 200 members, which is a significant decrease from the previous decade, and 26% of those members were also members of Silicon Valley. On the other hand, the Silicon Valley chapter had 104 members, 50% of whom were also members of San Francisco. If we combined those members into one chapter, the new membership total would be 252 members.

In the summer of 2017 we sent a survey out to members of both chapters to learn more about where people live and work for geographic considerations in programming. Of those who responded, 23% live in San Francisco, 30% in the South Bay, 14% on the Peninsula, 25% in the East Bay, and 4% in the North Bay. Conversely, 34% spend their days in San Francisco, 30% in the South Bay, 18% on the Peninsula, and 15% in the East Bay. This reflects our geographic distribution and commute patterns. To address this distribution, we discussed ways to diversify programming to be both regional and virtual to be as inclusive as possible.

The survey also asked about preference for a possible merger of the two chapters. 31% of the responses were strongly in favor, 39% were moderately in favor, 21% were neutral, 8% were moderately opposed, and 1% were strongly opposed.

With this information in hand, leadership from both chapters have worked to figure out what a newly merged chapter should look like. In looking at the structures of both chapters it was clear that San Francisco had more board positions than Silicon Valley, which made sense given our historically larger numbers. Rather than keeping our structure as it is now, we thought about what would make sense if we were starting over now.

The proposed structure of the Executive Board would be:

- President
- President-Elect
- Past President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Programs (Director and Assistant)

This is the current structure in place by the San Francisco chapter. The Silicon Valley board has two positions of Director-at-Large that serve many of the same functions as the Programs Director, so in practice this should not be a major change.

We also propose a new structure for the Advisory Council:

- Archivist
- Communications
- Jobline
- Nominating
- Professional Development
- Regional Directors (3)
- Strategic Planning
- Student and New Professionals Relations
- Fundraising/Sponsorships
- Webmaster

These changes in structure are some of the most pronounced in the merger. The biggest change is the introduction of the three new Regional Directors. These directors would represent the interests of San Francisco/North Bay, South Bay/Peninsula, and the East Bay on the Advisory Council. They will also be a part of the Programs committee, working with the Director and Assistant Director to plan programs for their regions.

We also proposed sunsetting the Government Relations committee of the San Francisco chapter. This does not mean that the committee’s Intersect Alert would go away, but that it would continue under the aegis of the Communications committee. In the future if we would like to hold a Sunshine Week event, or any other event that relates to government information, organizers would work with the Programs committee to host it. This new structure also moves the Listserv/Reflector into the Communications committee. We hope that this change, along with recent moves to bring Networking and the newsletter under Communications, would help the new chapter have a streamlined and unified communications platform. The Academic Relations committee would be renamed Student and New Professionals Relations, thereby expanding its focus to LIS students, recent grads, and other entering our profession.

We also plan to revive the Strategic Planning committee to develop a new plan for the chapter to help guide us after the merger. Once planning is complete, the committee would be sunsetted.
We hope these structural changes would make it easier for the combined chapter to provide a variety of programming, networking, and professional development opportunities for members in the region. For more details you can read over the proposed terms of the merger and the proposed recommended practices for the new chapter. Please send all of your comments to us at president@sanfrancisco.sla1.org and president@siliconvalley.sla.org. Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Sincerely,

Kendra K. Levine
Bridget Thrasher

Intersect Alert October 16, 2017


Podcast

Dangers of Public Wi-Fi

“Free wi-fi is widely available and tempting to use, especially when traveling. Hotels, airports, coffee shops, even NYC subway stations provide it.”

“But the dangers of public wi-fi are many-fold. Not only are they hunting grounds for hackers, but a new report from security firm FireEye claims a Russian hacker group known as APT28, or Fancy Bear, used hotel Wi-Fi networks to spy on high-value guests.”

“While use of Virtual Private Networks (VPNs) can safeguard against unsafe wi-fi networks, recent bans of VPNs by Russia and China further complicate matters.”


Copyright

Copyright Isn’t a Tool for Removing Negative Reviews

“At EFF, we see endless attempts to misuse copyright law in order to silence content that a person dislikes. Copyright law is sadly less protective of speech than other speech regulations like defamation, so plaintiffs are motivated to find ways to turn many kinds of disputes into issues of copyright law. Yesterday, a federal appeals court rejected one such ploy: an attempt to use copyright to get rid of a negative review.”

“The website Ripoff Report hosts criticism of a variety of professionals and companies, who doubtless would prefer that those critiques not exist. In order to protect platforms for speech like Ripoff Report, federal law sets a very high bar for private litigants to collect damages or obtain censorship orders against them. The gaping exception to this protection is intellectual property claims, including copyright, for which a lesser protection applies.”

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2017/10/copyright-isnt-tool-removing-negative-reviews-1

A Lawyer Explains Who Really Owns Your Tattoos

“When you get a tattoo, you probably presume that it’s yours. After all, the design’s inked on your skin, and you paid an artist to put it there. However, the truth is that no matter how personal a body modification may be, tattoo ownership is pretty murky.”

“Tattoo copyright law entered popular consciousness in 2016 thanks to pending litigation against the makers of NBA 2K, a basketball video game series featuring the digital likenesses of LeBron James and other popular players. The lawsuit alleges that Take Two Interactive Software is infringing on the copyrighted work of tattoo artists, because the game depicts James as he appears in real life, ink and all. The questions at stake are: At what point does a tattoo artist relinquish their right to a design? If a person with visible ink stars in a movie or TV show and makes money off the project, should they pay royalties to the artist? And is a tattoo part of someone’s identity, inseparable from their persona once it’s committed to skin?”

https://www.vice.com/en_us/article/yw37g7/a-lawyer-explains-who-really-owns-your-tattoos

Open Data

Enigma Public

“Data released by federal departments, state agencies and the like can reveal trends or anomalies that are in the public’s
interest for data journalists to cover. From housing and pricing to hiring and the environment, public data can be critical to piecing together a story. Yet, as valuable as it is, public data can be equally as difficult to track down. While some cities and states have moved forward with open data portals, many critical datasets are still only accessible by way of a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request — a practice in patience, often involving check writing and weeks of waiting for a CD to arrive via snail mail. As most journalists working on a time sensitive piece would agree, this process is, well, less than ideal.”

“Enigma, an operational data management and intelligence company, believes that accessing this information shouldn’t be such a challenge. This summer, they launched Enigma Public, a community platform to help connect you to public data. Best of all? The tool is free to use for journalists and for all non-commercial purposes.”

http://datadrivenjournalism.net/resources/enigma_public

Special Collections

Brewchive Chronicles Southern CA’s Craft Beer History

“San Diego and its surrounding environs are considered one of the birthplaces of America’s craft brewing renaissance. Now, the library of nearby California State University San Marcos (CSUSM) is helping to make sure the records of that origin story have a proper home in a new special collection—the Brewchive. (The online repository can be found here.)”

“This is a collection that documents an important part of our region’s economic development and tourism industry,” said Jennifer Fabbi, dean of the University Library at CSUSM.”

http://lj.libraryjournal.com/2017/10/academic-libraries/brewchive-chronicles-southern-cas-craft-beer-history/

More on the mergers between the San Francisco and Silicon Valley Chapters


Earlier this week we outlined some of the structural changes proposed by the potential merger of the San Francisco Bay Region and Silicon Valley SLA chapters. Now we’d like to discuss what this could mean for chapter members.

The goal with the Regional Directors is to give the regional voices of the members to the chapter board. Programming will be a major factor in this, and we envision a chapter with more varied, agile programming options for members. Recent survey results of members from both chapters indicate that it is difficult for us to program events that work with everybody’s very busy schedules. Between work, personal lives, and ubiquitous Bay Area commutes, it has been difficult for members to attend evening programs and events. One aim of the regional directors is to help facilitate smaller events locally for members, like the popular dine-arounds and happy hours.

If the vote to merge passes, the chapter will need your help. We will be looking for people interested in potentially helping
your region out, let us know!

In addition to more casual, local events, we also think the merger is a good opportunity for more online/virtual programming. We hope the chapter can offer lunchtime webinars throughout the year to give members short bursts of professional development or interesting ideas. We would still have in person programming during the year, but want to give you more options to connect and learn that fit within your busy schedule.

Along those lines we are considering having more virtual meetings. San Francisco has had a couple board meetings through the SLA web meeting platform, which has worked well. We see this as another way people can be involved without taking too much time away from their other obligations and pursuits.

If the merger is passed by the members, we know that 2018 will be a very active year. We’ll be figuring out how to integrate the back end, but hopefully that means more options and opportunities to members on the front end. It’s exciting to think what we can do together.

Lastly, if you’re still interested in commenting on the the proposed terms of the merger and the proposed recommended practices for the new chapter, we want to hear from you! Please send all of your comments to us at president@sanfrancisco.sla1.org and president@siliconvalley.sla.org. We are accepting comments until Monday, October 23, 2017.

Sincerely,

Kendra Levine
Bridget Thrasher

Intersect Alert October 22, 2017


Privacy

New Law bans California Employers from Asking Applicants Their Prior Salary

“California employers can no longer ask job applicants about their prior salary and — if applicants ask — must give them a pay range for the job they are seeking, under a new state law that takes effect Jan. 1.”

“AB168, signed Thursday by Gov. Jerry Brown, applies to all public- and private-sector California employers of any size.”

“The goal is to narrow the gender wage gap. If a woman is paid less than a man doing the same job and a new employer bases her pay on her prior salary, gender discrimination can be perpetuated, the bill’s backers say.”


Expanding E-Verify is a Privacy Disaster in the Making

“E-Verify is a massive federal data system used to verify the eligibility of job applicants to work in the United States. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), and the U.S. Social Security Administration (SSA) administer E-Verify. Until now, the federal government has not required private employers to use E-Verify, and only a few states have required it. However, a proposed bill in Congress, the Legal Workforce Act (HR 3711), aims to make E-Verify use mandatory nationwide despite all the very real privacy and accuracy issues associated with the data system.”

“EFF recently joined human rights and workers rights organizations from across the United States and sent a letter to Congress pointing out the flaws of E-Verify.”

“Instead of learning from the recent Equifax data breach that access to sensitive information creates an attractive target for data thieves, our elected representatives want to compel a massive increase in the use of yet another data system that can be breached. To use E-Verify, employers need to collect and transmit sensitive information, such as our social security and passport numbers.”

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2017/10/expanding-e-verify-privacy-disaster-making

Search

Follow Related Research for Key Authors

“Scholar provides several ways to keep up with research in your area. You can set up keyword alerts, get recommendations related to your publications and follow your colleagues’ profiles.”
“Today, we are adding another approach to stay up to date in areas of your interest. Now, in addition to following articles by and citations to an author, you can follow research that is related to her work.”

“To follow related research for an author, simply go to her public profile, click ‘Follow’ and select ‘New articles related to this author’s research’. Scholar will automatically scan all new publications for articles related to her research and will send them to you as an email alert.”

https://scholar.googleblog.com/2017/10/follow-related-research-for-key-authors.html

Copyright

Digital Rights Groups Demand Deletion of Unlawful Filtering Mandate From Proposed EU Copyright Law

“Today EFF and 56 other civil society organizations have sent an open letter [PDF] to European lawmakers outlining our grave concerns with Article 13 of the proposed new Directive on Copyright in the Digital Single Market, which would impose a new responsibility on Internet platforms to filter content that their users upload. The letter explains:”

“Article 13 introduces new obligations on internet service providers that share and store user-generated content, such as video or photo-sharing platforms or even creative writing websites, including obligations to filter uploads to their services. Article 13 appears to provoke such legal uncertainty that online services will have no other option than to monitor, filter and block EU citizens’ communications if they are to have any chance of staying in business. …”

“Article 13 would force these companies to actively monitor their users’ content, which contradicts the “no general obligation to monitor” rules in the Electronic Commerce Directive. The requirement to install a system for filtering electronic communications has twice been rejected by the Court of Justice, in the cases Scarlet Extended (C 70/10) and Netlog/Sabam (C 360/10). Therefore, a legislative provision that requires internet companies to install a filtering system would almost certainly be rejected by the Court of Justice because it would contravene the requirement that a fair balance be struck between the right to intellectual property on the one hand, and the freedom to conduct business and the right to freedom of expression, such as to receive or impart information, on the other.”

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2017/10/digital-rights-groups-demand-deletion-unlawful-filtering-mandate-proposed-eu

The Job Outlook: In 2030, Librarians Will Be in Demand | Editorial

“A fascinating new report takes a fresh look at what the workforce is going to look like in the future and which skills will be highly sought after. According to ‘The Future of Skills: Employment in 2030’, there will be an increased call for librarians, curators, and archivists, among other occupations.”

“That’s just the start of the finds in this exploration of where humans will fit in the future, complementing rather than being completely supplanted by automation. The report—released on September 28 by Pearson, Nesta, and Oxford University—asks how work will be impacted by the intersection of seven “megatrends.” Change driven by new technology, including the rise of automation, is right up top. The others are globalization, demographic change, environmental sustainability, urbanization, rising inequality, and political uncertainty.”

“The report considers globalization but focuses solely on the impact on the UK and the United States. ‘In the U.S., there is particularly strong emphasis on interpersonal skills. These skills include teaching, social perceptiveness, service orientation, and persuasion,’ it notes. The ‘findings also confirm the importance of higher-order cognitive skills such as complex problem solving, originality, fluency of ideas, and active learning.’”


Placements & Salaries 2017: 2017 Salaries

“The average full-time salary for employed 2016 graduates is $51,798, up 7.45% over 2015. The average hourly wage was $19, which translates to an annual salary of almost $40,000.”

“Regional average salaries were highest in the Pacific and lowest in the Southeast, with a differential of over $21,000. The range in average salaries for the other six regions shrinks to only $7,000 when the Pacific is excluded. This salary analysis does not consider the effects of regional differences in cost of living and real income.”

“On average, salaries earned by 2016 graduates vary markedly by the type of organization and tend to be highest in nontraditional settings. The average salary was highest in private industry (over $73,000), 64% higher than the average earnings of graduates working in public libraries (just under $45,000). Average annual salaries topped $50,000 in not-for-profit agencies, government libraries, and school libraries. Salaries for special libraries ($48,000), academic libraries (almost $47,000), and archives/special collections (almost $46,000), were similar.”

Open-Access

German Researchers Resign from Elsevier Journals in Push for Nationwide Open Access

“Five leading German scientists have resigned from their editorial positions at journals published by Elsevier, the latest step in a battle over open-access and subscription policies between the Dutch publishing giant and a consortium of German libraries, universities, and research institutes.”

“The researchers want Elsevier to accept a new payment model that would make all papers authored by Germany-based researchers open access. The five are only the first of many ready to step down, warn leaders of the consortium, called Projekt DEAL.”

“Instead of having individual libraries pay subscriptions for individual journals, Projekt DEAL wants to set up nationwide ‘publish and read’ agreements with publishers. DEAL would pay publishers a lump sum to cover publication costs of papers authored by researchers in Germany. Then all such papers would be open access, and DEAL members would receive electronic access to all the publisher’s journals.”


Freedom of Information

Times Fights to See Trump Transition Team’s Log of Visitors

“MANHATTAN (CN) – Clamoring to learn who met with the Trump-Pence Transition Team in their Washington offices ahead of Inauguration Day, The New York Times brought a federal complaint to access U.S. Secret Service’s visitors log.”

“Though the Times says the logs are public documents subject to the Freedom of Information Act, the Secret Service shot the request down under the Presidential Records Act, putting the logs under the exclusive legal custody and control of the White House.”

“In-house attorney David McCraw filed the 5-page complaint for the Times and reporter Nicholas Confessore late Monday.”

“Donald Trump was still one day shy of his inauguration as the 45th president of the United States on Jan. 19, 2017, when the Times brought its FOIA request to the Secret Service.”

https://www.courthousenews.com/times-fights-see-trump-transition-teams-log-visitors/

Jobline 2017/10/25


Intuitive Surgical, Inc., seeks an innovative, responsive, and self-motivated librarian to provide quality research support in collaboration with the Clinical Research Librarian and Data Management Team. This is a temporary contract position. The Research Librarian Associate will:

- Perform literature searches and summary reports to conform with regulatory requirements (i.e., expert search services, systematic reviews, and other intensive research projects)
- Serve as liaison for the scholarly literature component of regulatory documentation
- Provide in-depth and on-demand research consultation services for the Clinical Affairs team

Minimum Qualifications:

- MLS or equivalent from an ALA-accredited library school (anticipated or completed), or more than two years of professional experience working in an academic library or clinical library setting.
- Advanced bibliographic expertise in searching and managing information \
Experience using bibliographic formatting programs, e.g. RefWorks or EndNote.
- Familiarity with data management support, taxonomy and metadata, report writing, and/or process documentation.
- Strong commitment to flexibility, initiative, creativity and an enthusiasm for working collaboratively.
- Excellent communication, analytical, organizational and interpersonal skills.
- Ability to set priorities, handle multiple assignments and deadlines, and display excellent judgment and attention to detail while functioning in a flexible and professional manner.

Preferred Qualifications:

- Practical knowledge of health science information resources and/or academic coursework in the health sciences or related disciplines.
- Expert scientific literature searching skills in databases such as PubMed or Scopus.
- Commitment to engage in research and professional development.
- Evidence of knowledge or interest in research data management practices and services.
- Experience managing projects while clearly articulating deliverables and timelines.
- Knowledgeable about the concepts of information organization, storage, retrieval and transfer, including the application of computer, instructional, and other information management technologies.

The successful candidate will work effectively, respectfully, and collaboratively in diverse, multicultural, and inclusive settings. Opportunities for expanded reference duties and mentorship may be available for well-qualified successful candidates. Salary is commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Applications will be accepted through November 17, 2017. All individuals, including individuals with disabilities and veterans, are encouraged to apply. To apply, send a cover letter and curriculum vitae to Tyler Phelps, tyler.phelps@intusurg.com

When applying, please mention that you found this position listing on SLA SV/SF Jobline. Thank you!

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Intersect Alert October 30, 2017


Archives

National Archives Releases JFK Assassination Records

“The National Archives released 2,891 records on Thursday related to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy that are subject to the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992 (JFK Act). These records are available for download online.”

“The President has also ordered that all remaining records governed by section 5 of the JFK Act be released, and thus additional records will be released subject to redactions recommended by the executive offices and agencies. NARA will process these records for release as soon as possible on a rolling basis.”

“Based on requests from executive offices and agencies the President has allowed the temporary withholding of certain information that would harm national security, law enforcement, or foreign affairs. The President also ordered agencies to re-review their proposed redactions and only redact information in the rarest of circumstances where its withholding ‘is made necessary by an identifiable harm to military defense, intelligence operations, law enforcement, or conduct of foreign relations; and the identifiable harm is of such gravity that it outweighs the public interest in disclosure.’ These instructions will allow the National Archives to release as much information as possible by the end of the temporary certification period on April 26, 2018.”

[Link to National Archives blog post](https://aotus.blogs.archives.gov/2017/10/27/national-archives-releases-jfk-assassination-records/)

Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs)

200 Universities Just Launched 560 Free Online Course

“If you haven’t heard, universities around the world offering their courses online for free (or at-least partially free). These courses are collectively called as MOOCS or Massive Open Online Courses.”

“In the past six years or so, close to 800 universities have created more than 8,000 of these MOOCs. And I’ve been keeping track of these MOOCs the entire time over at Class Central, ever since they rose to prominence.”
“In the past three months alone, more than 200 universities have announced 560 such free online courses. I’ve compiled this list below and categorized the courses into the following subjects: Computer Science, Mathematics, Programming, Data Science, Humanities, Social Sciences, Education & Teaching, Health & Medicine, Business, Personal Development, Engineering, Art & Design, and finally Science.”

https://medium.freecodecamp.org/200-universities-just-launched-560-free-online-courses-heres-the-full-list-d9dd13606b04

International Outlook

The Slippery Slope of Internet Censorship in Egypt

“Internet filtering in Egypt illustrates how censorship can be a slippery slope. After an extended period of open access to the Internet in Egypt lasting several years following the January 2011 revolution, the government dramatically increased its censorship of political content between December 2015 and September 2017. What started with the filtering of one regional news website in 2015 has led to the filtering of over 400 websites by October 2017. The blocked websites include local and regional news and human rights websites, websites based in or affiliated with Qatar, and websites of Internet privacy and circumvention tools.”

“This bulletin examines how Egyptian Internet users have reacted to the pervasive blocking and describes their efforts to counter the censorship. These efforts center on disseminating banned content through platforms protected by encrypted HTTPS connections such as Facebook and Google Drive, which makes individual objectionable URLs challenging for the censors to block.”


Search

Google No Longer Lets You Change Domains to Search Different Countries

“You’ve long been able to get localized search results by visiting Google at different domains — like google.com for the US, google.co.uk for England, or google.co.jp for Japan — but that won’t be the case any more after today. Google said that it’ll now deliver search results relevant to your current location no matter which domain you visit. So if you’re in New York and visit google.ru, you’ll still get results relevant to New York City.”

“Fortunately, it’ll still be possible to escape your country’s results. You’ll be able to change locations, you’ll just have to do it through the settings menu at the bottom of google.com (which I’m willing to bet you’ve never noticed before because it’s hidden in the corner on the desktop and requires you to scroll down on mobile; I didn’t know it existed before today). By going to settings and then ‘search settings,’ you’ll be able to pick a new location.”

https://www.theverge.com/2017/10/27/16561848/google-search-always-local-results-ignores-domain

Google is Putting Its Massive Amount of Health and Disease Data to Use

“Consumers flock to Google to learn about health conditions like cancer, heart disease and diabetes. In recent years, the search engine has been looking for ways to put its growing volume of health data to use.”

“Google’s News Lab, which is designed to help journalists and researchers use Google tools for storytelling and understanding data, introduced a new tool this week specifically focused on health care and disease.”

“On the website — Searching for Health — the lab developed a series of visualizations to show how health-related internet searches map to the actual spread of disease. For example, Google shows that in geographic areas where searches for cancer, heart disease, stroke and depression are high, so are actual occurrences of those diseases.”

https://www.cnbc.com/2017/10/02/google-introduced-searching-for-health-site-to-track-disease-searches.html

Copyright

Returning Authors’ Rights: The Authors Alliance/Creative Commons Termination of Transfer Tool

“Creators of all kinds routinely transfer rights to their works (by signing publication contracts that assign copyright to their publishers, for example). While many of these agreements last “for the life of copyright” (which under current United States law generally means seventy years after the author dies), the law takes into account that these terms can ultimately be unfair to authors and artists. This is where “termination of transfers” come in.”

“In the United States, authors can use the termination of transfers laws to regain the rights they have signed away. But because the law is complex, and because it requires that authors wait years or decades to take advantage of it, creators need to be patient, savvy, and persistent to exercise this right.”

“Many people use terminations because their works are tremendously successful, and they want to recapture rights to enjoy more of their work’s financial success.”
“Many others find that their works are no longer as available as they might wish. Their books might be out of print, or their songs might not be digitized or available online. For creators who want their works to be widely shared and enjoyed—who want to take advantage of a vibrant internet that might not have existed when they signed that contract all those years ago—terminations are a powerful option for getting their works back out in front of audiences.”

https://www.rightsback.org/

A Win for Music Listeners in Florida: No Performance Right in Pre-1972 Recordings

“Another court has ruled that the public still has the ability to play old music that almost everyone believed they lawfully had the ability to play. The Florida Supreme Court, following in the footsteps of New York State’s high court, ruled yesterday that its state law, which governs sound recordings made before 1972, doesn’t include a right to control public performances of sound recordings, including radio play. Both this decision and the reasoning behind it are good news for digital music companies and radio listeners.”

“This case stems from a broader debate about copyright in sound recordings. Although federal copyrights in sound recordings cover reproduction and distribution, they don’t include a general right to control public performances, except for “digital audio transmissions” like Internet and satellite radio. That’s why AM and FM radio stations, and businesses like restaurants that play music, have never had to pay record labels or recording artists, nor ask their permission. (Songwriters and music publishers do get paid for public performances, typically through collecting societies ASCAP, BMI, and SESAC). But recordings made before February 15, 1972 aren’t covered by federal law at all. Instead, they fall under a patchwork of state laws and court decisions, most of which govern sound recordings made before 1972 aren’t covered by federal law at all. Instead, they fall under a patchwork of state laws and court decisions, most of them pre-Internet. The labels have tried for many decades to win a performance right, but so far neither Congress nor state legislatures have created one.”


What if You Had to Worry About a Lawsuit Every Time You Linked to an Image Online?

“A photographer and a photo agency are teaming up to restart a legal war against online linking in the United States.”

“When Internet users browse websites containing images, those images often are retrieved from third-parties, rather than the author of the website. Sometimes, unbeknownst to the website author, the linked image infringes someone else’s copyright.”

“For more than a decade, courts have held that the linker isn’t responsible for that infringement unless they do something else to encourage it, beyond linking. Liability rests with the entity that hosts it in the first place—not someone who simply links to it, probably has no idea that it’s infringing, and isn’t ultimately in control of what content the server will provide when a browser contacts it.”

“Justin Goldman, backed by Getty Images, wants to change that. They’ve accused online publications, including Breitbart, Time, and the Boston Globe, of copyright infringement for publishing articles that link to a photo of NFL star Tom Brady. Goldman took the photo, someone else tweeted it, and the news organizations embedded a link to the tweet in their coverage. Goldman and Getty say those stories infringe Goldman’s copyright.”

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2017/10/what-if-you-had-worry-about-lawsuit-every-time-you-linked-image-online

Digital Collections

Library of Congress – The Rare Book and Special Collections Division

“The collections housed in The Rare Book and Special Collections Division amount to nearly 800,000 books, encompassing nearly all eras and subjects maintained in well over 100 separate collections. All of these collections offer scholarly documentation about the western and American traditions of life and learning. The Division’s collection of nearly 5,700 incunabula (fifteenth-century imprints) is the largest such grouping in the Western Hemisphere. Our Americana collections include more than 16,000 imprints from 1640 to 1800, including the Columbus letter of 1493.”

“The digitized selections offered here represent a few of the most interesting and important items in the collection, including a copy of the Gutenberg Bible, Thomas Jefferson’s copy of The Federalist, medieval manuscripts, books relating to cookery, children’s literature, and many more.”

“The Rare Book and Special Collections Division traces its beginnings to Thomas Jefferson’s wish to create a library for statesmen and for the people of the new nation. After the British burned the Capitol and its library in 1814, Jefferson offered to sell his book collection to Congress. Congress appropriated money for the purchase, and Jefferson’s collection served as the foundation for the new Library of Congress in 1815. Jefferson’s books—in several languages and covering a great variety of subjects—today form the nucleus of the division. (Also see: The First Booklist of the Library of Congress: A Facsimile, Washington, DC, 1981.)”


Open Access
t's Time for Congress to Pass an Open Access Law

“The public should be able to read and use the scientific research we paid for. That’s the simple premise of the Fair Access to Science and Technology Research Act, or FASTR (S. 1701, H.R. 3427). Despite broad bipartisan support on both sides of the aisle, FASTR has been stuck in Congressional gridlock for four years. As we celebrate Open Access week, please take a moment to urge your members of Congress to pass this common-sense law.”

“Under FASTR, every federal agency that spends more than $100 million on grants for research would be required to adopt an open access policy. The bill gives each agency flexibility to choose a policy suited to the work it funds, as long as research is available to the public after an embargo period. (The House bill sets the embargo at a year, while the Senate bill sets it at six months. EFF supports an embargo period of six months or shorter.)”

“Sen. Rand Paul recently incorporated the text of FASTR into his BASIC Research Act (S. 1973), a bill that would place several new requirements on government agencies that fund research, including adding a ‘taxpayer advocate’ to every federal panel that approves research grants. Sen. Paul’s bill is clearly driven by a skepticism toward what he sees as ‘silly research.’”

“Initially organizing as the Occupy Oakland Privacy Working Group, Oakland Privacy began meeting in July of 2013, with a mission to stop Oakland’s Domain Awareness Center (DAC). The DAC, first approved by the City of Oakland City Council as a port security monitoring system, was moving toward approval of a second phase by the Summer of 2013. Phase II would have expanded the DAC into a city-wide surveillance apparatus that would have combined feeds from cameras, microphones, and other electronic monitoring assets throughout the city. Local authorities and their partners would have had an unprecedented ability to surveil the people of Oakland.”

“As one might expect, the proposal raised significant concerns for Oakland residents.”

“Oakland Privacy members recognized that a successful campaign would require a broad coalition of local partners and national civil rights advocates. Working with organizations such as Lighthouse Mosque, ONYX/Anti-Police Terror Project, Justice for Alan Blueford, and the Dan Siegel for Mayor Campaign, Oakland Privacy stopped the DAC’s expansion beyond the Port of Oakland.”

Privacy

Oakland Privacy and the Fight for Community Control

“Many groups in the Electronic Frontier Alliance work to ensure that their neighbors have the tools they need to maintain control of their information. Others devote their efforts to community organizing or advocacy, assuring that authorities respect the civil and privacy rights of people in their community. For over four years, Oakland Privacy has been a notable example of the latter.”

SF Bay Region Chapter Holiday Party and Annual Awards Ceremony

Categories: Bayline, Chapter Programs & Events Tags: awards, events
announcing the Chapter Awards!

Tuesday, December 5, 2016, 5:30 – 8:00 pm
Jillian’s
175 Fourth Street, Suite 170, San Francisco
(7 min walk from Powell BART & Muni Stations)
http://www.jillianssf.com/

Join us on Tuesday, December 5, for our annual Holiday Party. In addition to drinks, nibbly bits, and a pool table, we’ll be

Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety; attribution appreciated. The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.

Share this:
Privacy:

Supreme Court to Decide Major Internet Privacy and Jurisdiction Case
We love the cloud. We store our documents there. Our e-mails travel through cloud or other third-party providers. Now the U.S. Supreme Court is poised to decide whether the physical location of both the communications or documents themselves, or the location or citizenship of the people who are communicating, is relevant in deciding whether the government (or others) can get access to the contents of the records. In other words, does place matter anymore in cyberspace?

The case arises out of a search warrant issued by New York federal prosecutors to compel Microsoft to produce the contents of e-mails relevant to an ongoing drug case. While the Redmond, Washington, company agreed to turn over the e-mails which were located on servers within the United States, they refused to produce records outside the United States (specifically in Dublin, Ireland) as being outside the jurisdictional limit of U.S. search warrants.

The parties agreed that, if Microsoft wanted to, it could type a few keys in Redmond and “call up” these documents from the Irish servers. But that’s not the point, Microsoft asserted: The records are in Dublin.

The Chilling Surveillance and Wrongful Arrest of a Chinese-American Physics Professor
Most of the innocent people whose emails and phone calls the government spies on never find out. Not so for Professor Xiaoxing Xi, a Chinese-American physics professor at Temple University. One morning in May 2015, FBI agents showed up at Professor Xi’s house before dawn. They arrested him at gunpoint while his wife and daughters looked on, and went through the family’s home from top to bottom. The government charged Professor Xi with wire fraud, but in its court filings, it cast him as a spy for China who shared sensitive technology.

Four agonizing months later, all charges were dropped. Government agents, he learned, had been secretly spying on his private communications, possibly for years, using tools designed for pursuing foreign agents. Yet the indictment that resulted from this investigation was simply wrong and, ultimately, appeared to be based on misrepresentations about scientific facts and technology.

The consequences of this spying — and the baseless prosecution that followed — were devastating for Professor Xi and his family. His academic reputation was shattered. Temple University forced him to take administrative leave and suspended him as interim chair of the Department of Physics. He could no longer access his lab or the students under his supervision, preventing him from working on state-of-the-art research projects.

Social Media:

Feinstein Gives Fullest Picture Yet Of The Extent Of Russia’s Social Media Push
A Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on the social media portion of Russia’s 2016 election interference opened Tuesday with portentous statements from Sens. Lindsay Graham (R-SC), Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) and Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), the latter of whom rattled off some numbers that gave the fullest picture yet of the extent of the disinformation campaign.

“Facebook has identified 470 accounts tied to the Internet Research Agency,” Feinstein said, referring to a Russian troll farm. “Twitter has identified 2,752 IRA-related accounts and almost 37,000 Russian linked accounts that generated automated election content. From what we’ve seen so far, Russian backed trolls used fake accounts on Facebook for more than 3,000 paid advertisements.” Reports out Monday said Facebook would tell lawmakers that those advertisements reached approximately 126 million people.

The Twitter revelations, however, are far more significant: The platform appears to have identified not just the accounts run directly by Russian trolls working for the IRA (now the Federal News Agency, or FAN), but 37,000 automated accounts that generated information that would promote Russian interests in the American election.

Fed up, two UC Berkeley students launch tool to spot Twitter bots
Two UC Berkeley undergraduate computer science students are doing what they say Twitter won’t: sorting out and tagging the
angry propaganda bots designed to undermine, destabilize and inflame American political discourse. This week, the two 20-year-olds, Ash Bhat and Rohan Phadte, launched a Google Chrome browser extension that puts a button onto every Twitter profile and tweet. With a click on the Botcheck.me button, users can see if the account is run by a person or automated program, based on the pair’s own machine-learning model.

Bhat told a reporter for Wired magazine, which profiled the pair, that “by making data available for other fellow Americans’ their project is “pushing back” against Russian interference in the election. “The very existence of their project raises an important question: If two volunteer data science students who are barely out of their teens can figure out how to hang out Twitter’s bad-actor bots, why doesn’t Twitter do the same?,” writer Lauren Smiley asked in Wired.


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Government:

Trump Pick for White House Environmental Council Profited from Oil Drilling, Energy Industry Speaking Fees

Kathleen Hartnett White, President Trump’s nominee to head the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), has recently made money from both leases on oil drilling and speaking fees at conferences sponsored by the fossil fuel industry. These new details come from Hartnett White’s financial disclosure, obtained by DeSmog. If her nomination is confirmed, Hartnett White will be charged with interagency coordination of science, energy, and environmental policy and with overseeing crucial environmental review processes for new energy and infrastructure projects. The CEQ, a division of the Executive Office of the President, was established in 1969 as part of the landmark National Environmental Policy Act. A longtime vocal climate change science denier, Hartnett White directs the Center for Energy and the Environment at the conservative think tank Texas Public Policy Foundation. The foundation’s funders include several major oil and gas companies and climate-denying organizations such as ExxonMobil, the Heartland Institute, and Koch Industries. Her writings online and elsewhere indicate she categorically denies the science of climate change, calling climatologists “warmists” and lambasting the “green media crusade.”


The First FBI Crime Report Issued Under Trump Is Missing A Ton Of Info

Every year, the FBI releases a report that is considered the gold standard for tracking crime statistics in the United States: the Crime in the United States report, a collection of crime statistics gathered from over 18,000 law-enforcement agencies in cities around the country. But according to an analysis by FiveThirtyEight, the 2016 Crime in the United States report — the first released under President Trump’s administration — contains close to 70 percent fewer data tables than the 2015 version did, a removal that could affect analysts’ understanding of crime trends in the country. The removal comes after consecutive years in which violent crime rose nationally, and it limits access to high-quality crime data that could help inform solutions.

Published under the auspices of the Uniform Crime Reporting Program, the Crime in the United States report contains national data on homicides, violent crimes, arrests, clearances and police employment that has been collected since the 1960s. The UCR’s report is an invaluable resource for researchers who track national crime trends and is a rich reference database for journalists and members of the general public who are interested in official crime statistics. Among the data missing from the 2016 report is information on arrests, the circumstances of homicides (such as the relationships between victims and perpetrators), and the only national estimate of annual gang murders. Although the removal of the tables makes it more difficult to get information on one of the White House’s most prominent causes, it also seems like part of a trend in the Trump administration: the suppression of government data and an unwillingness to share information with the press and public.


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Technology:

AI image recognition fooled by single pixel change

Computers can be fooled into thinking a picture of a taxi is a dog just by changing one pixel, suggests research. The limitations emerged from Japanese work on ways to fool widely used AI-based image recognition systems. Many other scientists are now creating “adversarial” example images to expose the fragility of certain types of recognition software. There is no quick and easy way to fix image recognition systems to stop them being fooled in this way, warn experts. In their research, Su Jiawei and colleagues at Kyushu University made tiny changes to lots of pictures that were then analysed by widely used AI-based image recognition systems. All the systems they tested were based around a type of AI known as deep neural networks. Typically these systems learn by being trained with lots of different examples to give them a sense of how objects, like dogs and taxis, differ.

The researchers found that changing one pixel in about 74% of the test images made the neural nets wrongly label what they saw. Some errors were near misses, such as a cat being mistaken for a dog, but others, including labelling a stealth bomber a dog, were far wider of the mark.


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Public Policy:
USA Liberty Act Won’t Fix What’s Most Broken with NSA Internet Surveillance
A key legal linchpin for the National Security Agency’s vast Internet surveillance program is scheduled to disappear in under 90 days. Section 702 of FISA—enacted in 2008 with little public awareness about the scope and power of the NSA’s surveillance of the Internet—supposedly directs the NSA’s powerful surveillance apparatus toward legitimate foreign intelligence targets overseas. Instead, the surveillance has been turned back on us. Despite repeated inquiries from Congress, the NSA has yet to publicly disclose how many Americans are impacted by this surveillance.

With the law’s sunset looming, Congress is taking up the issue. The USA Liberty Act, introduced by Representatives Goodlatte (R-Va.), John Conyers (D-Mich.), Jim Sensenbrenner (R-Wis.), and others, may offer a chance to address some of the worst abuses of NSA Internet surveillance even as it reauthorizes some components of the surveillance for another six years. But the first draft of the bill falls short. The bill doesn’t effectively end the practice of “backdoor searching,” when government agents—including domestic law enforcement not working on issues of national security—search through the NSA-gathered communications of Americans without any form of warrant from a judge. It doesn’t institute adequate transparency and oversight measures, and it doesn’t deal with misuse of the state secrets privilege, which has been invoked to stave off lawsuits against mass surveillance. Perhaps most importantly, the bill won’t curtail the NSA’s practices of collecting data on innocent people.

Transparency groups push OMB, DOJ to finalize ‘Release to One, Release to All’ FOIA policy
An initiative begun under President Barack Obama that would require FOIA releases to be made broadly available appears to be languishing without further attention under the Trump administration, so a group of transparency organizations is pushing for action. Led by Cause of Action Institute and the Sunlight Foundation, the group sent a letter and a request for rulemaking to Office of Management and Budget Director Mick Mulvaney and Department of Justice Information Policy Director Melanie Ann Pustay asking the agencies to finalize the “Release to One, Release to All” rule.

The road to this point began in July 2015 when, for the 49th anniversary of the Freedom of Information Act, the DOJ’s OIP launched a “proactive release” pilot program. During the six-month program, the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, the Millennium Challenge Corporation and the Environmental Protection Agency — as well as components or offices of the Departments of Defense, Homeland Security and Justice and the National Archives and Records Administration — experimented with a policy whereby when information is made public to one person under FOIA, it is made public to everyone.


Research:

Moving Backwards: Ten Years of Progress on Global Gender Parity Stalls in 2017
A decade of slow but steady progress on improving parity between the sexes came to a halt in 2017, with the global gender gap widening for the first time since the World Economic Forum’s Global Gender Gap Report was first published in 2006.

The findings in this year’s report show that, overall, 68% of the global gender gap has been closed. This is a slight deterioration on 2016 and 2015, when the gap was 68.3% and 68.1%, respectively. Behind the decline is a widening of the gender gap across all four of the report’s pillars: Educational Attainment, Health and Survival, Economic Opportunity and Political Empowerment. These latter two areas are of particular concern because they already carry the largest gaps and, until this year, were registering the fastest progress. At the current rate of progress, the global gender gap will take 100 years to close, compared to 83 last year. The workplace gender gap will now not be closed for 217 years, the report estimates. But with various studies linking gender parity to better economic performance, a number of countries are bucking the dismal global trend: over one-half of all 144 countries measured this year have seen their score improve in the past 12 months.


Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety; attribution appreciated.

The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.

Meet Our New Slate of Officers for 2018
We are very happy to announce that the Nominations Committee has secured nominations for all 2018 open positions on the Executive Board of the San Francisco Bay Region Chapter. We will be sending out a link to the ballot on which you can vote for these professional colleagues whose biographies are below. If you wish to nominate anyone else please submit your nomination to the Chair of the committee, Sandy Malloy, no later than 11/13/17.

Many thanks to our hard-working committee; and many MANY thanks to our nominees!

**OFFICER CANDIDATES FOR THE PROGRAM YEAR BEGINNING 1/1/18:**

**President-Elect: Michael Sholinbeck**

Michael has worked for the UC Berkeley Public Health Library since 2002, and is currently the Outreach & Instruction Librarian. Michael coordinates the instruction activities of the library, both to the School of Public Health, and to State of California public health professionals. He also conducts literature searches for California public health professionals. Michael has been a member of SLA since 2003, and has been active in the Environment and Resource Management Division, as well as the San Francisco Bay Region Chapter. He is currently on SLA’s Diversity & Inclusion Task Force, appointed by SLA President Dee Magnoni. Michael has a MLIS from San Jose State University, an MA in Geography from Oregon State University, and a BA in geography from UC Berkeley. When not at work he lives out his fantasy as a rock and roll drummer.

**Treasurer: Grace Kim**

Grace Kim is the Assessment and Outreach Librarian at Notre Dame de Namur University in Belmont, California. She became a librarian because she values how information is saved, retrieved, interpreted, and used. She did not intend to be in an education environment, but enjoys working with students and faculty on information literacy and research skills. Grace is involved with SLA at the local level, the San Francisco Bay Region chapter, as well as serving as webmaster for the Leadership and Management Division. As a student, she was involved with the student chapter and her involvement as a student has inspired her to pursue different avenues of librarianship. With the support of fellow SLA members, especially the student chapter chair and faculty advisor, Grace has expanded her horizons beyond her initial interest in corporate archives. Grace has many hobbies but currently has not had time to enjoy any of them. They include lindy hop dancing, hiking, running, swimming, and reading mysteries.

**Assistant Programs Chair: Maureen Mason**

Maureen Mason received her Masters degree in Information & Library Science at Simmons College in Boston and worked for several professional services firms as a Researcher and a Knowledge Manager. An exciting opportunity to join the technology company Dropbox led to a move the San Francisco Bay Area. Maureen is passionate about the creation and sharing of knowledge. Outside of work she enjoys spending time with her family, exploring the city, and hiking.
Take Action!

Urge Congress to Support Robust Hate Crime Data Collection: The NO HATE Act of 2017
The National Opposition to Hate, Assault, and Threats to Equality Act of 2017 (NO HATE) Act (S. 662/HR 1566), introduced by Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) and Representative Don Beyer (D-VA) seeks to improve hate crime reporting and data collection. The 2015 FBI Hate Crimes Statistics report shows that at least 85 police agencies in cities over 100,000 in population did not provide data to the FBI – or affirmatively reported that they had zero hate crimes. Data drives policy. The NO HATE Act would provide incentives for hate crime reporting, grants for State-run hate crime hotlines, a Federal private right of action for victims of hate crimes, and additional sentencing options for individuals convicted under the Matthew Shephard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act. Urge Your Members to help improve federal data on hate crimes by supporting the NO HATE Act (S. 662/HR 1566)

Take Action here:

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Freedom of Information:

Energy undersecretary wants nuclear safety reports hidden from public
The head of the federal agency that produces U.S. nuclear weapons has privately proposed to end public access to key safety reports from a federal watchdog group that monitors ten sites involved in weapons production. Frank Klotz, administrator of the Energy Department’s National Nuclear Security Administration, made the proposal to members of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board in his office overlooking the Smithsonian Castle on the National Mall, multiple U.S. officials said. Four of the safety board’s five members heard Klotz’s appeal, and one of them — Bruce Hamilton, a Republican — responded by drafting and briefly circulating a proposal among the members to stop releasing the board’s weekly and monthly accounts of safety concerns at nuclear weapons factories and laboratories. https://www.publicintegrity.org/node/21261.

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Publishing:

Leading Western Publisher Bows to Chinese Censorship
One of the world’s largest academic publishers was criticized on Wednesday for bowing to pressure from the Chinese government to block access to hundreds of articles on its Chinese website. Springer Nature, whose publications include Nature and Scientific American, acknowledged that at the government’s request, it had removed articles from its mainland site that touch on topics the ruling Communist Party considers sensitive, including Taiwan, Tibet, human rights and elite politics. The publisher defended its decision, saying that only 1 percent of its content was inaccessible in mainland China. Many of the censored articles focus on issues that government has long deemed sensitive, including human rights. But even articles that only briefly touch on these topics appear to be blocked, suggesting that Springer Nature is using broad criteria in deciding which content to censor. For example, one censored article focuses on the disputed South China Sea, a topic widely covered in China’s state-run news media. Springer Nature did not elaborate on its methods, saying only that it deferred to the local authorities in deciding which articles to block. >https://www.nytimes.com/2017/11/01/world/asia/china-springer-nature-censorship.html.

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Privacy:

Equifax says it owns all its data about you
Members of the Senate Commerce Committee challenged Equifax’s chief executive Wednesday about the credit reporting agency’s sweeping data collection and its one-sided relationship with millions of Americans whose personal information it harvests for profit. Equifax revealed in September that attackers may have compromised the sensitive information of as many as 145 million people. But for many Americans — and for Senators at Wednesday’s hearing — it was unclear why Equifax was storing information about them in the first place. In one notable exchange, Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto (D-Nev.) asked the interim chief executive officer of Equifax, Paulino do Rego Barros, why consumers do not have a say in opting in or out of the company’s data collection. “This is part of the way the economy works,” Barros said. But he was swiftly interrupted. “The consumer doesn’t have a choice, sir. The consumer does not have a choice on the data that you’re collecting,” Masto said. After confirming with Barros that it is Equifax, and not consumers, that owns all the granular data collected about them, and that consumers cannot request to exit the company’s files, Sen. Cory Gardner (R-Col.) asked the current Equifax chief if it was right that the company maintains that arrangement. “I think it’s not my perspective to say it’s right or wrong,” Barros said.

Verizon Asks the Federal Communications Commission to Prohibit States from Protecting User Privacy
After lobbying Congress to repeal consumer privacy protections over ISPs, Verizon wants the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to do it a favor and preempt states from restoring their privacy rights. While
Congress repealed the previous FCC’s privacy rule, it left the underlying Section 222 intact. As a result, dozens of state bills were then introduced to restore broadband privacy, mirroring Section 222 of the Communications Act. Verizon’s two-pronged attack on privacy protections for Internet users would require the FCC to not only abandon federal privacy protections (which is part of their Title II common carrier obligations), but to also prohibit states from protecting the privacy of their residents. It is not clear that the FCC can reach so far under its Title III authority to block states that want to regulate business practices that are unrelated to the underlying service being offered. The practice of monetizing the personal information of users with third parties is explicitly a business practice and wholly unnecessary to the provisioning of wireless broadband service. You do not need to monetize someone’s web browsing history in order to provide them a wireless network function, particularly given that Americans already pay substantial subscription fees for that service. It is also worth noting that the cellular industry has long lived under privacy rules that were intended to also apply to mobile broadband until Congress intervened. 


 Intellectual Property:

US Court Grants ISPs and Search Engine Blockade of Sci-Hub

Sci-Hub, often referred to as the “Pirate Bay of Science,” has suffered another blow in a US federal court. The American Chemical Society has won a default judgment of $4.8 million for alleged copyright infringement against the site. In addition, the publisher was granted an unprecedented injunction which requires search engines and ISPs to block the platform. Earlier this year the American Chemical Society (ACS), a leading source of academic publications in the field of chemistry, filed a lawsuit against Sci-Hub and its operator Alexandra Elbakyan. The non-profit organization publishes tens of thousands of articles a year in its peer-reviewed journals. Because many of these are available for free on Sci-Hub, ACS wants to be compensated. Sci-Hub was made aware of the legal proceedings but did not appear in court. As a result, a default was entered against the site. In addition to millions of dollars in damages, ACS also requested third-party Internet intermediaries to take action against the site. Just before the weekend, US District Judge Leonie Brinkema issued a final decision which is a clear win for ACS. The publisher was awarded the maximum statutory damages of $4.8 million for 32 infringing works, as well as a permanent injunction. The injunction is not limited to domain name registrars and hosting companies, but expands to search engines, ISPs and hosting companies too, who can be ordered to stop linking to or offering services to Sci-Hub. 


Open Data:

Religious Festivals Linked to Major Flu Outbreaks

Seasonal influenza kills between 250,000 and 500,000 people every year, according to the World Health Organization. That makes it one of the world’s major health hazards. Epidemiologists have spent significant resources studying flu and the way it spreads. And yet the processes that trigger flu epidemics are still not fully understood. The WHO collects figures showing the weekly rate of infection in most countries, providing a wealth of information for epidemiologists seeking to predict when outbreaks are likely and to plan vaccination programs based on predictions about which strain poses the greatest risk. But much more can be gleaned from the data. Flu passes easily between individuals who come into contact, suggesting that mass gatherings should promote its spread. Religious festivals such as the Hajj and Hanukkah, which bring together millions of people, ought to play a significant role. Today, Alice Chiu Qianying Lin and Dahi He, at Hong Kong Polytechnic University in China, say they have studied flu infection rates in a number of Middle Eastern countries and their link with religious festivals for the first time. And they say their results have important implications for the timing of vaccination programs.

Hanukkah is an eight-day Jewish festival celebrated in November or December. It is a significant holiday in Israel, where families come together to celebrate. The Hajj is an annual five-day festival in which millions of Islamic pilgrims travel to Mecca in Saudi Arabia. In 2016, some 1.8 million pilgrims made the journey. Chiu and co reason that these festivals should have a significant impact on flu infection rates. However, the effect of the Hajj is difficult to study because Saudi Arabia does not make flu infection data publicly available. Instead, Chiu and co downloaded flu infection data between 2009 and 2017 from six countries that border Saudi Arabia: Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Oman, and Qatar. They also downloaded the rates for Israel over the same period. The team then plotted the figures over time and compared the infection patterns with the timing of the festivals. “Our aim is to study the impacts of these religious festivals on the patterns of influenza,” they say. The results show a striking pattern. “In all study years but 2009, influenza A peaked after Hanukkah in Israel,” say the researchers. “Furthermore, the aggregated influenza A confirmations of the other six Middle East countries peaked after Hajj consistently each year.”


 Technology:

TSA Plans to Use Face Recognition to Track Americans Through Airports
The “PreCheck” program is billed as a convenient service to allow U.S. travelers to “speed through security” at airports. However, the latest proposal released by the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) reveals the Department of Homeland Security’s greater underlying plan to collect face images and iris scans on a nationwide scale. DHS’s programs will become a massive violation of privacy that could serve as a gateway to the collection of biometric data to identify and track every traveler at every airport and border crossing in the country.

Currently TSA collects fingerprints as part of its application process for people who want to apply for PreCheck. So far, TSA hasn’t used those prints for anything besides the mandatory background check that’s part of the process. But this summer, TSA ran a pilot program at Atlanta’s Hartsfield-Jackson Airport and at Denver International Airport that used those prints and a contactless fingerprint reader to verify the identity of PreCheck-approved travelers at security checkpoints at both airports. Now TSA wants to roll out this program to airports across the country and expand it to encompass face recognition, iris scans, and other biometrics as well. TSA’s PreCheck program has already expanded outside the airport context. The vendor for PreCheck, a company called Idemia (formerly MorphoTrust), now offers expedited entry for PreCheck-approved travelers at concerts and stadiums across the country. Idemia says it will equip stadiums with biometric-based technology, not just for security, but also “to assist in fan experience.” Adding face recognition would allow Idemia to track fans as they move throughout the stadium, just as another company, NEC, is already doing at a professional soccer stadium in Medellin, Colombia and at an LPGA championship event in California earlier this year.


Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety; attribution appreciated.

The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.

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**Jobline 2017/11/11**


Research Librarian – San Francisco, Los Angeles, or Silicon Valley

Taylor & Associates has an opening for a research librarian for a law firm. The Research Librarian provides substantive and advanced research in intellectual property, corporations/securities, legislative research, and other legal and factual or financial research.

**Responsibilities**

Provide research to attorneys and staff throughout the firm using a variety of business, government, and legal information resources

Use firm technology to provide timely and accurate monitoring, intake, and assignment of requests directed to Library Services

Set up and maintain alerts on companies, cases, and topical areas for individual attorneys and attorney groups

Build relationships with practice groups to facilitate educating them on available knowledge sources

Maintain knowledge of and fluency in the firm’s electronic databases, and assist end-users with guidance and training in these resources

Promote knowledge resources through attorney orientation and training, creating pathfinders and resource guides, etc.

Provide back-up support to interlibrary loan and document retrieval assistant

Evaluate and test electronic resources to assist in identifying services that meet and advance firm, client, and business development information and efficiency needs

Assist with maintaining the local office physical library space and resources

Mentor research librarians and library staff

**Qualifications**

MLS or comparable and/or JD from an accredited university

Minimum of 2 years law librarian experience

Extensive knowledge of legal and non-legal electronic resources

Excellent internet research skills, including social media research

Solid Excel skills including the ability to create charts, graphs, and pivot tables

Experience in giving oral training presentations

Experience with library OPAC platforms; SydneyEnterprise experience a plus

Ability to work as part of a virtual team

Ability to work on a scheduled basis after-hours and on weekends to address urgent requests

To apply, please send resume to Catherine Ghent

When applying, please mention that you found this position
Jobline 2017/11/12

Knowledge Management Specialist – Oakland, CA

Taylor & Associates is seeking a Knowledge Management Specialist to assist in the development and implementation of KM strategies for our client. The KM Specialist will be responsible for collecting information from various teams and departments and ensuring it is preserved and available digitally.

Responsibilities:

1. Knowledge Management
   - Gather information regarding legal technology, news, law practice management, and legal marketplace including competing products/organizations
   - Disseminate relevant project information to departments in both online and live presentation formats

2. Market Intelligence
   - Track legal industry trends, to include changes in practice areas and market segments, legal technology, data analytics and AI, communication and marketing, continuing legal education/CLE, law schools and legal publishing, and communicate new developments to relevant departments and working groups; produce an annual trends report
   - Perform competitor analyses

3. Training and Technology
   - Serve as Business Owner for organization’s SharePoint sites. Determine standards for consistency.
   - Design and implement ongoing programs in online legal research, market research, SharePoint, knowledge management, and general computer skills
   - Organize and maintain training documentation and other information resources
   - Make recommendations regarding legal technologies/software

4. Manage Copyright Compliance and Reprint Permissions

Qualifications

- MLIS and/or JD
- 5 years of technical services experience, or an equivalent combination of education and experience; 2 years of experience in knowledge management preferred
- Strong customer service orientation and outstanding interpersonal and communication skills
- Excellent working knowledge of multiple computer applications and web-based research tools
- Advanced knowledge of SharePoint
- Excellent writing skills
- Excellent analytical and presentation skills
- Demonstrated ability to develop and deliver training programs
- Previous law firm experience strongly preferred

Please send resumes to Catherine Ghent (taylorlb@taylorlib.com)

When applying, please mention that you found this position listing on SLA SV/SF Jobline. Thank you!

Please vote for officer candidates by December 1st

Here is the ballot:
https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6KNHSSB
Thank you very much and we hope to see many of you at the Holiday Party when we will announce the official results.

Intersect Alert November 19, 2017


Take Action!

Participate in the Archiving of Vulnerable Federal Web Pages and Data
The Environmental Data & Governance Initiative (EDGI) is an international network of academics and non-profits addressing potential threats to federal environmental and energy policy, and to the scientific research infrastructure built to investigate, inform, and enforce them. EDGI seeks to preserve publicly accessible and potentially vulnerable scientific data and archive web pages from EPA, DOE, NOAA, OSHA, NASA, USDA, DOI, and USGS. Their archiving work has primarily occurred through more than 30 DataRescue events, also called “archive-a-thons,” at cities across the U.S. and Canada. With the help of the Internet Archive and DataRefuge, these efforts directly contributed to the largest recorded End of Term harvest. Between Fall 2016 and Spring 2017, the Internet Archive archived over 200 terabytes of government websites and data. This includes over 100TB of public websites and over 100TB of public data from federal FTP file servers totaling, together, over 350 million URLs/files. This includes over 70 million html pages, over 40 million PDFs and, towards the other end of the spectrum and for semantic web aficionados, 8 files of the text/turtle mime type. Other End of Term partners have also been vigorously preserving websites and data from the .gov/.mil web domains. In addition, the EDGI volunteer tech team of over 30 contributors has built open source and freely available tools and projects for grassroots archiving, all available to the public on our GitHub. The next phase ofarchiving, “Data Together,” is described on the EDGI blog. The End of Term harvest is over, but there are still ways to preserve programs or datasets you are concerned about:
– Check whether it has already been preserved [follow links here]

DataRefuge CKAN Repository
Internet Archive’s End of Term Archive, also accessible via the Wayback Machine
Archivers.space Coverage Visualization Tool
– Nominate web pages or datasets using the Government Web & Data Archive bookmarklet or our Chrome Nomination Extension
– Securely contact us with information about vulnerable programs or data via EnviroDGI@protonmail.com
Sound like a good information professional activity..?
More information on the EDGI Archiving data web page and

Public Policy:

Automated “Extreme Vetting” Won’t Work and Will Be Discriminatory
Today, CDT joined 55 civil society groups, as well as leading computer and data science experts, to oppose the Department of Homeland Security’s (DHS) automated extreme vetting initiative. Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE) plans to use automated technology and social media data to decide who gets deported or denied entry to the United States. This initiative is not only discriminatory but also technically infeasible.

ICE is seeking a contractor to automate parts of the administration’s “extreme vetting” process, which will involve analyzing people’s social media posts and other online speech, including academic websites, blogs, and news websites. The stated goal of this vetting is to “evaluate an applicant’s probability of becoming a positively contributing member of society as well as their ability to contribute to the national interests” and to “assess whether an applicant intends to commit criminal or terrorist acts after entering the United States” (language from the January 27th executive order known as the original “Muslim ban”). ICE intends to award the contract for this technology by September 2018. Existing technology is not capable of making these determinations. Indeed, the concept of “becoming a positively contributing member of society” is amorphous and inherently vulnerable to biased interpretation and decision-making. Using automated analyses of social media posts and other online content to make immigration and deportation decisions would be ineffective, discriminatory, and would chill free speech.

Even state-of-the-art tools for performing automated analysis of text cannot make nuanced determinations about its meaning or the intent of the speaker. Machine-learning models must be trained to identify certain types of content by learning from examples selected and labelled by humans. That means the humans training the model have to know what they’re looking
for, and be able to define it. But there is no definition (in law or in publicly available records) of what makes someone likely to become “a positively contributing member of society” or to “contribute to the national interests.” Even humans would be hard-pressed to make these determinations, and automated technology is far behind humans when it comes to understanding the meaning of language.

Instead, automated tools are likely to rely on proxies, such as whether a post is negative toward the United States. Even for this type of analysis, existing methods are inaccurate. When it comes to determining whether a social media post is positive, negative, or neutral, even the highest performing tools only reach about 70% to 80% accuracy (measured against human analyses). The government should not use predictive tools that are wrong 20% to 30% of the time to make decisions restricting people’s liberty or speech. [link]

Open Data:

A New Algorithm Can Spot Pneumonia Better Than a Radiologist

Add diagnosing dangerous lung diseases to the growing list of things artificial intelligence can do better than humans. A new arXiv paper by researchers from Stanford explains how CheXNet, the convolutional neural network they developed, achieved the feat. CheXNet was trained on a publicly available data set of more than 100,000 chest x-rays that were annotated with information on 14 different diseases that turn up in the images. The researchers had four radiologists go through a test set of x-rays and make diagnoses, which were compared with diagnoses performed by CheXNet. Not only did CheXNet beat radiologists at spotting pneumonia, but once the algorithm was expanded, it proved better at identifying the other 13 diseases as well.

Early detection of pneumonia could help prevent some of the 50,000 deaths the disease causes in the U.S. each year. Pneumonia is also the single largest infectious cause of death for children worldwide, killing almost a million children under the age of five in 2015. Andrew Ng, a coauthor of the paper and the former head of AI research at Baidu, thinks AI is going to be relied upon in medicine more and more. He previously worked on an algorithm that can, after being trained on electrocardiogram (ECG) data, identify heart arrhythmias better than a human expert. Another deep-learning algorithm recently published in Nature was able to spot cancerous skin lesions just as well as a board-certified dermatologist.

Radiologists in particular have been on notice for a while. Previous research has shown that AI is as good as or better than doctors at spotting problems in CT scans. Geoffrey Hinton, one of the pioneers of deep learning, told the New Yorker that because of the advances in AI, medical schools “should stop training radiologists now.” Analyzing image-based data sets like x-rays, CT scans, and medical photos is what deep-learning algorithms excel at. And they could very well save lives. [link]

House passes OPEN Act to improve public access to government data

On Wednesday, November 15, the House of Representatives passed ALA-supported legislation to improve public access to government data. The Open, Public, Electronic, and Necessary (OPEN) Government Data Act was included as part of the Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act (H.R. 4174), which the House passed by voice vote. Passage of the bill represents a victory for library advocates, who have supported the legislation since it was first introduced last year. The OPEN Government Data Act would make more government data freely available online, in machine-readable formats, and discoverable through a federal data catalog. The legislation would codify and build upon then-President Obama’s 2013 executive order. [link]

Technology:

Big Data and Social Justice are on a Collision Course

Have you ever felt like you missed the boat on a huge opportunity? I do. A friend once told me to buy bitcoin when it was $80; now it’s almost $5,000 and my stomach clenches thinking about what could have been. I get that same feeling when I think about big data and the opportunity it presents for communities of color. The world’s most valuable resource is now big data; it’s even been called the “new oil.” Machine learning and predictive analytics are the oil rigs and refineries that mine and process data to find valuable business insights. Corporations race to tap into big data because it helps them innovate faster, sell more, track trends, and manipulate public opinion. What’s missing from this conversation is social justice: how big data can be used to both harm and help efforts to bridge America’s widening racial and economic divides. Algorithmic predictions can be off the mark for many reasons, starting with the fact that data and the people who program predictive algorithms can be biased. Bias enters into algorithmic decision-making systems because at the end of the day, the inputs to that system come from people. Like our children, algorithms learn from us and that means we can transmit our implicit or explicit biases to them. As is so often the case, this bias negatively affects people of color. For example, if an algorithm for face recognition or judging beauty is trained with only white faces, that program will be biased towards white women in beauty contests or mistakenly label black faces as gorillas. These types of problems can be addressed through greater diversity and inclusion among the teams that design algorithms and feed it data. A harder problem arises when the data itself reflects systemic bias. [link]
AI Can Be Made Legally Accountable for Its Decisions
Computer scientists, cognitive scientists, and legal scholars say AI systems should be able to explain their decisions without revealing all their secrets. Artificial intelligence is set to play a significantly greater role in society. And that raises the issue of accountability. If we rely on machines to make increasingly important decisions, we will need to have mechanisms of redress should the results turn out to be unacceptable or difficult to understand. But making AI systems explain their decisions is not entirely straightforward. One problem is that explanations are not free; they require considerable resources both in the development of the AI system and in the way it is interrogated in practice.

Under U.S. law, explanations are required in a wide variety of situations and in varying levels of detail. For example, explanations are required in cases of strict liability, divorce, or discrimination; for administrative decisions; and for judges and juries. But the level of detail varies hugely. All that has important implications for AI systems. Doshi-Velez and co conclude that legally feasible explanations are possible for AI systems. This is because the explanation for a decision can be made separately from a description of its inner workings. What’s more, the team say that an explanation system should be considered distinct from the AI system.

https://www.technologyreview.com/s/609495/ai-can-be-made-legally-accountable-for-its-decisions/

Freedom of Information:

FCC Proposes Eliminating Mandatory Cable Reporting, Allowing for Greater Industry Abuse of Consumers
Today, the Federal Communications Commission voted to approve a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that proposes eliminating the mandatory reporting form (“Form 325”) the FCC uses to track cable prices and subscriber information. The FCC is required by law to report annually to Congress on both cable pricing and competition in the cable industry. Public Knowledge has repeatedly advocated for Congress and the FCC to take action to eliminate cable price gouging and take steps to enhance competition in the video industry. The FCC’s annual reports on cable pricing and cable competition are one of the few non-proprietary, publicly available sources of information on the structure of the cable industry and pricing in the cable industry. It is a major source of information for consumers, reporters, advocates, and policymakers.


Internet Users:

Lateral Reading: Reading Less and Learning More When Evaluating Digital Information
The Internet has democratized access to information but in so doing has opened the floodgates to misinformation, fake news, and rank propaganda masquerading as dispassionate analysis. To investigate how people determine the credibility of digital information, we sampled 45 individuals: 10 Ph.D. historians, 10 professional fact checkers, and 25 Stanford University undergraduates. We observed them as they evaluated live websites and searched for information on social and political issues. Historians and students often fell victim to easily manipulated features of websites, such as official-looking logos and domain names. They read vertically, staying within a website to evaluate its reliability. In contrast, fact checkers read laterally, leaving a site after a quick scan and opening up new browser tabs in order to judge the credibility of the original information.
site. Compared to the other groups, fact checkers arrived at more warranted conclusions in a fraction of the time. We contrast insights gleaned from the fact checkers’ practices with common approaches to teaching web credibility. 


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Social Media:

Do Facebook and Google have control of their algorithms anymore? A sobering assessment and a warning
If you searched Google immediately after the recent mass shooting in Texas for information on the gunman, you would have seen what Justin Hendrix, the head of the NYC Media Lab, called a “misinformation gutter.” A spokesperson for Google later gave a statement to Gizmodo that placed blame squarely on an algorithm: “The search results appearing from Twitter, which surface based on our ranking algorithms, are changing second by second and represent a dynamic conversation that is going on in near real-time. For the queries in question, they are not the first results we show on the page. Instead, they appear after news sources, including our Top Stories carousel which we have been constantly updating. We’ll continue to look at ways to improve how we rank tweets that appear in search.” In other words, it was an algorithm — not a human making editorial decisions — that was responsible for this gaffe. But as Gizmodo’s Tom McKay pointed out, this kind of framing is intentional and used frequently by Twitter and other social networks when problems arise. He writes: “Google, Twitter, and Facebook have all regularly shifted the blame to algorithms when this happens, but the issue is that said companies write the algorithms, making them responsible for what they churn out.”


Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety; attribution appreciated.
The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.

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Intersect Alert November 26, 2017


Internet Access:

Demand the FCC Maintain Net Neutrality
The FCC has confirmed that they will vote on 12/14 to abolish the regulations that prevent internet service providers from blocking access to certain sites, throttling internet speeds, and otherwise controlling what websites and online services are available to their customers. Internet users scored a significant victory in 2014 when the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) installed protections for net neutrality and the “open Internet.” Net neutrality allows all users to have equal access to everything available on the Internet, and prevents Internet Service Providers (ISPs) from essentially turning the internet into cable television — creating fast and slow speeds for sites of their choosing and charging consumers premium prices for upgraded access. Without net neutrality, small businesses, low-income individuals, and much of rural America would lose access to affordable, reasonably-fast internet service.

CALL: Ajit Pai, FCC Chairman 202-418-1000
More details, and a suggested script, are at https://5calls.org /issue/defend-fcc-net-neutrality.

NY AG probing ‘massive scheme’ to influence FCC with fake net neutrality comments
New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman (D) is investigating what he calls a massive scheme to corrupt the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) with fake public comments on net neutrality. In an open letter to Federal Communications Commission Chairman Ajit Pai, Schneiderman said the agency hasn’t provided him with information “critical” to an investigation his office is conducting. Schneiderman said in a tweet his office has been investigating a “massive scheme” over the last six months to “corrupt the FCC’s comment process on net neutrality by impersonating 100,000s of real Americans.” In the letter, Schneiderman wrote that the process the FCC has “employed to consider potentially sweeping alterations to current net neutrality rules has been corrupted by the fraudulent use of Americans’ identities—and the FCC has been unwilling to assist my office in our efforts to investigate this unlawful activity.” His letter comes after Pai announced on Tuesday that the FCC will vote to roll back Obama-era net neutrality rules that require internet service providers to treat all web traffic equally.

Social Media:

**Facebook (Still) Letting Housing Advertisers Exclude Users by Race**
In February, Facebook said it would step up enforcement of its prohibition against discrimination in advertising for housing, employment or credit. But our tests showed a significant lapse in the company’s monitoring of the rental market. Last week, ProPublica bought dozens of rental housing ads on Facebook, but asked that they not be shown to certain categories of users, such as African Americans, mothers of high school kids, people interested in wheelchair ramps, Jews, expats from Argentina and Spanish speakers. All of these groups are protected under the federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to publish any advertisement “with respect to the sale or rental of a dwelling that indicates any preference, limitation, or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin.” Violators can face tens of thousands of dollars in fines.

Every single ad was approved within minutes. Under its own policies, Facebook should have flagged these ads, and prevented the posting of some of them. Its failure to do so revives questions about whether the company is in compliance with federal fair housing rules, as well as about its ability and commitment to police discriminatory advertising on the world’s largest social network.


Intellectual Property:

**Court Rules That EFF’s Stupid Patent of the Month Post Is Protected Speech**
A federal judge has ruled that EFF need not obey an Australian injunction ordering EFF to take down a “Stupid Patent of the Month” blog post and never speak of the patent owner’s intellectual property again.

It all started when Global Equity Management (SA) Pty Ltd (GEMSA)’s patent was featured as the June 2016 entry in our Stupid Patent of the Month blog series. GEMSA wrote to EFF accusing us of “false and malicious slander.” It subsequently filed a lawsuit and obtained an injunction from a South Australia court purporting to require EFF to censor itself. We declined and filed a suit in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California seeking a declaration that EFF’s post is protected speech. The court agreed, finding that the South Australian injunction can’t be enforced in the U.S. under a 2010 federal law that took aim against “libel tourism,” a practice by which plaintiffs—often billionaires, celebrities, or oligarchs—sued U.S. writers and academics in countries like England where it was easier to win a defamation case. The Securing the Protection of Our Enduring and Established Constitutional Heritage Act (SPEECH Act) says foreign orders aren’t enforceable in the United States unless they are consistent with the free speech protections provided by the U.S. and state constitutions, as well as state law.


Privacy:

**Over 400 of the World’s Most Popular Websites Record Your Every Keystroke, Princeton Researchers Find**
Most people who’ve spent time on the internet have some understanding that many websites log their visits and keep record of what pages they’ve looked at. When you search for a pair of shoes on a retailer’s site for example, it records that you were interested in them. The next day, you see an advertisement for the same pair on Instagram or another social media site. The idea of websites tracking users isn’t new, but research from Princeton University released last week indicates that online tracking is far more invasive than most users understand. In the first installment of a series titled “No Boundaries,” three researchers from Princeton’s Center for Information Technology Policy (CITP) explain how third-party scripts that run on many of the world’s most popular websites track your every keystroke and then send that information to a third-party server.

Some highly-trafficked sites run software that records every time you click and every word you type. If you go to a website, begin to fill out a form, and then abandon it, every letter you entered in is still recorded, according to the researchers’ findings. If you accidentally paste something into a form that was copied to your clipboard, it’s also recorded. Facebook users were outraged in 2013 when it was discovered that the social network was doing something similar with status updates—it recorded what users they typed, even if they never ended up posting it. Companies that sell replay scripts do offer a number of redaction tools that allow websites to exclude sensitive content from recordings, and some even explicitly forbid the collection of user data. Still, the use of session replay scripts by so many of the world’s most popular websites track your every keystroke and then send that information to a third-party server.

Google collects Android users’ locations even when location services are disabled
Many people realize that smartphones track their locations. But what if you actively turn off location services, haven’t used any apps, and haven’t even inserted a carrier SIM card? Even if you take all of those precautions, phones running Android software gather data about your location and send it back to Google when they’re connected to the internet, a Quartz investigation...
Since the beginning of 2017, Android phones have been collecting the addresses of nearby cellular towers—even when location services are disabled—and sending that data back to Google. The result is that Google, the unit of Alphabet behind Android, has access to data about individuals’ locations and their movements that go far beyond a reasonable consumer expectation of privacy. Even devices that had been reset to factory default settings and apps, with location services disabled, were observed by Quartz sending nearby cell-tower addresses to Google. Devices with a cellular data or WiFi connection appear to send the data to Google each time they come within range of a new cell tower. When Android devices are connected to a WiFi network, they will send the tower addresses to Google even if they don’t have SIM cards installed.

https://qz.com/1131515/google-collects-android-users-locations-even-when-location-services-are-disabled/

Freedom of Information:

Koch Lobbyists and Opus Dei — Who’s Dropping in on Trump Budget Czar Mick Mulvaney?
The influential OMB director’s door is open to corporate and conservative interests, according to logs that the White House fought to keep secret. One of President Donald Trump’s top cabinet officials has met with a long list of lobbyists, corporate executives and wealthy people with business interests before the government, according to calendars the Trump administration fought to keep secret. The calendars for Mick Mulvaney, the former South Carolina congressman who now runs the White House Office of Management and Budget, offer a glimpse of who has access to the highest levels of the Trump administration.

Among those visiting Mulvaney: Trump friend and casino magnate Steve Wynn; a flurry of officials from the conservative Heritage Foundation; a string of health care and Wall Street CEOs; lobbyists for Koch Industries; a cryptocurrency evangelist; and a prominent member of the Catholic group Opus Dei. The Trump administration fought in court to block public records requests by Property of the People, a Washington-based nonprofit transparency group, to release the calendars as well as visitor logs from several other White House offices. Lawyers for the group ultimately prevailed and provided the documents to ProPublica, which we are posting in a searchable format.


OffshoreLeaks Database – ICIJ Releases Paradise Papers Data From Appleby
The International Consortium of Investigative Journalists published new data in the OffshoreLeaks Database on close to 25,000 entities connected to the Paradise Papers investigation. The new records come from the offshore law firm Appleby and cover a period of more than six decades through to 2014 of entities registered in more than 30 offshore jurisdictions. It includes information from shareholders, directors and other officers connected to offshore companies, foundations and trusts. It also reveals the names of the real owners behind those secret structures, when available. More than 70 percent of the new records belong to entities incorporated in Bermuda and the Cayman Islands. Other jurisdictions that also include hundreds of new records are the Isle of Man, Jersey and Mauritius. Most of the online registries from these jurisdictions don’t provide ownership or shareholder information. The OffshoreLeaks Database also includes information from close to 500,000 additional offshore entities linked to ICIJ’s 2016 Panama Papers and Bahamas Leaks investigations and its 2013 OffshoreLeaks investigation. ICIJ is publishing the information in the public interest. The data released comes from the the Paradise Papers investigation, a global journalistic collaboration that exposed offshore deals of political players and corporate giants. The team of journalists explored a trove of 13.4 million records that come from two offshore firms and 19 secret jurisdictions. The leaks were obtained by German newspaper Süddeutsche Zeitung and shared with ICIJ and a network of more than 380 journalists in 67 countries. ICIJ is now making available only the structured portion of the Paradise Papers connected to the offshore law firm Appleby and some politicians featured in the Paradise Papers investigation. ICIJ is not publishing the totality of the leak and is not disclosing raw documents or personal information en masse. The documents revealed offshore interests of the queen of England and more than 120 politicians around the world. It also exposed ties between Russia and U.S. President Donald Trump’s commerce secretary, the secret dealings of chief fundraiser for Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and tax engineering of more than 100 multinationals, including Apple, Nike and Uber. The first data release comes almost two weeks after the first series of Paradise Papers publications, which have already captured the attention of the world and produced reactions in several countries.


Publishing:

Sudden Shift at a Public Health Journal Leaves Scientists Feeling Censored
For much of its 22-year existence, few outside the corner of science devoted to toxic chemicals paid much attention to the International Journal of Occupational and Environmental Health. But now, a feud has erupted over the small academic publication, as its editorial board — the scientists who advise the journal’s direction and handle article submissions — has accused the journal’s new owner of suppressing a paper and promoting “corporate interests over independent science in the public interest.” IJOEH is best known for exposing so-called “product defense science” — industry-linked studies that defend the safety of products made by their funders. At a time when the Trump administration is advancing policies and
nominees sympathetic to the chemical industry, the journal seems to be veering in the same direction.

“There are many scientists who work for corporations who are honest scientists,” said David Michaels, the former head of the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration under President Obama. “What we’re concerned about here is the ‘mercenary science’ … that’s published purely to influence regulation or litigation, and doesn’t contribute to public health.” The journal was one of the relatively few places that provided an outlet for “scientists whose work is independent of the corporations that manufacture chemicals,” he said. “The silencing of that voice would be a real loss to the field.”

Last Thursday, the journal’s 22-member editorial board, along with eight former board members and the journal’s founding editor-in-chief, wrote a letter to the National Library of Medicine requesting disciplinary action against the academic journal’s new publisher, Taylor & Francis Group. In particular, they asked the Library of Medicine to rescind the journal’s listing in the Medline index, which could drastically reduce its scientific influence.


Government:

Asylum Outcome Continues to Depend on the Judge Assigned
The outcome for asylum seekers continues to depend on the identity of the immigration judge assigned to hear the case. If you, for example, were one of the 6,922 asylum seekers whose cases were decided in the San Francisco Immigration Court over the last six years, the odds of denial varied from only 9.4 percent all the way up to 97.1 percent depending upon the judge you had. For the 1,233 individuals whose cases were heard by the Newark Immigration Court, the odds of denial ranged between 10.9 percent all the way up to 98.7 percent depending upon the judge you appeared before. Stated another way, the odds of being granted asylum could be as high as 90 percent or as low as 3 percent in these two courts depending upon which immigration judge you were assigned.

TRAC’s 2016 detailed analysis of asylum decision disparities noted that while judge-to-judge decision disparities have long existed, between 2010 and 2016 judge-to-judge decision disparities got worse. Increased disparities were found in 12 out of the 16 courts studied last year. This year’s report shows that these sizable disparities remain. For both Newark and San Francisco, in fact, disparity levels had worsened, as had judge-to-judge differences for the Chicago Immigration Court. The Los Angeles and San Diego courts saw modest improvement. As the composition of cases and the ability of asylum seekers to obtain representation varies from one court to another, one cannot meaningfully compare asylum decisions between judges sitting on different courts. Even if we control for representation status, we cannot tell to what degree the differences observed are because the composition – and hence the potential “worthiness” – of cases heard by each judge account for the differences in Judge A versus Judge B’s denial rates. When we compare the decisions of judges sitting on the same bench, however, the situation is different.

http://trac.syr.edu/immigration/reports/490/.

Information Resources Manager  [Full-time, Permanent]
ID: 2963
Location: Menlo Park, CA
Practice/Center: Information Resources

Exponent is a leading engineering and scientific consulting firm. Our multidisciplinary team of scientists, engineers, physicians, and regulatory consultants brings together more than 90 different disciplines to solve complicated problems facing corporations, insurers, government entities, associations and individuals. Our approximately 1000 staff members work in 26 offices across the United States and abroad. Exponent has over 800 consultants, including more than 500 that have earned a doctorate in their chosen field of specialization.

Information Resources is a small, elite research team. Its information professionals are educated for and experienced with identifying and organizing information, making it accessible throughout the organization, and providing insight and evaluating resources to support the incredibly diverse range of projects the company undertakes. The team is completing a major paper-based legacy digitization knowledge management project and is now seeking an Information
Resources Manager with the vision to work with constituents across the firm to unlock the value of this digital content while retaining client confidentiality. The person in this role is also responsible for providing research support to consultants using a broad range of internal and external online or print resources.

**Responsibilities for this position include:**

- Assist our consultants by executing complex research queries using commercial publisher and other online and print resources on behalf of technical and scientific consultants firm-wide in a variety of industry practices.

- Collaborate with IT and other constituents across the firm to design, develop and implement a knowledge management program that enables access to internally developed technical digital content.

- Manage access and use of information resources in accordance with copyright, or other legal requirements.

- Introduce and educate new consultants to the range of services our Information Resources team provides.

**Qualifications and skills for this position include:**

- MLS/MLIS from ALA-accredited graduate program.

- Advanced proficiency and understanding of content in ProQuest DIALOG, STN, and other library online resources like HeinOnline, Westlaw.

- Knowledge management experience imperative.

- Proficiency using firm productivity software tools: MS Office suite, SharePoint, EndNote.

- Ability to analyze and interpret information from a variety of sources, apply critical and creative thinking to draw conclusions or develop solutions to complex issues.

- Be able to work as team member as well as independently.

- Strong service orientation and effective working relationships with others.

- Minimum 5 years recent, professional-level, research and information science-related experience in corporate environment (professional services firm a plus).

We are an Affirmative Action, Equal Employment Opportunity, Veterans and Disabled Employer.

**To apply, visit:**

https://chi.tbe.taleo.net/chi06/ats/careers/v2/viewRequisition?org=EXPONENT&cws=46&rid=2963

When applying, please mention that you found this position listing on SLA SV/SF Jobline. Thank you!

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**Intersect Alert December 3, 2017**


**Take Action:**

Net Neutrality: Check to see if fake comments were submitted in your name

The New York State Office of the Attorney General has created
a 2-click tool to see if fake comments were submitted using your name, and to make a complaint if so. Check it out at: https://ag.ny.gov/fakecomments.

The webpage launches after Attorney General Schneiderman announced last week, in an open letter to the FCC, that his office has for six months been investigating the submission of enormous numbers of fake comments on the possible repeal of net neutrality rules using real Americans’ identities. An analysis by the Attorney General’s office found that tens of thousands of these comments may have misused the real names and addresses of New Yorkers; in all, hundreds of thousands of Americans likely were victimized in the same way, including tens of thousands per state in California, Georgia, Missouri, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, and possibly others. Impersonation and other misuse of a person’s identity violates New York law. Details at https://ag.ny.gov/press-release/ag-schneiderman-launches-webpage-new-yorkers-report-misused-identities-fcc-net.

Privacy:

Apple is sharing your face with apps. That's a new privacy worry

Poop that mimics your facial expressions was just the beginning. It’s going to hit the fan when the face-mapping tech that powers the iPhone X’s cutey “Animoji” starts being used for creepier purposes. And Apple just started sharing your face with lots of apps.

Beyond a photo, the iPhone X’s front sensors scan 30,000 points to make a 3D model of your face. That’s how the iPhone X unlocks and makes animations that might have once required a Hollywood studio. Now that a phone can scan your mug, what else might apps want to do with it? They could track your expressions to judge if you’re depressed. They could guess your gender, race and even sexuality. They might combine your expressions to judge if you’re depressed. They could guess your gender, race and even sexuality. They might combine your face with other data to observe you in stores—or walking down the street.

Apps aren’t doing most of these things, yet. But is Apple doing enough to stop it? Apple put some important limits on apps. It requires “that developers ask a user’s permission before accessing the camera, and that apps must explain how and where this data will be used,” Apple’s Neumayr said. And Apple’s rules say developers can’t sell face data, use it to identify anonymous people or use it for advertising. They’re also required to have privacy policies. https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-switch/wp/2017/11/30/apple-is-sharing-your-face-with-apps-thats-a-new-privacy-worry/.

Public Policy:

Customs and Border Protection Reveals How Agents

Implement New Policy Not to Access Cloud Content

President Trump’s nominee to be Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), Kevin McAleenan, revealed during his confirmation process how the agency implements its new policy not to access cloud content during border searches of digital devices. In response to written questions for the record submitted by Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR) and other members of the Senate Finance Committee, McAleenan explained that in accordance with CBP’s new policy to access only information that is “physically resident” on a device, border agents must “ensure that network connectivity is disabled to limit access to remote systems.” While McAleenan did not provide details, disabling network connectivity can mean a few things, such as putting a phone or other device into “airplane mode,” or individually toggling off cellular data and Wi-Fi. It could also mean making sure a laptop is not connected to an Ethernet cable, or bringing a device into a SCIF-type room that blocks electromagnetic signals. This newly disclosed fact—that border agents must disable Internet connectivity before searching a digital device—provides a more complete picture of CBP’s new no-cloud-access policy. https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2017/11/cbp-reveals-how-agents-implement-new-policy-not-access-cloud-content.

Freedom of Information:

NPR wins suit for FEMA flood program data

The Federal Emergency Management Agency must make public the names of people who sold property through a flood mitigation program and will be required to disclose the exact locations and sales prices of those properties, a federal judge ruled this week. National Public Radio reporter Robert Benincasa sought the data about the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program under the Freedom of Information Act back in 2014, but FEMA refused, saying release of the data would intrude on the privacy of those who sold the property. NPR filed suit earlier this year, prompting U.S. District Court Judge Beryl Howell to issue her ruling Tuesday that the location and seller information should be in the public domain. “The ‘undeniable and powerful …’ public interest in shedding light on the defendants’ administration of the HMGP outweighs HMGP sellers’ weak privacy interests in nondisclosure of their names and of their former properties’ addresses and GIS coordinates,” she wrote in a 24-page opinion. Benincasa told the court that NPR wanted the information to try to assess whether FEMA was enforcing the rules of the program, which is intended to reduce the impact of flooding by putting properties in the hands of state or local governments or nonprofit organizations. Since 2000, the program paid $750 million to buy more than 10,000 properties, according to the NPR reporter. https://www.politico.com/blogs/under-the-radar/2017/11/22/npr-fema-flood-program-lawsuit-documents-259468.

Free Press Groups Sue the Government to Find Out How
Much Power It Has to Monitor Journalists
Following Attorney General Jeff Sessions’ claim this month of an unprecedented government crackdown on leaks of classified information, two free press groups filed a lawsuit Wednesday seeking to shed more light on the Trump administration’s power to monitor journalists. The Knight First Amendment Institute at Columbia University and the Freedom of the Press Foundation are seeking records that outline the scope of the ability of law enforcement and other investigative authorities to conduct surveillance on the media. The lawsuit, which comes after the groups filed a Freedom of Information request for such documents in October, is an attempt to compel the Justice Department, National Security Agency, Central Intelligence Agency, and Director of National Intelligence to hand them over.

The suit comes just weeks after Sessions told Congress that his agency had launched 27 investigations into leaks of classified information. While there’s been just one such prosecution by the Trump administration so far, that number of inquiries would represent a huge uptick from the attorney general’s predecessors. It also follows the Justice Department’s demand earlier this year that the web host of a site used to organize Inauguration Day protests share 1.3 million IP addresses with the government. (The DOJ eventually dropped that request.)


Social Media:

Snapchat Has a Plan to Fight Fake News: Ripping the ‘Social’ from the ‘Media’
The messaging platform has a pragmatic take on how to solve our misinformation problem—but will it work? Time was, Snapchat was effectively a messaging app. But since it added the Stories feature, which allows publishers to push content to users, it’s increasingly been dealing with media content, too. Now, Axios reports that Snapchat has redesigned its app in an attempt to pull the two back apart. In a separate post on Axios, Evan Spiegel, the CEO of Snapchat parent company Snap, explains that the move comes loaded with lofty ambitions. The personalized newsfeed revolutionized the way people share and consume content. But let’s be honest: this came at a huge cost to facts, our minds, and the entire media industry … We believe that the best path forward is disentangling the [combination of social and media] by providing a personalized content feed based on what you want to watch, not what your friends post.

To make that a reality, Spiegel says, Snapchat will start using machine-learning tricks, similar to those employed by Netflix, to generate suggested content for users. The idea is to understand what its users have actually enjoyed looking at in the past, rather than presenting them with content that’s elevated through feeds by friends or network effects. (Snap doesn’t say what data its AI will gobble up, telling Axios only that “dozens” of signals will be fed to the beast.) The content that appears in that AI-controlled feed, which will be called the Discover section, will itself be curated by an editorial team of … wait for it … actual humans.


International Outlook:

As FCC Contemplates Repealing Net Neutrality Protections, Indian Telecom Regulator Reaffirms Support for Principles of Non-Discrimination
Net neutrality is the principle that Internet service providers (ISPs) should treat all data that travels over their networks fairly, without improper discrimination in favor of particular apps, sites or services. Even as the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is pushing a plan to end net neutrality protections in the U.S., India’s telecom regulator has called for strengthening the principle of non-discriminatory access to the Internet.

This week the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) recommended amending all existing ISP licenses in India to explicitly prohibit discriminatory traffic management practices. Having rules in place that restrict ISPs and telecom providers’ ability to control access to content via their networks is important for a free and open Internet. Such rules prevent network providers from degrading the quality of service or blocking access to apps to earn revenue or to limit competition. Overall the recommendations are good news for both users’ right to a free and open Internet in India and creating a stable regulatory environment for businesses to operate there. The strong recommendations are also reflective of the giant strides the Indian telecom regulator has made in its approach to taking a nuanced approach to this complex issue. TRAI’s leadership, its transparency and efforts made to listen to the voices of its citizens create a stark contrast with the FCC’s regressive approach.


Research:

Scientists can now figure out detailed, accurate neighborhood demographics using Google Street View photos
A team of computer scientists has derived accurate, neighborhood-level estimates of the racial, economic and political characteristics of 200 U.S. cities using an unlikely data source — Google Street View images of people’s cars. Published this week in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, the report details how the scientists extracted 50 million photographs of street scenes captured by Google’s Street View cars in 2013 and 2014. They then trained a computer algorithm to identify the make, model and year of 22 million automobiles appearing in neighborhoods in those
To test what this data set could be capable of, the researchers first paired the Zip code-level vehicle data with numbers on race, income and education from the American Community Survey. They did this for a random 15 percent of the Zip codes in their data set to create a “training set.” They then created another algorithm to go through the training set to see how vehicle characteristics correlated with neighborhood characteristics: What kinds of vehicles are disproportionately likely to appear in white neighborhoods, or black ones? Low-income vs. high-income? Highly-educated areas vs. less-educated ones? That yielded a number of reliable correlations. The five vehicle types most closely associated with white neighborhoods, for instance, were SUVs, cars made by Jeep and Subaru, expensive cars, and cars classified as “wagons.” In black neighborhoods, on the other hand, Cadillacs, Buicks, Mercurys, Chryslers and sedan-type vehicles were more prevalent. “We found a strong correlation between our results and ACS [American Community Survey] values for every demographic statistic we examined,” the researchers wrote. https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2017/11/30/scientists-can-now-figure-out-detailed-accurate-neighborhood-demographics-using-google-street-view-photos/.

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The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.

Jobline 2017/12/28


Bain & Company, Inc. (Boston)

Position: Senior Research and Information Specialist (Part Time)

Department: Library/Information Services Date: January 2018

Reports to: Manager, Americas Information Services FLSA: Exempt

Position Summary

Bain & Company is one of the world’s best companies to work for (Bain has made Glassdoor’s “Best Places to Work” list every single year for the past decade. Google (#5) and Apple (#84) are the only other companies in this club). Since our radical beginnings as a challenger of the status quo, our formula for success has been simple—create a high-impact, supportive culture where immensely talented people are encouraged to be brilliant at what they do.

We pride ourselves on hiring the best of the best – we look for people who want to do great things; the learning curve is steep, and the exposure is energizing. Our global offices share a diverse, informal environment where you will feel at home, regardless of the city you are in and you’ll work alongside some of the top people in their field.

We offer a competitive starting salary, bonus and benefits. In addition, your professional development will be a priority; we will invest in your career growth from day 1! You will experience some of the most comprehensive training in the industry.

We are looking for a candidate that will provides comprehensive research and information services to consulting and administrative staff using appropriate electronic, print, and other resources. Our ideal candidate will frequently work as part of case teams to assist in research planning, information management, training, and capture of research experience.

This is a part time role working 3 days per week out of our Bain San Francisco, Los Angeles or Palo Alto office (ideally Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday but flexible for discussion).

Responsibilities and Duties

Research and Ready Reference:

- Conduct research for case teams, Practice Areas, and client development utilizing electronic, print, and other resources as appropriate
- Provide filtered and often synthesized research results
- Proactively work with Case Team Manager to understand the context of the case and specific case information needs
- Staffs Reference Desk periodically
Asset Building (local and regional):

- Lead ongoing product and service evaluation and collection development activities and participate in implementation as appropriate
- Develop training materials customized to local office needs
- Provide regularly scheduled and just in time training for case team members to optimize use of the Information Services Tool Kit
- Lead periodic business research training for new consulting and administrative staff at all levels
- Work with GXC and other Knowledge Management efforts on an ongoing basis to identify and participate in asset building, development and maintenance of Top Sources (ESP and Industry Pages)

Non-Research Related:

- Track research requests including appropriate chargeback information
- Work with Case Team Manager to monitor information services costs
- Participate in Information Services marketing efforts
- Lead special projects as assigned

Professional Development:

- Regularly participate in skill development activities both internal and external
- Continually deepen and broaden skill set in response to internal market demand

Qualifications

- Masters of Library Science from an American Library Association accredited institution or equivalent experience in a consulting, financial services or other professional services research environment
- 5-10 years experience required
- Demonstrated competency in conducting complex research inquiries using electronic and print resources in a fast paced professional services environment such as consulting, financial services or other business setting
- Proficiency with Nexis, Dow Jones, OneSource, Profound, Thomson/Investext, Dialog and other standard business research tools
- Training and presentation skills required
- Ability to work both independently and as a member of a team
- Strong communication skills required

To apply, visit https://csscareers-bain.icims.com/jobs/2599/senior-specialist%2c-americas-information-services/job

When applying, please mention that you found this position listing on SLA SV/SF Jobline. Thank you!

Share this:

Intersect Alert January 8, 2018


Search

Military Service Records, Awards, and Unit Histories: A Guide to Locating Sources

“This guide provides information on locating military unit histories and individual service records of discharged, retired, and deceased military personnel. It also provides information on locating and replacing military awards and medals. Included is contact information for military history centers, websites for additional sources of research, and a bibliography of other publications, including related CRS reports.”

https://fas.org/sgp/crs/secrecy/RS21282.pdf

International Outlook

Tiflolibros: The First Digital Library for the Spanish-Speaking Blind

What is Tiflolibros?

“They are the first digital library for the Spanish-speaking blind. Created in 1999 by a group of blind friends that wanted to exchange their digital books in order to widen their access to culture and education, Tiflolibros has grown to have more than 48,000 books in Spanish available for more than 7,000 members with blindness or other severe disabilities in America,
Africa, Europe and Asia.”

How does Tifflolibros work?

“Tifflolibros offers an online catalog with more than 48,000 digital books that registered members can download using their personal password. Each member then, “reads” the books through synthetic-voice reading computers, accessible movies, Braille tapes or other electronic reading devices for people with disabilities.”

What’s the benefit and potential of Tifflolibros?

“Internet and other new technologies offer an incredible opportunity for the integration to society of people with disabilities, not only through new tools but also through cost-effective collaboration, and improvement and decentralization of processes. Applying these new ideas, Tifflolibros facilitates the access of blind people to knowledge, at lower costs and with wider reach.”

http://tiflolibros.com.ar/contenido/English.htm#What is Tiflolibros?

Open Access in Germany: The Best DEAL is No Deal

“In the worldwide campaign to shift academic publishing to open access, the Germans are fighting a major battle. To many, they look like heroes.”

”’Projekt DEAL’ is the name of a German national consortium that includes university libraries and scientific organisations. The consortium has been working towards an agreement with Elsevier that, if the Germans have their way, would make papers by German authors in journals published by Elsevier freely available (open access), at a substantially lower rate than Elsevier is currently charging.”

https://www.timeshighereducation.com/blog/open-access-germany-best-deal-no-deal/survey-answer

Net Neutrality

California Introduces Its Own Bill to Protect Net Neutrality

“2018 has barely begun, and so has the fight to preserve net neutrality. January 3 was the first day of business in the California state legislature, and state Sen. Scott Wiener used it to introduce legislation to protect net neutrality for Californians.”

“As the FCC has sought to abandon its role as the protector of a free and open Internet at the federal level, states are seeking ways to step into the void. Prior to December, the FCC’s rules prevented Internet service providers (ISPs) from blocking or slowing down traffic to websites. The rules also kept ISPs from charging users higher rates for faster access to certain websites or charging websites to be automatically included in any sort of “fast lane.” On December 14th, the FCC voted to remove these restrictions and even tried to make it harder for anyone else to regulate ISPs in a similar way.”

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2018/01/california-introduces-its-own-bill-protect-net-neutrality

Professional Development

Free webinar: NLM’s Genetics Home Reference

“Join the NNLM Resource Picks webinar on Wednesday, January 31 from 3:00 – 4:00pm ET.”

“This session will feature Stephanie Morrison who is the Team Coordinator for the National Library of Medicine (NLM) resource, Genetics Home Reference. Genetics Home Reference is the NLM resource for consumer health information about health conditions that have a genetic component. The website provides a variety of authoritative information regarding health conditions including information about specific chromosomes and genes. Also, consumers will find resources that provide support, basics about genetics, information about genetic testing, as well as ethical considerations. Learn how to use this resource for your personal use and for the communities you serve.”

“NNLM Resource Picks is a collaborative effort by the National Network of Libraries of Medicine regional offices which features a National Library of Medicine resource at each session to increase awareness of these resources and to encourage their integration by libraries and other organizations to more fully serve their colleagues and communities. Learn more and register for this session. The free webinar will be recorded.”

Data Security

How to Assess a Vendor’s Data Security

“Perhaps you’re an office manager tasked with setting up a new email system for your nonprofit, or maybe you’re a legal secretary for a small firm and you’ve been asked to choose an app for scanning sensitive documents: you might be wondering how you can even begin to assess a tool as ‘safe enough to use.’ This post will help you think about how to approach the problem and select the right vendor.”

“As every organization has unique circumstances and needs, we can’t provide definitive software recommendations or provider endorsements. However, we can offer some advice for assessing a software vendor and for gauging their claims of protecting the security and privacy of your clients and your employees.”


Digital Equity

Improving Digital Equity: The Civil Rights Priority Libraries and School Technology Leaders Share

“Learning has gone digital. Students access information, complete their homework, take online courses and communicate with technology and the internet.”

“Digital equity is one of today’s most pressing civil rights issues. Robust broadband and Wi-Fi, both at school and at home, are essential learning tools. Addressing digital equity – sometimes called the “homework gap” – is core to CoSN’s vision, and a shared value with our colleagues at ALA.”

“That is why the E-rate program has been so important for the past 20 years, connecting classrooms and libraries to the internet. Two years ago the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) modernized E-rate by increasing funding by 60 percent and focused on broadband and Wi-Fi. This action made a difference. CoSN’s 2017 Infrastructure Survey found that the majority of U.S. school districts (85 percent) are fully meeting the FCC’s short-term goal for broadband connectivity of 100 Mbps per 1,000 students.”


National Archives

Join us for Citizen Archivist Week of Service!

“In the spirit of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service, join us this week, January 15-19, 2018 for the Citizen Archivist Week of Service. Our goal is to tag or transcribe 2,018 pages in the National Archives Catalog during this week-long challenge. Can you help us meet this goal?”

“Get started by visiting the Citizen Archivist Dashboard today through January 19. During this week, we’ll have a special expanded missions section and many featured records waiting to be tagged and transcribed. You can transcribe records related to Mediterranean Passports, which were certificates issued by the Secretary of State in an attempt to ensure safe passage of American vessels in areas threatened by Barbary pirates; slave manifests from the Port of New York; marriage licenses from the Office of Indian Affairs White Earth Agency; records from a wide range of civil rights issue in United States history, and much more! What will you learn and discover as you begin to transcribe?”


Privacy

Groups Line Up For Meaningful NSA Surveillance Reform

“Multiple nonprofit organizations and policy think tanks, and one company have recently joined ranks to limit broad NSA surveillance. Though our groups work for many causes—freedom of the press, shared software development, universal access to knowledge, equal justice for all—our voices are responding to the same threat: the possible expansion of Section 702 of the FISA Amendments Act.”

“On January 5, the Rules Committee for the House of Representatives introduced S. 139. The bill—which you can read here—is the most recent attempt to expand Section 702, a law that the NSA uses to justify the collection of Americans’ electronic communications during foreign intelligence surveillance. The new proposal borrows some of the worst ideas from prior bills meant to reauthorize Section 702, while adding entirely new bad ideas, too.”

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2018/01/groups-line-meaningful-nsa-surveillance-reform
Libraries

Fashion Institute of Technology’s Library Gets a Makeover

“Even with the boundless wonders of the internet, many students writing papers are daunted by the fear of research: where to begin, how to begin, which library to use and so on.”

“But for Bethany Gingrich, 26, starting to write a thesis about Erte, the Russian-French illustrator and designer, was thrilling.”

“Ms. Gingrich, a second-year graduate student at the Fashion Institute of Technology, works in Special Collections and College Archives, a unit of F.I.T.’s Gladys Marcus Library, which is on the fourth floor of the school’s Manhattan campus and is nicknamed Sparc. She has relied on autobiographies and biographies as well as Erte’s sketches to get the right information.”


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The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association

Intersect Alert January 22, 2018


Copyright

Happy Together Once More: The California Supreme Court and Congress Take Up The Question of Copyright in Old Music Recordings

“Federal copyright law doesn’t give artists and labels the right to control most ways music recordings are played in public. That’s how FM and AM radio stations work. That’s how stores playing soothing ‘don’t you want to buy something?’ music work. And that’s how restaurants playing music at an uncomfortably loud decibel so you can’t talk to your friends work. But because older recordings aren’t covered by these laws, some copyright holders keep trying to use them to gain more control over how their recordings are played – something they’ve never been able to do.”

“EFF just weighed in on one of these cases, in the California Supreme Court. In Flo & Eddie v. Pandora Media, we argued that state law, which governs sound recordings made before 1972, doesn’t include a right to control public performances of sound recordings, including radio play. If this sounds familiar, that’s because this fight has played out across the country over the past three years. The high courts of New York and Florida have already ruled that their own state laws don’t let pre-1972 copyright holders control public performances of their sound recordings.”


Privacy

California Police Chiefs Misrepresent License Plate Privacy Bill

“EFF supports S.B. 712, a California bill that would allow drivers to cover their plates when they’re parked. This simple privacy measure would create an opportunity for drivers to protect sensitive information about their travel and whereabouts from mass collection by law enforcement and private data brokers.”

“The threat is all too real. Police agencies have surveilled Muslims by collecting plates in parking lots at mosques. Police officers have used license plates of vehicles parked at gay clubs to blackmail patrons. Anti-choice activists are trained to amass license plates of doctors and patients parked at reproductive health centers. Immigration & Customs Enforcement plans to use private license plate databases, effectively dodging state restrictions on data sharing, as it ramps up its deportation efforts.”

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2018/01/california-police-chiefs-misrepresent-license-plate-privacy-bill

Community Broadband: Privacy, Access, and Local Control

“Communities across the United States are considering strategies to protect residents’ access to information and their right to privacy. These experiments have a long history, but a new wave of activists have been inspired to seek a local response to federal setbacks to Internet freedom, such as the FCC’s decision to roll back net neutrality protections, and
Congress’ early 2017 decision to eliminate user privacy protections.”

“Internet service providers (ISP) have a financial incentive and the technical ability to block or slow users’ access, insert their own content on the sites we visit, or give preferential treatment to websites and services with which they have financial relationships. For many years, net neutrality principles and rules, most recently cemented in the FCC’s 2015 Open Internet Order, helped prevent much of this activity. Net neutrality helped create a landscape where new ideas and services could develop without being crowded out by political pressure or prioritized fast lanes for established commercial incumbents.”

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2018/01/community-broadband-privacy-access-and-local-control

EFF Asks Ninth Circuit Appeals Court to Strengthen Privacy Protections of Smart Phones at the Border

“San Diego, California—The Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF) urged the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals to require federal agents to obtain a warrant before conducting highly intrusive searches of electronic devices at the border by requiring federal agents to obtain a warrant if they want to access the contents of travelers’ phones.”

“’The Ninth Circuit four years ago issued an important ruling requiring officials to show they have reasonable suspicion of criminal activity to forensically search digital devices. While that was an improvement over the government’s prior practice of conducting suspicionless searches, the court didn’t go far enough,’ said EFF Staff Attorney Sophia Cope. ‘We are now asking the Ninth Circuit to bar warrantless device searches at the border.’”

“Our electronic devices contain texts, emails, photos, contact lists, work documents, and other communications that reveal intimate details of our private lives. Our privacy interests in this material is tremendous. Requiring a warrant is a critical step in making sure our Fourth Amendment protections survive into the digital age,’ said Cope.”


Principles of Transparency and Best Practice in Scholarly Publishing

“The Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE), the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ), the Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association (OASPA), and the World Association of Medical Editors (WAME) are scholarly organisations that have seen an increase in the number, and broad range in the quality, of membership applications. Our organisations have collaborated to identify principles of transparency and best practice for scholarly publications and to clarify that these principles form the basis of the criteria by which suitability for membership is assessed by COPE, DOAJ and OASPA, and part of the criteria on which membership applications are evaluated by WAME. Each organisation also has their own, additional criteria which are used when evaluating applications. The organisations will not share lists of publishers or journals that failed to demonstrate that they met the criteria for transparency and best practice.”

“This is the third version of a work in progress (published January 2018); the first version was made available by OASPA in December 2013 and a second version in June 2015. We encourage its wide dissemination and continue to welcome feedback on the general principles and the specific criteria. Background on the organisations is below.”


Tear Down That Paywall: The Movement to Make Ocean Research Free for All

“As scientists race to save coral reefs and tackle other crucial marine issues, access to expensive scientific journals has become a roadblock to sharing knowledge, especially for researchers in developing countries.”

“While working for the Australian Department of the Environment, Christopher Cvitanovic, a marine protected area science manager, would encounter subscription paywalls that blocked his access to scientific studies. Article by article, he’d email the department’s library to request the full-text copy. Maybe he’d get it a day later, or maybe in a month.”

“It could be a frustrating way to work as at the time he was developing standard monitoring guidelines that could be applied to Australia’s coral reef-dominated marine protected areas (MPAs). The project required looking up existing research that had been conducted in the fragile and imperiled ecosystems.”

https://www.newsdeeply.com/oceans/articles/2018/01/18/tear-down-that-paywall-the-movement-to-make-ocean-research-free-for-all

Focus On: Health Literacy

“Focus On: Health Literacy

“To find out what’s going on in the growing field of health literacy, NLM in Focus spoke with resident expert Rob Logan, PhD, in the Office of Communication and Public Liaison at NLM. Logan is the co-editor of a new book on health literacy research and practice.”
What are the main points you want the public to know about health literacy?

“Health literacy has an impact on your health and life expectancy as well as your ability to cope with and navigate the health care delivery system. Yet few people are ‘proficient’—that’s the actual term—or are health literate. The last US national assessment suggests only about 12 percent of the population is health literate, or proficient.”

What about the rest of the world?

It’s about the same in the countries in the world where health literacy has been measured. Sadly, I suspect health literacy may be low everywhere.

https://infocus.nlm.nih.gov/2018/01/16/focus-on-health-literacy/

Online Security

Google’s Advanced Protection Program Offers Security Options For High-Risk Users

“Security is not a one-size-fits-all proposition, and features that are prohibitively inconvenient for some could be critical for others. For most users, standard account security settings options are sufficient protection against common threats. But for the small minority of users who might be targeted individually—like journalists, policy makers, campaign staff, activists, people with abusive exes, or victims of stalking—standard security options won’t cut it.”

“For those users, Google recently added the option to add stronger protections to personal Google accounts with the Advanced Protection Program. Advanced Protection is a big step in the right direction to provide different levels of protection for different people, and other companies and platforms should follow suit.”


Search

Business Intelligence Online Resources 2018

“This guide comprises selected resources published by industry experts, news organizations, advocacy and professional groups, and academia. Many sites that have addressed this area of research are no longer free, have left the arena, and/or have changed their business model to target a specific business sector and attract paying clients to their respective services. This guide focuses on sites and services, on both the open and deep web, that researchers may currently access and use for tracking and monitoring purposes, as well as tools and techniques to leverage in their business intelligence work, that are either free or low fee based on data content parameters.”


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The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association

Intersect Alert January 29, 2018


Privacy

DuckDuckGo Moves Beyond Search to Also Protect You While Browsing.

“Over the years, DuckDuckGo has offered millions of people a private alternative to Google, serving over 16 billion anonymous searches. Today we’re excited to launch fully revamped versions of our browser extension and mobile app, extending DuckDuckGo’s protection beyond the search box to wherever the Internet takes you.”

https://spreadprivacy.com/privacy-simplified/
All Good Magazines Go to Heaven

“LONDON — When James Hyman was a scriptwriter at MTV Europe, in the 1990s, before the rise of the internet, there was a practical — as well as compulsive — reason he amassed an enormous collection of magazines. ‘If you’re interviewing David Bowie, you don’t want to be like, ‘O.K., mate, what’s your favorite color?’’, he said. ‘You want to go through all the magazines and be able to say, ‘Talk about when you did the Nazi salute at Paddington Station in 1976.’ You want to be like a lawyer when he preps his case.’”

“Whenever possible, Mr. Hyman tried to keep two copies of each magazine he acquired. One pristine copy was for his nascent magazine collection and another was for general circulation among his colleagues, marked with his name to ensure it found its way back to him. The magazines he used to research features on musicians and bands formed the early core of what became the Hyman Archive, which now contains approximately 160,000 magazines, most of which are not digitally archived or anywhere on the internet.”


Free Webinar – CopyTalk: Copyright Librarian Starter Kit

“Many librarians are finding themselves in the position of being the local copyright expert. Some of these librarians are professionals who applied for a formal copyright librarian posting. However, other librarians are tasked with taking on copyright, to fill a growing yet unclear need in their organization, while retaining their other job responsibilities.”

“The purpose of this webinar is to help other incoming copyright librarians know what to expect, and to prepare them with a basic knowledge base of user needs to ease into them into their new role. This CopyTalk will provide specific guidance, and include “hands-on” best practices. A sample of the topics covered are finding collaborators within and beyond the library, how to start building the foundation for an education program, understanding what advocacy looks like, and getting a handle on the kinds of questions a Copyright Librarian answers.”

The free hour-long webinar will be held on Thursday, February 1st at 2pm Eastern/11am Pacific.


Digital Public Library of America – Discover 20,777,841 Images, Texts, Videos, and Sounds from Across the United States

What is DPLA?

“The Digital Public Library of America (DPLA) is an all-digital library that aggregates metadata — or information describing an item — and thumbnails for millions of photographs, manuscripts, books, sounds, moving images, and more from libraries, archives, and museums across the United States. DPLA brings together the riches of America’s libraries, archives, and museums, and makes them freely available to the world. To learn more about DPLA and our work, read about our mission, our values, and how we got started.”

https://beta.dp.la/

Apple Announces Effortless Solution Bringing Health Records to iPhone

“Apple today introduced a significant update to the Health app with the iOS 11.3 beta, debuting a feature for customers to see their medical records right on their iPhone. The updated Health Records section within the Health app brings together hospitals, clinics and the existing Health app to make it easy for consumers to see their available medical data from multiple providers whenever they choose. Johns Hopkins Medicine, Cedars-Sinai, Penn Medicine and other participating hospitals and clinics are among the first to make this beta feature available to their patients.”

“In the past, patients’ medical records were held in multiple locations, requiring patients to log into each care provider’s website and piece together the information manually. Apple worked with the healthcare community to take a consumer-friendly approach, creating Health Records based on FHIR (Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources), a standard for transferring electronic medical records.”

Libraries

Garbage Collectors Open Library with Abandoned Books

“A library in Ankara gives new meaning to the notion that books are timeless. Garbage collectors in the Turkish capital have opened a public library comprised entirely of books once destined for the landfills. The library, located in the Çankaya district of Ankara, was founded after sanitation workers started collecting discarded books.”

“Initially, the books were only for employees and their families to borrow. But as the collection grew and interest spread throughout the community, the library was eventually opened to the public in September of last year.”

How a Library Handles a Rare and Deadly Book of Wallpaper Samples

“Shadows from the Walls of Death, printed in 1874 and measuring about 22 by 30 inches, is a noteworthy book for two reasons: its rarity, and the fact that, if you touch it, it might kill you. It contains just under a hundred wallpaper samples, each of which is saturated with potentially dangerous levels of arsenic.”

Copyright

Catalog of Missing Devices Illustrates Gadgets that Could and Should Exist

“Bad Copyright Law Prevents Innovators from Creating Cool New Tools San Francisco – The Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF) has launched its ‘Catalog of Missing Devices’—a project that illustrates the gadgets that could and should exist, if not for bad copyright laws that prevent innovators from creating the cool new tools that could enrich our lives.”

“The law that is supposed to restrict copying has instead been misused to crack down on competition, strangling a future’s worth of gadgets in their cradles,” said EFF Special Advisor Cory Doctorow. ‘But it’s hard to notice what isn’t there. We’re aiming to fix that with this Catalog of Missing Devices. It’s a collection of tools, services, and products that could have been, and should have been, but never were.”

Internet Access

Live chat: 5G and the digital divide

“If the fight over 5G poles and cells hasn’t hit your town yet, chances are it’s coming.”

“Join the Center’s senior business reporter, Allan Holmes, for a Facebook Live chat about his reporting on the politics behind broadband access and 5G. We’ll be taking a look at these controversial cell towers and discussing how communities are reacting to this change, which telecom companies claim will help bridge America’s digital divide.”

Social Media

How to tell if you have fake Twitter followers (and how to
remove them)

“Poynter: ‘Spotting fake Twitter uses is generally fairly easy, though fakers have gotten better at it over time. Tools like TwitterAudit can automatically scan your followers, revealing the number of fake followers (for free) and allowing you to delete and block them (for $5 a month). Use Luca Hammer’s Account Analysis tool to look at accounts individually. Consistent daily rhythms and constant retweeting of spammy handles or accounts are a good sign the user is a bot. The quickest way to manually spot obvious fakers is to look at their profiles. Many advertise spammy links or use excessive hashtags. To look over many at once, click ‘followers’ below your own profile image. Stop users from following you by clicking the three vertical dots above and to the right of their usernames, then click ‘block.’”

http://www.poynter.org/news/how-tell-if-you-have-fake-twitter-followers-and-how-remove-them

Librarians

Library Leaders Need to Get a Clue about Self-Awareness | Leading from the Library

“We learn that good leaders have the quality of self-awareness. What exactly does that mean and how do you know if that describes you? Not sure? Here are some things library leaders can do to boost their self-awareness.”

“No leader wants to be clueless about who they are and the effect they have on those with whom they work. The conundrum is when we lack self-awareness we fail to recognize our own limited clarity about who we are and the quality of our relationships. While it can be hard to assess our personal self-awareness, we excel in detecting someone else’s lack of it. Take job candidates, for example. It’s likely you’ve encountered one who brings a black hole of self-awareness to their interview. Did they really just say that? We suddenly realize just how obvious self-unawareness is. It may cause us to cringe a bit and question whether we are equally afflicted in this way. Unfortunately, there are no simple tests for self-awareness, but as with many leadership matters, we can learn to become a more self-aware leader.”


Libraries

A New Home for AI: The Library

“University of Rhode Island plans to use its library to broaden the reach of artificial intelligence.”

“Artificial intelligence laboratories have been cropping up with increasing frequency on campuses in recent years. By and large, though, these labs have been located in computer science or electrical engineering buildings, providing a space for researchers and graduate students to develop computer algorithms that can learn or exhibit intelligent behavior.”

“The University of Rhode Island is taking a very different approach with its new AI lab, which may be the first in the U.S. to be located in a university library. For URI, the library location is key, as officials hope that by putting the lab in a shared central place, they can bring awareness of AI to a wider swath of the university’s faculty and student body.”


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The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Communications Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.

Intersect Alert February 11, 2018


Libraries:

The Libraries Bringing Small-Town News Back to Life

“When a teenager began firing on students in Marilyn Johnson’s old high school east of Cleveland, Johnson searched everywhere to find out what was happening. She first saw the news on CNN, but she found out more on the town library’s Facebook page. The site was ‘the best, most detailed place to get breaking information,’ she says.”
“Johnson had published an acclaimed book on the digital and community future of libraries just two years earlier—This Book Is Overdue: How Librarians and Cybrarians Can Save Us All—but she hadn’t predicted that the sharp decline in original local news could propel librarians into action. Since that 2012 shooting, more local newspapers have folded or shrunk, and a few libraries have ventured in to fill the vacuum.”


Digital Preservation:

How Tom Tryniski digitized nearly 50 million pages of newspapers in his living room

“Columbia Journalism Review: ‘Tom Tryniski began digitizing newspapers from all over Upstate New York in 1999. Since then, he’s scanned and uploaded nearly 50 million newspaper pages from publications across the US and Canada dating back to the 1800s…By October of last year, [his] site hosted nearly 50 million pages of American and Canadian newspapers—a collection much larger than that of Chronicling America, the joint newspaper digitization efforts sponsored by the Library of Congress and the National Endowment of the Arts. The first newspaper he digitized was the Fulton Patriot; at the time, he didn’t own his own equipment. Twice a week, he borrowed microfilm rolls of the newspaper from the Fulton library and drove north to Potsdam, New York, nearly three hours away, to use an old foot pedal-powered microscanner at the offices of the Northern New York Library Network. He scanned 36,000 pages in this way and, exhausted from the commute, decided that if he was serious about his project, he was going to have to buy his own scanner.” [h/t Pete Weiss]

“This is Tryniski’s site – it is by current standards, obsolete, but for those of us who started working way back when and are not deterred by the challenges of looking through folders of scanned information organized by location, year and name of the newspapers, and have some patience, the rewards speak for themselves. This is a truly unique and perhaps invaluable resource that will not be duplicated.”


Copyright:

Need some free images for your academic work / poster / presentation / website? Look no further

“We all need images for essays, presentations, posters, art-projects, and lots of other reasons, but we don’t necessarily want to pay for them. Neither do we want to break the law by using copyrighted material we aren’t allowed to reproduce. So where do we find them?”

“Step forward CC0. Images which have been made Creative Commons Zero (also known as CCO) by their creators, are available to use by anyone, however they like. The images are in the Public Domain and can be reproduced, incorporated into other works, modified, and reused, without needing permission and in most cases without even needing to credit the author.”


Government:

United States Census Bureau Data Repository

“The United States Census Bureau Data Repository preserves and disseminates survey instruments, specifications, data dictionaries, codebooks, and other materials provided by the U.S. Census Bureau. ICPSR, the host of this data repository, has also listed additional Census-related data collections from its larger holdings. The repository helps fulfill key recommendations made by the 2017 ‘Report of the Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking.’ Specifically, the repository improves transparency by establishing a ‘searchable inventory, through which the public can learn about the data that government collects.’ The robust metadata also enables “researchers inside and outside government…[to] be better able to identify which data are needed and useful for answering policy questions, conducting program evaluations, and reducing inefficient and unnecessary data requests.”

https://www.bespacific.com/united-states-census-bureau-data-repository/

Research:

Presidential research resources: A guide to online information

“This article highlights the breadth of freely available digital collections of presidential documents. These repositories are excellent resources for presidential, political science, history, and foreign relations research. From the resources listed in this article, librarians can choose multiple starting points for student and faculty research inquiries for primary and secondary sources that include handwritten documents by the founding fathers, interview transcriptions, digitized documents, and photographs, to name a few. This article does not contain public opinion, election, or media content sources, which are an important component of presidential research.”

**Books and Reading:**

**Apple And Walmart Inject New Life Into Sleepy E-Book Market**

“This past week, Walmart announced a deal to sell e-books and e-book reading devices from Kobo, a major player in the global e-book market that had all but given up on the U.S. a few years ago. And Bloomberg reported that Apple is preparing a major revamp of its iBooks e-book platform for iOS devices and Macs and that it hired a top executive away from Amazon to make it happen. The question in the minds of many who follow the American e-book market is simple: Why?”

“The e-book market has stalled. Back in 2013, e-books were predicted to exceed print books in sales by now. But instead, according to Nielsen data, 2013 turned out to be the peak year for e-book sales, and the market has declined slowly ever since.

2016 figures from AuthorEarnings suggest that unit sales of trade e-books (that is, the kinds of books you’d buy at a retail store, as opposed to a college textbook, medical treatise, etc.) have settled down just above 20% of overall trade book sales.”


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**Intersect Alert February 18, 2018**


**Government:**

**Federal Budget Request Seeks to Defund IMLS, Cultural Agencies—Again**

“The FY19 budget request released on February 12 by the Trump administration calls for the defunding of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), as well as a number of other programs relevant to libraries, just as it did last year.”

“Trump’s proposed budget would eliminate funding for IMLS, the Department of Education’s Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL) grant program, the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, as well as after-school programs, K–12 literacy programs, the Global Climate Change Initiative, and a range of health assistance, foreign aid, housing programs, and state grants for education, the environment, and community redevelopment.”


**Libraries:**

**Free to Use and Reuse: Making Public Domain and Rights-Clear Content Easier to Find**

The Library of Congress: “One of our biggest challenges is letting you know about all of the content available at loc.gov. Another challenge we have is letting you know what you can do with it (in a nice way). We are working on several fronts to improve the visibility of public domain and rights-clear content. We moved one step in that direction today with the launch of our Free to Use and Reuse page…”

[https://www.loc.gov/free-to-use/?loclr=blogloc](https://www.loc.gov/free-to-use/?loclr=blogloc)

**Research:**

**World’s biggest city database shines light on our increasingly urbanised planet**

“The JRC has launched a new tool with data on all 10,000 urban centres scattered across the globe. It is the largest and most comprehensive database on cities ever published.”

“With data derived from the JRC’s Global Human Settlement Layer (GHSL), researchers have discovered that the world has become even more urbanised than previously thought.”


**Free webinar: Building Local Communities with Social**
Media

“Libraries have been serving as community cornerstones for decades. They act as education centers, meeting spaces, and hubs of innovation. Every librarian has dozens of stories about the ways they meet user needs, be it through job skills training, providing support for returning veterans, early literacy programs, or access to e-government services.”

“But reaching users who aren’t already engaged with the library can be tricky, especially in a world where social media is changing the way users perceive community and communication. It can feel daunting to tackle telling the library story as communication platforms change rapidly.

“Next week, join us for a free, half hour webinar about social media marketing and community building. Led by Leslie Datsis of PBS Digital Studios, you’ll learn the basics about audience development, targeting, and how to develop a voice for your channels. And you’ll have a few new tools in your belt as you consider how you can take those stories to the next level and make sure that your users (and your elected officials) know just how important libraries are to the community.”


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Holding Pattern | Budgets & Funding

“LJ’s 2018 Budget Survey shows overall budgets continuing to increase slightly, but federal funding disputes and new tax laws raise concern”

“Last year, LJ’s budget survey showed libraries nationwide staying above water throughout 2016. In 2017 that trend continued, with libraries of all sizes reporting an overall average increase in funding for operating, materials, and personnel budgets. The trend seems to be leveling out, however. While total operating budgets rose modestly, concerns over a contentious federal budget that originally sought to eliminate federal library funding, as well as new tax laws, leave libraries unsure of what the future may hold.”

“An initial look at LJ’s 2018 Budgets and Funding survey of U.S. public libraries reveals a 2.8% increase in 2017’s total operating budgets, representing continued improvement since the lows of 2008—although down from last year’s gain of 3.4%. Overall, 77% of the 329 responding libraries reported an increase in total operating budgets from 2016 to 2017. In terms of individual locations, this is an improvement over previous years; 70% reported upticks in 2016, and 74% in 2015.”

https://lj.libraryjournal.com/2018/02/budgets-funding/holding-pattern-budgets-funding/

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Open Data:

Researchers are struggling to replicate AI studies

“Missing code and data are making it difficult to compare machine-learning work—and that may be hurting progress.”

“The problem: Science reports that from a sample of 400 papers at top AI conferences in recent years, only 6 percent of presenters shared code. Just a third shared data, and a little over half shared summaries of their algorithms, known as pseudocode.”

https://www.technologyreview.com/the-download/610294/researchers-are-struggling-to-replicate-ai-studies/

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Books:

The Best Things Found Between the Pages of Old Books

“What secrets hide among the pages of old books? There might be a lock of George Washington’s hair, the story of an forgotten luminary of American literature, or a centuries-old manuscript full of mystery. We asked Atlas Obscura readers to send us their stories about the most amazing items they found in books, and you sent us hundreds of responses—from the gross and macabre to the utterly charming and deeply surprising.”

https://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/surprising-discoveries-pages-old-books

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Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety; attribution appreciated.
The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Communications Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.

Share this:

Library Assistant

Taylor & Associates needs a part-time library assistant to work 3-4 days per week in our client law firm libraries in San Francisco. Enrollment in an MLIS program or library technology program preferred; prior library or bookstore experience is also helpful. Responsibilities may vary from library to library but will include some or all of the following: logging in library mail, processing invoices, shelving books and other materials, filing loose-leaf updates, ordering missing materials, tracking subscriptions and resolving subscription issues, communicating with clients and vendors, and keeping the libraries in good order.

We are looking for someone who can recognize and resolve problems and maintain good communication with the client. S/he must also be able to maintain focus while doing repetitive tasks, sit for extended periods, lift 25 lbs, and demonstrate great attention to detail and the ability to work efficiently without close supervision. Basic knowledge of Excel and acquaintance with databases is required, as is as good office etiquette.

All work must be done during regular business hours (Monday through Friday between 8:30 and 5:30). Hours may vary slightly from week to week, depending on workload, but this will remain a part-time position.

Please send resume and cover letter to Catherine Ghent at taylorlb@taylorlib.com. You may also call Catherine at 510-559-1540.

When applying, please mention that you found this position listing on SLA SV/SF Jobline. Thank you!

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Intersect Alert February 25, 2018


Archives:

The Internet Isn’t Forever

“Because history is a fight we’re having every day. We’re battling to make the truth first by living it, and then by recording and sharing it, and finally, crucially, by preserving it. Without an archive, there is no history.”

https://longreads.com/2018/02/20/the-internet-isnt-forever/

Internet Archive Posts Military Industrial Powerpoint Complex

Military Industrial Powerpoint Complex – United States Military: “This collection was a special project originally done as part of the Internet Archive’s 20th Anniversary celebration on October 26, 2016 highlighting IA’s web archive. The collection consists of all the Powerpoint files (57,489) from the .mil web domain.”

• Motherboard: The Pentagon Has the Worst PowerPoint Slides You’ve Ever Seen – The military is just like us—it can’t PowerPoint either.


Librarians:

Exit Interview: I Curated Rare Books for a 200-Year-Old Library

“In his 47 years at the Boston Athenaeum, Stanley Cushing has handled everything from a magnetic ‘Squid Book’ to an autobiography bound in its author’s skin.”

“The Boston Athenaeum—a 211-year-old independent library in the center of Beacon Hill—is home to about 150,000 rare books. Some are old, and some are brand new. Some are huge, and some are tiny. Some are made of lead, some are made of shredded army uniforms, and one is, famously, made of human skin. Until recently, Stanley Ellis Cushing was in charge of all of them.”


Copyright:

Embedded Tweets and Display Rights: Dangerous Legal
Ground for the Web

“In a troubling recent decision (Goldman v. Breitbart) a court in the Southern District of New York found that embedding an image from Twitter in a web page hosted by a news site can infringe on the exclusive right of the photographer to control the public display of the image. In the case, photographer Justin Goldman said that new sites, including Breitbart, infringed on this right when they included an embedded image of a tweet that contained a photograph he took of Patriots quarterback Tom Brady in the Hamptons.”

“Putting aside the fact that the photographer could have used a more direct method of controlling the use of his image, like a DMCA 512 take-down notice, interpreting an embed (or even worse, a hyperlink) as a form of copyright infringement is a bad idea. The various forms of hyperlinking, including embedded content, form the connective tissue of the web. They provide instant connections between separate sites and various forms of content, allowing sites to offer a more streamlined experience and layered information. They are a crucial part of what makes the web open and accessible, which is why judges and policy makers should exercise caution when changing the legal landscape for links.”

https://cdt.org/blog/embedded-tweets-and-display-rights-dangerous-legal-ground-for-the-web/

Internet Access:

San Francisco: Building Community Broadband to Protect Net Neutrality and Online Privacy

“Like many cities around the country, San Francisco is considering an investment in community broadband infrastructure: high-speed fiber that would make Internet access cheaper and better for city residents. Community broadband can help alleviate a number of issues with Internet access that we see all over America today. Many Americans have no choice of provider for high-speed Internet, Congress eliminated user privacy protections in 2017, and the FCC decided to roll back net neutrality protections in December.”

“This week, San Francisco published the recommendations of a group of experts, including EFF’s Kit Walsh, regarding how to protect the privacy and speech of those using community broadband.”


Technology:

Paper: Text Mining 101

EU OpenMinted Project Paper – What is text mining, how does it work and why is it useful? (http://openminted.eu/text-mining-101/)

“This article will help you understand the basics in just a few minutes. Text mining seeks to extract useful and important information from heterogeneous document formats, such as web pages, emails, social media posts, journal articles, etc. This is often done through identifying patterns within texts, such as trends in words usage, syntactic structure, etc. People often talk about ‘text and data mining (TDM)’ at the same time, but strictly speaking text mining is a specific form of data mining that deals with text…”


Intersect Alert March 5, 2018


Technology

Bias already exists in search engine results, and it’s only going to get worse

“The internet might seem like a level playing field, but it isn’t. Safiya Umoja Noble came face to face with that fact one day when she used Google’s search engine to look for subjects her nieces might find interesting. She entered the term “black girls” and came back with pages dominated by pornography.

Noble, a USC Annenberg communications professor, was horrified but not surprised. For years she has been arguing that the values of the web reflect its builders—mostly white, Western men—and do not represent minorities and women. Her latest book, Algorithms of Oppression, details research she started after that fateful Google search, and it explores the
hidden structures that shape how we get information through the internet.”


Transparency

Five women who stood up for the public’s right to know.

“Sunshine Week—a national initiative to promote a dialogue about the importance of open government and freedom of information—is on the horizon. Held on March 11 through March 17 this year, Sunshine Week occurs annually, coinciding with James Madison’s birthday and National Freedom of Information Day on March 16.

During Sunshine Week, hundreds of libraries, media organizations, civic groups, nonprofits, schools, federal agencies and other participants engage public discussion on the importance of open government. The purpose? To highlight the fact that government functions best when it operates transparently and that the public has the right to access information from the government.

In honor of this upcoming library holiday—and the start of women’s history month—check out these five women who advocated for the public’s right to know.”

http://www.districtdispatch.org/2018/03/look-back-move-forward-right-to-know/

Books and Reading:

Inside the OED: can the world’s biggest dictionary survive the internet?

“At one level, few things are simpler than a dictionary: a list of the words people use or have used, with an explanation of what those words mean, or have meant. At the level that matters, though – the level that lexicographers fret and obsess about – few things could be more complex. Who used those words, where and when? How do you know? Which words do you include, and on what basis? How do you tease apart this sense from that? And what is ‘English’ anyway?

In the case of a dictionary such as the OED – which claims to provide a ‘definitive’ record of every single word in the language from 1000AD to the present day – the question is even larger: can a living language be comprehensively mapped, surveyed and described? Speaking to lexicographers makes one wary of using the word ‘literally’, but a definitive dictionary is, literally, impossible. No sooner have you reached the summit of the mountain than it has expanded another hundred feet. Then you realise it’s not even one mountain, but an interlocking series of ranges marching across the Earth.”


The British Library’s Record-breaking Harry Potter magic exhibition goes online

“As the real doors close on the most successful exhibition in the history of the British Library, Harry Potter: A History of Magic, virtual doors open on a version created with the library’s curators for the Google Arts and Culture site.

Star exhibits, including objects from Harry Potter creator JK Rowling’s personal archive and 360-degree interactive recreations of galleries from the exhibition, launched on Tuesday morning on the Google Arts and Culture site. They will be available free, worldwide and in six languages, with more to be added – reflecting the phenomenal popularity of the books, which have now been translated into scores of languages including Greenlandic and Tibetan.”


New Book: The Politics of Theory and the Practice of Critical Librarianship

“Over the past fifteen years, librarians have increasingly looked to theory as a means to destabilize normative discourses and practices within LIS, to engage in inclusive and non-authoritarian pedagogies, and to organize for social justice. ‘Critlib,’ short for ‘critical librarianship,’ is variously used to refer to a growing body of scholarship, an intellectual or activist movement within librarianship, an online community that occasionally organizes in-person meetings, and an informal Twitter discussion space active since 2014, identified by the #critlib hashtag. Critlib ‘aims to engage in discussion about critical perspectives on library practice’ but it also seeks to bring ‘social justice principles into our work in libraries’”

http://libraryjuicepress.com/blog/?p=5729

Public Policy:

Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals Has New Opportunity to Protect Device Privacy at the Border

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit has a new opportunity to strengthen personal privacy at the border. When courts recognize and strengthen our Fourth Amendment rights against warrantless, suspicionless border searches of our electronic devices, it’s an important check on the government’s power to search anyone, for any or no reason, at airports and border checkpoints.

EFF recently filed amicus briefs in two cases, U.S. v. Cano and U.S. v. Caballero, before the Ninth Circuit arguing that the Constitution requires border agents to have a probable cause
Public Knowledge Urges Americans to Demand Congress Restore FCC Net Neutrality Rules
On February 28th, “Senator Edward J. Markey (D-Mass.) introduced a Congressional Review Act resolution to undo the Federal Communications Commission’s vote to roll back the agency’s 2015 net neutrality rules. Representatives Mike Doyle (D-PA) and Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) also introduced the CRA in the House. A CRA would restore the agency’s 2015 Open Internet Order creating the rules, which the D.C. Circuit Court upheld not once, but twice. Congress has just 60 legislative days from last week’s publication in the Federal Register to use the CRA to overturn the repeal.

The net neutrality rules prevented broadband providers from blocking websites, throttling web traffic, or creating “fast lanes” only for those able to pay for prioritization. Millions of Americans expressed support for these rules by submitting comments with the FCC leading up to the 2015 Open Internet Order, and millions of Americans have opposed FCC Chairman Ajit Pai’s proposal to roll back these rules.”

Privacy
Google’s “right to be forgotten” Transparency Report
“In May 2014, in a landmark ruling, the European Court of Justice established the ‘right to be forgotten,’ or more accurately, the ‘right to delist,’ allowing Europeans to ask search engines to delist information about themselves from search results. In deciding what to delist, search engines like Google must consider if the information in question is “inaccurate, inadequate, irrelevant or excessive”—and whether there is a public interest in the information remaining available in search results.

Understanding how we make these types of decisions—and how people are using new rights like those granted by the European Court—is important. Since 2014, we’ve provided information about ‘right to be forgotten’ delisting requests in our Transparency Report, including the number of URLs submitted to us, the number of URLs delisted and not delisted, and anonymized examples of some of the requests we have received.

Research
Do Academic Journals Favor Researchers from Their Own Institutions?
“Are academic journals impartial? While many would suggest that academic journals work for the advancement of knowledge and science, we show this is not always the case. In a recent study, we find that two international relations (IR) journals favor articles written by authors who share the journal’s institutional affiliation. We term this phenomenon ‘academic in-group bias.’”

New LibGuide – Prices and Wages by Decade
A new guide from the University of Missouri Libraries “points to government publications listing retail prices for common items or ‘necessities of life,’” as well as “prices for foods, articles of clothing, household items, appliances, hardware, fuel and other physical goods” and “other types of common expenditures as well: transportation, cars, homes, rent, utilities, and school tuition for example. Here you will also find typical wages, salaries, hours and earnings for workers dating back to the 1700s.”
A Grim Task: Preserving Mementos from the Florida Shooting

“Under the unforgiving Florida sun, the stuffed animals along the makeshift memorial are beginning to fade. The prayer candles have melted, and the roses have withered. Now it’s time to collect, archive and preserve the mementos that honor the 17 students and faculty who were killed Feb. 14 at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. The grim assignment falls to Parkland city historian Jeff Schwartz, who has already heard from people associated with other mass shootings, telling him to collect the items with ‘some degree of speed.’

‘Objects could fade, get corroded, bug infested. And we want to be able to preserve all this,’ said Schwartz, president of Parkland Historical Society.

After these tragic events, archivists face the task of documenting mementos by cleaning, photographing and storing them for future display.”


Erasing history

“For years, our most important records have been committed to specialized materials and technologies. For archivists, 1870 is the year everything begins to turn to dust. That was the year American newspaper mills began phasing out rag-based paper with wood pulp, ensuring that newspapers printed after would be known to future generations as delicate things, brittle at the edges, yellowing with the slightest exposure to air. In the late 1920s, the Kodak company suggested microfilm was the solution, neatly compacting an entire newspaper onto a few inches of thin, flexible film. In the second half of the century entire libraries were transferred to microform, spun on microfilm reels, or served on tiny microfiche platters, while the crumbling originals were thrown away or pulped. To save newspapers, we first had to destroy them.

Then came digital media, which is even more compact than microfilm, giving way, initially at least, to fantasies of whole libraries preserved on the head of a pin. In the event, the new digital records degraded even more quickly than did newsprint. Information’s most consistent quality is its evanescence. Information is fugitive in its very nature.”


Next-Level Engagement: Leading Communities on Resilience | Editorial

“I love the framing of the new report from the Aspen Institute, “Libraries: Building Community Resilience in Colorado,” published January 31. Casting libraries as engines of resilience is so right-on and so smart as we strive to better articulate our impact and potential. This project is focused on Colorado but has much to offer anyone, anywhere, about how to think about connecting to community needs, anticipate future needs, and respond with a more integrated statewide approach.”


We Can, But Should We?

“Libraries work hard to help the underserved in their communities. However, identifying and reaching out to nonusers of our services is often difficult. Imagine having access to information about every one of your community members and whether and how they use the library. You could tailor your communications and target those who might need services the most.

While the possibilities of library data in learning analytics might be intriguing, the privacy implications are immense. If these systems can identify students who don’t use the library, this means that individual and transaction-level data is being kept and put into other institutional platforms. It’s possible that a library collecting this data could end up responsible for a major breach of patron privacy.”

https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/2018/03/01/learning-analytics-we-can-but-should-we/

Freedom of Information:

FOIA Portal Announced – Is it the Answer?

“DOJ has announced the creation of the national FOIA portal. FOIA portals allow a single entry point for FOIA requests and to check on the status of the requests and some other things such as the disclosure of records.”

http://thefoiablog.typepad.com/the_foia_blog/2018/03/foia-
you can appeal to a higher bureaucratic authority or seek help from an ombudsperson. In most states, you can take the dispute to court.

Public shaming and sarcasm, however, are tactics that can be applied anywhere.”
https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2018/03/foilies-2018

Internet users:

The Spread of True and False News Online
“...is worldwide concern over false news and the possibility that it can influence political, economic, and social well-being. To understand how false news spreads, Vosoughi et al. used a data set of rumor cascades on Twitter from 2006 to 2017. About 126,000 rumors were spread by ~3 million people. False news reached more people than the truth; the top 1% of false news cascades diffused to between 1000 and 100,000 people, whereas the truth rarely diffused to more than 1000 people. Falsehood also diffused faster than the truth. The degree of novelty and the emotional reactions of recipients may be responsible for the differences observed.”
http://science.sciencemag.org/content/359/6380/1146.full

Misinformation Overload
“We live in uncertain times. With big data and a boom in our ability to transmit ideas comes a seemingly greater amount of erroneous information, and therefore the need for everyone to be able to properly identify, discredit, and prevent the spread of falsehoods. What follows is a tour of how much the misrepresentation of reality pervades our world (from whimsical pranks and well-intentioned hoaxes to full-blown propaganda intended to defraud and manipulate), concluding with a discussion of tactics for taking a rational and scientific view so that we may both decrease our susceptibility and improve our ability to detect misinformation.”
https://medium.com/@hubbard/misinformation-overload-9f420ab7b9f0

The Chart, Version 3.0: What, Exactly, Are We Reading?
“As I discussed in my post entitled “The Chart, Second Edition: What Makes a News Source Good?” the most accurate and helpful way to analyze a news source is to analyze its individual stories, and the most accurate way to analyze an individual story is to analyze its individual sentences. I recently started a blog series where I rank individual stories on this chart and provide a written analysis that scores the article itself on a sentence-by-sentence basis, and separately scores the title, graphics, lede, and other visual elements. See a couple of examples here. Categorizing and ranking the news is hard to do because there are so very many factors. But I’ve convinced that the most accurate way to analyze and categorize news is to look as closely at it as possible, and measure everything about it that is measurable. I think we can improve our media landscape by doing this and coming up with novel and accurate
ways to rank and score the news, and then teaching others how to do the same.”
http://www.allgeneralizationsarefalse.com/the-chart-version-3-0-what-exactly-are-we-reading/

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Books and Reading:

Climbing Mount Tsundoku: On Acquiring More Books Than It’s Possible to Read
“One of my little projects last year was something I modestly called “Twenty Core [Subgenre] Speculative Fiction Works Every True SF Fan Should Have On Their Shelves.” Reading is a huge part of my life. Thanks to my freakish cognitive architecture, I read quickly, and thanks to the fact I am as gregarious as a stylite, I have the time to read prodigiously. Putting together the core lists was an amusing application of my resources and yet in amongst all the lists, readers found Twenty Core Speculative Fiction Works It May Surprise You To Learn I Have Not Yet Read Every True SF Fan Should Have On Their Shelves.”
https://www.tor.com/2018/03/01/climbing-mount-tsundoku-on-acquiring-more-books-than-its-possible-to-read/

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Education:

University Libraries launches framework for digital literacy
Taking action and being active in the digital world involves understanding and effectively using a variety of online resources.

To help the campus community and beyond be better equipped to do this, the Virginia Tech University Libraries, with partners from across campus, launched a framework to enhance digital literacy as part of emerging, collaborative digital literacy initiatives.
https://vtnews.vt.edu/articles/2018/03/univlib-digitalliteracy.html

Teaching to the Team | Learning in Practice
By the time most library leaders reach their top management positions, they’ve been out of library school for a while and can take a long view on how their time there shaped their first job, their work supervising new librarians, and their experience at the helm. Others come from the business world and have a unique perspective on library education, often having taken a degree when already high up in a library organization to qualify for a director’s role. Either way, they can have strong views about what library schools should be doing to prepare the kind of employees they’re looking for, what graduates should know to transition successfully to library work, and how schools and libraries can collaborate to produce prosperous graduates. LJ spoke with leaders nationwide to get their opinions about today’s library education and wish list for the future.

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Jobline 2018/03/15


CLOSING DATE: April 13, 2018
SENIOR COMMUNITY LIBRARY MANAGER
Monthly Salary Range: $ 6,165 – $ 7,873
Bargaining Unit: Local 21 – Supervisory Management

**EXTENDED**

THE POSITION

The Contra Costa County Library Department is recruiting to fill one (1) Senior Community Library Manager vacancy located in East Contra Costa County. This is an excellent career opportunity for innovative library professionals with a strong sense of leadership and a commitment to excellence.

Under the direction of the Deputy County Librarian, the Senior Community Library Manager plans, organizes, directs and supervises the activities of an assigned county community library or libraries; and perform other related work as required. This classification is responsible for the day-to-day administration and operation of a full-service county community library. A Senior Community Library Manager applies individual judgment and influence to manage human, financial and physical resources in a community library and supervises the activities of professional, technical and/or clerical level positions involved in library support and service activities.

Characteristics of the ideal candidate:
• A facilitative leader who is open to change and can be flexible, who can build a productive and cohesive team
• Ability to demonstrate a strong customer service orientation, who can understand the needs of employees, patrons and communities
• Effective supervisory experience including the ability to lead, train, coach and inspire staff
• Willingness to listen, network with others, maintain open lines of communication, and have strong presentation and writing skills
• Ability to keep up with new trends and foster curiosity in the field

To read the complete job description, please visit the website, www.cccounty.us/hr. The eligible list established from this recruitment may remain in effect for one year.

TENTATIVE EXAM DATES

Tentative Training & Experience Evaluation: April 24, 2018

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Education: Possession of a Master of Library Science degree from a program accredited by the American Library Association, or equivalent curriculum.

Experience:
Three (3) years of full-time equivalent professional/supervisory public library experience, which must have included experience as a Community/Branch Library Manager in a public library,

OR

Four (4) years full-time equivalent experience working in a library which may include two (2) years as support staff, technician or paraprofessional, and at least two (2) years in a professional/supervisory capacity.

SELECTION PROCESS

1. Application Filing: All applicants must apply on-line at www.cccounty.us/hr and submit the information as indicated on the job announcement by the final filing date. A completed Supplemental Questionnaire is required at the time of applying.
2. Application Evaluation: Depending on the number of applications received, an Application Evaluation Board may be convened to evaluate and select the best-qualified candidates for invitation to the next phase of the examination.
3. Training and Experience Evaluation: Consists of an evaluation of each candidate’s relevant education, training and/or experience as presented on the application and supplemental questionnaire. Candidates must receive a score of at least 70, which may be an adjusted score, in order to be ranked on the employment list. (Weighted 100%)

The Human Resources Department may change the examination steps noted above in accordance with the Personnel Management Regulations and accepted selection practices.

DATE OPENED: March 5, 2018
Exam Number: 3AGH-2018A

When applying, please mention that you found this position listing on SLA SV/SF Jobline. Thank you!

Jobline 2018/03/18


CLOSING DATE: April 9, 2018
**EXTENDED**
COMMUNITY LIBRARY MANAGER
Monthly Salary Range: $5,937 – $7,582
Bargaining Unit: Local 21 – Supervisory Management

THE POSITION
The Contra Costa County Library is currently recruiting to fill one vacant Community Library Manager position for the Martinez Community Library. The eligible list established from this recruitment may be used to fill future vacancies at other community Libraries. Contra Costa County operates over 26 community libraries within a 750 square mile area and serves close to 1 million urban, suburban and rural customers with an annual circulation exceeding 5.5 million.

Community Library Managers are responsible for day-to-day administration and operation of a full service community library. Responsibilities include applying individual judgment and influence to manage human, financial and physical resources in a community library and supervise the activities of professional, paraprofessional technical and/or clerical level positions involved in library support and service activities; plan, develop and implement community library goals, objectives, policies and procedures; collaborate with City staff in the planning and development of library programs and services; assess community library needs and formulate proposals and policies and other duties as assigned.
The ideal candidate will have a proven track record demonstrating the following:

- Knowledge of library methods, techniques and procedures
- Ability to assume community leadership and evaluate the needs of the community library
- Experience with the principles and techniques involved in the operation and administration of public libraries
- Effective supervision and mentorship of staff; including the ability to lead, train, coach, and provide feedback to subordinate staff
- Exhibits effective communication skills; establish professional relationships with individuals and groups

Read the complete job description at [www.cccounty.us/hr](http://www.cccounty.us/hr). The eligible list established from this recruitment may remain in effect for one year and may be used to fill future vacancies at other community Library locations in Contra Costa County.

**TENTATIVE EXAM DATES**

Tentative Exam: May 2, 2018

**MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS**

Education: Possession of a Master of Library Science degree from a program accredited by the American Library Association, or equivalent curriculum.

Experience: Two (2) years of full-time equivalent professional/supervisory library experience.

OR

Three (3) years full-time equivalent experience working in a library, which may include two (2) years as support staff, technician or paraprofessional, and at least one (1) year at a professional/supervisory level.

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**LIBRARIAN SPECIALIST**

Monthly Salary Range: $5,142 – $6,567

Bargaining Unit: Local One

**THE POSITION**

Are you a highly specialized library professional seeking a new opportunity to make the most out of your career? Then this is an opportunity you won’t want to miss! There is one Librarian Specialist opening for a dedicated, innovative, and highly skilled professional splitting their time between the Dougherty Station Library in San Ramon with a focus on Adult Services onsite and the Library Administration Office in Martinez with a focus on Adult Services countywide. Join Contra Costa County Library in its mission to inspire the citizens of the County to work together, spark imagination, fuel potential, and connect people with ideas and each other.

To read the complete job description, please visit the website, [www.cccounty.us/hr](http://www.cccounty.us/hr). The eligible list established from this recruitment will remain in effect for one year.

**TENTATIVE EXAM DATES**

Tentative Training & Experience Evaluation: April 12, 2018
MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

License Required: Possession of a valid California Motor Vehicle Operator’s License. Out of state valid motor vehicle operator’s license will be accepted during the application process.

Education: Possession of a Master’s degree in Library and Information Science from a school of librarianship accredited by the American Library Association.

Experience: Two (2) years of full-time or its equivalent professional library experience.

SELECTION PROCESS

1. Application Filing: All applicants must apply on-line at www.cccounty.us/hr and submit the information as indicated on the job announcement by the final filing date. A completed Supplemental Questionnaire is required at the time of applying.

2. Application Evaluation: Depending on the number of applications received, an Application Evaluation Board may be convened to evaluate and select the best-qualified candidates for invitation to the next phase of the examination.

3. Training and Experience Evaluation: Consists of an evaluation of each candidate’s relevant education, training and/or experience as presented on the application and supplemental questionnaire. (Weighted 100%)

4. Candidates must receive a score of at least 70, which may be an adjusted score, in order to be ranked on the employment list.

The Human Resources Department may change the examination steps noted above in accordance with the Personnel Management Regulations and accepted selection practices.

DATE OPENED: February 19, 2018
Exam Number: 3AVA-2018A

When applying, please mention that you found this position listing on SLA SV/SF Jobline. Thank you!

Technology

VR is still a novelty, but Google’s light-field technology could make it serious art

“I recently got a private tour of a NASA space shuttle’s cockpit, a quirky mosaic-covered LA home, and a peaceful chapel with light streaming through ornate stained-glass windows—all without leaving my chair.

That chair was in an office at Google’s Silicon Valley headquarters, and I was wearing an HTC Vive virtual-reality headset on my face. But because these places were filmed with a high-resolution prototype camera that reproduces some of the key cues we use to understand depth in the real world, it felt more like actually being there than anything I’ve experienced with any other live-action VR. Which is to say it was pretty damn cool.”


Bridging the communications gap between human and machine

“Artificial intelligence is seeping into an increasing number of industries, like finance and manufacturing. Now Chicago-based Narrative Science is successfully bringing AI into writing. Founded in 2010 to automatically turn statistics into baseball stories, the organization has evolved into a powerhouse in natural-language generation.

Stuart Frankel is the CEO of Narrative Science and has helped guide this transition from sports statistics to business insights. We spoke to Frankel about how technology like this is changing daily workflow in different industries and bridging the language gap between human workers and machines.”


Values:

Responding to Communities in Crisis

“Charlottesville and the University of Virginia have been in the news a lot recently. In Summer 2017, a series of white supremacist rallies took place in Charlottesville, culminating in the August 2017 Unite the Right rally which erupted in
violence between counter-protestors and the white supremacists. In 2014, UVA was the focal point of a conversation about sexual assault on campuses after an article in Rolling Stone detailed, and later retracted, a story titled “A Rape on Campus.” A few years before, UVA’s president was forced out by the board and later reinstated, resulting in national conversations about the future of higher education centered around the scandal at UVA. While it wasn’t specific to our institution, some also viewed the 2016 presidential election and its aftermath as a community crisis, since it was traumatizing for many people and resulted in local conflicts.

In light of this recent string of traumas, and our lack of clarity about what to do when they occur, my colleagues and I wanted to start a conversation with other academic librarians about how we can respond when our communities are in crisis. A few weeks ago, we had the opportunity to travel to Knoxville, Tennessee for the Library Collective Conference, where we facilitated a roundtable discussion centered on crisis response in libraries informed by our own experiences as librarians at UVA.”


Books and Reading:

Why Reading Books Should be Your Priority, According to Science
“More than a quarter—26 percent—of American adults admit to not having read even part of a book within the last year. That’s according to statistics coming out of the Pew Research Center. If you’re part of this group, know that science supports the idea that reading is good for you on several levels.”

Research:

Excellent research tool — the Wayback Machine browser extension
“If you do active online research (which is pretty much the whole point of SearchResearch), you fairly often run into web pages that are 404. When this happens, it means that the link you’re trying to follow leads to a page that is missing. It might have been removed by the author, or just moved elsewhere. In any case, the link you’ve got doesn’t work any more.”

Research Tools: ProPublica Adds “People Search” to Non-Profit Explorer Database
“Today we’re launching a new feature in our Nonprofit Explorer database. You can now search for board members and key employees who work at nonprofit organizations by name.

The database includes everyone listed on nonprofit tax returns filed electronically between 2014 and 2017. The data includes each person’s reported title and base compensation.”

Libraries:

Inside the Comics Collection of the World’s Largest Medical Library
“Millions of books, journals, manuscripts, and images fill the National Library of Medicine (NLM), the world’s largest medical library, on the grounds of the National Institutes of Health. The documents cover the long history of medical research, the oldest dating all the way back to 11th century Persia. In 2016, the ever-growing collection started gathering one of the most recent forms of scientific literature: graphic medicine, which encompasses materials (mostly books) that use comics as a means of educating people about illness and health.”

School Librarians’ Impassioned Response To Call To Be Armed
“She had seen the meme a few times before and ignored it. But when her sister-in-law wanted to show her something funny during dinner—and it turned out to be that same meme about arming school librarians with a gun with a silencer—Dottie Black couldn’t keep quiet anymore.

‘I feel very strongly that teachers having guns is an absolutely absurd idea, and that meme just hit me the wrong way at that particular moment,’ says Black, media specialist at Northeast Elementary School in Bellhaven, NC.”

Banning literature in prisons perpetuates system that ignores inmate humanity
“We read to understand and express ourselves, to connect with our humanity, and to understand our rights and learn better ways of protecting our constitutional freedoms. Those issues are especially important to prisoners, who are isolated from society and frequently from one another.”

Transparency:

Classified Presidential Library Records to be Moved to DC
"The National Archives said last week that it will gather tens of millions of pages of classified historical records from Presidential Libraries around the country and will bring them to Washington, DC for declassification review.”
https://fas.org/blogs/secrecy/2018/03/nara-consolidation/

**In Transparency Lawsuits, The University of Wisconsin Ends Up On The Losing Side**

"Pritchard and his co-author John Anderson – who is the winner of a similar lawsuit – analyzed every public-records lawsuit filed against the University of Wisconsin system during the last four decades. They were surprised to find that in the last 40 years, the UW system hasn’t won a single case where they sought to conceal these records.”

**Accessing government records isn’t always easy. Here’s how we’ve pursued them, and why it matters**

“Sunshine Week marks a nationwide celebration of access to public information. It also spotlights one of the most crucial elements of investigative journalism, and journalism more broadly: making the workings of government transparent in part by accessing available records.

Hosted annually by the American Society of News Editors and Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, Sunshine Week carries with it a slogan, “It’s Your Right to Know.”

Here at the Center for Public Integrity, we agree. We’ve highlighted some of the stories that involved digging through records to defend your right to know: Where your state lawmakers make their money, how many students your state is sending through the prison pipeline, the records behind campus sexual assault and more.”

**Freedom of Information**

**How transparent is FOIA?**

“On Capitol Hill, senators are complaining that there’s too little transparency surrounding the government’s premier transparency law.

While the Department of Justice recently launched a one-stop shop to centralize the submissions of Freedom of Information Act requests, Republican and Democratic senators alike expressed frustrations with agencies’ actual responses — or lack thereof — to records requests.

‘No one can say with a straight face that FOIA always works as intended,’ said Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) at a March 13 hearing.”


**Long-awaited FDLP Modernization Act would strengthen public access to government information**

“The bipartisan FDLP Modernization Act of 2018 (H.R. 5305) was introduced on March 15 following months of effort by the Committee on House Administration. The bill would modernize the Federal Depository Library Program and related programs that provide public access to government information.”

**Save Government Information!**

“Today, access to born-digital federal government information is relatively easy. Most of it is even available for free. But there are few legal guarantees to ensure that the information published today will be available tomorrow. Now, the GPO Reform Act of 2018 about to be introduced in Congress, pitched as a modernization of the Government Publishing Office (GPO) and the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP), will actually endanger long-term free public access to government information.”
https://lj.libraryjournal.com/2018/03/opinion/peer-to-peer-review/save-government-information-peer-to-peer-review/#

**International Outlook:**

**European Parliament ambushed by doctored version of pending internet censorship rules that sneak filtering into all online services**

“For months, the European Parliament has been negotiating over a new copyright rule, with rightsholder organizations demanding that some online services implement censoring filters that prevent anyone from uploading text, sounds or images if they have been claimed by a copyright holder.

These filters — branded #censorshipmachines by activists — were hugely controversial: even when used as intended, they make no allowances for fair dealing and other limitations to copyright. Beyond that, they are ripe for abuse, incentivizing trolls and censors to register materials as a means of keeping them off the internet, regardless of whether they hold any relevant copyrights.”
https://boingboing.net/2018/03/14/metadata-strikes-again.html

**Two New Videos Re: Copyright Reform in Europe**

Two videos from Aalto University and ResearchLibrariesUK (RLUK) on EU Copyright Reform.
https://www.infodocket.com/2018/03/19/two-new-videos-re-copyright-reform-in-europe/
**Publishing**

**Holtzbrinck has attacked Project Gutenberg in a new front in the War of Copyright Maximization**

“As if copyright law could be more metaphysical than it already is, German publishing behemoth Holtzbrinck wants German copyright law to apply around the world, or at least in the part of the world attached to the Internet. Holtzbrinck’s empire includes Big 5 book publisher Macmillan and a majority interest in academic publisher Springer-Nature.”

[https://go-to-hellman.blogspot.com/2018/03/holtzbrinck-has-attacked-project.html](https://go-to-hellman.blogspot.com/2018/03/holtzbrinck-has-attacked-project.html)

**EBSCO Information Services to release DRM-Free E-Books to expand e-book options for libraries and improve end-user experience**

“EBSCO Information Services (EBSCO) continues its commitment to providing libraries and their patrons with access to high-quality e-book content by making more than 70,000 EBSCO eBooks Digital Rights Management (DRM) free. The DRM-free initiative reinforces EBSCO’s commitment to working with publishers to increase e-book options for libraries.

With thousands of DRM-free titles available, libraries can now purchase both DRM-free and DRM-protected e-books from EBSCO. Titles will be available on an unlimited concurrent user (UU) basis, and users will avoid any limitations on printing, saving, or downloading. No sign-in or Adobe ID will be required, and no special software will be needed to access these titles. Librarians will have the choice between the DRM-free unlimited user version of a title or a limited user model (1U or 3U) with standard DRM-protection, enabling them to maximize their budgets and customize their collections to meet user demand. Users will enjoy quick, intuitive access to both PDF and EPUB DRM-free downloads, either for the entire book or at the chapter level. DRM-free EBSCO eBooks can be purchased on a title-by-title basis through preferred ordering services, including EBSCOhost Collection Manager (ECM), OASIS, and GOBI, the leading web-based acquisitions tool for academic libraries. Libraries that purchased limited concurrent user models can easily upgrade to the DRM-free versions.”

[https://librarytechnology.org/news/pr.pl?id=23269](https://librarytechnology.org/news/pr.pl?id=23269)

**Academic Libraries on Social Media: Finding the Students and the Information They Want**

“Librarians from Purdue University wanted to determine which social media platforms students use, which platforms they would like the library to use, and what content they would like to see from the library on each of these platforms. We conducted a survey at four of the nine campus libraries to determine student social media habits and preferences. Results show that students currently use Facebook, YouTube, and Snapchat more than other social media types; however, students responded that they would like to see the library on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. Students wanted nearly all types of content from the libraries on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, but they did not want to receive business news or content related to library resources on Snapchat. YouTube was seen as a resource for library service information.”


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**Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety; attribution appreciated.**

The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Communications Committee

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**Social Media**

**Understanding Twitter use by major LIS professional organisations in the United States**

**Intersect Alert March 26, 2018**

Professional Development:

**Developing Good Privacy Policies, a free LITA webinar**
“Writing policies can be exciting when it’s something you care about—and librarians care about privacy. This webinar will help you write (or revise) a privacy policy to include critical issues like privacy law, professional ethics surrounding privacy, how you handle personally identifiable information, what section should be covered in a solid privacy policy, and making it all comprehensible to a layperson. We will also discuss how to ensure that the privacy policy is understood and adhered to by all library stakeholders—from library staff to supervisors and governance bodies.”


International Outlook:

**IFLA Releases Global Vision Report Summary**
“IFLA’s eagerly-awaited Global Vision Report Summary launches today, Monday 19 March, at the IFLA President’s Meeting 2018, revealing incredible insights into the views of over 31,000 participants from 213 countries and territories and across all seven continents.”


**Panel Discussion: Does the UN Want to Take Over the Internet?**
“Policy decisions for the Internet are increasingly made in the international arena. The United Nations’ International Telecommunication Union is a major source of these decisions, and it plays a significant role in setting norms and obligations for the Internet.”


**Report: “India’s Digital Library Plans to Collaborate with Foreign Peers”**
“The National Digital Library of India (NDLI) is focusing on forging collaborations with digital libraries in the US and Australia, as part of its second phase of development.

Through collaborations, NDLI is looking at strengthening its own content, technology and business model. The library does not have a business model in place and has been running on government funding since its inception in 2015.”


**Bavarian State Library offers German and English content via Yewno research platform**
“Yewno, Inc., leading provider of Artificial Intelligence Yewno’s Discover platform harnesses hundreds of millions of semantic connections and conceptual links from millions of scholarly articles, books, and databases across all academic fields. This empowers researchers to navigate intuitively across concepts, relationships, and disciplines, learning from resources that might have otherwise been overlooked. This not only enhances understanding and creates more impactful work, but also saves time while ensuring comprehensive coverage.”

[https://librarytechnology.org/pr/23307](https://librarytechnology.org/pr/23307)

Libraries

**Six Years of Tracking MARC Usage**
“We have been tracking the use of the MARC standard, as evidenced in WorldCat records (now well over 400 million!) for six years. Not only have we reported on how often a tag and its constituent subfields have been used (even ones that shouldn’t exist), but for selected subfields we have also reported on its contents.”


**Paper Shifting to Data Savvy: The Future of Data Science In Libraries**
“This report primarily presents a synthesis of the discussions, findings, and reflections from an international, two-day workshop held in May 2017 in Pittsburgh, where community members participated in a program with speakers, group discussions, and activities to drill down into the challenges of successfully implementing data science in libraries. Participants came from funding organizations, academic and public libraries, nonprofits, and commercial organizations with most of the discussions focusing on academic libraries and library schools.”


**Big federal funding increases for libraries**
“We are thrilled that Congress has passed an FY2018 omnibus spending bill today that includes significant federal funding increases for our nation’s libraries!

One year ago, the White House proposed eliminating the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and slashed millions of dollars in federal funding for libraries. Twelve months and tireless advocacy efforts later, ALA advocates have helped libraries:

- win $9 million more for IMLS than it had in FY 2017, including $5.7 million for the Library Services and Technology Act.
- restore $27 million for the Innovative Approaches to
• provide $350 million for the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program.

Congress also appropriated an unexpected $700 million for Title IV education programs, which opens doors to new funding for school libraries. On top of the good news about funding for libraries, Congress added a policy provision that has been on our advocacy agenda for years: Congressional Research Services (CRS) reports will now be published online by the Library of Congress, ensuring for the first time permanent public access to valuable government information.”

http://www.districtdispatch.org/2018/03/big-federal-funding-increases-for-libraries/

Librarians

‘To Meet or Not to Meet?’ That is NOT the question.

“A day in the life of a librarian involves a lot of meetings, am I right? Particularly, as the type-casting goes, academic librarians. We all complain about this. We all wish we had more time and fewer meetings. So why haven’t we solved this? What would we measure in order to do so? I’ve been grappling with these questions as I work on a chapter about how meetings contribute to an organization’s knowledge management. There is so much about this that seems impossible to pare down, especially given the various ways we may experience meetings.”

http://acrl.org/2018/03/19/to-meet-or-not-to-meet-that-is-not-the-question/

Privacy:

It’s not a bug, it’s a feature: How Cambridge Analytica demonstrates the desperate need for data protection

“Reports from The New York Times and The Guardian show that Cambridge Analytica used enormous datasets of personal information from Facebook to advertise to micro-targeted voters in the U.K. and the U.S. The information had initially been obtained from Facebook through a researcher, and then reportedly sold to Cambridge Analytica. Facebook says this practice was a violation of their terms of service, but the incident raises important questions about data protection in the age of data harvesting.”


Yet Another Lesson from the Cambridge Analytica Fiasco: Remove the Barriers to User Privacy Control

Last weekend’s Cambridge Analytica news—that the company was able to access tens of millions of users’ data by paying low-wage workers on Amazon’s Mechanical Turk to take a Facebook survey, which gave Cambridge Analytica access to Facebook’s dossier on each of those turkers’ Facebook friends—has hammered home two problems: first, that Facebook’s default privacy settings are woefully inadequate to the task of really protecting user privacy; and second, that ticking the right boxes to make Facebook less creepy is far too complicated. Unfortunately for Facebook, regulators in the U.S. and around the world are looking for solutions, and fast.

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2018/03/why-we-didnt-make-fix-my-facebook-privacy-settings-tool

Open Access:

UC libraries launch tool to help achieve open access

“To accelerate toward free readership for all, the University of California Libraries published Pathways to Open Access, a toolkit for campuses and research institutions to help make more knowledge openly available.

The resource aims to help research libraries and institutions throughout the world, by empowering them with information that could enable them to redirect their spending away from high-cost subscription services and toward sustainable open access scholarly publishing.”

http://news.lib.berkeley.edu/pathways-to-open-access

Combating Government Secrecy through Freedom of Information

“In response to a growing culture of government secrecy, people are seeking new ways to defend their right to information and combat intensifying threats to transparency and accountability. Openness advocates, journalists, litigators and grassroots organizations working on a range of policy issues are increasingly looking to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) to shine light on government actions carried out in our name, but without our knowledge. Today, Open the Government released a Best Practices Guide to FOIA Collaboration, highlighting cases where FOIA collaboration is successfully being used to fuel advocacy campaigns and advance openness policies.”

https://www.openthegovernment.org/node/5673

Research

Using Existing Bibliographic Resources to Compile Faculty Publication Lists: a Case Study from San José State University

“Our goal was to search the lowest number of databases and still retrieve 100% of faculty citations. To this end, we developed search strategies for each database using its native search facets and limiters. In considering facets, author institution and publication dates were critical to generating
Researchers From John Jay College of Criminal Justice Develop First of its Kind School Shootings Database; Public Released For Spring 2019

“Researchers at John Jay College of Criminal Justice are creating a first of its kind national, open-source database to track shootings on K-12 school grounds and sharpen the public’s understanding of these tragedies. In partnership with University of Texas at Dallas and Michigan State University, the project is supported by a grant from the National Institute of Justice’s Comprehensive School Safety Initiative – a research-focused initiative that seeks to develop knowledge about the root causes of school violence and to foster and evaluate strategies for increasing school safety.”


Google Scholar: Quickly flip through papers on your phone

“Today, we are making it easier to use your phone to find and scan scholarly articles. Clicking a Scholar search result on your phone now opens a quick preview. You can swipe left and right to quickly flip through the list of results. Where available, you can read abstracts. Or explore related and citing articles, which appear at the bottom of the preview along with other familiar Scholar features.”

https://scholar.googleblog.com/2018/03/quickly-flip-through-papers-on-your.html

Research Tools: New OECD-WTO Data Provides Coherent and Comprehensive View of Global Trade in Services

“Services comprise a growing share of international trade. Yet detailed statistics on which countries trade which services with which partners remain patchy. Although worldwide, almost all countries provide an estimate of total trade in services as part of their balance of payments and national accounts, only around 50 OECD and non-OECD countries provide some geographical breakdown in their services statistics. This means that we have no data at all for 90% of all possible bilateral services trade relationships, which reflect nearly half of the global services trade value. Moreover, even where data are available, asymmetries – where country A’s figures on exports to country B don’t match country B’s figures on imports from country A – undermine their usefulness.

To mitigate these problems, the OECD, WTO and countries have been collaborating to build a transparent and replicable global dataset of coherent bilateral trade in services statistics by main services categories.

The first edition of the OECD WTO Balanced Trade in Services (BaTIS) dataset is now available.”


Technology:

Evaluating Credibility on the Web With Annotation

“The goal of The Credibility Coalition is to make it easy for communities, publishers, content platforms, and the general public to create and access consistent, contextual information about credibility to help make decisions about content they might consume, publish or share.

The framework harnesses annotation to link credibility indicators to specific pieces of online content — not only to entire documents or pages, but even to paragraphs, sentences, or fragments. Annotation is used throughout: in the process of creating credibility indicators, to display results directly to readers, and to publish discoverable, structured credibility data for wider use. Ultimately, readers could interact with content using tools that harness credibility data from sources they trust, like specific news sources, fact-checking services, or communities of experts.”

https://web.hypothes.is/blog/evaluating-credibility-on-the-web-with-annotation/

Libraries need to evolve to bridge the gap between digital and physical experiences, reveals UTS and Civica research

“Bridging the gap between online and physical experiences is a key challenge for libraries, reveals the latest Civica Changing LandscapeTM Report: the intrinsic value of libraries as public spaces – Physical-digital, communicating the new normal. The report was developed by the Institute for Public Policy and Governance, University of Technology Sydney (UTS) and Civica, a market leader in business-critical software, digital solutions and managed services for organisations around the world helping transform the way they work.

While 85 percent of the users are happy with the physical experience, only 61 percent are satisfied with the online offerings; there are still opportunities for online services to improve to meet users’ expectations. The latest report is the second edition of a series that first started in 2016. It focusses on the state of library service delivery whilst exploring users’ experiences with libraries and their perceptions of physical and digital spaces.”

https://librarytechnology.org/news/pr.pl?id=23294
Intersect Alert April 2, 2018

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2018/04/intersect-alert-april-2-2018/ April 2, 2018 Categories: Intersect Alert Tags: internet access, libraries, open access, professional development, research, technology, values which helps libraries design bookmobiles.”

Professional Development:

Webinar: Deborah Schmidle discusses the Certificate in Library Leadership and Management

“Join us for a webinar on April 10th, in which Deborah Schmidle discusses her certificate program with Library Juice Academy, the Certificate in Library Leadership and Management. This six-course series provides a strong foundation in managerial skills, and is intended for new managers or those who would like to enhance their current knowledge base. Though these courses touch on organizational theory, the primary focus is on practical skills that can be readily adapted to individual needs.”

http://libraryjuicepress.com/blog/?p=5740

Libraries:

Careers over Jobs: Public libraries can contribute to local workforce development

“Public libraries are widely known for helping people apply for jobs, especially in the wake of the Great Recession of the late 2000s. But Andrea Levandowski, program manager for small business development and technology at the New Jersey State Library in Trenton, said that’s only part of the employment equation.”

https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/blogs/the-scoop/pla-careers-over-jobs/

Bookmobiles are still a thing

“In 1995, there were nearly 1,000 bookmobiles operating across the United States. Now there are fewer than 650. Despite the decline, their services remain vital, especially in rural areas where people often live far from their library branch and have limited internet access. Bookmobiles help close this gap by creating a traveling branch, said Michael Swendrowski, a board member of the Association of Bookmobile and Outreach Services and owner of Specialty Vehicle Services, which helps libraries design bookmobiles.”

https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/latest-links/bookmobiles-still-thing/

Open Access:

Feds Come Around to OER — Slowly

“Three times since 2013, members in both houses of Congress have introduced the Affordable College Textbook Act, which would create a federal program to fund the creation of open educational resources on a nationwide scale. Each time, that bill has faltered in committee. Meanwhile, advocates tried for a one-time appropriation for OER funding in the annual federal budget. Last week’s omnibus appropriations bill included $5 million for a pilot program of creating and expanding OER textbooks that will save students money.”


Research:

Americans’ complicated feelings about social media in an era of privacy concerns

“Pew Research Center has studied the spread and impact of social media since 2005, when just 5% of American adults used the platforms. The trends tracked by our data tell a complex story that is full of conflicting pressures. On one hand, the rapid growth of the platforms is testimony to their appeal to online Americans. On the other, this widespread use has been accompanied by rising user concerns about privacy and social media firms’ capacity to protect their data. Here are some of the dynamics.”

Technology:

It’s time for an RSS revival

“The modern web contains no shortage of horrors, from ubiquitous ad trackers to all-consuming platforms to YouTube comments, generally. Unfortunately, there’s no panacea for what ails this internet we’ve built. But anyone weary of black-box algorithms controlling what you see online at least has a respite, one that’s been there all along but has often gone ignored. Tired of Twitter? Facebook fatigued? It’s time to head back to RSS.”

https://www.wired.com/story/rss-readers-feedly-inoreader-old-reader/

Internet Access:

A Free and Public-Serving Internet

“Tim Wu speaks at the Big Ideas session at the Public Library Association Conference in Philadelphia on Saturday, March 24.

Author, policy advocate, opinion writer, and inventor of the term net neutrality Tim Wu said his ‘love affair with public libraries’ started in childhood.”


The Public Internet Option: How Local Governments Can Provide Network Neutrality, Privacy, and Access for All

“As the FCC in the Trump era dismantles vital rules protecting net neutrality and users’ privacy, Americans need an internet provider that they can trust and is accountable to the public, not profits. Municipal governments can provide this by offering broadband service themselves and implementing the net neutrality and privacy protections that are no longer required of private companies by federal policies. The internet has become a crucial utility, yet quality broadband service in the US is far from universal.

Values:

Intersections | A Queer Library Outreach Zine

“An idea struck me last summer to do a compilation zine where queer people could submit their stories and images related to their experiences with libraries or information seeking in general. My call for submissions on Twitter got hundreds of retweets and I thought, “Dang, how am I going to have time to read through all the submissions?!” And then I received zero submissions, so I had plenty of time.

While I still think a queer library experience compilation zine would be stellar—I decided to make a zine myself in the meantime. In “Librarian Field Notes” I reflect upon the things I’ve learned in my various queer outreach capacities at a small public library in Northern Louisiana, at the University of Dubuque where I am currently working, and in the greater Dubuque community. I also go on a five-page tangent about the desexualization of queer people in our culture and why libraries should buy more queer erotica. Librarian Field Notes is a guide for librarians who want to provide services to support their queer patrons but don’t know where to start or find it too daunting of a task. It is also for librarians who are seeking to better understand queer communities and their unique needs.”

http://www.alb.org/advocacy/intersections-queer-library-outreach-zine

Jobline 2018/04/04


Deputy County Librarian

CLOSING DATE: April 27, 2018
Monthly Salary Range: $ 8,497 – $ 10,328
Bargaining Unit: Management – Mgmt Classes, Classified & Exempt

THE POSITION

The Contra Costa County Library is recruiting for a creative, enthusiastic, and innovative leader for an exciting and challenging opportunity as a Deputy County Librarian.

Under the direction of the County Librarian, the Deputy
County Librarian oversees and coordinates the day-to-day operations of multiple community libraries directly and through subordinate levels of professional staff. This classification serves as a member of the Library Executive Management team, and is responsible for planning, budget recommendations and other administrative activities. Incumbents provide direct supervision to Library Managers, subordinate professional, technical, and clerical personnel.

Characteristics of the ideal candidate:

• An emotionally intelligent leader who is an effective listener and consensus builder at all levels
• Experience collaborating with cities/towns and other agencies on complex library capital projects
• Effective supervisory experience and mentorship of staff, including the ability to lead and coach to develop future leaders
• Ability to lead library strategic planning and assessment, develop and execute system-wide policies, procedures and initiatives
• Demonstrate passion through organizational focus, perseverance, and commitment

To read the complete job description, please visit the website, www.cccounty.us/hr. The eligible list established from this recruitment may remain in effect for six months.

TENTATIVE EXAM DATES

Tentative Oral Interview: May 17, 2018

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

License Required: Possession of a valid California Motor Vehicle Operator’s License. Out of state valid motor vehicle operator’s license will be accepted during the application process.

Education: Possession of a Master of Library Science degree from a school of Librarianship accredited by the American Library Association or a Master’s degree in a related field.

Experience: Four (4) years of full-time or its equivalent professional experience in a large complex organization such as a large public or academic library or other large business, at least three (3) years of which must have been in a supervisory capacity

SELECTION PROCESS

1. Application Filing: All applicants must apply on-line at www.cccounty.us/hr and submit the information as indicated on the job announcement by the final filing date. A completed Supplemental Questionnaire is required at the time of applying.

2. Application Evaluation: Depending on the number of applications received, an Application Evaluation Board may be convened to evaluate and select the best-qualified candidates for invitation to the next phase of the examination.

3. Oral Interview: Conducted by a Qualifications Appraisal Board who will evaluate candidates in job-related areas. Candidates must receive a score of at least 70, which may be an adjusted score, in order to be ranked on the employment list. (Weighted 100%)

The Human Resources Department may change the examination steps noted above in accordance with the Personnel Management Regulations and accepted selection practices.

DATE OPENED: April 2, 2018

When applying, please mention that you found this position listing on SLA SV/SF Jobline. Thank you!

Share this:

Intersect Alert April 9, 2018


April 9, 2018 Categories: Intersect Alert Tags: intellectual property, internet users, librarians, libraries, open access, privacy, technology, values
digitized microfilm reels, includes correspondence, diaries, a daybook, scrapbooks, speeches, and miscellaneous items.”

Libraries:

Susan B. Anthony Papers now online at Library of Congress

“The papers of reformer and suffragist Susan B. Anthony (1820-1906) span the period 1846-1934 with the bulk of the material dating from 1846 to 1906. The collection, consisting of approximately 500 items (6,265 images) on seven recently

Librarians:
The Natural Enemy of the Librarian

“Librarians and architects were already at odds in the late nineteenth century, when librarianship and architectural practice were being professionalized. (The American Library Association was founded in 1876, the American Institute for Architects in 1856.) Many librarians felt that architects ignored their needs and created buildings that emphasized grandeur over functionality. William Frederick Poole, the librarian at the Chicago Historical Society and the founder of Poole’s Index to Periodical Literature, was one of the most outspoken opponents of such designs, which he saw as wasting space and pointlessly imitating churches. At a meeting of the ALA in 1881, Poole delivered a fiery speech against the “vacuity” of the new Peabody Institute Library in Baltimore. “The nave is empty and serves no purpose that contributes to the architectural effect,” he argued. “Is not this an expensive luxury?”

https://www.canopycanopycanopy.com/contents/the-natural-enemy-of-the-librarian

Copyright:

Copyright Office Virtual Catalog

“The U.S. Copyright Card Catalog provides an index to copyright registrations and other public records pertaining to ownership of intellectual property. The catalog enables users to identify original Copyright registration records and other U.S. Office records from 1870 through 1977.”

https://vcc.copyright.gov/

Internet Users:

Ask ProPublica Illinois: How Do You Identify Fake News?

“At the beginning of the year, we asked ProPublica Illinois readers what they wanted to know about how we do our work. Thoughtful, challenging questions have been rolling in ever since, and we’ve been answering them in an occasional series of columns. ProPublica Illinois web producer Vignesh Ramachandran answers an inquiry about spotting false news.”

https://www.propublica.org/article/ask-propublica-illinois-how-do-you-identify-fake-news#142047

Open Access:

Congress Will Finally Make Its Research Reports Public

“The recent omnibus bill passed by Congress contains a nugget of good news for those interested in access to publicly funded research.

Open access activists have long been asking for reports by the Congressional Research Service, or CRS, to be made publicly and easily available. CRS creates a vast array of reports on topics that are of interest to members of Congress. In 2016 alone [pdf], CRS produced reports for Congress on topics like climate change, agriculture and free trade, offshore oil and gas drilling, and U.S. patent policies. The research produced by CRS has been held in high regard for decades.”

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2018/04/you-always-wanted-read-crs-reports-now-you-can

Privacy:

Data Privacy Policy Must Empower Users and Innovation

“As the details continue to emerge regarding Facebook’s failure to protect its users’ data from third-party misuse, a growing chorus is calling for new regulations. Mark Zuckerberg will appear in Washington to answer to Congress next week, and we expect lawmakers and others will be asking not only what happened, but what needs to be done to make sure it doesn’t happen again.”


Technology:

In Blockchain We Trust

“To understand why blockchain matters, look past the wild speculation at what is being built underneath, argue the authors of The Age of Cryptocurrency and its newly published follow-up, The Truth Machine: The Blockchain and the Future of Everything.”


Everything* You Always Wanted To Know About Blockchain (But Were Afraid To Ask)

“In this interview, Joris van Rossum (Director of Special Projects, Digital Science) and author of Blockchain for Research, and Martijn Roelandse (Head of Publishing Innovation, Springer Nature), discuss blockchain in scholarly communications, including the recently launched Peer Review Blockchain initiative”

https://scholarlykitchen.sspnet.org/2018/04/03/everything-
Values:

**Rutgers Partners with Newark PL for Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation**

“Two New Jersey institutions—Rutgers University–Newark and the Newark Public Library (NPL)—have joined forces to bring racial healing and empowering dialogue to the campus and community. In August 2017, the Association of American Colleges & Universities (AAC&U) announced the selection of ten higher education institutions across the United States, chosen from 125 applicants, to implement new Truth, Racial Healing & Transformation (TRHT) Campus Centers.”


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**Teenage Vandals Were Sentenced to Read Books. Here’s What One Learned.**

“A Virginia judge handed down an unusual sentence last year after five teenagers defaced a historic black schoolhouse with swastikas and the words “white power” and “black power.”

Instead of spending time in community service, Judge Avelina Jacob decided, the youths should read a book.”

https://www.nytimes.com/2018/04/05/books/racist-graffiti-sentenced-read.html?

Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety; attribution appreciated.

The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Communications Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.

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**Jobline 2018/04/10**


**SENIOR LIBRARY LITERACY ASSISTANT**

CLOSING DATE: April 30, 2018

Monthly Salary Range: $3,296- $4,210
Bargaining Unit: Local One

The Contra Costa County Library is seeking to fill one Senior Library Literacy Assistant part-time (32-hour) position. This position will split time between the Brentwood and Antioch libraries in California. The Library is looking for an energetic, creative, responsible, experienced teacher or tutor who is committed to helping adults improve their basic literacy skills. The incumbent in this position will be responsible for planning and implementing tutor training, assessing the instructional needs of students, developing and implementing special events and projects, and creating partnerships with school and community agencies.

The individual appointed to this position must possess the ability to manage volunteer and student groups effectively and tactfully, develop and manage projects, assess reading ability and recommend curriculum, coordinate special events, speak well in public, and direct the work of others. Teaching experience is highly desirable. Successful candidates must be available to work at least two nights a week and approximately 13 Saturdays a year.

The ideal candidate will have a proven track record demonstrating the following:

- Excellent teamwork and volunteer management skills
- Demonstrated commitment to fostering a diverse working and learning environment
- Maintain collaborative relationships with community groups and actively participate with local groups to share literacy resources and promote the library
- The ideal candidate will possess the following:
  - Excellent interpersonal and communication skills with the ability to clearly convey information to the public
  - Demonstrated dependability, excellent attendance and punctuality
  - Establish and maintain effective working relationships with others
  - Basic office skills which include: business writing, spelling, and accuracy
  - Relevant office/computer skills to use a variety of equipment such as computers, fax, copy machines and software programs

Read the complete job description at www.cccounty.us/hr. The eligible list established from this recruitment may remain in effect for one year.

**TENTATIVE EXAM DATES**

Tentative Training and Experience Exam: May 9, 2018

**MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS**

License Required: Possession of a valid California Motor Vehicle Operator’s License. Out of state valid motor vehicle operator’s license will be accepted during the application process.
Education: Possession of a Bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university with a major in education, speech pathology and audiology, psychology, library science, communications, humanities, social science, business, or behavioral science field.

Experience: One year of full-time experience or its equivalent in a literacy program or as a certificated teacher.

Substitution: Additional qualifying experience may be substituted for required education on a year for year basis up to a maximum of four years.

SELECTION PROCESS

1. Application Filing: All applicants must apply on-line at www.cccounty.us/hr and submit the information as indicated on the job announcement by the final filing date.
2. Application Evaluation: Depending on the number of applications received, an Application Evaluation Board may be convened to evaluate and select the best-qualified candidates for invitation to the next phase of the examination.
3. Training and Experience Evaluation: The examination will consist of an evaluation of each candidate’s relevant education, training and/or experience as presented on the application and supplemental questionnaire. (Weighted 100%)
4. Candidates must receive a score of at least 70, which may be an adjusted score, in order to be ranked on the employment list.

The Human Resources Department may change the examination steps noted above in accordance with the Personnel Management Regulations and accepted selection practices.

DATE OPENED: April 9, 2018
Exam Number: 3KVC-2018A

When applying, please mention that you found this position listing on SLA SV/SF Jobline. Thank you!

Share this:

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Jobline 2018/04/11


Company Profile

L.E.K. Consulting is a global management consulting firm that uses deep industry expertise and rigorous analysis to help business leaders achieve practical results with real impact. We are uncompromising in our approach to helping clients consistently make better decisions, deliver improved business performance and create greater shareholder returns. The firm advises and supports global companies that are leaders in their industries — including the largest private and public sector organizations, private equity firms and emerging entrepreneurial businesses. Founded in 1983, L.E.K. employs more than 1,200 professionals across the Americas, Asia-Pacific and Europe and is recognized as a top consulting firm to work for. For more information, go to www.lek.com.

Title: Information & Research Specialist

Location: San Francisco

Job Description

The Information & Research Specialist reports to the Director of U.S. Information & Research Centers. This position will support the all practices across our five U.S. offices, with special focus on the Industrials and Life Sciences practices. This person will assist consulting staff in their ability to quickly locate data and information, thereby contributing to L.E.K. Consulting’s competitive edge. In addition, working in collaboration with the rest of the U.S. Information Center staff, support is given through training, maintenance of internal and external resources, research consulting and research assistance.

Responsibilities

- Advise the consulting staff on the most likely resources and/or most efficient methods to obtain desired information and data.
- Direct consulting staff in the interpretation and accuracy of research results
- Conduct searches for case teams on various databases
- Train end users in group sessions and one-on-one on a range of databases, both as part of the Information & Research Center team and as a solo trainer
- Assist the Director in the assessment, selection and management of online, electronic and print resources
- Support upper management and client development team in gathering information for business development purposes
- Contribute content to internal self-help resources

Professional Development:

- Regularly participates in skill development activities both internal and external
- Continually deepens and broadens skill set

Education

- Master’s Degree in Library and/or Information Science preferred or equivalent work experience
Qualifications

- 3-5 years of experience in a corporate information center or similar environment.
- Working knowledge in online search/retrieval techniques in services such as S&P Capital IQ, Bloomberg and Factiva
- Ability to work as part of a virtual team or independently as required.
- Strong written and oral communications skills, critical thinking skills, resourcefulness and creativity.
- The ability to organize work and negotiate workload to meet deadlines
- Familiarity working with public use files (e.g. ACS, CMS) and other big data sets are a plus
- Driven by intellectual curiosity with structured problem solving and analytical abilities

Interested candidates should submit their application online at https://www.lek.com/join-lek/apply/apply-now

Candidates responding to this posting must currently possess eligibility to work in the United States

L.E.K. Consulting offers a competitive compensation and benefits package

L.E.K Consulting is an Equal Opportunity Employer

When applying, please mention that you found this position listing on SLA SV/SF Jobline. Thank you!

How to apply

Intersect Alert April 16, 2018


Libraries:

Making Space for Libraries on Capitol Hill During National Library Week

“While libraries across the country are celebrating National Library Week (April 9–13), the American Library Association’s (ALA) Washington Office is representing libraries with events on Capitol Hill.”


Library of Congress to Collect Every E-Book

“The world’s largest collection of literature is expanding into e-books. In a notice of proposed rulemaking to be published April 16, the Library of Congress will begin including published e-books under its mandatory deposit rule, but only on a by-request basis.”


State of America’s Libraries 2018

“On April 9, the American Library Association (ALA) released The State of America’s Libraries report for 2018, an annual summary of library trends released during National Library Week, April 8–14, that outlines statistics and issues affecting all types of libraries. The report affirms the invaluable role libraries and library workers play within their communities by leading efforts to transform lives through education and lifelong learning.”

http://edition.pagesuite-professional.co.uk/Launch.aspx?EID=7cdd130c-a197-42b4-8842-3e2feb88ccf7

Librarians:

What Are the Rules for Lending Your Books to Friends?

“I decided to reach out to some librarians, the experts on book borrowing, to find out what their personal policies are on sharing their own treasured property. In honor of National Library Week, here are the words of wisdom from six librarians on the do’s and don’ts of swapping books.”

https://electricliterature.com/what-are-the-rules-for-lending-your-books-to-friends-e799bd141f86

Intellectual Property:

Congress Must Update Music Licensing For the Modern Era

“A bill introduced last year — and now strategically folded in
with the eminently more-reasonable Music Modernization Act — does nothing to achieve any of these goals. The Compensating Legacy Artists for their Songs, Service and Important Contributions to Society (CLASSICS) Act (now Title II of the new Music Modernization Act) compounds the problem by adding new rights and regulations designed to transfer wealth to legacy industries. Simply put, the act is a handout to big content companies, tailor-made to legally mandate new payments (which prevent new music startups) while conveniently skirting many protections for libraries, consumers and artists.”


International Outlook:

Google Loses Landmark ‘Right to Be Forgotten’ Case

“Businessman wins legal action to force removal of search results about past conviction.”

https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2018/apr/13/google-loses-right-to-be-forgotten-case

Inside the Jordan Refugee Camp That Runs on Blockchain

“The ultimate goal is a system in which a user owns and totally controls some kind of digital wallet—much like the physical one we carry today for our paper documents. The wallet stores claims made by the user (like name and date of birth), evidence for those claims (like copies of birth certificates or utility bills), and third-party validations, known as attestations, that further support an individual’s claims (like a government confirmation of the details on a birth certificate). Such a wallet could reside in a smart chip on a key fob or something resembling a credit card, or it could be a secure enclave within one’s phone, like those already provided by some manufacturers.”


Open Access:

MIT Libraries Tackles Grand Challenges | Peer to Peer Review

“Academic libraries are at a crossroads of sorts, where innovation and disruption represent one pathway and continuing on course the other. At the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Libraries, we have been busy formulating ideas about what the library space should and could look like—both as a model for other libraries and to advance our own objectives and commitments related to excellence, innovation, and service. In October 2016, we published a task force report called “The Future of Libraries.” It outlined a vision for libraries to serve as open global platforms for knowledge and made ten recommendations for how MIT Libraries can begin to realize this vision, articulating an ambitious reimagining of a modern academic research library.”


House Commerce Takes on Paid Prioritization, an Essential Tenet to the Open Internet

“On April 17, the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Communications and Technology will hold a hearing on paid prioritization — an issue that is central to the net neutrality debate. While most internet service providers (ISPs) have claimed that they have no plans to block or degrade traffic once the Federal Communications Commission’s 2017 net neutrality repeal Order goes into effect (exactly when that will be remains TBD), commitments (or lack thereof) not to engage in paid prioritization have remained a moving target. These commitments are shifting with the political winds, and ISPs are including plenty of wiggle room to allow them to argue they haven’t misled consumers if they eventually choose to offer prioritization deals.”


“In December of 2017, contrary to the will of millions of Americans, the FCC made the decision to abandon net neutrality protections. On the first day of business in the California state legislature, State Sen. Scott Wiener introduced a bill that would bring back those protections and more for Californians.

S.B. 822 would make getting state money or using state resources contingent on the ISP adhering to net neutrality principles. This includes the practices the FCC banned in the 2015 Open Internet Order—blocking, throttling, and paid prioritization—and picks up where the FCC left off by also tackling the practice of zero rating. This bill is a gold standard of net neutrality legislation and its passage would give California the strongest protections in the country.”

Privacy:

Congress Held 10 Hours of Hearings on Facebook. What’s Next?

“After grilling Mark Zuckerberg for ten hours this past week, the big question facing Congress is, “What’s next?” The wide-ranging hearings covered everything from “fake news” to election integrity to the Cambridge Analytica scandal that spurred the hearings in the first place. Zuckerberg’s testimony did not give us much new information, but did underline what we already knew going in: Facebook’s surveillance-based, advertising-powered business model creates real problems for its users’ privacy rights.”

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2018/04/congress-held-10-hours-hearings-facebook-whats-next

How to Strengthen the FTC Privacy & Security Consent Decrees

“Since the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) began bringing cases focusing on information privacy in 1999, the vast majority of the FTC’s Section 5 cases and complaints alleging violations of COPPA, GLBA, and the U.S.-EU Safe Harbor/Privacy Shield arrangements have ended via settlements wherein the company is placed under an FTC consent decree. Major technology companies, including Facebook, Google, Snapchat, Twitter, and Uber, are under such 20-year decrees.”

https://cdt.org/blog/how-to-strengthen-the-ftc-privacy-security-consent-decrees/

Social Media:

An Ex-Google Engineer Is Scraping YouTube to Pop Our Filter Bubbles

“He’s built a website that lets you see how often YouTube’s algorithm recommends videos, so you can find out where it wants to take you.”

https://www.technologyreview.com/s/610760/an-ex-google-engineer-is-scraping-youtube-to-pop-our-filter-bubbles/

Jobline 20180418

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2018/04/jobline-20180418/ April 18, 2018 Categories: Jobline

Assistant Archivist

Taylor & Associates is recruiting for an assistant archivist for a 6 month contract position

Job Functions
Provide support to Senior Archivist in a corporate archive.

- Review and file archival materials that have not been fully processed (objects, records, photographs, etc.)
- Work with records/archival collection to eliminate duplicate materials and house materials
- Review existing files to ensure accuracy of filing

Qualifications

- 1 year of library, archives or records management experience
- BA degree
- Interest in a career in librarianship or archives

When applying, please mention that you found this position listing on SLA SV/SF Jobline. Thank you!

Please send resume to Catherine Ghent:
taylorlb@taylorlib.com

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Update from the SFBA Chapter President and President Elect about the Merging of Silicon Valley and San Francisco Bay Region Chapters


Dear colleagues,

Over 90% of voting chapter members approved the merger in a vote held last fall. Yay!

Since then, the SLA Executive Board approved the merger at their December 13, 2017 meeting, with an effective date of January 2018. Much kudos goes to (now) Past-President Kendra Levine of SFBR for spearheading the merger and to Bridget Thrasher (now Past-President of SV) for ensuring all members were represented.

At the January 23, 2018 Chapter Board meeting, we created a roadmap for next steps, including a review of our website and Connect contents, with an eye to create a single website and Connect, as well as plans for merging our bank accounts and budgets. We also discussed the structure of the Committees (as they are known by SV) and the Advisory Board (as it’s known by SFBR). We discussed what committees are needed in the new chapter and what vacancies need to be prioritized for filling. Additionally, a rough timeline was developed at this meeting.

As announced at the SLA Leadership Symposium in January, SLA HQ will be working on the merging of the chapters’ websites, membership lists, and Connects. Thus far, the Connect has merged into a single SFBA Connect (although there is still some relics of the old chapter name – we are working with HQ to fix these).

We hope to communicate additional updates in the near future, and to make a call for committee volunteers. Thank you for your patience as we move through this unfamiliar terrain!

Best,

Sarah Cook – President

Michael Sholinbeck – President Elect
LIBRARY ASSOCIATE – HISTORY AND GENEALOGY LIBRARY

20 HOURS PER WEEK – PART-TIME

We are seeking a customer service-oriented library professional with excellent communication skills for our Library Associate position. The ideal candidate will have a strong interest in Sonoma County’s history and genealogy and the desire to assist patrons by using research to answer questions, providing instruction on the use of on-line catalogs, and other tools. The position is located at the History and Genealogy Library next to the Central Library in Santa Rosa, CA.

THE POSITION:

Please go to https://www.calopps.org/sonoma-county-library for a complete job description, benefit information and to apply.

Under general supervision, this part-time position performs a variety of duties that follow established procedures and involve a variety of library support services such as reference, and collection maintenance and management; provides direct patron support through instruction and aids in the use of library resources; and performs related duties as required.

TYPICAL TASKS include, but are not limited to:

- Uses library resources as needed to respond to patrons’ reference questions.
- Advises patrons of library policies, procedures, and services in person and over the telephone.
- Instructs patrons in the use of library equipment and resources including the Internet; conducts subject searches.
- Assists with collection maintenance by determining condition of materials and mending, discarding, or labeling as needed.
- Regularly participates in shelf maintenance activities and performs other duties as assigned within the scope of classification.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

Education and Experience: Equivalent to graduation from an accredited four-year college or university; and two (2) years of work experience in library services. Spanish bilingual skills preferred.

KNOWLEDGE & ABILITIES:

- Some familiarity with standard historical and genealogical resources, both print and digital (with knowledge of local history and genealogy being desirable).
- Experience using an online catalog and database system.
- Techniques for providing a high level of customer service by effectively dealing with the public, vendors, contractors, and Library staff.
- Proficiency using Microsoft Office software, and online email and calendaring systems.

SALARY RANGES:

$24.24/hour to $30.28/hour plus benefits

CLOSING DATE: 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, May 1, 2018

APPLICATION PROCESS: Please go to https://www.calopps.org/sonoma-county-library to apply. Applications must be submitted by the final filing date.

The application process may contain one or more of the following steps: a supplemental application, written test(s), skills assessment(s), and/or oral examination(s).

EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION:

Employment offers will be contingent upon a successful pre-employment verification/criminal records clearance. Having a criminal record will not necessarily disqualify an applicant from employment.

The eligibility list established from this recruitment may be used to fill future positions as they occur during the active status of the list.

The Sonoma County Library is an Equal Opportunity Employer

When applying, please mention that you found this position listing on SLA SV/SF Jobline. Thank you!
Intersect Alert April 23, 2018


April 23, 2018 Categories: Intersect Alert Tags: archives, books and reading, freedom of information, internet access, open access, privacy, research, technology, values

Archives:

Papers of Benjamin Franklin Now Online

“The papers of American scientist, statesman and diplomat Benjamin Franklin have been digitized and are now available online for the first time from the Library of Congress. The Library announced the digitization in remembrance of the anniversary of Franklin’s death on April 17, 1790. The Franklin papers consist of approximately 8,000 items mostly dating from the 1770s and 1780s.”

https://www.bespacific.com/papers-of-benjamin-franklin-now-online/

Books and Reading:

Run Your Week: Big Books, Sure Bets, & Titles Making News | Book Pulse

“Welcome to Book Pulse, a daily update designed to help collection development and readers’ advisory librarians navigate the never-ending wave of new books and book news.

Here you will find highlights of titles moving in the marketplace and getting buzz, bookish stories making news, and key items from the literary web.”


Freedom of Information:

Americans Favor Protecting Information Freedoms Over Government Steps to Restrict False News Online

“The widespread concerns over misinformation online have created a tension in the United States between taking steps to restrict that information – including possible government regulation – and protecting the long-held belief in the freedom to access and publish information. A new Pew Research Center survey finds that the majority of Americans are resistant to action by the U.S. government that might also limit those freedoms but are more open to action from technology companies. When asked to choose between the U.S. government taking action to restrict false news online in ways that could also limit Americans’ information freedoms, or protecting those freedoms even if it means false information might be published, Americans fall firmly on the side of protecting freedom. Nearly six-in-ten Americans (58%) say they prefer to protect the public’s freedom to access and publish information online, including on social media, even if it means false information can also be published. Roughly four-in-ten (39%) fall the other way, preferring that the U.S. government take steps to restrict false information even if it limits those freedoms, according to a survey conducted Feb. 26-March 11, 2018, among 4,734 U.S. adults who are members of Pew Research Center’s nationally representative American Trends Panel…”


John Moss and the Roots of the Freedom of Information Act: Worldwide Implications

“John Moss was an obscure Congressman from a newly created district in northern California when he arrived in Washington D.C. in 1953. He had survived a razor-thin general election victory (by about 700 votes), which included unfounded charges of being a communist, or a communist sympathizer. Those charges became an important force behind Moss’s long battle to enact the Freedom of Information Act.”


Intellectual Property:

The Feds Have It Wrong on Patent Law

“If there’s one constant in the Trump administration’s policy, it’s championing American companies over foreign competitors. So why is the administration arguing for a rule that would favor foreign companies over American ones?
In WesternGeco v. ION Geophysical, the Supreme Court is considering whether violations of U.S. patents can lead to damages awards across the globe. Traditionally, sovereign power has been closely tied to patents — the exclusive right for new inventions was historically granted in “letters patent” sealed by the Crown. As a result, the law has always been that patent enforcement stops at the national border; acts inside the United States can violate a patent, but acts abroad cannot.

http://thehill.com/opinion/technology/383315-the-feds-have-it-wrong-on-patent-law

Internet Access:

The California Senate Utilities Committee’s Net Neutrality Analysis Might as Well Have Been Written by AT&T

“S.B. 822, Senator Scott Wiener’s net neutrality bill, is currently pending in the California legislature. It’s a bill that prioritizes consumers over large ISPs, creating strong net neutrality protections. Unsurprisingly, AT&T and the rest of the giant telecom companies don’t like it. And unfortunately for Californians, the report on the bill issued by the California Senate Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Communications parrots several misleading arguments by the large ISPs.”

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2018/04/california-senate-utilities-committees-net-neutrality-analysis-might-well-have

Open Access:

Open As In Dangerous

“Sticking with the goal of talking about things I know, I figured I might start by talking a bit about why open access is important to me, a bit about the history and more importantly the future of OA at MIT, and then spend some time unpacking this “open as in dangerous” title I chose for my talk.”


Privacy:

Who Has More of Your Personal Data Than Facebook? Try Google

“Writing in the Wall Street Journal, Christopher Mims explains how Google hoovers up user data—through apps, web browsing, and more—much the way Facebook does. And how it uses all of that to sell advertising, just like Facebook. Oh, and how its terms of service are hard to understand. Like … yep, Facebook.”

https://www.wsj.com/articles/who-has-more-of-your-personal-data-than-facebook-try-google-1524398401

Technology:

The Health Sector is Being Struck By Cyber Espionage

“Symantec reports that it’s observed a hacking team, called Orangeworm, compromise the systems of pharmaceutical firms, medical device manufacturers, healthcare providers, and even IT companies working with medical organizations. Victims don’t appear to have been chosen at random, but carefully and deliberately.”
Transparency:

New York Judge Makes the Wrong Call on Stingray Secrecy

“A New York judge has ruled that the public and the judiciary shouldn’t second-guess the police when it comes to secret snooping on the public with intrusive surveillance technologies.”

Values:

Can Training Eliminate Biases? Starbucks Will Test the Thesis

“On Monday, reeling from an incident at a Starbucks in Philadelphia that prompted accusations of racial bias, Howard Schultz, the company’s executive chairman, called the head of a nonprofit public-policy organization to discuss ways to prevent similar episodes in the future.

His idea: provide anti-bias training for his work force.

“He called and expressed that he felt personally accountable, and that the company was responsible, and took ownership over all of the events that unfolded, and then we went on to discuss his idea for this training,” said Heather McGhee, the president of Demos, the public policy group.”

Senate Foreign Relations Committee Holds Hearing on the Marrakesh Treaty for Persons With Print Disabilities

“On March 15, 2018, the Marrakesh Treaty Implementation Act (S. 2559) was introduced in the US Senate by Judiciary Committee Chair Grassley (R-IA), Ranking Member Feinstein (D-CA), Foreign Relations Committee Chair Corker (R-TN), Ranking Member Menendez (D-NJ), and Senators Hatch (R-UT), Harris (D-CA), and Leahy (D-VT), to ratify and implement the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled (ARL’s press release on the introduction of the implementing legislation is available here). Today, April 18, 2018, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee will hold a hearing on the Marrakesh Treaty. Witnesses include Manisha Singh (Department of State), Allan Adler (Association of American Publishers), Scott LaBarre (National Federation for the Blind) and Jonathan Band (Library Copyright Alliance).”

Freedom of Information:

National Archives Publishes Online Dashboard of its Investigations Into Lost, Altered or Destroyed Public Records

“To engage in a monumental understatement, it’s a big deal for the public’s information to be altered or disposed of without justified intention and public notice of the removal. In spring 2018, for the first time the National Archives and Record Administration (NARA) has begun using the Internet to inform the American public about its ongoing investigations of unauthorized dispositions in an online dashboard.”

Internet Access:

Net Neutrality Does Not End Today. We Still Don’t Know When It Will. This Is Unusual.

“There is a lot of confusion on the effective date for the Federal Communications Commission’s 2017 Net Neutrality Repeal Order. This is not surprising, given the rather confusing way
the Federal Register Notice reads.”

https://www.publicknowledge.org/news-blog/blogs/net-neutrality-does-not-end-today.-we-still-dont-know-when-it-will.-this-is-unusual

Internet Users:

Say Goodbye To The Information Age: It’s All About Reputation Now

“In a world of fake news, the only antidote is our ability to judge the reputation of the people supplying us with information.


Privacy:

How to Wrestle Your Data From Data Brokers, Silicon Valley — and Cambridge Analytica

“For all the fanfare, the burgeoning field of mining our personal data remains an inexact art.

One thing is certain: My personal data, and likely yours, is in more hands than ever. Tech firms, data brokers and political consultants build profiles of what they know — or think they can reasonably guess — about your purchasing habits, personality, hobbies and even what political issues you care about.”


Social Media:

Win More Social-Media Followers With This Trick

“But the network researchers who discovered it warn it could be used to influence people in malicious ways.”

https://www.brookings.edu/research/how-artificial-intelligence-is-transforming-the-world/

Technology:

How Artificial Intelligence is Transforming the World

“Artificial intelligence (AI) is a wide-ranging tool that enables people to rethink how we integrate information, analyze data, and use the resulting insights to improve decision making—and already it is transforming every walk of life. In this report, Darrell West and John Allen discuss AI’s application across a variety of sectors, address issues in its development, and offer recommendations for getting the most out of AI while still protecting important human values.”

https://www.brookings.edu/research/how-artificial-intelligence-is-transforming-the-world/

Values:

How Technology Is Changing The Way Blind People Get Visual Information

“Many of the apps on your smartphone are for fun — or distraction. But there are apps out there that do good and help people with a disability. For the blind or visually impaired, there’s Be My Eyes, an app that asks a sighted person for help via a video call.”


Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety; attribution appreciated.
The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Communications Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.

Share this:

Intersect Alert May 6, 2018

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2018/05/intersect-alert-may-6-2018/ May 6, 2018 Categories: Intersect Alert Tags: archives, libraries, privacy, publishing, research

Privacy

Text Messages Are Property: Why You Don’t Own Your Text Messages, But It’d Be a Lot Cooler If You Did
“Courts have yet to consider whether text messages are property, but they will soon. As our lives become more and more centered around our smartphones, text messages will displace e-mails as the primary means of electronic communication (if that hasn’t already happened). We currently don’t have an effective means of recourse available should our cellular providers purposefully block or delete our text messages.”

“The answer lies in property law. This Note argues that text messages are intangible personal property, which leads to two practical outcomes.”

“First, text message ‘owners’ can successfully sue using property-based causes of action (e.g., trespass to chattels and conversion) when their ownership rights over their text messages are disturbed by the service provider or cell phone manufacturer. Although there have been few legal challenges brought by aggrieved text message owners, they have been universally unsuccessful in causing cellular providers to change their ways. Had these aggrieved text message owners sued under a property-based cause of action, they would have successfully enjoined the cellular providers from continuing to mess with their text messages.”


Publishing

Are Etextbooks Affordable Now?

“New print textbooks can still cost students hundreds of dollars, but the cost of etextbooks is falling fast, according to data from etextbook distribution platforms VitalSource and RedShelf — both of which work with all major publishers.”

“Since 2016, the average price of etextbooks on VitalSource has fallen by 31 percent, from $56.36 in 2016 to $38.65 in 2018.”

“Some areas, such as mathematics, have seen more drastic change, said VitalSource. In 2016, the average math etextbook cost $79. Now it’s $39 — a decrease of almost 50 percent.”

“RedShelf confirmed a similar price drop. In 2015, the average etextbook cost $53.11, the company said. Now it’s $39.24.”


Search

An Exploration of WikiLeaks: What has Taken Me So Long!

“Recently a friend from my school’s career services office was trying to find contact information for a recent graduate, a common activity for her since her department is in charge of reporting graduate employment data to the ABA. Though I found nothing useful for her, I did find the graduate referenced in WikiLeaks because…well, I will leave it to the reader’s imagination since anything would be more exciting than the reality. Is he a CIA operative? A tax avoiding billionaire?”

“I was amused to find someone I vaguely know mentioned in WikiLeaks. I mean, it is famous, amirite? After pondering WikiLeaks for a few moments I ran out of things to ponder because my knowledge of it is limited to the following snippets – the Panama papers about tax avoidance, the Clinton emails (hacked from…was it the DNC?), documents on a topic I can’t remember that got Chelsea Manning convicted, and Edward Snowden’s proof of the US spying on Internet (or was it phone?) communications that led to his flight to Russia. Not an impressive mental haul for an information professional.”


Government Information

Harvard’s Ash Center Launches New Repository of Government Data Visualizations and Maps

“Cambridge, MA – Data-Smart City Solutions, a program of Harvard Kennedy School’s Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation, today launched a searchable public database comprising cutting-edge examples of public sector data use. The “Solutions Search” indexes interactive maps and visualizations, spanning civic issue areas such as transportation, public health, and housing, that are helping data innovators more accurately understand and illustrate challenges, leading to optimized solutions.”

“The new user-friendly public database includes 200 data-driven models for civic technologists, community organizations, and government employees. ‘By showcasing successful data-driven initiatives from across the country, we have the opportunity to help city leaders learn from each other and avoid reinventing the wheel,’ noted Stephen Goldsmith, Daniel Paul Professor of the Practice of Government and faculty director of the Innovations in Government Program at the Ash Center, who also leads the Civic Analytics Network, a national network of municipal chief data officers.”


Archives
Artificial Intelligence Is Cracking Open the Vatican’s Secret Archives

“The Vatican Secret Archives is one of the grandest historical collections in the world. It’s also one of the most useless.”

“The grandeur is obvious. Located within the Vatican’s walls, next door to the Apostolic Library and just north of the Sistine Chapel, the VSA houses 53 linear miles of shelving dating back more than 12 centuries. It includes gems like the papal bull that excommunicated Martin Luther and the pleas for help that Mary Queen of Scots sent to Pope Sixtus V before her execution. In size and scope, the collection is almost peerless.”

“That said, the VSA isn’t much use to modern scholars, because it’s so inaccessible. Of those 53 miles, just a few millimeters’ worth of pages have been scanned and made available online. Even fewer pages have been transcribed into computer text and made searchable. If you want to peruse anything else, you have to apply for special access, schlep all the way to Rome, and go through every page by hand.”


Libraries

The Mysterious Cambridge Library Tower, Supposedly Full of Banned Books, is Opening to the Public

“It has inspired long running myths – notably that it hides a stash of Victorian pornography – is home to 10 storeys of books, has given rise to some dark tales of famous literature and has dominated the skyline of one of the nation’s most historic university cities for almost a century.”

“At 157ft tall and 17 floors, Cambridge University Library’s tower can be seen for miles around but has largely kept its secrets to itself and its contents (approaching one million books) have given rise to much speculation.”

“But now in a new free exhibition, Tall Tales: Secrets of the tower, we reveal some of the truth about what the great skyscraper really holds.”

https://www.independent.co.uk/news/long_reads/cambridge-university-library-tower-banned-books-opening-copyright-a8325196.html

Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety.
The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.

Intersect Alert May 17, 2018

http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2018/05/intersect-alert-may-17-2018/

May 18, 2018 Categories: Intersect Alert Tags: internet access, open access, research, take action, technology

Take Action:

The Senate Voted to Stand Up for Net Neutrality, Now Tell the House to Do the Same

“The Senate has voted to restore the 2015 Open Internet Order and reject the FCC’s attempt to gut net neutrality. This is a great first step, but now the fight moves to the House of Representatives.”


In Vote to Restore Net Neutrality Rules, Several Senators Note Importance of Open Internet for Research, Education and Equity

On “May 16, 2018, the US Senate voted 52-47 to reverse the FCC’s decision that would eviscerate protections for net neutrality. The Senate used a procedure known as the Congressional Review Act (CRA), allowing Congress to reverse an agency’s decision with a simple majority vote within 60 legislative days of publication of an agency’s decision in the Federal Register. ARL and other net neutrality advocates are celebrating this vote, which as of just a week ago was not assured of passage.”

“All 49 members of the Democratic caucus voted in favor of the discharge petition and resolution, originally introduced by Senator Markey (D-MA), and were joined by Republican Senators Collins of Maine, Kennedy of Louisiana and Murkowski of Alaska.”

Internet Access:
Open Access:

Sweden cancels Elsevier contract as open-access dispute spreads

“Swedish universities have moved to cancel their contract with journal publisher Elsevier as concern over slow progress towards open access spreads.”

“The Bibsam Consortium, which represents 85 higher education and research institutions in the country, said that its current agreement with Elsevier would not be renewed after 30 June.”

“The consortium said that the publisher had been unable to meet its requirements of immediate open access to all articles in Elsevier journals published by researchers affiliated to member organisations; reading access for member organisations to all of Elsevier’s journal content; and a ‘sustainable price model that enables a transition to open access’.”

“Sweden’s government has said that all publicly funded research should be made freely available by 2026.”

Technology:

Virtual digital assistants to overtake world population by 2021

“Globally, the native digital assistant installed base is set to exceed 7.5 billion active devices by 2021, which is more than the world population according to the US Census Bureau on May 1, 2017. But fear not – Skynet, from the popular Terminator movies, does not feature among the leading digital assistants. Instead, Google Assistant will dominate the voice AI-capable device market with 23.3% market share, followed by Samsung’s Bixby (14.5%), Apple’s Siri (13.1%), Amazon’s Alexa (3.9%), and Microsoft’s Cortana (2.3%).”

“Ovum’s Digital Assistant and Voice AI–Capable Device Forecast: 2016–21 found that smartphones and tablets clearly lead the voice AI–capable device market, with 3.5 billion active devices in 2016, most of which use Google Now and Apple Siri. However, the use of AI in conjunction with other devices greatly increases consumer engagement and is set to unlock new opportunities, particularly in the home. Ovum expects an exponential uptake of voice AI capabilities among new devices, including wearable, smart home, and TV devices, with a combined installed base of 1.63 billion active devices in 2021, a tenfold increase on 2016. Despite all the hype that surrounds AI-capable connected speakers, TV devices (i.e. smart TVs, set-top boxes, and media streamers) offer a larger opportunity, accounting for 57% of that installed base in 2021.”

Research:

Video games could be serious tools for historical research

“An undergraduate history course incorporating strategy games is just the beginning: computer simulations are allowing people to study the past in ways that have never been possible.”

Study – The academic papers researchers regard as significant are not those that are highly cited

“Academia, we have a problem. What began as an attempt to quantify research quality has gotten away from us and taken on a life of its own. This problem isn’t particularly new; it has been widely recognised by scholars and researchers and, as a result, is being talked about more openly. The problem comes down to defining and measuring impact.”

Every one of America’s 57,636 wind turbines, mapped

The database shows that Kern County is home to some 4,581 wind turbines with a total power-generating capacity of somewhere north of 4,000 megawatts, giving Kern the largest county-level concentration of wind capacity in the nation. Put another way, there are more turbines in Kern County alone than in the entire Northeast region of the United States.


———

**Books and Reading:**

**A book vending machine gives homes to unwanted books**

“A Toronto bookstore owner has taken vending machines to an exciting new level. Owner of The Monkey’s Paw, Stephen Fowler, a bookstore that specialises in lesser-appreciated books came up with the idea for a vending machine as a way to move books that weren’t selling, calling it the Biblio-Mat.”


**Jobline 2018/05/30**


LIBRARIAN

CLOSING DATE: June 18, 2018
Monthly Salary Range: $4,485 – $5,728
Bargaining Unit: Local One

THE POSITION

Contra Costa County encourages interested candidates to consider this exceptional career opportunity with one of the Bay Area’s most progressive and respected libraries. Permanent full-time and part-time vacancies may be filled from the results of this examination. Initial assignments may be as a Youth Services Librarian, Adult/Teen Services Librarian, Collection Development Librarian, or Juvenile Hall Librarian.

The ideal candidate will have a proven track record demonstrating the following:
- Partnering with community-based organizations and community groups to promote library services
- Developing innovative programs to build literacy, further education, and foster a love of reading
- Promoting our collections and reading through readers advisory, recommendation lists, blog entries, author talks, book discussions, and other innovative methods
- Fostering digital literacy and providing age-appropriate technology instruction
- Developing collections and the space itself, ensuring a safe and inviting area

Characteristics of the ideal candidate:
- Passion for creating an environment that encourages patrons to follow their interests, discover new ones, learn from their peers, and embrace reading
- Effective interpersonal and communication skills
- Experience providing customer and reference service
- Ability to create and conduct innovative programs

To read the complete job description, please visit the website, www.cccounty.us/hr. The eligible list established from this recruitment may remain in effect for one year.

TENTATIVE EXAM DATES
Tentative Written Exams: July 10, 2018 and July 11, 2018

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

License Required: Candidates must possess and maintain throughout the duration of employment a valid California
Motor Vehicle Operator’s License. Out of state valid motor vehicle operator’s license will be accepted during the application process.

Education: Possession of a Master’s Degree in Library and Information Science, from a school of librarianship accredited by the American Library Association.

Experience: Two (2) years experience in a customer oriented environment.

SELECTION PROCESS

1. Application Filing: All applicants must apply on-line at www.cccounty.us/hr and submit the information as indicated on the job announcement by the final filing date. A completed Supplemental Questionnaire is required at the time of applying.

2. Application Evaluation: Depending on the number of applications received, an Application Evaluation Board may be convened to evaluate and select the best-qualified candidates for invitation to the next phase of the examination.

3. Written Examination: A writing proficiency examination will be administered to all accepted candidates who will be required to write an essay on a specific topic which will be evaluated on the basis of content, grammar, mechanics, word usage, sentence structure, organization, development and clarity. Candidates must receive a score of 70 which may be an adjusted score, in order to continue in the exam process.

4. Candidates must receive a score of 70 which may be an adjusted score, in order to continue in the exam process.

The Human Resources Department may change the examination steps noted above in accordance with the Personnel Management Regulations and accepted selection practices.

DATE OPENED: May 28, 2018 Exam Number: 3AWA-2018A

When applying, please mention that you found this position listing on SLA SV/SF Jobline. Thank you!

Share this:

Intersect Alert June 4th, 2018


June 3, 2018 Categories: Intersect Alert Tags: archives, books and reading, freedom of information, librarians

TAG:Books and Reading

What’s Going On In Your Child’s Brain When You Read Them A Story?
For the study, 27 children around age 4 went into an FMRI machine. They were presented with stories in three conditions: audio only; the illustrated pages of a storybook with an audio voiceover; and an animated cartoon. All three versions came from the Web site of Canadian author Robert Munsch.

While the children paid attention to the stories, the MRI, the machine scanned for activation within certain brain networks, and connectivity between the networks.


Shakespeare’s First Folio Now Available to View in British Library’s Universal Viewer
Shakespeare’s First Folio is now available to view online in the British Library’s Universal Viewer open-source project.

http://access.bl.uk/item/viewer/ark:/81055/vdc_100056663076.0x000001

TAG:Education

“IT WAS INFORMATION BASED”: STUDENT REASONING WHEN DISTINGUISHING BETWEEN SCHOLARLY AND POPULAR SOURCES
Scholarly and popular sources are a longstanding construct in library instruction. A quick Google search brings up an abundance of LibGuides and tutorials on the subject. However, we have found that teaching students to identify and classify information sources using a rigid binary categorization is problematic. In an effort to better understand the ways students conceptualize and evaluate sources, we stepped back to ask: what kind of reasoning do students apply when distinguishing between scholarly and popular sources?

http://www.inthelibrarywiththeleadpipe.org/2018/it-was-information-based/

OUT OF CONTEXT: UNDERSTANDING STUDENT LEARNING THROUGH MUSEUM STUDIES
How can we maximize library spaces and displays to support information literacy and critical thinking? How can we re-envision student learning in the ways that museums facilitate experiential learning and measure visitor engagement? This case study uses a theoretical framework, Falk and Dierking’s Contextual Model of Learning, to examine and analyze student responses to the Context Library Series, a series of interdisciplinary art installations. At the intersection of information literacy and museum visitor studies, we see that the context in which students learn best is often in line with best practices of museums. We find these practices can be applied in and embraced by libraries in ways that are not
limited to exhibits, to further support the experience, engagement, and learning of students. Content analysis of student responses to the Context Library Series at California State University San Marcos serves as a model to understand how students learn outside the classroom and how to measure this learning in creative, nontraditional ways. 


TAG: Archives

History Hub: A 21st Century Model for Archival Reference
“When the National Archives launched History Hub in January 2016, we hoped it would be a game-changing way to provide access to information and diverse sources of expertise. I’m pleased to share that what started out as an experimental project has become an active community of researchers and experts.”


“Citizen Archivists Help Make Access Happen, One Scanned Record at a Time
“Of the 13 billion paper records in the National Archives, there are currently 42 million pages available online, according to Catherine Brandsen, National Archives Innovation Hub Coordinator. Crowdsourcing via the Innovation Hub, and scanning of documents by Citizen Archivists, helps the agency achieve its goal of digitizing and making available online 500 million pages by 2024.”


Fifty years after Robert F. Kennedy’s assassination, UMass archives provide an important resource
These are just a few of the media outlets — not to mention the authors and poets — who’ve reach out to UMass Dartmouth in the past few months.

What do they all have in common?

They are researching the death of Robert F. Kennedy. And they’re coming to UMD because the university houses the Robert F. Kennedy Assassination Archive Collection, which was dedicated April 20, 1988.


45 More Non-Librarian Jobs for MLIS Grads
If you’re like most MLIS candidates that I know – or you’ve graduated with the degree – you’re quietly obsessed with watching job opportunities in the field of librarianship and information management.

You track hybrid jobs that pop up because of your background or current employment. You’ve inventoried your transferable skills, scanned the job boards and listserv emails, kept your LinkedIn up-to-date, and finessed your resume to the brink of madness.

Still want to know more about what’s out there? You’ve come to the right blog post.

https://ischool.syr.edu/infospace/2018/05/24/45-more-non-librarian-jobs-for-mlis-grads/

The Fake News Controversy: What Does it Mean for Libraries?
In today’s world users often encounter suspect, inflammatory, or entirely incorrect information online. This presentation will examine the role that libraries can play in teaching users how to identify information and information sources that they can trust. It will include an audience-driven discussion about the ongoing fake news controversy in the U.S. and ideas for making libraries more effective information literacy educators within their unique communities.

Event Date & Time: Thursday, June 7, 2018, 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM ET / 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM PT


TAG: Professional Development

BookExpo 2018: Will Trump Make Copyright Great Again?
The publishing industry may be chafing over a number of Trump administration actions and policies, but at a BookExpo panel on Wednesday, a trio of “copyright heavyweights” agreed that when it comes to copyright policy, the publishing industry stands with the president.


Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety; attribution appreciated.

The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Government Relations Committee, San Francisco Bay Region Chapter, Special Libraries Association.

TAG: Professional Development

Share this:
Don’t be AI-vil: Google says its algorithms will do no harm

“Google has created an artificial-intelligence code of ethics that prohibits the development of autonomous weapons. But the principles leave sufficient wiggle room for Google to benefit from lucrative defense deals down the line.”

“The announcement comes in the wake of significant internal protest over the use of Google’s AI technology by a Department of Defense initiative called the Algorithmic Warfare Cross-Functional Team. The goal of this venture, known internally as Project Maven, is to improve the accuracy of drone strikes, among other things.”

“Last month a dozen Google workers quit over the scandal, and many more signed an open letter of protest.”

“The uproar captures the fears many have about how technology might help automate warfare in the future. The situation is not simple, however.”


HART: Homeland Security’s Massive New Database Will Include Face Recognition, DNA, and Peoples’ “Non-Obvious Relationships”

So why do we know so little about it?

“The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is quietly building what will likely become the largest database of biometric and biographic data on citizens and foreigners in the United States. The agency’s new Homeland Advanced Recognition Technology (HART) database will include multiple forms of biometrics—from face recognition to DNA, data from questionable sources, and highly personal data on innocent people. It will be shared with federal agencies outside of DHS as well as state and local law enforcement and foreign governments. And yet, we still know very little about it.”

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2018/06/hart-homeland-securitys-massive-new-database-will-include-face-recognition-dna-and

Following Copyright Law Should Be Enough—Even When Payment Processors Say it Isn’t

“Imagine running an online business for 17 years, only to have your ability to collect payments suddenly turned off. No real explanation. It’s happened to Roz and Nir Arbel now—twice.”

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2018/06/following-copyright-law-should-be-enough-even-when-payment-processors-say-it-isnt

Paper – Scholarly Twitter metrics


“Twitter has arguably been the most popular among the data sources that form the basis of so-called altmetrics. Tweets to scholarly documents have been heralded as both early indicators of citations as well as measures of societal impact. This chapter provides an overview of Twitter activity as the basis for scholarly metrics from a critical point of view and equally describes the potential and limitations of scholarly Twitter metrics. By reviewing the literature on Twitter in scholarly communication and analyzing 24 million tweets linking to scholarly documents, it aims to provide a basic understanding of what tweets can and cannot measure in the context of research evaluation. Going beyond the limited explanatory power of low correlations between tweets and citations, this chapter considers what types of scholarly documents are popular on Twitter, and how, when and by whom they are diffused in order to understand what tweets to scholarly documents measure. Although this chapter is not able to solve the problems associated with the creation of meaningful metrics from social media, it highlights particular issues and aims to provide the basis for advanced scholarly Twitter metrics.”

This is where internet memes come from

“Two Reddit and 4chan communities are especially good at spreading and 'weaponizing' them.”
“The word meme was coined by the biologist Richard Dawkins in his 1976 book The Selfish Gene, in which he suggested that ideas could replicate, evolve, and enter popular culture in a process analogous to the way genes spread. Today, a meme is commonly thought of as a variant of an image based on a common theme that has spread widely on the internet. Memes are often humorous or ironic, but they are also vehicles for political messages, used to spread aggressive or racist messages and to incite hatred.”

“Several online communities focus on creating and spreading memes with the goal of making an idea become viral—a process known as ‘attention hacking’ or ‘weaponizing.’ These communities, on websites such as Reddit, 4chan, Twitter, and others, have become hugely influential.”

“And yet little is known about the way memes spread or how they exert their influence.”

https://www.technologyreview.com/s/611332/this-is-where-internet-memes-come-from/

Privacy:

Pete Recommends – Weekly highlights on cyber security issues June 10 2018

“Privacy and security issues impact every aspect of our lives – home, work, travel, education, health/medical, to name but a few. On a weekly basis Pete Weiss highlights articles and information that focus on the increasingly complex and wide ranging ways our privacy and security is diminished, often without our situational awareness. Note – in this week’s column Pete highlights Cell Phone-Account Fraud, yet another facet of the weaponization of digital technology.”


Intersect Alert June 17, 2018


June 18, 2018 Categories: Intersect Alert Tags: internet access, internet users, libraries, research, social media, technology

‘How many bits would it take to resurrect in a virtual reality everyone who ever lived?’ (It’s 10 to the power of 10123.) Using Google’s autocomplete and Keyword Planner tools, U.K.-based Internet company Digitaloft generated a list of what it considers 20 of the craziest searches, including ‘Am I pregnant?’ ‘Are aliens real?’ ‘Why do men have nipples?’ ‘Is the world flat?’ and ‘Can a man get pregnant?’”

“‘This is all very entertaining, but according to economist Seth
Stephens-Davidowitz, who worked at Google as a data scientist (he is now an op-ed writer for the New York Times), such searches may act as a ‘digital truth serum’ for deeper and darker thoughts. As he explains in his book Everybody Lies (Dey Street Books, 2017), ‘In the pre-digital age, people hid their embarrassing thoughts from other people. In the digital age, they still hide them from other people, but not from the internet and in particular sites such as Google and PornHub, which protect their anonymity.’ Employing big data research tools ‘allows us to finally see what people really want and really do, not what they say they want and say they do.’”

https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/web-searches-reveal-in-aggregate-what-were-really-thinking/

Social Media:

After years of growth, the use of social media for news is falling across the world

“People are becoming disenchanted with Facebook for news. The ‘Trump bump’ appears to be sustaining itself. And younger people are more likely to donate money to a news organization than older people.”

“These are some of the findings from a big new report out Thursday from Oxford’s Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism. The Reuters Institute’s Digital News Report for 2018 surveyed more than 74,000 people in 37 countries about their digital news consumption. (Included in the report for the first time this year: Bulgaria.) The research is based on online YouGov surveys earlier this year, followed by face-to-face focus groups in the U.S., U.K., Germany, and Brazil on the topics of social media and messaging apps. The report includes a number of findings on fake news, misinformation, and trust in the media; for more on those topics, see this piece by the report’s authors, and I’ll also include some more info in Friday’s fake news column”


Internet Access:

Oracle’s Internet Intelligence Map presents a real-time view of online threats

“Distributed denial of service attacks. Malware. State-imposed internet blackouts. It’s hard to keep abreast of every bad actor and natural disaster impacting the internet, but Oracle is making it a bit easier with the launch of Oracle Cloud Infrastructure’s Internet Intelligence Map, a real-time graphical representation of service interruptions and emerging threats.”

It’s available for free.


Technology:

A computer program that learns to “imagine” the world shows how AI can think more like us

“DeepMind’s advance could lead to machines that can make better sense of a scene.”

“Machines will need to get a lot better at making sense of the world on their own if they are ever going to become truly intelligent.”

“DeepMind, the AI-focused subsidiary of Alphabet, has taken a step in that direction by making a computer program that builds a mental picture of the world all by itself. You might say that it learns to imagine the world around it.”


From rust belt to robot belt: Turning AI into jobs in the US heartland

“Artificial intelligence is offering an amazing opportunity to increase prosperity, but whether or not we will seize it is our choice.”


Research:

Legal Analytics vs. Legal Research: What’s the Difference?

“For hundreds of years, litigators have served their clients by applying facts to law using legal reasoning. To identify relevant law—statutes, cases, rules—to apply to the facts of a case, lawyers conduct legal research. Performing accurate legal research remains a core skill of successful lawyering.”

“But over the past few years a new tool has appeared in litigators’ toolkits: legal analytics.”

“Legal analytics involves mining data contained in case documents and docket entries, and then aggregating that data to provide previously unknowable insights into the behavior of the individuals (judges and lawyers), organizations (parties, courts, law firms), and the subjects of lawsuits (such as patents) that populate the litigation ecosystem. Litigators use legal analytics to reveal trends and patterns in past litigation that inform legal strategy and anticipate outcomes in current cases.”

“While every litigator learns how to conduct legal research in
law school, performs legal research on the job (or reviews research conducted by associates or staff), and applies the fruits of legal research to the facts of their cases, many may not yet have encountered legal analytics.”

http://www.lawtechnologytoday.org/2017/06/legal-analytics-vs-legal-research/

Libraries:

The Case of the Torn Presidential Record and the Future of Its Library

“I have broached this topic before; but, it seems more important than ever to again highlight that one of the most important functions of a librarian is helping to provide access to information. We cannot provide fair and comprehensive access to information without the preservation of information. That being said librarians are to be considered the guardians of information – especially law librarians. Recently, Politico broke the news that White House Records Management Analysts had been tasked with taping back together official Presidential records as President Trump has a bad habit of ripping up every piece of paper as soon as he’s finished with it.”

“White House aides, in an effort to make sure the President is not breaking the law and remains in compliance with the Presidential Records Act, collect the pieces of paper and have them sent to Records Management Analysts who are tasked with putting the puzzle back together and forwarding the taped up document to the National Archives who then files the document away. Let it be noted, these guardians (record management analysts) were very recently terminated. This is the perfect opportunity to look at whether Presidential Libraries are required institutions, after all, where better to house legally mandated Presidential records?”


Librarians, Well, Batty

“A 300-year-old library’s resident bats eat the bugs that devour glue and paper, but they’re attracting more interest than the literature; ‘The questions are nonstop’”

“COIMBRA, Portugal—During the day, as visitors file through the University of Coimbra’s 300-year-old Joana Library, the creatures remain hidden behind the grand, gilded bookcases.”

“At night, they come out to protect the books.”

“They are a group of perhaps a dozen resident bats. As lovers of literal bookworms—they eat the moths and beetles that devour glue and paper—they are also the library’s unwitting conservationists. And their presence is driving Joana’s staff batty.”


Libraries of Things | Library Hacks

“Looking for short-term use of cake tins, camping equipment, or bikes? These libraries lend out all of those items and more. In all of these cases, patrons pay for loss or damage, but librarians say it hasn’t been much of a problem. What unusual items are available for checkout in your library of things? Let us know in the comments section.”


Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety; attribution appreciated.

The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Communications Committee, San Francisco Bay Area Chapter, Special Libraries Association.

Share this:

Jobline 2018/06/22


DIGITAL ASSET COORDINATOR/ARCHIVIST

Taylor & Associates is recruiting for the position of digital asset coordinator/archivist for our client in San Francisco. This is a full-time contract position

Responsibilities:

Implement DAM program using ArchivesSpace open-source archives application

Assign and manage metadata
Migrate data to new system

Manage physical and digital collections

Qualifications:

2-3 years archives experience

Experience in implementing archiving systems and migrating data

Experience managing metadata

MLIS or Digital Asset Management certificate desirable

Send resume to Catherine Ghent: taylorlb@taylorlib.com

When applying, please mention that you found this position listing on SLA SF Bay Area Jobline. Thank you!

Intersect Alert June 24, 2018


June 25, 2018 Categories: Intersect Alert Tags: libraries, open access, open data, privacy, technology

Privacy:

Victory! Supreme Court Says Fourth Amendment Applies to Cell Phone Tracking

“The Supreme Court handed down a landmark opinion on June 22nd in Carpenter v. United States, ruling 5-4 that the Fourth Amendment protects cell phone location information. In an opinion by Chief Justice Roberts, the Court recognized that location information, collected by cell providers like Sprint, AT&T, and Verizon, creates a ‘detailed chronicle of a person’s physical presence compiled every day, every moment over years.’ As a result, police must now get a warrant before obtaining this data.”

“This is a major victory. Cell phones are essential to modern life, but the way that cell phones operate—by constantly connecting to cell towers to exchange data—makes it possible for cell providers to collect information on everywhere that each phone—and by extension, each phone’s owner—has been for years in the past. As the Court noted, not only does access to this kind of information allow the government to achieve ‘near perfect surveillance, as if it had attached an ankle monitor to the phone’s user,’ but, because phone companies collect it for every device, the ‘police need not even know in advance whether they want to follow a particular individual, or when.’”


Open Data:

Announcing Microsoft Research Open Data – Datasets by

Microsoft Research now available in the cloud

June 21st, 2018

“The Microsoft Research Outreach team has worked extensively with the external research community to enable adoption of cloud-based research infrastructure over the past few years. Through this process, we experienced the ubiquity of Jim Gray’s fourth paradigm of discovery based on data-intensive science – that is, almost all research projects have a data component to them. This data deluge also demonstrated a clear need for curated and meaningful datasets in the research community, not only in computer science but also in interdisciplinary and domain sciences.”

“Today we are excited to launch Microsoft Research Open Data – a new data repository in the cloud dedicated to facilitating collaboration across the global research community. Microsoft Research Open Data, in a single, convenient, cloud-hosted location, offers datasets representing many years of data curation and research efforts by Microsoft that were used in published research studies. The goal is to provide a simple platform to Microsoft researchers and collaborators to share datasets and related research technologies and tools. Microsoft Research Open Data is designed to simplify access to these datasets, facilitate collaboration between researchers using cloud-based resources and enable reproducibility of research. We will continue to shape and grow this repository and add features based on feedback from the community. We recognize that there are dozens of data repositories already in use by researchers and expect that the capabilities of this repository will augment existing efforts…”

Open Access:

Open Content on JSTOR

Open Content on JSTOR – “Explore academic content on JSTOR that is open to everyone, everywhere. Search thousands of free journal articles and open access book chapters... We have partnered with leading presses on a project to add open access ebooks to JSTOR. More than 2,000 titles are now available from publishers such as University of California Press, Cornell University Press, NYU Press, and University of Michigan Press, and we will continue to add new titles. These open access books are freely available for anyone in the world to use.”

https://www.jstor.org/open/

Librarians:

My Non Life

Via LLRX “Zena Applebaum, Corporate Strategy, Competitive Intelligence, Legal Industry Professional speaks directly to all the professionals who serve their respective organizations with many faceted skills and mission critical expertise, delivering transparent and accountable value to internal and external customers, all while shouldering the designation of a ‘non-lawyer.’”

“For many years working in the realm of law firms I have been described as a Non – a non lawyer. It is a rather strange predicament to define yourself and your skills based on what you are not, rather than what you are. I remember when my husband first graduated from university and wasn’t sure what he wanted to do with his life, he took a series of jobs to try things out only to come to the conclusion a year later that he learned what he didn’t want to do. So he went back to school, twice, in pursuit of being a something. I on the other hand, graduated from grad school and shortly thereafter started on my almost two decade journey of being a Non.”

https://www.bespacific.com/new-on-llrx-a-commentary-my-non-life/

Technology:

A team of AI algorithms just crushed humans in a complex computer game

“Algorithms capable of collaboration and teamwork can outmaneuver human teams.”

“Five different AI algorithms have teamed up to kick human butt in Dota 2, a popular strategy computer game.”

“Researchers at OpenAI, a nonprofit based in California, developed the algorithmic A team, which they call the OpenAI Five. Each algorithm uses a neural network to learn not only how to play the game, but also how to cooperate with its AI teammates. It has started defeating amateur Dota 2 players in testing, OpenAI says.”


Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety; attribution appreciated.
The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Communications Committee, San Francisco Bay Area Chapter, Special Libraries Association.

Archives:

National Archives updates progress on ICE records disposition

“The proposed Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) records schedule for records related to detainees held in ICE detention facilities (DAA-0567-2015-0013) has received significant attention in the media and by concerned individuals. Because of the ongoing interest in this schedule, NARA is providing this update on the status of the review. The draft schedule includes files documenting cases of sexual abuse and assault of detainees, as well as detainee death investigation files. This schedule was proposed to NARA in October 2015 and posted to the Federal Register on July 14, 2017. The proposed schedule was a new request for disposition authority for unscheduled records, not a request to revise an existing
records schedule.”


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Privacy:

Report – How tech companies use dark patterns to discourage us from exercising our rights to privacy

“The Norwegian Consumer Council (Forbrukerrådet) – “In this report, we analyze a sample of settings in Facebook, Google and Windows 10, and show how default settings and dark patterns, techniques and features of interface design meant to manipulate users, are used to nudge users towards privacy intrusive options. The findings include privacy intrusive default settings, misleading wording, giving users an illusion of control, hiding away privacy-friendly choices, take-it-or-leave-it choices, and choice architectures where choosing the privacy friendly option requires more effort for the users. Facebook and Google have privacy intrusive defaults, where users who want the privacy friendly option have to go through a significantly longer process. They even obscure some of these settings so that the user cannot know that the more privacy intrusive option was preselected. The popups from Facebook, Google and Windows 10 have design, symbols and wording that nudge users away from the privacy friendly choices. Choices are worded to compel users to make certain choices, while key information is omitted or downplayed. None of them lets the user freely postpone decisions. Also, Facebook and Google threaten users with loss of functionality or deletion of the user account if the user does not choose the privacy intrusive option. The GDPR settings from Facebook, Google and Windows 10 provide users with granular choices regarding the collection and use of personal data. At the same time, we find that the service providers employ numerous tactics in order to nudge or push consumers toward sharing as much data as possible.”


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California’s new online privacy law could be huge for the US

The California Consumer Privacy Act was passed unanimously yesterday after being introduced just one week ago.


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Open Access:

NLM Announces New Version of TOXMAP!

“A new version of TOXMAP is now available from the National Library of Medicine. It does not require browser plug-ins and provides improved usability on mobile devices. The new TOXMAP has several updated datasets, including:

- NCI SEER cancer and disease mortality data (2011-2015);
- Canadian National Pollutant Release Inventory (NPRI) data (2016);
- U.S. commercial nuclear power plants (2017); and
- Coal power plant data from the EPA Clean Air Markets Program (2017).”

“Please note: The previous versions of TOXMAP, TOXMAP classic and the Flash version of TOXMAP, were retired on June 28, 2018.”


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Research:

NLM Announces New Version of TOXMAP!
Libraries:

Senate Appropriations Committee approves FY 2019 library funding

“The Senate Appropriations Committee yesterday approved level funding for the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) and the Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL) programs, rejecting the administration’s call to eliminate funding for these important library programs. The Committee approved a $2 million increase for the Institute of Museum of Library Services (IMLS), which administers LSTA, to cover administrative costs.”

“Yesterday’s action comes two days after the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (LHHS) Subcommittee of the Senate Appropriations Committee approved the bill. The full Senate will take up consideration of the spending bill after the July 4 recess, although timing has not been announced.”


Intersect Alert July 8, 2018

Internet Access:

California’s Net Neutrality Bill Is Strong Again Because You Spoke Out

“After a hearing that stripped California’s gold standard net neutrality bill of much of its protections, California legislators have negotiated new amendments that restore the vast majority of those protections to the bill. The big ISPs and their money did not defeat the voices of the many, many people who want and need a free and open Internet.”

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2018/07/californias-net-neutrality-bill-strong-again-because-you-spoke-out

Technology:

Millions of smart TVs in the US are collecting data about you

“If you watch television on an internet-connected TV, it may be watching you back.”

“Data-slurpers: The New York Times took a close look today at the rise of services that track viewers’ watching habits—in particular at a company called Samba TV, which has claimed to gather second-by-second information on what people are watching from software it’s installed on some 13.5 million smart TVs in the US.”


Google’s Duplex AI could kill the call center

“The robots on the other side of the customer support line could soon start to sound a lot more human.”

“Google is reportedly shopping its Duplex AI system around as a tool for call centers, according to The Information, including a large insurance company.”

“Duplex would handle simple calls for the insurance company, and if the customer started asking complex questions the bot can’t handle a human would step in, according to the report. However, it’s unlikely that AI research will cease after...
mastering simple conversations, meaning call centers could one day be largely automated using this technology.”


Open Data:

Today in OpenGov: Checking open data off the list

“In today’s edition, Connecticut shares an open data report card, journalists struggle for access to prisons, Scott Pruitt’s ethics troubles continue, the French parliament passes a fake news law, and more.”


NIH-funded scientists put socioeconomic data on the map

NIH: “The Neighborhood Atlas (https://www.neighborhoodatlas.medicine.wisc.edu/), a new tool to help researchers visualize socioeconomic data at the community level is now available. This online platform allows for easily ranking and mapping neighborhoods according to socioeconomic disadvantage. Seeing a neighborhood’s socioeconomic measures, such as income, education, employment and housing quality, may provide clues to the effects of those factors on overall health, and could inform health resources policy and social interventions. The Neighborhood Atlas is housed at the University of Wisconsin, and described in a perspective in the June 28 issue of the New England Journal of Medicine. The project is funded by the National Institute on Aging (NIA) and the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD), both part of the National Institutes of Health…”


Libraries:

The Library of Congress Launches Public Access to North Korean Serials Database, Resource Currently Contains 34,000 Records

“Home to one of the most prominent North Korean collections in the Western Hemisphere, the Asian Division at the Library of Congress has rolled out the North Korean Serials Database, an online indexing tool that offers researchers enhanced access to periodicals and articles published as far back as the 1940s.”

“The database contains 34,000 indexed records for articles in 18 journals from North Korea that are now searchable to the public online at for first time.”


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Share this:

Intersect Alert for July 16, 2018

New Research Resource: SCOTUS Watch Tracks Public Statements by Senators on How They Plan to Vote For U.S. Supreme Court Nominee

SCOTUS Watch tracks the public statements made by United States senators about how they plan to vote on the Supreme Court nominee, Brett Kavanaugh, and tallies them into a likely vote count. This tally is based solely on their statements: we do not make estimates or guesses based on a senator’s party affiliation or ideology.

http://www.scotuswat.ch/

This vital new health atlas offers new look at how place shapes health

“The Neighborhood Atlas draws much of its data from the ‘Area Deprivation Index,’ or ADI, a metric that ranks neighborhoods by 17 socioeconomic indicators culled from census data, such as education, employment, and income levels, housing costs and density, and more nuanced data like access to plumbing, transportation and telephones.”


Research Tools: UN Statistics Division Portal Adds New Section of Disability Data

“The repository contains data and metadata on disability from official statistics compiled from national population and housing censuses, household surveys, and some administrative data. The data show the basic prevelance of disability in countries, and aim to illustrate some socio-economic characteristics and living conditions of persons with and without disabilities for analyses of equalization of opportunities and inclusive development.”


International Outlook

The ancient library where the books are under lock and key

“Inside a specially built, temperature controlled room at Hereford Cathedral, hundreds of medieval manuscripts sit chained to their shelves, exactly as they did centuries ago.”


Journal Article: “The UK Scholarly Communication Licence: Attempting to Cut Through the Gordian Knot of the Complexities of Funder Mandates, Publisher Embargoes and Researcher Caution in Achieving Open Access”

“Whilst take-up of open access (OA) in the UK is growing rapidly due partly to a number of funder mandates, managing the complexities of balancing compliance with these mandates against restrictive publisher policies and ingrained academic priorities, has resulted in UK higher education institutions (HEIs) often struggling with confused researchers, complex workflows, and rising costs. In order to try to address this situation, the UK Scholarly Communication Licence (UK-SCL) was formulated to bypass the root causes of many of these challenges by implementing a licensing mechanism for multiple-mandate compliance in one single policy. This is the first empirical study to focus on the genesis of the UK-SCL and how its implementation has been conceived thus far.”


Libraries

Association of Research Libraries (ARL) Publishes SPEC Kit 359: Library Development

This SPEC Kit gathered information to better understand the supporting structures and resources (personnel, financial, and material) and the activities and expectations associated with library development efforts at ARL member libraries.


Law Librarians Focusing More on Competitive Intelligence, Survey Shows

This year’s survey results show that for firm librarians the focus is switching from practice of law research to business development research—sometimes referred to as competitive intelligence. Specifically, 75 percent of respondents expect to see requests for business of law research increase in the near future, as opposed to 52 percent expecting the same for practice of law research. Asked if the business of law has overtaken the practice of law as their researchers’ principle focus, 31 percent of respondents said it had. More significantly, 84 percent of respondents said they believe their departments should be the primary provider of business of law research for their firms. “In the old days, we used to support the practice of law. Now, we are doing research for business development and we have a very good relationship with our marketing people. We also work with individual lawyers,” says Charles Frey, the director of the library at Munger, Tolles & Olson.”

Survey – Law Librarians Focusing More on Competitive Intelligence

Values
Free Speech Debate Erupts with ALA’s Inclusion of Hate Groups in Revision of Bill of Rights Interpretation
The new wording on a Library Bill of Rights interpretation of the purpose of meeting rooms set off a controversy that had librarians sparring with ALA staff and prompted questions that spark mini debates of their own: Should libraries be neutral? Who decides what is a hate group? Is it OK to put a limit on free speech and library space when staff or patrons feel uncomfortable or threatened by a particular group? Where does protected speech cross the line into harassment or threat? Can a library protect marginalized patrons and keep a commitment to being open to all members of a community?
http://libraryjuicepress.com/blog/?p=5833

Libraries Serve Refugees
Libraries Serve Refugees is a project sponsored by Urban Libraries Unite to gather crowd sourced information support for refugees and immigrants. It provides Fast Resources (practical tips, government reports, webinars); Toolkits; Locations (libraries providing direct support services to refugees) and Articles (news stories about libraries providing services to refugees). They are also seeking to build a body of experts and connect them to libraries.

Technology
You can now test Google’s biggest Chrome redesign in years
“For the past several months, Google has been releasing updates for its Chrome browser in preparation for a massive redesign. We’ve seen bits and pieces of the next Material Design overhaul already, but this week, Google rolled out a substantial UI refresh to the Chrome Canary browser (for developers and early adopters), giving Chrome users their clearest look yet at the future of the most popular internet browser on the planet.”

New book: We Can Do I.T.: Women in Library Information Technology
“Does gender play a role in library information technology (I.T.)? For the last several decades, libraries have primarily employed women, whereas I.T. jobs have been held by men. What happens when the two collide? What is it like for women who are working for I.T. within the library? Has it changed over time? Through personal narratives, we explore these questions and seek to provide guidance and encouragement for women and men in library I.T., those pursuing a career in library I.T., and library management. The collection includes themes concerning “Imposter Syndrome,” career trajectory, experiences of sexism and biases. Contributors also offer advice and encouragement to those entering or already in the field”
http://libraryjuicepress.com/blog/?p=5833

Open Data
Sloan Foundation Funds Frictionless Data for Reproducible Research
“We are excited to announce that Open Knowledge International has received a grant of $750,000 from The Alfred P. Sloan Foundation for our project ‘Frictionless Data for Reproducible Research’. The new funding from Sloan enables us to continue work over the next 3 years via enhanced dissemination and training activities, as well as further iteration on the software and specifications via a range of deep pilot projects with research partners.”

Public Policy
FY 2019: House committee approves level funding for libraries
“Federal funding for library priorities in fiscal year (FY) 2019 took another step in the right direction with Wednesday evening’s House Appropriations Committee approval of level funding for critical library programs Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) and the Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL). Under the bill, which originated from the Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee, LSTA would receive $186.3 million for FY 2019 while IAL would receive $27 million.”

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The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Communications Committee, San Francisco Bay Area Chapter, Special Libraries Association.
Exponent is a leading engineering and scientific consulting firm. Our multidisciplinary team of scientists, engineers, physicians, and regulatory consultants brings together more than 90 different disciplines to solve complicated problems facing corporations, insurers, government entities, associations and individuals. Our approximately 1000 staff members work in 26 offices across the United States and abroad. Exponent has over 800 consultants, including more than 500 that have earned a doctorate in their chosen field of specialization.

Information Resources is a small, elite research team. Its information professionals are educated for and experienced with identifying and organizing information, making it accessible throughout the organization, and providing insight and evaluating resources to support the incredibly diverse range of projects the company undertakes. This team is seeking an Information Resources Manager with the vision and experience to unlock the value of the digital content generated across the firm for our professionals, while retaining client confidentiality. The person in this role is also responsible for managing organizational access to a broad range of external research resources as well as providing individualized research support as needed.

Responsibilities for this position include:

- Assist our consultants by executing complex research assignments using electronic or other commercial resources across a variety of industries and disciplines.
- Provide vision and leadership to an internal team charged with designing, developing, and implementing a range of Digital Asset Management initiatives under a unified knowledge management program aimed at improving accessibility and unlocking the value of our technical digital content.
- Manage firmwide access and use of information resources in accordance with copyright, or other legal requirements.
- Manage our physical and digital collections
- Introduce and educate new consultants to the range of services our Information Resources team provides.

Qualifications and skills for this position include:

- MLS/MLIS from ALA-accredited graduate program.
- Experience in specifying and implementing Digital Asset Management/Knowledge Management systems including managing metadata and migrating data. DAM certificate desirable.
- Advanced proficiency and understanding of content in ProQuest DIALOG, STN, and other online resources like HeinOnline, Westlaw.
- Proficiency using firm productivity software tools: MS Office suite, SharePoint, EndNote.
- Ability to analyze and interpret information from a variety of sources, apply critical and creative thinking to draw conclusions or develop solutions to complex issues.
- Be able to work as team member as well as independently.
- Strong service orientation and effective working relationships with others.
- Minimum 5 years recent, professional-level, research and information science-related experience in corporate environment (professional services firm a plus).

We are an Affirmative Action, Equal Employment Opportunity, Veterans and Disabled Employer

To apply, please visit https://www.exponent.com/careers under “Information Resources” (Practice/Center)

When applying, please mention that you found this position listing on SLA SF Bay Area Jobline. Thank you!

Share this:

Intersect Alert for July 23, 2018

Some Colleges Cautiously Embrace Wikipedia

“Academics have traditionally distrusted Wikipedia, citing the inaccuracies that arise from its communally edited design and lamenting students’ tendency to sometimes plagiarize assignments from it. Now, higher education and Wikipedia don’t seem like such
strange bedfellows.”
https://www.chronicle.com/article/Some-Colleges-Cautiously/243968

TAG: Archives

Baseball Records Provide Historical Perspective on All-Star Game
“With Major League Baseball’s All-Star game and all its festivities in full swing this week in Washington, DC, the National Archives is providing historical context by sharing some of the many artifacts, documents, and images in our records from games past.”
https://www.archives.gov/news/articles/baseball-records-provide-historical-perspective-on-all-star

“LIFE-NOW”: JAMES TRIPTREE, JOANNA RUSS, AND THE QUEER MEANING OF ARCHIVES
“Archives have special meaning for queer people, and there are fascinating parallels between queer and archival thought. The author draws on several sources to explore these ideas: a case study of archival correspondence between two queer science fiction writers who saw very different futures for their letters, Elizabeth Freeman’s concept of ‘queer time,’ and a meditation on archives and chosen family.”

TAG: Values

“Using the AASL Standards as a framework, the guide encapsulates how school librarians can protect themselves and the LGBTQ+ materials in their collections from challenges. School librarians will find valuable resources and links as expected in a traditional toolkit”

TAG: Libraries

Cleveland Students Lead Initiative To Diversify School Libraries
“When three Cleveland seventh graders read Jacqueline Woodson’s Brown Girl Dreaming, the Citizens Leadership Academy (CLA) students didn’t know about the #WeNeedDiverseBooks movement in the publishing world. They had never heard about mirrors and windows. Kiara Ransaw, James Kline, and Jayla Henderson knew only this: They had never read a book like this before, and they had never felt like this about a book before.”
https://www.slj.com/?detailStory=cleveland-students-lead-initiative-diversify-school-libraries

Winning at Weeding
“When circulation numbers go up after a weeding project, it’s because students and teachers can “actually see the books they are browsing for—they’re not all squished together,” says Christie Boen, district librarian and instructional technology coach at the Bend-LaPine School District in Bend, OR. Boen uses the CREW method developed by the Texas Library Association: continuous review, evaluate, weed. School media staff across the district are encouraged to weed on a weekly basis. Over the past several years, Boen worked with staff to bring the average publication year of school collections to at least 2004, a mighty undertaking.”
https://www.slj.com/?detailStory=winning-at-weeding

Is the Library Card Dying?
“The need to issue a physical card at all—as I can attest from my own experience—may be disappearing. With smartphone apps, cardholders can input their numbers and produce a bar code that can be scanned, with no need for the actual card. While most library scanners use lasers and cannot work with smartphones, the technology to read bar codes off of phone screens is not expensive to adopt”

TAG: Research

Audio: Rocky Mountain National Park Sound Library Released Online, Over 210 Recordings Available
“The Sound Library is part of the ongoing commitment of the National Park Service to document and preserve the natural sounds of the environment. The Sound Library provides a way for all visitors to experience the sounds of the park and creates a historical record of the soundscapes so that changes can be monitored over time. Pictures and additional information help visitors learn more about the park’s extensive wildlife.”
http://www.estesparknews.com/rmnp_news/article_c35996c6-8a98-11e8-a505-e38b5082182c.html

University of Houston Libraries Introduces Houston Hip Hop Posters Digital Collection
“Most of the 107 original posters in this digital collection were created to promote recordings by Houston hip hop artists, including such well-known figures as Bun B, DJ Screw, Paul Wall, and Scarface. The collection is also rich in the posters of artists from two underground rap collectives, the Screwed Up Click and the South Park Coalition.”
Win for Public Right to Know: Court Vacates Injunction Against Publishing the Law
“A federal appeals court today ruled that industry groups cannot control publication of binding laws and standards. This decision protects the work of Public.Resource.org (PRO), a nonprofit organization that works to improve access to government documents. PRO is represented by the Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF), the law firm of Fenwick & West, and attorney David Halperin.”
https://www.eff.org/press/releases/win-public-right-know-court-vacates-injunction-against-publishing-law

National Archives updates progress on ICE records disposition
“The proposed Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) records schedule for records related to detainees held in ICE detention facilities (DAA-0567-2015-0013) has received significant attention in the media and by concerned individuals. Because of the ongoing interest in this schedule, NARA is providing this update on the status of the review. The draft schedule includes files documenting cases of sexual abuse and assault of detainees, as well as detainee death investigation files. This schedule was proposed to NARA in October 2015 and posted to the Federal Register on July 14, 2017. The proposed schedule was a new request for disposition authority for unscheduled records, not a request to revise an existing records schedule.”

U.S. Copyright Office Releases Upgrades to Virtual Card Catalog Proof of Concept
“Today, the U.S. Copyright Office implemented a series of technical upgrades to enhance searching and results tracking capabilities when using the proof of concept of the Virtual Card Catalog (VCC).”

Archiving while Black
“Among the things 2018 will be remembered for is mainstream culture’s realization that white Americans use the police to challenge black entry into “white” spaces. Countless viral news stories detail how white people have called the police on black people for cooking, shopping, driving — basically for existing while black. A black body in a space presumed to be white is at best out of place and at worst a threat. This reality extends to less visible spaces, such as the historical archive. The archive, and black marginalization within it, has important implications for both scholarly and popular ideas about history.”
https://www.chronicle.com/article/Archiving-While-Black/243981

CLASSICS Is the Future of Assaults Against the Public Domain
“January 1, 2019 will be the first time in twenty years that works in the United States will once again join the public domain through copyright expiration. A growing public domain means more access to works and the ability of other artists to build on what came before. And as we get closer and closer to finally growing the public domain, big content holders are going to push harder and harder to lock it all down again. CLASSICS is the first step in that direction.”
Public Policy:

The Next Supreme Court Justice: Here’s What the Senate Should Ask About New Technologies and the Internet
“Brett Kavanaugh’s nomination has sparked a great deal of discussion about his views on reproductive rights and executive authority. But the Supreme Court tackles a broad range of issues, including the present and future of digital rights and innovation. As Congress plays its crucial constitutional role in scrutinizing judicial nominees, Senators should take care to press the nominee for his views on how the law should address new technologies and the Internet.”

Blurring Shakespeare with help from JSTOR Labs
“Derek Miller’s project, To Quote or Not to Quote, features all of the Bard’s plays, but actors won’t be using it to memorize their lines. The professor of theater history at Harvard University has created a clear–yet blurry–visualization of how we cite the works of William Shakespeare. Using an API built by JSTOR Labs to calculate the number of times every line from every play has been cited in JSTOR, Miller makes the text look fuzzier the less often it is mentioned.”

Values:

I’m a librarian. The last thing we need is Silicon Valley “disruption.”
“In an opinion column published on Forbes on Saturday, a professor of economics argued that local public libraries should be replaced by Amazon. The essay, which sparked so much controversy that Forbes removed it from its website on Monday, argued, ‘At the core, Amazon has provided something better than a local library without the tax fees. The move would save taxpayers money and enhance the stockholder value of Amazon all in one fell swoop.’”

Research:

Is Wikipedia A Reliable Legal Authority? (2018 Update)
“Back in 2014, a Twitter exchange with Judge Dillard prompted an article on AboveTheLaw discussing the reliability of Wikipedia as a resource.”
“Last year, I updated my research here, Is Wikipedia A Reliable Legal Authority? (2017 Update).”
“It’s 2018, so let’s see how some recent opinions cite (or reject) Wikipedia as an authority.”
What The District?! Explore How Your Voting District Has Evolved

“For better or worse, the way Congressional districts are drawn can determine who wins elections, which communities are represented, and what laws are passed. Explore how your own district has changed (sometimes dramatically) over time.”

“Most state legislatures have the power to draw new congressional district boundaries. Enter your zip code and you will be provided with the history of the boundaries in your respective district from 1953 to the present. This resource clearly identifies the history of gerrymandering in districts around the country.”

https://what-the-district.aclu.org/

Archives:

Microfilm Lasts Half a Millennium

“Millions of publications—not to mention spy documents—can be read on microfilm machines. But people still see these devices as outmoded and unappealing. An Object Lesson.”


Libraries:

Library Acquisition Patterns: Preliminary Findings

“Several years ago, we set out to better understand how both library acquisition practices and the distribution patterns of publishers and vendors were evolving over time. Within the academic publishing community, there is a sense that academic libraries are acquiring fewer and fewer books and that university presses are struggling amid declining sales. The latter may certainly be true—a recent UK study found that between 2005 and 2014, retail sales of academic books dropped by 13 percent—but what if the academic libraries that constitute part of that market were in reality not making fewer purchases? As new vendors and acquisition methods disrupt customary means of acquiring books, Joseph Esposito, Ithaka S+R’s frequent collaborator and consultant, was inspired to ask whether book sales were actually depressed, or if they only appeared to be because academic libraries were bypassing the traditional wholesale vendors whose metrics are used by university presses to assess sales to libraries for companies like Amazon. To address this question, Ithaka S+R’s Roger Schonfeld and Liam Sweeney developed a data collection method that involved obtaining acquisitions data through an integrated library system (ILS). With the help of Betsy Friesen and Michael Johnson at the University of Minnesota, we created a canned report and query that academic institutions using Ex Libris’s Alma could easily implement to extract their data and supply us with a complete list of acquisitions by fiscal year. A pilot conducted with four academic libraries in 2016 proved that this method not only yielded viable data but was also scalable. Last year we received funding from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and the Library Acquisition Patterns (LAP) project was able to expand into a large-scale, national study that also incorporated data from OCLC’s WorldShare Management Services (WMS). This preliminary analysis examines book acquisitions from 54 libraries—ranging from small private liberal arts colleges to public research universities—that use WMS. We asked participants for data on their acquisitions between fiscal years 2013 to 2017.”

https://www.bespacific.com/library-acquisition-patterns-preliminary-findings/

Technology:

Tech Talk: Taking Control of Your Smartphone Usage

“This week’s episode is all about life in the attention economy. It’s a place where information overload and digital dependence makes your attention a valuable commodity. When tech is designed to draw us in, is it possible to disengage and just live life?”

“We’ll hear about new research on the topic from Nick Fitz, recently a senior researcher at Duke University’s Center for Advanced Hindsight. With the average person receiving between 65-80 notifications on their phone each day, what’s the best way to manage them and stay sane?”

https://cdt.org/blog/81801/

Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning to Accelerate Translational Research

“The big data revolution, accompanied by the development and deployment of wearable medical devices and mobile health applications, has enabled the biomedical community to apply artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning algorithms to vast amounts of data. This shift has created new research opportunities in predictive analytics, precision medicine, virtual diagnosis, patient monitoring, and drug discovery and delivery, which has garnered the interests of government, academic, and industry researchers alike and is already putting new tools in the hands of practitioners. https://www.nap.edu/catalog/25197/artificial-intelligence-and-machine-learning-to-
accelerate-translational-research-proceedings This boom in
digital health opportunities has also raised numerous questions
concerning the future of biomedical research and healthcare
practices. How reliable are deployed AI-driven diagnostic
tools, and what is the impact of these tools on doctors and
patients? How vulnerable are algorithms to bias and
unfairness? How can research improve the process of detecting
unfairness in machine learning algorithms? How are other
fields simultaneously advancing AI applications? How will
academia prepare scientists with the skills to meet the demands
of the newly transformed industry? Informed answers to these
and other questions require interdisciplinary discussion and
collaboration. On February 13 and 14, 2018, the National
Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine convened a
workshop to explore these and other questions related to the
emerging use of AI and machine learning technologies in
translational research. This publication summarizes the
presentations and discussions from the workshop.”
https://www.bespacific.com/artificial-intelligence-and-
machine-learning-to-accelerate-translational-research/

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The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Communications
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Association.

Intersect Alert August 12, 2018


Books and Reading:

What Does Immersing Yourself in a Book Do To Your Brain?

“The act of taking on the perspective and feelings of others is
one of the most profound, insufficiently heralded contributions
of the deep-reading processes. Proust’s description of ‘that
fertile miracle of communication effected in solitude’ depicts
an intimate emotional dimension within the reading
experience: the capacity to communicate and to feel with
another without moving an inch out of our private worlds. This
capacity imparted by reading—to leave and yet not leave one’s
sphere—is what gave the reclusive Emily Dickinson what she
called her personal ‘frigate’ to other lives and lands outside her
 perch above Main Street in Amherst, Massachusetts.”

“The narrative theologian John S. Dunne described this process
of encounter and perspective taking in reading as the act of
‘passing over,’ in which we enter into the feelings, imaginings,
and thoughts of others through a particular kind of empathy:
‘Passing over is never total but is always partial and
incomplete. And there is an equal and opposite process of
coming back to oneself.’ It is a beautifully apt description for
how we move from our inherently circumscribed views of the
world to enter another’s and return enlarged.

https://lithub.com/what-does-immersing-yourself-in-a-book-
do-to-your-brain/

Librarians:

The Crack Squad of Librarians Who Track Down Half-Forgotten Books

“Reuniting stumped readers with the books from the edges of
their memories.”

https://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/librarian-detectives-
forgotten-books

Being a Victorian Librarian Was Oh-So-Dangerous

“Quick, think of a job that’s hard on your health. Librarian
Rosalee McReynolds writes that in the late nineteenth century,
a common response might have been: librarian.”

https://daily.jstor.org/being-librarian-dangerous/

Research:

ADL Unveils Interactive Map Pinpointing Extremism and Hate Across U.S.

“ADL H.E.A.T. Map is the first-of-its-kind interactive and
customizable map detailing extremist and anti-Semitic
incidents around the nation. ADL experts in its Center on
Extremism (https://www.adl.org/who-we-are/our-organization/advocacy-centers/center-on-extremism)
developed this unique visualization with data points extracted
from information sources including news and media reports,
For most U.S. workers, real wages have barely budged in decades

Pew Research Center: “On the face of it, these should be heady times for American workers. U.S. unemployment is as low as it’s been in nearly two decades (3.9% as of July) and the nation’s private-sector employers have been adding jobs for 101 straight months – 19.5 million since the Great Recession-related cuts finally abated in early 2010, and 1.5 million just since the beginning of the year. But despite the strong labor market, wage growth has lagged economists’ expectations. In fact, despite some ups and downs over the past several decades, today’s real average wage (that is, the wage after accounting for inflation) has about the same purchasing power it did 40 years ago. And what wage gains there have been have mostly flowed to the highest-paid tier of workers. The disconnect between the job market and workers’ paychecks has fueled much of the recent activism in states and cities around raising minimum wages, and it also has become a factor in at least some of this year’s congressional campaigns. Average hourly earnings for non-management private-sector workers in July were $22.65, up 3 cents from June and 2.7% above the average wage from a year earlier, according to data from the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics. That’s in line with average wage growth over the past five years: Year-over-year growth has mostly ranged between 2% and 3% since the beginning of 2013. But in the years just before the 2007-08 financial collapse, average hourly earnings often increased by around 4% year-over-year. And during the high-inflation years of the 1970s and early 1980s, average wages commonly jumped 7%, 8% or even 9% year-over-year…”


Technology:

AI is bringing a new set of rules to knowledge work

“When things go digital, they start following a new set of rules.”

“The rules of the physical world are either not applicable or are severely diminished. Things move from sparsity to abundance, where consumption does not lead to depletion. To the contrary, the more an object is consumed, the more valuable it becomes. Cost of production and distribution is no longer critical, and the concept of inventory is no longer applicable.”

“When things go digital, they also move from linear to exponential – a world in which new technologies and new players can enter and dominate an industry in just a few years.”

https://blogs.thomsonreuters.com/answerson/ai-knowledge-work/

Government:

Senate Judiciary Cmte Posts additional 88,000 pages of Kavanaugh documents

Senate Committee on the Judiciary – PN2259-115: Brett M. Kavanaugh
Sept. 12 event: The Zodiac Revealed, with Mark G. Hewitt, author of the Zodiac Serial Killer books


SLA SFBA Chapter is very pleased to introduce Mark G. Hewitt, author of the Zodiac Serial Killer books, to our members and friends! Come and meet the author and have your books signed. All are welcome!

Sept. 12, 11:30 am to 1:30 pm, at The Mechanic’s Institute Meeting Room

The Zodiac Murders is the true story of America’s greatest criminal mystery. Book One, HUNTED: The Zodiac Murders tells the amazing true story of a serial killer on the loose. Book Two, PROFILES, The Zodiac Examined, examines the evidence and offers a careful, detailed profile of the killer based on the case facts. Book Three, EXPOSED: The Zodiac Revealed (September 27, 2018) narrows down the lengthy list of suspects and offers startling conclusions.

3) AVAILABLE AT THE EVENT
Exposed: The Zodiac Revealed (The Zodiac Serial Killer Book
3) PRE-ORDER NOW

REGISTER NOW!

11:30am Registration and book signing
12:00pm Lunch, meet and greet
12:30-1:30 pm Presentation and Q&A

A special thank you to our gracious host, Deb Hunt, Library Director of the Mechanic’s Institute Library for welcoming us to their library.

Intersect Alert August 19, 2018


Research:

Invisible Institute launches expanded Chicago police misconduct database

“The Chicago Reader: “An expansive new version of the Citizens Police Data Project has been unveiled by south-side journalism production company the Invisible Institute. The database, created by independent journalist Jamie Kalven, was already the largest public repository of Chicago police misconduct records. Now it’s quadrupled in size to include more than 240,000 misconduct complaints made against more than 22,000 CPD officers going back to the late 1960s. The database has also been enhanced by the addition of Chicago Police Department use-of-force reports and officer commendation records. Researchers at the institute are rolling out the new version of the database together with their own analysis of the data. They found that about one-fifth of the officers employed by CPD for a year or more between 2000 and 2016 had ten or more complaints against them, ranging from minor operational violations such as not wearing a seat belt while driving a squad car to accusations of severe beatings and shootings. Officers with ten or more complaints account for two-thirds of the records in CPDP’s new database.. The graphics in the new database offer a chance to see where any particular officer falls in relation to the rest of the force when it comes to allegations by civilians, by fellow officers, and use-of-force reports. Officers who are frequently accused together
can be analyzed as a group. It’s also possible to scroll through an officer’s entire career history and see his or her transfers between districts and department awards. Often, Fan notes, the same incident involving the same officer will result in a misconduct complaint from a civilian as well as a commendation from the department. In its announcement of the database rollout the institute notes additional “alarming trends” gleaned from the database: More than 6 percent of officers were accused of incidents of “physical domestic abuse” between 2000 and 2016. The officers with such accusations on their records also had a 50 percent higher rate of use-of-force complaints than the rest of their peers…”


Values:

HUD Files Housing Discrimination Complaint Against Facebook

“WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced today a formal complaint against Facebook for violating the Fair Housing Act by allowing landlords and home sellers to use its advertising platform to engage in housing discrimination.”

“How HUD claims Facebook enables advertisers to control which users receive housing-related ads based upon the recipient’s race, color, religion, sex, familial status, national origin, disability, and/or zip code. Facebook then invites advertisers to express unlawful preferences by offering discriminatory options, allowing them to effectively limit housing options for these protected classes under the guise of ‘targeted advertising.’ Read HUD’s complaint against Facebook.”


Open Access:

How Unpaywall is transforming open science

“Unpaywall has become indispensable to many academics, and tie-ins with established scientific search engines could broaden its reach.”

“After being kicked out of a hotel conference room where they had participated in a three-day open-science workshop and hackathon, a group of computer scientists simply moved to an adjacent hallway. There, Heather Piwowar, Jason Priem and Cristhian Parra worked all night on software to help academics to illustrate how much of their work was freely available on the Internet. They realized how much time had passed only when they noticed hotel staff starting to prepare for breakfast.”

“That all-nighter, back in 2011, laid the foundation for Unpaywall. This free service locates open-access articles and presents paywalled papers that have been legally archived and are freely available on other websites to users who might otherwise have hit a paywalled version. Since one part of the technology was released in 2016, it has become indispensable for many researchers. And firms that run established scientific search engines are starting to take advantage of Unpaywall.”

https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-018-05968-3

Technology:

Can you read at superhuman speeds?

“If we cut the time spent moving our eyes, we can read at much greater speeds. Give speed-reading a try yourself in this video.”


Who needs democracy when you have data?

“Here’s how China rules using data, AI, and internet surveillance.”

“In 1955, science fiction writer Isaac Asimov published a short story about an experiment in “electronic democracy,” in which a single citizen, selected to represent an entire population, responded to questions generated by a computer named Multivac. The machine took this data and calculated the results of an election that therefore never needed to happen. Asimov’s story was set in Bloomington, Indiana, but today an approximation of Multivac is being built in China.”

“For any authoritarian regime, “there is a basic problem for the center of figuring out what’s going on at lower levels and across society,” says Deborah Seligsohn, a political scientist and China expert at Villanova University in Philadelphia. How do you effectively govern a country that’s home to one in five people on the planet, with an increasingly complex economy and society, if you don’t allow public debate, civil activism, and electoral feedback? How do you gather enough information to actually make decisions? And how does a government that doesn’t invite its citizens to participate still engender trust and bend public behavior without putting police on every doorstep?”

https://www.technologyreview.com/s/611815/who-needs-democracy-when-you-have-data/
Google just gave control over data center cooling to an AI

“In a first, Google is trusting a self-taught algorithm to manage part of its infrastructure.”


The US government wants Facebook to break the encryption on a user’s data

“The U.S. government is trying to force Facebook Inc (FB.O) to break the encryption in its popular Messenger app so law enforcement may listen to a suspect’s voice conversations in a criminal probe, three people briefed on the case said, resurrecting the issue of whether companies can be compelled to alter their products to enable surveillance.”


Fitting Fitness into Library Programming

“Libraries around the country have incorporated fitness into their collections and programming offerings, and these programs are often met with enthusiasm from patrons. However, it’s not always easy to get a fitness program off the ground.”

“One hurdle is liability. What happens if a program participant or user who checks out a fitness item gets injured? A liability waiver may suffice in some districts, but not others. Related, insurance can be another hurdle. “This can especially be a challenge for someone who is not a professional fitness instructor, but who does it as a hobby,” said Noah Lenstra, founder of Let’s Move in Libraries (letsmovelibraries.org). “I personally don’t think a volunteer instructor should be required to have this type of insurance coverage (it costs a TON) but many cities and counties require it.”

http://publiclibrariesonline.org/2018/08/fitting-fitness-into-library-programming/

Library Acquisition Patterns: Preliminary Findings
“Several years ago, we set out to better understand how both library acquisition practices and the distribution patterns of publishers and vendors were evolving over time. Within the academic publishing community, there is a sense that academic libraries are acquiring fewer and fewer books and that university presses are struggling amid declining sales. The latter may certainly be true—a recent UK study found that between 2005 and 2014, retail sales of academic books dropped by 13 percent—but what if the academic libraries that constitute part of that market were in reality not making fewer purchases? As new vendors and acquisition methods disrupt customary means of acquiring books, Joseph Esposito, Ithaka S+R’s frequent collaborator and consultant, was inspired to ask whether book sales were actually depressed, or if they only appeared to be because academic libraries were bypassing the traditional wholesale vendors whose metrics are used by university presses to assess sales to libraries for companies like Amazon.”


Research:

The Complexity of Simply Searching for Medical Advice

“In the first few hours of a newborn’s life, doctors administer a vitamin K shot. This is because infants are born without enough of the vitamin, and the baby needs a boost to prevent any potential bleeding.”

“This is a routine practice—ask your pediatrician, your obstetrician, or the CDC. “Babies are born with very low stores of vitamin K, and without the Vitamin K shot … they do not have enough Vitamin K in their blood to form a clot,” the CDC says on its website.”

“But new parents who turn to search engines to understand the practice will find an aberrant—and dangerous—strain of thinking. Google “vitamin K shot” and the first result advises “Skip that Newborn Vitamin K Shot.” It isn’t until below the fold—the fourth result—that the CDC website appears.”


Open Access:

Who Gets to Read the Research We Pay For?

“Scientific journals’ lock on new studies has ignited tension for years. When it comes to access for people with rare diseases, it becomes an ethical issue too.”

“There’s one field that has stubbornly ignored the changes in access to information that the internet has wrought: scientific publishing. Peer-reviewed research, often funded at least in part by taxpayers, is still difficult to access, as it’s almost entirely published in scientific journals that sit behind some of the priciest paywalls imaginable. This is frustrating for many people who want to keep up with the latest research, but it becomes an ethical issue for people who suffer from rare diseases and somehow still don’t receive easy access to the latest research on their conditions.”

“This fault line erupted into an earthquake of sorts last week. The director of scholarly communications at Elsevier, a scientific publishing giant, kicked up a storm on Twitter during a debate over rare-disease families’ access to medical research. Elsevier has been a source of controversy on and off for the past few decades for what some see as business practices that place prohibitive costs on scientific information. Nearly 40 percent of the company’s income last year was profit.”


Technology:

China’s use of big data might actually make it less Big Brother-ish

“Why the country’s adoption of ever-more-intrusive technology could, paradoxically, lead to stronger civil liberties.”


Archives:

A Call to Action for Scholars of American History: Contribute to Wikipedia

“Our mission at the National Archives is to drive openness, cultivate public participation, and strengthen our nation’s democracy through public access to government records. We are fast approaching the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, a hallmark of the expansion of democracy here in the United States. On March 8, we will open our exhibit, Rightfully Hers: American Women and the Vote, which celebrates its modern relevance through inclusive retelling of the women’s suffrage movement.”

“As the National Archives, along with many other organizations, prepares for the 19th Amendment’s centennial we are working hard to increase access to the records we hold around women’s suffrage. One way we are doing this is by collaborating with Wiki Education, a nonprofit focused on empowering people to expand and improve Wikipedia content for the benefit of all. Through this collaboration, Wiki Education is launching a new virtual, immersive training...”
course designed to give participants the skills and practical experience necessary to improve Wikipedia coverage of the history of women’s voting rights in the United States.”


National Archives Works to Release Records Related to Judge Brett M. Kavanaugh

“The mission of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) is to provide access to the permanent records of the Federal government, which include Presidential records from NARA’s Presidential Libraries.”

“President Donald Trump nominated Judge Brett M. Kavanaugh to the U.S. Supreme Court on July 9, 2018. NARA has permanent records related to Judge Kavanaugh, because he served in the White House Counsel’s Office and the White House Office of the Staff Secretary under the Administration of President George W. Bush, and he also served as an Associate Independent Counsel in the Office of Independent Counsel Kenneth W. Starr during the Administration of President William J. Clinton.”

“Each time a candidate is nominated to the Supreme Court by the President, the staff at the National Archives and Records Administration immediately begin the task of reviewing and releasing records related to that nominee. The process is governed by several laws, including the Presidential Records Act, the Federal Records Act, and the Freedom of Information Act. All of the records, electronic and paper, must be reviewed by archival staff before being released by NARA.”

“In addition to the challenges of reviewing the records, the archival staff face an enormous number of documents—in Judge Brett Kavanaugh’s case, far more than previous nominees. While National Archives processed and released roughly 70,000 pages on Chief Justice John Roberts and 170,000 pages on Justice Elena Kagan, there are the equivalent of several million pages of paper and email records related to Judge Kavanaugh in the holdings of the George W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum and in the National Archives.”


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The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Communications Committee, San Francisco Bay Area Chapter, Special Libraries Association.

Intersect Alert September 4, 2018


Open Access

In Passing A.B. 2192, California Leads the Country in Open Access

“The California legislature just scored a huge win in the fight for open access to scientific research. Now it’s up to Governor Jerry Brown to sign it.”

“Under A.B. 2192—which passed both houses unanimously—all peer-reviewed, scientific research funded by the state of California would be made available to the public no later than one year after publication. There’s a similar law on the books in California right now, but it only applies to research funded by the Department of Public Health, and it’s set to expire in 2020. A.B. 2192 would extend it indefinitely and expand it to cover research funded by any state agency. EFF applauds the legislature for passing the bill, and especially Assemblymember Mark Stone for introducing it and championing it at every step.”

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2018/08/california-bill-win-access-scientific-research

Finding Open Access Articles – Tools & Tips

“This guide is meant to help individuals, of any background, search more easily for open access articles.”

“One of the pillars of libraries is facilitating access to the large corpus of existing knowledge. Typically this requires accessing gated information through a publisher or other service provider. Each institution can manage access to subscriptions in a way that works best for their communities – usually either by IP authentication or login credentials. This can be cumbersome
This is how each off-site journal access begins. I can’t help but login and one requiring verification clicks on a mobile phone. This involves 10–15 clicks with two verification steps (one login and one requiring verification clicks on a mobile phone). This is how each off-site journal access begins. I can’t help but login and one requiring verification clicks on a mobile phone. This involves 10–15 clicks with two verification steps (one login and one requiring verification clicks on a mobile phone). This is how each off-site journal access begins. I can’t help but login and one requiring verification clicks on a mobile phone. This involves 10–15 clicks with two verification steps (one login and one requiring verification clicks on a mobile phone).

for affiliates when not working onsite as there are often additional barriers to subscription access. Often this can require using Remote Desktop or a VPN to connect to a network before access is recognized. For the institution where I work this involves 10–15 clicks with two verification steps (one login and one requiring verification clicks on a mobile phone). This is how each off-site journal access begins. I can’t help but think in these moments that open access is just technically easier. Often it is one or two clicks—no additional verification needed. It eliminates the need to know whether or not your institution hosts a specific subscription. You know you have access and you have access now. However, the discovery process for open access articles isn’t necessarily the same as subscription searching. Especially if you do not have access to specific subscription databases.”

https://litablog.org/2018/08/finding-open-access-articles-tools-tips/

Privacy

Tech Industry Pursues a Federal Privacy Law, on Its Own Terms

“WASHINGTON — Technology companies have taken plenty of hits on privacy this year. In May, Europe began enforcing a sweeping new law that lets people request their online data and restricts how businesses obtain and handle the information.”

“Then in June, California passed its own law that gives people the right to know what information companies are collecting about them, why the companies are collecting that data and with whom they are sharing it—setting a privacy benchmark for the United States.”


EFF To Maine, Massachusetts Courts: Rule Requiring Warrants to Access Cell Phone Location Data Applies to Real-Time Searches

“Portland, Maine—The Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF) and the ACLU are urging the state’s highest courts in Massachusetts and Maine to rule that law enforcement agents need a warrant to access real-time location information from cell phones, a clear application of a landmark U.S. Supreme Court ruling from June.”

“EFF, in partnership with ACLU chapters in Massachusetts and Maine, is asking the state courts to recognize, as the Supreme Court did in U.S. v Carpenter, that people have a constitutional right to expect privacy in their physical movements, which can be revealed in minute detail by the cell phones they carry. Cell phone use is ubiquitous in our society. People have their phones with them all the time, and the location information produced by the phone can reveal our every move—where we live, socialize, visit, vacation, worship, and whom we meet with, including friends, colleagues, relatives, doctors, partners, political associates, and much more. In Carpenter, the Supreme Court said that government cell phone tracking “achieves near perfect surveillance,” and is like the government attaching ankle monitors on cell phone users. Cell phone location information searches fall under the Fourth Amendment and require a warrant, the court ruled.”

https://www.eff.org/press/releases/eff-maine-massachusetts-courts-rule-requiring-warrants-access-cell-phone-location

Publishing

Hundreds of Researchers From Harvard, Yale and Stanford Were Published in Fake Academic Journals

“In the so-called ‘post-truth era,’ science seems like one of the last bastions of objective knowledge, but what if science itself were to succumb to fake news? Over the past year, German journalist Svea Eckert and a small team of journalists went undercover to investigate a massive underground network of fake science journals and conferences.”

“In the course of the investigation, which was chronicled in the documentary ‘Inside the Fake Science Factory,’ the team analyzed over 175,000 articles published in predatory journals and found hundreds of papers from academics at leading institutions, as well as substantial amounts of research pushed by pharmaceutical corporations, tobacco companies, and others. Last year, one fake science institution run by a Turkish family was estimated to have earned over $4 million in revenue through conferences and journals.”

“The story begins with Chris Sumner, a co-founder of the nonprofit Online Privacy Foundation, who unwittingly attended a conference organized by the World Academy of Science, Engineering and Technology (WASET) last October. At first glance, WASET seems to be a legitimate organization. Its website lists thousands of conferences around the world in pretty much every conceivable academic discipline, with dates scheduled all the way out to 2031. It has also published over ten thousand papers in an “open science, peer reviewed, interdisciplinary, monthly and fully referred [sic] international research journal” that covers everything from aerospace engineering to nutrition. To any scientist familiar with the peer review process, however, WASET’s site has a number of red flags, such as spelling errors and the sheer scope of the disciplines it publishes.”


Libraries
Now You Can Read Entire Books on Instagram Thanks to the New York Public Library’s ‘InstaNovels’

“The New York Public Library is introducing a new way for you to get your read on: the ‘InstaNovel.’”

“As of Wednesday, the NYPL will begin posting classic novels to its Instagram account, in the form of Instagram stories. The project, called InstaNovels, is deemed a ‘reimagining of Instagram Stories to provide a new platform for iconic stories.’ The InstaNovels were created in conjunction with independent advertising and creative agency, Mother in New York.”

“The first book to be featured is Lewis Carroll’s Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland, which has been illustrated by designer Magoz. That will be followed by the short story The Yellow Wallpaper by Charlotte Perkins Gilman and Franz Kafka’s The Metamorphosis in the coming months.”

Lou Reed’s Archive, Coming to the New York Public Library

“This morning, on what would have been Lou Reed’s seventy-fifth birthday, Laurie Anderson, in an event at the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts, at Lincoln Center Plaza, announced that the library is acquiring Reed’s complete archive. The collection is vast and wonderful—around three hundred linear feet of paper records, electronic records, and photographs; some thirty-six hundred audio recordings; and some thirteen hundred video recordings. The first group, papers and artifacts, is currently being catalogued at the Library Services Center, in Long Island City; recordings and video will follow. The materials span from Reed’s high-school band to the Velvet Underground to his final performances, in 2013. Today, at every hour on the hour, Reed recordings will play in the library’s café; for the next two weeks, collection highlights will be on display; on March 13th, there will be a performance of ‘The Raven’ and Reed’s poetry, and on March 15th, there will be a performance of Drones—glorious feedback made with Reed’s amps and guitars.”

Professional Development

Helping Authors Get Rights Back Through Termination of Transfers

“Tune in on Thursday, September 6, 2019 at 2pm Eastern/11am Pacific for our hour-long free webinar. This program is brought to you by ALA’s Copyright, Legislation, Education and Advocacy Network (CLEAN).”

“Creators who enter into publishing agreements are often asked to sign away their copyrights before anyone knows their worth and in circumstances where they have little choice but to acquiesce. In the U.S., statutory termination of transfer provisions allow creators to regain copyrights they signed away decades ago. With rights back in hand, creators can get their works in front of new audiences by, for example, sharing their works using Creative Commons licenses or by negotiating new agreements with publishers. In this CopyTalk, Authors Alliance and Creative Commons will showcase their Termination of Transfer tool at rightsback.org and related resources that help authors understand and exercise termination of transfer rights.”

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“Privacy

Google Notifies People Targeted by Secret FBI Investigation

“At least dozens of people have received an email from Google informing them that the internet giant responded to a request from the FBI demanding the release of user data, according to several people who claimed to have received the email. The email did not specify whether Google released the requested data to the FBI.”
“The unusual notice appears to be related to the case of Colton Grubbs, one of the creators of LuminosityLink, a $40 remote access tool (or RAT), that was marketed to hack and control computers remotely. Grubs pleaded guilty last year to creating and distributing the hacking tool to hundreds of people.”


Exclusive: Government Transparency Site Revealed Social Security Numbers, Other Personal Info

“A federal government transparency website made public dozens, if not hundreds, of Social Security numbers and other personal information in a design error during a system upgrade.”

“The error, on a Freedom of Information Act request portal, was fixed after CNN alerted the government to the situation. For weeks prior, however, individuals’ sensitive personal information was available on the public-facing database unbeknownst to them or the government.”

“After a tip from a source who had noticed the glitch, with two quick searches, CNN discovered that the government had published at least 80 full or partial Social Security numbers. There were other instances of sensitive personal information, including dates of birth, immigrant identification numbers, addresses and contact details.”


Data Collection and Privacy: Balancing Information Needs with Patron Protection

“The University of Arizona in Tucson made big news earlier this year when it revealed that it was tracking swipes of ID cards given to every student and used at almost 700 campus locations in an attempt to predict which students are likely to drop out.”

“It’s an example of learning analytics, the use of data to understand and optimize learning and learning environments. The general concept isn’t new—the university’s announcement noted that student retention has been studied for more than 30 years—but the amount of data that is easy to generate with card swipes has exploded in recent years. And while the goals of learning analytics projects may be noble, the practice has raised alarms among privacy advocates.”


Do College Librarians Have Academic Freedom? Amid Push, California’s ‘Will Not Be Silent’

“Elaine Franco didn’t think the title of her presentation at the American Library Association’s midwinter meeting six years ago was all that controversial: ‘Copy cataloging gets some respect from administrators’.”

“But an administrative colleague of Franco’s at the University of California at Davis raised concerns about the title, an allusion to Rodney Dangerfield’s “I don’t get no respect” catchphrase. When she saw the 2012 slide deck, which Franco had emailed her, she wondered if the title inappropriately implied that copy catalogers had been disrespected by administrators previously, Franco recalled.”

“The disagreement caught the attention of a union negotiator. And now the episode has helped set off a crusade for academic freedom for employees of the 100-library UC System, amid negotiations to replace a contract that is set to expire at the end of September.”

https://www.chronicle.com/article/Do-College-Librarians-Have/244377

Open Access

EU and National Funders Launch Plan for Free and Immediate Open Access to Journals

“The European Commission and a group of national research
funders have laid out a controversial and perhaps precedent-setting plan to make thousands of research papers free to read on the day of publication, in a move that could force a major change in the business model of science publishers.”

“The initiative, ‘Plan-S’, brings together eleven top national research funders, plus the European Research Council, in an effort to release some of the world’s highest quality and highest impact research from behind journal paywalls.”

“Under the initiative, funding agencies including UK Research and Innovation, Science Foundation Ireland and the Research Council of Norway will require grant holders to publish only in journals that offer immediate open access, and under a licence that enables anyone to freely reuse and distribute the material.”


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Study Says Casetext Beats LexisNexis for Research, But LexisNexis Calls Foul

“A study released this week pitted two legal research platforms against each other, Casetext CARA and Lexis Advance from LexisNexis, and concluded that attorneys using Casetext CARA finished their research significantly more quickly and found more relevant cases than those who used Lexis Advance.”

“The study, The Real Impact of Using Artificial Intelligence in Legal Research, was commissioned by Casetext, which contracted with the National Legal Research Group to provide 20 experienced research attorneys to conduct three research exercises and report on their results. Casetext designed the methodology for the study in consultation with NLRG and it wrote the report of the survey results.”


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Intersect Alert September 17, 2018


Search

Thousands of Historical California Legislative Publications Digitized and Openly Available Online!

“California historical legislative research just got a bit easier. As a result of a collaboration between the California Office of Legislative Counsel and librarians at the University of California, Stanford University and the California State Library, nearly 4,000 California Assembly and Senate publications are now online and have been opened for reading access to everyone worldwide. They are available in the HathiTrust Digital Library as a featured collection, as well as individually in Google Books.”

“The project was initiated at the University of California’s California Digital Library (CDL) by current HathiTrust Program Officer for Federal Documents and Collections Heather Christenson. CDL worked with California’s Office of Legislative Counsel to clarify language in recently approved California Assembly Bill no. 884 to confirm that the collected set of historical publications of California legislative output are indeed in the public domain and can be broadly shared. The recently opened volumes were digitized as part of the Google Books project from copies collected by UC Berkeley and many other university libraries and have been aggregated in the HathiTrust Digital Library, a partnership of over 140 academic and research libraries.”


A Quick Guide to Searching the Web

“There are basically four techniques to search for information

Searching the web is a common experience and it is increasingly done using mobile applications, while still heavily relying on just one search engine for all search requirements. The goal of this short guide is to expand the scope of resources from which readers who are not necessarily highly proficient in web research can choose to conduct searches, as well as to engage in knowledge discovery. This article also explains alternative ways to search for information and additional methods to apply to your research to obtain more comprehensive and actionable results.”

“There are basically four techniques to search for information
on the web discussed in this article: 1) Search Engines, 2) Indexes and Directories, 3) Intuitive Search and 4) Custom Search and Deep Web Search. A brief explanation of each area is followed by representative examples that you can immediately put to good use. The intent of this guide is to broaden your search horizons so that searching the web will intuitively become easier, more focused and more effective.”


Privacy

The Game is Rigged: Congress Invites No Consumer Privacy Advocates to its Consumer Privacy Hearing

“The Senate Commerce Committee is getting ready to host a much-anticipated hearing on consumer privacy—and consumer privacy groups don’t get a seat at the table. Instead, the Committee is seeking only the testimony of big tech and Internet access corporations: Amazon, Apple, AT&T, Charter Communications, Google, and Twitter. Some of these companies have spent heavily to oppose consumer privacy legislation and have never supported consumer privacy laws. They know policymakers are considering new privacy protections, and are likely to view this hearing as a chance to encourage Congress to adopt the weakest privacy protections possible—and eviscerate stronger state protections at the same time.”

“It is no coincidence that, in the past week, two leading industry groups (the Chamber of Commerce and the Internet Association) have called for federal preemption of state data privacy laws in exchange for weaker federal protections. For example, laws in California and Illinois require companies to have user consent to certain uses of their personal information (Nevada and Minnesota have these requirements for Internet access providers), while the industry proposals would only require transparency. That means that companies would be allowed to collect information without your permission as long as they tell you they’re doing it. The upcoming hearing at the Senate Commerce Committee may be the launch pad for this strategy of undoing stronger state laws.”


The Privacy Conundrum

“Librarians have long protected the confidentiality of patron data, while also educating users how to safeguard their own information.”

– In 1972, a university librarian named Zoia Horn went to jail rather than divulge information about an anti-war activist who frequented her library.

– The USA PATRIOT Act’s increased and secret surveillance powers inspired librarian Jessamyn West to create canary signs which violated the spirit of that law.

– A group of librarians known as the “Connecticut Four” successfully fought a National Security Letter requesting library records.

– In 2015, a public library in New Hampshire drew ire from the Department of Homeland Security for installing the Tor browser on their computers.

– Many libraries hold workshops and offer tutorials on how to configure your privacy settings on sites such as Facebook.

“Respecting reader privacy is a fundamental tenet of librarianship. The American Library Association states it this way: ‘Privacy is essential to the exercise of free speech, free thought, and free association.’”

https://medium.com/@hubbard/the-privacy-conundrum-31940d4dbed8

Copyright

New Copyright Powers, New “Terrorist Content” Regulations: A Grim Day For Digital Rights in Europe

“There are still opportunities, at the EU level, at the national level, and ultimately in Europe’s courts, to limit the damage. But make no mistake, this is a serious setback for the Internet and digital rights in Europe.”


Podcasts

The Pack Horse Librarians Of Eastern Kentucky

“In 1930s Kentucky, in coal country, books made their way to remote and isolated regions of the state through The Pack Horse Library Project.”

DAVID GREENE, HOST:
“Picture a librarian on horseback hauling books over the rugged terrain of Kentucky coal country in the 1930s. The Kitchen Sisters, Davia Nelson and Nikki Silva, take us there. This is part of their new series, ‘The Keepers.’”

“MARY RUTH DIETER: My name is Mary Ruth Shuler Dieter. I’m 97 years old. We traveled on horses, riding down in the mountains of Kentucky. Very poor country. I was delivering books to the children. Pack horse librarian. It was one of the works of President Roosevelt.”


Keepers Of The Underground: The Hiphop Archive At Harvard

“This story is the first in NPR’s new Morning Edition series produced by The Kitchen Sisters (Davia Nelson & Nikki Silva) called The Keepers, stories of activist, archivists, rogue librarians, curators, collectors and historians — keepers of the culture and the cultures and collections they keep.”

“Over a decade ago, students of Dr. Marcyliena Morgan, then a Professor of Linguistics at UCLA, started dropping by her office, imploring her to listen to hip-hop.”

“‘I taught urban speech communities,’ Professor Morgan says. Students said, ‘We want to do work on hip-hop.’ I said, ‘That’s performance but it’s not a speech community.’ They said, ‘We’ll be back.’”

“They wanted her to hear the rapping and rhyming, the bravado of the wordplay, this new underground culture that was being created. They wanted her to help them begin to archive the medium.”


Open Access

European Science Funders Ban Grantees from Publishing in Paywalled Journals

“Frustrated with the slow transition toward open access (OA) in scientific publishing, 11 national funding organizations in Europe turned up the pressure today. As of 2020, the group, which jointly spends about €7.6 billion on research annually, will require every paper it funds to be freely available from the moment of publication. In a statement, the group said it will no longer allow the 6- or 12-month delays that many subscription journals now require before a paper is made OA, and it won’t allow publication in so-called hybrid journals, which charge subscriptions but also make individual papers OA for an extra fee.”


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New Members Fall Happy Hour Oct. 9 in San Francisco

Please plan on coming to the New Members Fall Happy Hour!

Tuesday, October 9, 2018. 5:30-7:30 PM

Patriot House Pub
2 Embarcadero Center, San Francisco

The San Francisco Bay Area Chapter of the Special Libraries Association invite you to our Fall Happy Hour.

Are you a student or new to the Bay Area? Are you a librarian or other information professional and want to meet new info pros in the area? Come join us for an evening with friends and colleagues. Meet librarians from all walks of life and find out what the SLA in the Bay Area is about. (Hint: it’s about networking, professional development, amazing colleagues, and fun!)

The event will be FREE for new* and prospective members, students, and for current members who bring along one or more prospective member. The fee for all others is only $10.

(* new means that you joined the chapter since September 2017)

The first drink is on us, and there will be food too! We hope to see you there.

To register as a FREE attendee, please email Michael Sholinbeck at president-elect@sanfrancisco.sla.org with your
name, current SLA membership status, and who you’re going to bring. If you’ll be paying $10 for this night of drinks and frivolity, you can send a check made out to San Francisco Bay Area Chapter of SLA to me at:

Michael Sholinbeck  
Bioscience, Natural Resources & Public Health Library  
2101 Valley Life Sciences Building  
University of California  
Berkeley, CA 94720-6500

Or you can pay by cash or check the night of the event.

Either way, please email me to let me know you’re coming.

Please RSVP by October 6.

Can’t wait to see you!!

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Intersect Alert September 24, 2018

September 24, 2018 Categories: Intersect Alert  
Tags: intellectual property, international outlook, privacy, research

Databases

New Bill Would Finally Tear Down Federal Judiciary’s Ridiculous Paywall

“Judicial records are public documents that are supposed to be freely available to the public. But for two decades, online access has been hobbled by a paywall on the judiciary’s website, called PACER (Public Access to Court Electronic Records), which charges as much as 10 cents per page. Now Rep. Doug Collins (R-Ga.) has introduced legislation that would require that the courts make PACER documents available for download free of charge.”

“The PACER system has been on the Web since the late 1990s. To avoid using taxpayer funds to develop the system, Congress authorized the courts to charge users for it instead. Given the plunging cost of bandwidth and storage, you might have expected these fees to decline over time. Instead, the judiciary has actually raised fees over time—from 7 cents per page in 1998 to 10 cents per page today. Even search results incur fees. The result has been a massive windfall for the judiciary—$150 million in 2016 alone.”


New Corpus Linguistics Platform Lets Legal Researchers Explore the Meanings of Words and Phrases

“A first-of-its-kind technology platform launching today allows legal researchers to examine large collections of historical texts to help determine the meanings of words and phrases in the contexts in which they historically were used.”

“The BYU Law platform was inspired by the work of BYU linguistics professor Mark Davies, who pioneered the development of a variety of corpora at corpus.byu.edu. Based on Davies’ work, BYU Law Dean D. Gordon Smith decided to pursue development of a platform designed to serve scholars, judges and practitioners in the legal field.”


International Data Base

“The International Data Base (IDB) was developed by the U.S. Census Bureau to provide access to accurate and timely demographic measures for populations around the world. The database includes a comprehensive set of indicators, as produced by the U.S. Census Bureau since the 1960s. Through sponsorship from various U.S. Government agencies, the IDB is updated on a regular basis to provide information needed for research, program planning, and policy-making decisions, in the U.S. and globally.”

“Data included in the IDB consist of indicators developed from censuses, surveys, administrative records, and special measures of HIV/AIDS-related mortality. Through evaluation and adjustment of data from these sources, measures of population, mortality, fertility, and net migration are estimated for current and past years and then used as the basis for projections to 2050.”

“The IDB provides estimates and projections for 228 countries and areas which have populations of 5,000 or more and as recognized by the U.S. Department of State. Population size (by single year of age and sex) and components of change (fertility, mortality, and migration) are provided from an initial or base year through 2050, for each calendar year. This level of detail provides an important foundation for tracking the demographic impacts of HIV/AIDS and related conditions, as well as events of concern that are affecting populations around the globe.”

https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/international-programs/about/idb.html
Marine Conservation Planning Database

MarineSCP: a database of SCP initiatives

“The Conservation Planning Database provides a platform to systematically compile and provide access to key information about SCP initiatives and thus contribute to exchanging scientific advice, best practices, tools, and lessons learned. The database aims to facilitate standardized reporting to increase transparency, consistency, and comparability of information, including repeatable methods and justification of planning decisions.”

“This marine proof-of-concept database is the most comprehensive and systematic compilation of marine SCP studies to date, thus providing a unique opportunity for scientists to access and analyze further aspects of marine planning. It provides a full and consistent coverage of the primary literature on marine SCP, and constitutes an important step towards the development of a centralized repository of key information on planning exercises worldwide.”

“We documented exercises that have followed a systematic conservation planning approach (Pressey and Bottrill 2009) to guide the spatial allocation of limited resources to achieve explicit conservation objectives, and more recently, social and economic objectives.”

https://mediaflux.jcu.qriscloud.org.au/portal/?name=marinescp

Privacy

Social Media Privacy Legislation: What Employers Need to Know Desktop Reference

“Social media privacy issues now permeate the workplace. Since April 2012, a growing number of states have enacted social media privacy laws regulating the use of social media by employers and educational institutions. The various laws, in varying degrees, prohibit employers and/or higher education institutions from requesting or requiring employees, prospective employees, students, or applicants to provide access to their social media accounts (i.e. Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, WhatsApp, SnapChat, Yelp, Vine, Pinterest, Instagram, Tumblr, etc.), whether through username/password disclosure, opening the accounts in a boss’s presence, adding an employer representative to a contact list, or altering the account’s privacy settings. Many of the laws (though not all) allow those employees or students whose rights have been violated to file lawsuits, or complaints with state agencies, for money damages, penalties, injunctions, attorneys’ fees, or other forms of relief. One law makes it a misdemeanor for an employer to violate these newly established statutory privacy rights.


How to Stop ‘Smart Cities’ From Becoming ‘Surveillance Cities’

“Urban officials dream of a future of ‘Smart Cities’ that use new technologies to gather comprehensive data and algorithms to achieve increased efficiency, sustainability, and safety. While many of these benefits are real, we must be vigilant to ensure that they don’t come at too high a cost, as the adoption of such technologies can also lead to an unacceptable increase in government surveillance.”

Many of these technologies involve cameras that can be tasked with jobs that range from keeping track of traffic to monitoring when the corner trash can gets full. The problems start when they’re also used for tracking people and their movements. In a city blanketed with cameras — including in LED light bulbs found in street lights — it would be very easy for the government to track which political meetings, religious institutions, doctors offices, and other sensitive locations people go to, and to focus its attention even more on traditionally over-policed communities. This is why these ‘Smart Cities’ are also referred to as ‘Surveillance Cities.’”

“In truth, they are both, and they are no longer futuristic concepts. Since the growth of ‘surveillance cities’ is no longer hypothetical, we should all be ready to do what it takes to create responsible safeguards, and prevent the unnecessary risks and harms this technology can create. Both elected officials and the public should be provided notice of the potential deployment of these technologies, the potential privacy and civil liberties risks they present, and the real impact of their use. Whereas these surveillance technologies are often used in secret after they are acquired, only a law that mandates transparency can produce such outcomes. Moreover, cities should prioritize openness and transparency about a project before the project is implemented to limit any potential adverse effects.”


International Outlook

‘Catastrophic’: EU passes controversial copyright law that could hit the likes of Google and Facebook

“European parliamentarians have passed a controversial overhaul of copyright law that could force tech giants to install filters that prevent copyright-protected content from being uploaded.”

“Lawmakers in Strasbourg, France, voted on Wednesday in favor of the European Union’s revamped directive, which is aimed at bringing the bloc’s rules on copyright into the 21st century.”

“The copyright reform was passed with 438 votes in favor, 226
against and 39 abstentions.”

“But critics say such a law would normalize censorship and restrict internet freedom, preventing users from being able to post content ranging from memes to links to articles from news outlets.”


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Intersect Alert October 1, 2018


Copyright

Image rights metadata in Google Images

“As part of a collaboration between Google, photo industry consortium CEPIC, and IPTC, the global technical standards body for the news media, you can now access rights-related image metadata in Google Images.”

“It’s traditionally been difficult to know the creator of images on the web, as well as who might own the rights. This information is often part of image metadata, and is key to protecting image copyright and licensing information.”

“Starting today, we’ve added Creator and Credit metadata whenever present to images on Google Images. To see this information on Google Images, you can click on the “Image Credits” link to view the metadata fields. Over the coming weeks, we will also add Copyright Notice metadata.”

Copyright and Speech Should Not Be Treated Like Traffic Tickets

“No consensus exists on what they are, but there’s a shared belief that U.S. copyright law has some serious problems. But the CASE Act, which aims to treat copyright claims like traffic tickets, is not the answer.”

“On Thursday, August 27, the House Judiciary Committee held a hearing on the CASE Act (H.R. 3945). The CASE Act would create a “small claims” system for copyright, but not within the courts. Instead, cases would be heard by “Claims Officers” at the Copyright Office in Washington, D.C. And the Copyright Office has a history of presuming the interests of copyright holders are more valid than other legal rights and policy concerns, including the free expression values protected by fair use.”

Inventor of World Wide Web Announces Project to Restore Power and Agency of Individuals on The Web

Tim Berners-Lee: “I’ve always believed the web is for everyone. That’s why I and others fight fiercely to protect it. The changes we’ve managed to bring have created a better and more connected world. But for all the good we’ve achieved, the web has evolved into an engine of inequity and division; swayed by powerful forces who use it for their own agendas. Today, I believe we’ve reached a critical tipping point, and that powerful change for the better is possible – and necessary.”


“Election machines used in more than half of U.S. states carry a flaw disclosed more than a decade ago that makes them vulnerable to a cyberattack, according to a report to be
delivered Thursday on Capitol Hill."


Encouraging Library Patrons to Participate in Democracy Through Being Poll Workers

“On Election Day, it’s too late to change unfair and burdensome voting rules. But we can work together to ensure the rules are clearly explained and accurately applied. Fair Elections Center is encouraging libraries to partner on an initiative to recruit tech-savvy and bilingual patrons to serve as poll workers.”


Internet Access

California’s Governor Signs Nation’s Toughest Net Neutrality Law

“THE NATION’S LARGEST state adopted sweeping net neutrality protections, setting up a legal showdown with the federal government over the future of the internet. California Governor Jerry Brown Sunday signed a bill banning broadband providers such as AT&T and Comcast from blocking, throttling, or otherwise discriminating against lawful content passing through their networks. Almost immediately, the Justice Department filed suit to block the law.”


Privacy

Facebook Is Giving Advertisers Access to Your Shadow Contact Information

“One of the many ways that ads get in front of your eyeballs on Facebook and Instagram is that the social networking giant lets an advertiser upload a list of phone numbers or email addresses it has on file; it will then put an ad in front of accounts associated with that contact information. A clothing retailer can put an ad for a dress in the Instagram feeds of women who have purchased from them before, a politician can place Facebook ads in front of anyone on his mailing list, or a casino can offer deals to the email addresses of people suspected of having a gambling addiction. Facebook calls this a “custom audience.””

https://gizmodo.com/facebook-is-giving-advertisers-access-to-your-shadow-co-1828476051

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Archives

Spanish civil servant who had €50,000 salary but failed to do a day’s work for ten years banned from post

“A civil servant in the Spanish province of Valencia has been handed a nine-year ban from public posts after it emerged he had been absent from his €50,000-a-year job for more than a decade.”

“Every weekday morning, Carles Recio, an archives director in Valencia’s provincial government, would turn up at his office only to clock in and head straight out again, before coming back at 4pm to clock out. ”


Celebrating American Archives Month

“Standing midway between the White House and the U.S. Capitol, the National Archives building at 700 Pennsylvania Avenue is as impressive today as when it opened in 1935. Surrounded by seventy-two Corinthian columns, each over 50 feet high, it is among the most popular photo backdrops for tourists.”

https://aotus.blogs.archives.gov/2018/10/05/celebrating-
Copyright

Keep Copyright Office in Library of Congress

“The American Library Association (ALA) and libraries had two great wins on the copyright front in late September—the Marrakesh Treaty Implementation Act and the Music Modernization Act. But we are also facing serious threats, including one focused on the US Copyright Office and Library of Congress.”

“On September 26, the US Senate held a hearing on the Register of Copyrights Selection and Accountability Act (S. 1010), which passed the House of Representatives in March 2018. One of the two witnesses at this hearing was our copyright counsel Jonathan Band, who also serves as counsel to the Library Copyright Alliance (LCA). This unfortunate and unneeded legislation would remove the hiring authority of the Register of Copyrights from the Librarian of Congress and make it an appointment of the president, which would then require Senate confirmation.”


Open Access

National Technical Information Library (NTRL) is now Open Access

“University of California Digital Library: “The National Technical Reports Library (NTRL – U.S. Department of Commerce) has become an open access resource, following a decision made by the National Technical Information Service (NTIS). NTRL was previously licensed as Tier 2 by five UC campuses. With the change of NTRL to open access, the PID redirects to the Open NTRL platform and a catalog record for Open NTRL will be available soon.”

https://www.bespacific.com/national-technical-information-library-ntrl-is-now-open-access/

Open Data

Open Data, Grey Data, and Stewardship: Universities at the Privacy Frontier

“As universities recognize the inherent value in the data they collect and hold, they encounter unforeseen challenges in stewarding those data in ways that balance accountability, transparency, and protection of privacy, academic freedom, and intellectual property. Two parallel developments in academic data collection are converging: (1) open access requirements, whereby researchers must provide access to their data as a condition of obtaining grant funding or publishing results in journals; and (2) the vast accumulation of ‘grey data’ about individuals in their daily activities of research, teaching, learning, services, and administration.”


Privacy
There are Many Problems With Mobile Privacy but the Presidential Alert Isn’t One of Them

“One on Wednesday, most cell phones in the US received a jarring alert at the same time. This was a test of the Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) system, also commonly known as the Presidential Alert. This is an unblockable nationwide alert system which is operated by Federal Emergency Management Agency (*not* the President, as the name might suggest) to warn people of a catastrophic event such as a nuclear strike or nationwide terrorist attack. The test appears to have been mostly successful, and having a nationwide emergency alert system certainly doesn’t seem like a bad idea; but Wednesday’s test has also generated concern.”

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2018/10/there-are-many-problems-mobile-privacy-presidential-alert-isnt-one-them

Publisher

‘Sokal Squared’: Is Huge Publishing Hoax ‘Hilarious and Delightful’ or an Ugly Example of Dishonesty and Bad Faith?

“Reactions to an elaborate academic-journal hoax, dubbed “Sokal Squared” by one observer, came fast and furious on Wednesday. Some scholars applauded the hoax for unmasking what they called academe’s leftist, victim-obsessed ideological slant and low publishing standards. Others said it had proved nothing beyond the bad faith and dishonesty of its authors.”


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Intersect Alert October 15, 2018


Education

Home Libraries Confer Long-Term Benefits

“We’ve known for a while that home libraries are strongly linked to children’s academic achievement. What’s less certain is whether the benefits they bestow have a long-term impact.

A new large-scale study, featuring data from 31 countries, reports they do indeed. It finds the advantages of growing up in a book-filled home can be measured well into adulthood.”

https://psmag.com/education/home-libraries-confer-long-term-benefits

Government

Email and internet voting risks

“Election integrity advocates released a report today cautioning against online voting as an overlooked threat to election infrastructure. It’s susceptible to cyberattacks at nearly every point in the journey from voter to county clerk’s office, they say, warning that malware can remain undetected on a voter’s computer, voter authentication can be stolen, emailed ballots can be manipulated without detection and servers hosting ballots can be penetrated — none of which can be effectively audited.”


Internet Access

Advocates Ask FCC Chairman Not To Take Away 5G Spectrum From Rural America

“Today, Public Knowledge joined 20 rural advocacy organizations, rural healthcare providers, rural network operators, and public interest advocates in a letter urging Federal Communications Commission Chairman Ajit Pai to preserve the existing Citizens Band Radio Service (CBRS) rules that enable small providers to offer service in rural areas.”

International Outlook

EU Internet Censorship Will Censor the Whole World’s Internet

“As the EU advances the new Copyright Directive towards becoming law in its 28 member-states, it’s important to realise that the EU’s plan will end up censoring the Internet for everyone, not just Europeans.”

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2018/10/eu-internet-censorship-will-censor-whole-worlds-internet

Libraries

American democracy is fracturing. Libraries say they know how to help

“Don’t mess with libraries. One economist learned that lesson the hard way in July after posting a story on Forbes arguing that Amazon should replace local libraries to save taxpayers money. The collective outrage of librarians and Twitter was so great that Forbes deleted the story from its site. The passionate defenders of libraries aren’t just up in arms about books. They say that in a fractured society, libraries are a crucial way to fight the ravages of scorched earth partisanship, rising social discord, and educational inequalities.”

https://www.bespacific.com/american-democracy-is-fracturing-libraries-say-they-know-how-to-help/

Privacy

How to tell for sure if you’re a victim of Facebook’s huge data breach

“Facebook now admits hackers in the security breach revealed two weeks ago stole a lot of sensitive information from millions of users.

The news: Facebook said in a blog post that it now thinks some 30 million users, rather than 50 million, were affected by a recent breach that allowed hackers to steal personal data. However, 14 million of them had details such as their religion, birthplace, and place of work exposed. The remaining 16 million either suffered no data loss or had only their e-mail and/or other contact details stolen. Previously, Facebook had said it didn’t know what, if any, information was compromised.”


Genome Hackers Show No One’s DNA Is Anonymous Anymore

“In 2013, a young computational biologist named Yaniv Erlich shocked the research world by showing it was possible to unmask the identities of people listed in anonymous genetic databases using only an Internet connection. Policymakers responded by restricting access to pools of anonymized biomedical genetic data. An NIH official said at the time, “The chances of this happening for most people are small, but they’re not zero.” Fast-forward five years and the amount of DNA information housed in digital data stores has exploded, with no signs of slowing down.”

https://www.bespacific.com/genome-hackers-show-no-ones-dna-is-anonymous-anymore/

Voice Phishing Scams Are Getting More Clever

“Most of us have been trained to be wary of clicking on links and attachments that arrive in emails unexpected, but it’s easy to forget scam artists are constantly dreaming up innovations that put a new shine on old-fashioned telephone-based phishing scams. Think you’re too smart to fall for one? Think again: Even technology experts are getting taken in by some of the more recent schemes (or very nearly)…”

https://www.bespacific.com/voice-phishing-scams-are-getting-more-clever/

Publishing

More than 9 million broken links on Wikipedia are now rescued

“As part of the Internet Archive’s aim to build a better Web, we have been working to make the Web more reliable — and are pleased to announce that 9 million formerly broken links on Wikipedia now work because they go to archived versions in the Wayback Machine.”

https://blog.archive.org/2018/10/01/more-than-9-million-broken-links-on-wikipedia-are-now-rescued/

Research

Law firms can learn from other industries’ missteps on cybersecurity awareness and prevention

“Equifax. Yahoo. Anthem. Sony. In the past few years, these companies experienced some of the most significant data breaches to date. And all of these companies found themselves subject to intense worldwide media coverage over their failure to secure their information. The industries affected—from health care to entertainment—know all too well that the
struggle to secure data in the digital age never ends. While individual businesses within these industries will continue to find themselves vulnerable to breaches, they have an advantage over law firms.”


Technology

Amazon ditched AI recruitment software because it was biased against women

“According to a report by Reuters, Amazon began developing an automated system in 2014 to rank job seekers with one to five stars. But last year, the company scrapped the project after seeing it had developed a preference for male candidates in technical roles.”

https://www.technologyreview.com/the-download/612253/amazon-ditched-ai-recruitment-software-because-it-was-biased-against-women/

Neural networks don’t understand what optical illusions are

“Machine-vision systems can match humans at recognizing faces and can even create realistic synthetic faces. But researchers have discovered that the same systems cannot recognize optical illusions, which means they also can’t create new ones.”


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Education

Faced with daily barrage of news, college students find it hard to tell what’s real and what’s ‘fake news’

“College students turn to their peers and online versions of trusted newspapers for news at least twice as often as they do to print publications, TV, or podcasts. Those who get their news on social media turn to Facebook, Snapchat and YouTube more often than Twitter. And nine out of ten college students get their news from at least five different sources in a given week. With so many different ways to get news, students face a constant surge that makes it difficult for them to distinguish between what’s real and what’s fake, and in some cases, to trust any news at all, according to a new report from one of the largest and most comprehensive studies of youth media engagement.”


Freedom of Information

Department of Interior’s proposal to destroy records may be of interest

“Today I want to specifically highlight a massive request from the Department of the Interior to schedule records destruction across all of its agencies. It’s asking for permission to destroy records about oil and gas leases, mining, dams, wells, timber sales, marine conservation, fishing, endangered species, non-endangered species, critical habitats, land acquisition, and lots more.”

https://www.bespacific.com/department-of-interiors-proposal-to-destroy-records-may-be-of-interest/

International Outlook

Getting Started with the Marrakesh Treaty – a Guide for Librarians

“The Marrakesh Treaty entered into force in September 2016, faster than any other international copyright text in the last 40 years. It promises to remove some of the key barriers to access
to information by people with print disabilities.”

https://www.ifla.org/publications/node/71175

Libraries

12 Authors Write About the Libraries They Love – The New York Times

“For most readers and writers — and book lovers in general — the library holds a special place of honor and respect. We asked several authors to tell us about their local public library or to share a memory of a library from their past.”

https://lisnews.org/12_authors_write_about_the_libraries_they_love_the_new_york_times

Cantor, Stanford Libraries make Warhol photography archives publicly available

“Now available through the Stanford Libraries’ SearchWorks catalog, Spotlight gallery, and the Cantor’s website, this archive – of 3,600 contact sheets and 130,000 images – provides a unique ability to view the world through the lens of Warhol’s 35mm camera, which he took with him everywhere he went during the last decade of his life. The collection, which is the most complete collection of the artist’s black-and-white photography ever made available to the public was acquired by the Cantor from The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts Inc. in 2014.”

https://lisnews.org/cantor_stanford_libraries_make_warhol_photography_archives_publicly_available

The Library of Congress Launches the National Screening Room, Putting Online Hundreds of Historic Films

“The Library of Congress just cut the ribbon on the National Screening Room, an online trove of cinematic goodies, free for the streaming. Given that the collection spans more than 100 years of cinema history, from 1890-1999, not all of the featured films are in the public domain, but most are, and those are free to download as well as watch. Archivist Mike Mashon, who heads the Library’s Moving Image Section, identifies the project’s goal as providing the public with a “broad range of historical and cultural audio-visual materials that will enrich education, scholarship and lifelong learning.”

https://lisnews.org/the_library_of_congress_launches_the_national_screening_room_putting_online_hundreds_of_historic_films

Open Access

Open Access Is the Law in California

“Governor Jerry Brown recently signed A.B. 2192, a law requiring that all peer-reviewed, scientific research funded by the state of California be made available to the public no later than one year after publication.”

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2018/10/open-access-law-california

Privacy

Apple Launches Portal for U.S. Users to Download Their Data

“Starting on Wednesday [October 17, 2018], Apple will allow US users to download all of their data from the company, following a GDPR-mandated feature for EU citizens that launched in May. The download tool is accessible from the company’s Data and Privacy page, and it encompasses device-syncing data like iCloud bookmarks as well as iTunes purchases and retail-level information like your Apple Care support history. Users will have to authenticate with their Apple ID before receiving the data.”


Publishing

Closing the Gap Between University Presses and Libraries

“MIT Press and the University of Michigan Press have both announced plans to start selling their ebook collections directly to libraries by creating their own distribution platforms.”

“ar the publishers previously did not have a mechanism for selling to institutions directly. Instead, access to ebooks was largely brokered through third-party acquisition services such as EBSCO, ProQuest, OverDrive, Project Muse and JSTOR.”


Technology

Norway’s petabyte plan: Store everything ever published in a 1,000-year archive

“In the far north of Norway, near the Arctic Circle, experts at the National Library of Norway’s (NLN) secure storage facility are in the process of implementing an astonishing plan.”

“They aim to digitize everything ever published in Norway: books, newspapers, manuscripts, posters, photos, movies,
broadcasts, and maps, as well as all websites on the Norwegian.no domain.”


Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety;

Intersect Alert October 29, 2018


Education

190 universities just launched 600 free online courses. Here’s the full list.

“If you haven’t heard, universities around the world are offering their courses online for free (or at least partially free). These courses are collectively called MOOCs or Massive Open Online Courses. In the past six years or so, over 800 universities have created more than 10,000 of these MOOCs.”

https://www.bespacific.com/190-universities-just-launched-600-free-online-courses-heres-the-full-list/

The Digital Gap Between Rich and Poor Kids Is Not What We Expected

“America’s public schools are still promoting devices with screens — even offering digital-only preschools. The rich are banning screens from class altogether.”


Intellectual Property

WIPO Lex provides free of charge access to legal information on intellectual property

“WIPO Lex is a global database that provides free of charge access to legal information on intellectual property (IP) such as treaties administered by WIPO, other IP-related treaties, and laws and regulations of some 200 countries.”

https://www.bespacific.com/wipo-lex-provides-free-of-charge-access-to-legal-information-on-intellectual-property/

International Outlook

Italy Steps Up To Defend EU Internet Users Against Copyright Filters – Who Will Be Next?

“The latest news from Brussels: Italy is not happy with Article 13 or Article 11, and wants them gone.

What is going on with Europe’s meme-filtering Article 13 (and the hyperlink-meddling Article 11)? After the proposals sneaked over the finish line in a close European Parliamentary vote in July, the decision-making has dipped out of the spotlight into the backrooms of the EU. Behind the scenes, attitudes are still shifting against the new Internet rules. Italy’s domestic government has now taken a strong position against the bill. If they hear from EU citizens, other governments may shift too.”

Government

US midterm elections: A guide to everything you need to know

“Millions of voters will soon go to the polls across the US, but they won’t be picking a president. The impact of the midterm elections, however, could be almost as significant. President Donald Trump isn’t on the ballot, but the results will be a referendum on the polarizing US leader, his policies and the Republican politicians who have tied their fortunes to his. President Trump could have more power or less in Washington by the end of Election Day. The elections are on Tuesday, November 6, but lots of people will have already voted by then because early voting is a thing in the US, where about 40% of ballots were cast before Election Day in 2016. Here’s everything you need to know about the US midterm elections.”

**Libraries**

**ANTI-GAY GROUP SUES HOUSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY OVER DRAG QUEEN STORYTIME EVENTS**

“The Houston Public Library and the city’s mayor were sued by anti-gay protesters over the city-sponsored Drag Queen Storytime, a series that began last summer.”


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**Research**

**The Case Against Alphabetical Naming of Authors**

“New study suggests that the practice — dominant in some fields — unfairly penalizes those whose last names are at the end.”


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**Values**

**How gender bias influences Nobel Prizes**

“Women receive Nobel Prizes in science significantly less often than might be predicted from their representation in those fields. But why?”


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**Government:**

**Worrying new holes have been uncovered in US electoral cyberdefenses**

“With voting in the 2018 midterm elections under way, a new analysis has revealed a security flaw hackers could exploit to corrupt voter registrations and election results.”

“The news: A study by ProPublica found that computer servers in two states, Kentucky and Wisconsin, were running software that could be compromised by a cyberattack. Kentucky’s system deals with online voter registration, while Wisconsin’s handles results reporting. The two states told ProPublica that voter registration data hasn’t been tampered with, and that they have robust cyberdefenses to prevent intrusions. Still, Wisconsin took its server offline after ProPublica contacted it.”


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**Research:**

**Harvard Converts Millions of Legal Documents into Open Data**

“A new free website spearheaded by the Library Innovation Lab at the Harvard Law School makes available nearly 6.5 million state and federal cases dating from the 1600s to earlier this year, in an initiative that could alter and inform the future availability of similar areas of public-sector big data. Led by the Lab, which was founded in 2010 as an arena for experimentation and exploration into expanding the role of libraries in the online era, the Caselaw Access Project went live Oct. 29 after five years of discussions, planning and digitization of roughly 100,000 pages per day over two years”

https://lisnews.org/harvard_converts_millions_of_legal_documents_into_open_data

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**Books and Reading:**
Can Diverse Books Save Us? In a divided world, librarians are on a mission

“She gasped when she saw a girl wearing hijab on the cover,” says Deborah Vose, recalling a seventh grader who wandered into her library one afternoon and stood, captivated, before a display of books. Staring at the cover of Brave, the 2017 graphic novel by Svetlana Chmakova, the student grasped the book and exclaimed, “Someone who looks like me!”

“It was a brief moment of discovery and connection that would delight any educator, but to Vose, the librarian at South and East Middle Schools in Braintree, MA, it was especially significant. She—like the vast majority of respondents to a recent School Library Journal (SLJ) survey—has made it a priority to bring books reflecting diverse cultures and perspectives to the children and community she serves.”

“Finding the right book for the right reader is a constant goal of librarianship, but the import of diverse books is bringing new meaning to that effort. “Along with giving students choice [in reading], diversity is the most important issue in the field of teen and children’s literature right now,” says Elaine Fultz, district library media specialist at Madison Jr/Sr High School in Middletown, OH, and among those who responded to SLJ’s survey.”

https://www.slj.com/?detailStory=can-diverse-books-save-us

What’s the most influential book of the past 20 years?

“Each year, more than 15,000 academic books are published in North America. A scant few will reach beyond their core audience of disciplinary specialists. Fewer still will enter the public consciousness.”

“We invited scholars from across the academy to tell us what they saw as the most influential book published in the past 20 years. (Some respondents named books slightly outside our time frame, but we included them anyway.) We asked them to select books — academic or not, but written by scholars — from within or outside their own fields. It was up to our respondents to define “influential,” but we asked them to explain why they chose the books they did. Here are their answers. Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety; attribution appreciated.”

https://www.chronicle.com/interactives/influential-books?id=FEATUREDNAV

The Bookseller’s Diagram Prize for the Oddest Book Title of the Year Voting Is Open

“An academic treatise on dung, a how-to guide of acupuncture for horses and the first-ever German language entry are among the six books in the running for the 40th edition of The Bookseller’s Diagram Prize for the Oddest Book Title of the Year.”

“The prize, founded by Trevor Bounford and the late Bruce Robinson of publishing solutions firm the Diagram Group, is the annual celebration of the book world’s strangest and most perplexing titles. The Bookseller and its legendary diarist Horace Bent have been custodians of the prize since 1982. The six books up for what Bent has called “the most prestigious literary gong Britain—nay the world—has ever known” are: Are Gay Men More Accurate in Detecting Deceits? (Open Dissertation Press); Call of Nature: The Secret Life of Dung (Pelagic Publishing); Equine Dry Needling (tredition); Jesus on Gardening (Onwards and Upwards); Joy of Waterboiling (Achse Verlag) and Why Sell Tacos in Africa? (Blue Ocean Marketing).”

https://lisnews.org/the_booksellers_diagram_prize_for_the_oddest_book_title_of_the_year

Privacy:

Google Chrome’s Users Take a Back Seat to Its Bottom Line

Google Chrome is the most popular browser in the world. Chrome routinely leads the pack in features for security and usability, most recently helping to drive the adoption of HTTPS. But when it comes to privacy, specifically protecting users from tracking, most of its rivals leave it in the dust.

Users are more aware of, and concerned about, the harms of pervasive tracking than ever before. So why is Chrome so far behind? It’s because Google still makes most of its money from tracker-driven, behaviorally-targeted ads. The marginal benefit of each additional bit of information about your activities online is relatively small to an advertiser, especially given how much you directly give Google through your searches and use of tools like Google Home. But Google still builds Chrome as if it needs to vacuum up everything it can about your online activities, whether you want it to or not.

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2018/11/google-chromes-users-take-back-seat-its-bottom-line

Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety; attribution appreciated.

The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Communications Committee, San Francisco Bay Area Chapter, Special Libraries Association.
ELECTION OF CHAPTER OFFICERS FOR 2019: MEET YOUR CANDIDATES, AND PLEASE VOTE


We are very happy to announce that the Nominations Committee has secured nominations for all 2019 open positions on the Executive Board of the San Francisco Bay Area Chapter. Here is the link to the ballot on which you can vote for these professional colleagues (or submit write-in nominees). Biographies are below.

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GFJZ7TH

For President-Elect: Zac Painter

Zac has been the Engineering Librarian for Research and Teaching Support at Stanford University since March 2018. Prior to joining Stanford Zac worked in a variety of mostly STEM-related positions as a librarian and information professional. He joined SLA in 2011 while an MSLS student at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, serving as Student Chapter Webmaster. He is also the Treasurer for the SLA Engineering Division, and has previously served as their Fundraising Chair. Zac enjoys participating in athletic pursuits and sports, and reading all of the fascinating things he can find.

For Assistant Programs Chair: Yael Hod

Yael Hod is the E-Resources Acquisitions Coordinator and Ordering Specialist at Stanford University. Yael received her MLIs form San Jose State University where she was the Social Media Director for the SLA student chapter. Before moving to California in 2010, Yael was a librarian at the Netanya Academic College in Israel. Yael has been a member of SLA for several years and looks forward to becoming more involved with the Bay Area Chapter. Outside of work she enjoys spending time with her four kids, volunteering in their schools, and camping in California’s many state and national parks.

For Secretary: Lisa Carter

I am Lisa Carter, BS, MA and (at the end of next month) MLIS. My love affair with books began when I didn’t know the alphabet – my grandpa read to me every day for 2+ hours. He had the most monotonous voice but other countries and worlds that came through the stories he read to me more than compensated for the presentation.
I spent my childhood in a country where book burning was a reality. The Soviet government confiscated and destroyed books that were off the recommended list. As a teenager, I came in touch with the underground book-sharing network. To borrow a book under such circumstances would mean a hefty borrowing fee (at times it equaled 2-4 weeks of work of an average person) the size of which depended on the book’s demand.

I buried myself in an academic library and had the hardest time deciding what to read first when at 18 I arrived in the US. My first job after college was in a large public library system. I liked it so much that decided to pursue MLIS as soon as I can. It took me over 20 years to finally begin my library education. I am new to librarianship and have over three years of work experience in a public library followed by work at Purdue University Libraries, and finally at Santa Clara University library as a Reference and Instruction Librarian. I love working as a librarian because libraries represent what I like the most about life: people and books.

I am excited to serve as a secretary of the San Francisco Bay Area Chapter of SLA! In my free time, I enjoy hiking, spending time with my friends, and, of course, reading.

Jobline 2018/11/09


Library Manager, Part-time Position
Virginia Allan Detloff Library
C.G. Jung Institute of San Francisco

The C.G. Jung Institute seeks an engaged and enthusiastic library professional to oversee the day-to-day operations of the Virginia Allan Detloff Library. The Library plays an integral role in supporting the teaching, research and scholarship of the Institute’s analyst members as well as its candidates and clinic interns. It also furthers the Institute’s educational mission through the provision of library services and resources to the Friends of the Institute, the general public through library memberships, and by welcoming outside researchers and visiting scholars. The Library is a unique scholarly and cultural resource, containing over 13,000 books, manuscripts, DVDs and audio tapes as well as special collections and archives. For more information about the Institute and the Library, go to: http://www.sfjung.org/about/. The Library Manager actively supports and upholds the Institute’s stated mission and values, and works in close collaboration with the Library Committee and its Chair.

Essential Duties:

Essential duties are not intended to be an exhaustive list of all responsibilities, but to summarize current practice.

- Manages day-to-day library operations, budget and marketing of library programs and activities
- Oversees the operation and maintenance of the Koha Integrated Library System (ILS) for the online catalog, circulation, cataloging, acquisitions and digitization of print and audio collections
- Supervises library assistant and volunteers, as well as outside project staff as needed

Preferred Qualifications:

- MLS, MSLIS or equivalent from an ALA accredited graduate program
- Interest in the field of psychology
- Strong computer skills including database and office software management, experience with library ILS systems, ability to deal with and evaluate emergent technologies
- Substantive knowledge of online and print-based materials and experience working with library vendors and publishers
- Familiarity with and use of best practices for scanning and digitization of print and audio materials
- At least one year of experience as a supervising librarian

Provides library orientations and reference services
Administers Technical Services responsibilities including materials acquisitions, processing and bindery functions as well as audio and document digitization
Selects, evaluates and manages e-resources in conjunction with Library Committee and Chair
Develops, implements and evaluates library policies and procedures
Creates library user guides and maintains their currency and relevance
Performs original and copy cataloging of materials including special collections and archives, coordinating with Taylor & Francis and EBSCO to keep e-book and e-journal records up-to-date
Effectively applies information technology and investigates new technologies as relevant to the Library’s current and future needs
Directs maintenance of library facility and equipment
Liaises with other psychology libraries (NCCPL consortium, NN/LM, Jung Institutes’ libraries) to facilitate interlibrary loan (ILL)
(staff and volunteers)

- Professional social and interpersonal communication skills and a strong service orientation, demonstrated capacity in working collaboratively
- Ability to work independently and to exercise judgement, decisiveness and innovation in situations involving evaluation of information or project management
- Prior experience with architects and planners on facility development

**Compensation:**

Salary will be dependent on qualifications and experience and will include a generous benefit package. There is some flexibility in scheduling and this is a 21 hour a week position.

**Application Instructions:**

To ensure consideration, send completed application materials to jobapp@sfjung.org by November 18th, 2018; however, the position will remain open until filled. All application materials should be submitted electronically.

Required application materials:

1. Cover letter stating qualifications and interest.
2. Resume
3. Names, addresses including email and phone contact information for 3 references. Letters of reference and/or other materials may be requested of top candidates. All letters will be treated as confidential.

*The Jung Institute provides equal employment opportunity for all applicants and employees. The Institute does not unlawfully discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, or ancestry; creed or religion; sex or gender identity; sexual orientation; physical disability or medical condition; age or veteran status.*

When applying, please mention that you found this position listing on SLA SF Bay Area Jobline. Thank you!

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**SFBA Chapter Holiday Banquet – Food & Drink & Fun Galore!**


Picture yourself wearing your favorite ugly holiday sweater at the Billar Room of the Thirsty Bear Brewing Company in San Francisco on **Wednesday evening, December 5th, 5:30 to 9 PM**. You are on the second floor of the restaurant and it is set up with tall cocktail tables and stools for a fun-filled evening with **SLA members and friends**. The room features a full bar where you will be given two free drink tickets good for organic hand-crafted beers, well drinks, sangria, house wine, soda, juice and bottled water. There are TV, pool table and two dart boards in the room for all to enjoy while having drinks and popcorn!

Mouth-watering tapas buffet dinner and dessert featuring:

- Vegetable empanadas with corn, spinach & goat cheese with avocado sour cream
- Zucchini roasted with Calabrian chiles, garlic, radicchio and pepitas
- Patatas bravas, garlicky potatoes with spicy brava tomato sauce and lemon aioli
- Pork and beef meatballs roasted with sofrito tomato sauce and manchego
- Shrimp sauteed with garlic, parsley, chili flakes, white wine, butter and paprika
- Chicken sauteed with capers, garlic, cherry and butter
- Mini flourless chocolate torte with Marcona almond

Register now and get into the holiday spirit! Go to [https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sla-sfba-chapter-holiday-awards-banquet-tickets-49312172034](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sla-sfba-chapter-holiday-awards-banquet-tickets-49312172034)

December 5, 2018

5:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Thirsty Bear Brewing Co.

Billar Room

661 Howard Street

San Francisco, CA 94105

**Agenda**

5:30 – 6:30 Registration and Drinks (2 free drink tickets per registration!)

6:30 – 7:30 Dinner and Dessert

7:30 – 8:00 Presentation from the Board


- SLA members/non-members $25.00
- Students, retired and unemployed $20.00

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Share this:

![Share this](http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2018/11/sfba-chapter-holiday-banquet-food-drink-fun-galore/)

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![Share this](http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2018/11/sfba-chapter-holiday-banquet-food-drink-fun-galore/)

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Government

**EveryLibrary: 2018 Election Night for Libraries**
“EveryLibrary tracked 79 elections for new or renewed funding, building projects, and library governance on November 6, 2018 General Election ballots from coast to coast. We were proud to support 10 of these libraries directly in their Informational Campaign Communications along with the local independent Vote Yes committees. In addition, we supported two state library associations partners in their statewide voter outreach about education funding measures that would impact school libraries.

Notable wins include the Kansas City (MO) Public Library with an 84% Yes vote; the Ypsilanti (MI) Library District with a 70% Yes vote, and the New Mexico GOBonds for Libraries passing with a +68% vote. We are relieved to report that the Woodstock (NY) Library ‘dissolution’ question was defeated as well. Ohio libraries were very strong last night as well as annual budget votes in the Mid-Hudson region of New York.”


**10 Takeaways for Libraries from the 2018 Midterms**
“On Tuesday’s Midterms, 46 states held elections for 6,000 state legislative seats. Thirty-six governorships were on the ballot. Nearly half of our 100 most populous cities held local elections. In 33 states, thousands of county, city and school district commissions, councils and board members were on local ballots. With over 90% of library funding coming from the local and state levels, EveryLibrary is very focused on what the impact of these state and local elections are for libraries.”


**The Supreme Court Didn’t Take the Net Neutrality Case, and That’s Good**
“On Monday, the Supreme Court announced its decision not to hear an appeal to the D.C. Circuit’s decision in US Telecom Association v. FCC, which upheld the FCC’s 2015 Open Internet Order and its net neutrality protections. But that order and the rules it created to ensure ISPs treat all internet traffic fairly have since been replaced (read eliminated) under the chairmanship of Ajit Pai. With the net neutrality rules off the books, the Court had nothing left to review, so not taking the case makes sense. Even so, the Court’s flat denial is the best end to that case for other reasons.”


Take Action

**APDU President Calls for Members to Comment on Federal Data Policy**
“The Department of Commerce is requesting Phase 2 comments on the Federal Data Strategy. The request for comments, Request for Comments on the Cross-Agency Priority Goal: Leveraging Data as a Strategic Asset: Phase 2, is open until November 16, 2018. The 47 draft practices of the Federal Data Strategy for also have a request for comment due by Nov 16. The revised principles of the Federal Data Strategy is based on comments to the June request for comments.”


Technology

**Is this AI? We drew you a flowchart to work it out**
“In the broadest sense, AI refers to machines that can learn, reason, and act for themselves. They can make their own decisions when faced with new situations, in the same way that humans and animals can.

As it currently stands, the vast majority of the AI advancements and applications you hear about refer to a category of algorithms known as machine learning. These algorithms use statistics to find patterns in massive amounts of data. They then use those patterns to make predictions on things like what shows you might like on Netflix, what you’re saying when you speak to Alexa, or whether you have cancer based on your MRI.”

[https://www.technologyreview.com/s/612404/is-this-ai-we-drew-you-a-flowchart-to-work-it-out/](https://www.technologyreview.com/s/612404/is-this-ai-we-drew-you-a-flowchart-to-work-it-out/)

**The Hardest Job in Silicon Valley is a Living Nightmare**
“’My mom always told me, if I don’t study well, I’ll end up as a scavenger. All they do is pick up garbage. They rely on garbage. It’s the only livelihood they know.’ It’s an insight that a young Filipino woman makes when realizing that her own job in technology is very much the same thing. Her position: Content moderator, one of perhaps thousands of human beings who scan, assess, and delete media of everything from beheadings to child pornography uploaded to services like Facebook, YouTube, and Twitter each day. Her quota? 25,000 photos a day. Her rules? Dictated by corporations—but often vague at best.”

[https://www.technologyreview.com/s/612404/is-this-ai-we-drew-you-a-flowchart-to-work-it-out/](https://www.technologyreview.com/s/612404/is-this-ai-we-drew-you-a-flowchart-to-work-it-out/)
Library of Time
Via Today in Librarian Tabs: “this little Glitch app called Library of Time tells you the time using (linked!) numbers found in LoC items. Try it out, it’s freaky cool.”
http://library-of-time.glitch.me

Privacy
We should all worry about corporate control of data.
The only reason that contemporary society enjoys such awesome technology and progress these days is that we can glean so much insight from our data, particularly when we combine disparate datasets together and comb through them with analytics technology. More and more often, we’re seeing corporations begin to exploit this process, seizing as much control as possible over the data of everyday people.

The Privacy Battle to Save Google From Itself
Google is not a consumer software company, or even a search company. It’s an ad company. It collects exhaustive data about its users in the service of brokering ad sales around the web. To do so, Google requires an extensive understanding of the backgrounds, browsing habits, preferences, purchases, and lives of as many web users as possible, gleaned through massive data aggregation and analysis.
https://www.wired.com/story/google-privacy-data/

Libraries
Paradise Library Survives Camp Fire.
“We are so happy to officially confirm that the Paradise Branch Library has survived the Camp Fire. We hope it can continue to serve as a center of community as we all begin to rebuild. From all of us in the Library, we’d like to express our gratitude to the courageous firefighters and other rescue and support agencies who continue to work in the area.”
https://www.facebook.com/20040469987/posts/10159167552289988/

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The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Communications Committee, San Francisco Bay Area Chapter, Special Libraries Association.

Share this:
Job Title: Coordinator (Digital Initiative), Global Information Services

Location: San Francisco

Description: The Coordinator, Digital Initiatives, Global Information Services is responsible for assisting in the maintenance of Global IS systems (source catalog/database, request management system, intranet), granting system access to and supporting IS researchers across all regions, troubleshooting access issues to global IS resources for all Bain employees, and developing documentation for system maintenance and workflow processes with the guidance of the Senior Specialist, Digital Initiatives. The IS department is currently undergoing a major systems overhaul to improve the way our systems work together to support end users.

Status: This is a temporary 6-month assignment with possibility of becoming permanent after this initial period.

Apply to: https://csscareers-bain.icims.com/jobs/3123/coordinator%2c-digital-initiatives%2c-global-information-services/job?mode=view&preview=1&userld=139742&hashed=1732072984&mobile=false&width=652&height=500&bg=true&needsRedirect=false&jan1offset=-360&jun1offset=-300

For more information, please contact Marie White: marie.white@bain.com

When applying, please mention that you found this position listing on SLA SF Bay Area Jobline. Thank you!

Intersect Alert November 19, 2018.

Intellectual Property

End intellectual property
The grand term ‘intellectual property’ covers a lot of ground: the software that runs our lives, the movies we watch, the songs we listen to. But also the credit-scoring algorithms that determine the contours of our futures, the chemical structure and manufacturing processes for life-saving pharmaceutical drugs, even the golden arches of McDonald’s and terms such as ‘Google’. All are supposedly ‘intellectual property’. We are urged, whether by stern warnings on the packaging of our Blu-ray discs or by sonorous pronouncements from media company CEOs, to cease and desist from making unwanted, illegal or improper uses of such ‘property’, not to be ‘pirates’, to show the proper respect for the rights of those who own these things. But what kind of property is this? And why do we refer to such a menagerie with one inclusive term?
https://aeon.co/essays/the-idea-of-intellectual-property-is-nonsensical-and-pernicious

Privacy

A new personal genome test is free, but only if you bare all about your life

Nebula Genomics plans to create rough-and-ready maps of people’s genomes, similar to tests from companies like 23andMe. It costs $99 if you want to pay up front, but you can also earn credits toward a free test if you answer some detailed questions about yourself.
https://www.technologyreview.com/the-download/612428/a-new-personal-genome-test-is-free-but-only-if-you-bare-all-about-your-life/

Freedom of Information

Annual Report: FOIA Lawsuits Reach Record Highs in FY 2018
Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) lawsuits continued to break record highs in FY 2018. According to case-by-case court records, 860 FOIA lawsuits were filed in FY 2018 against government agencies. In addition, the backlog of FOIA suits waiting to be decided rose to 1,204 cases, an all-time high.

Social Media
Operation Infektion: Russian Disinformation from Cold War to Kanye
Russia’s meddling in the United States’ elections is not a hoax. It’s the culmination of Moscow’s decades-long campaign to tear the West apart. “Operation Infektion” reveals the ways in which one of the Soviets’ central tactics — the promulgation of lies about America — continues today, from Pizzagate to George Soros conspiracies. Meet the KGB spies who conceived this virus and the American truth squads who tried — and are still trying — to fight it. Countries from Pakistan to Brazil are now debating reality, and in Vladimir Putin’s greatest triumph, Americans are using Russia’s playbook against one another without the faintest clue.

‘Nothing on this page is real’: How lies become truth in online America
The only light in the house came from the glow of three computer monitors, and Christopher Blair, 46, sat down at a keyboard and started to type. His wife had left for work and his children were on their way to school, but waiting online was his other community, an unreality where nothing was exactly as it seemed. He logged onto his website and began to invent his first news story of the day.

“BREAKING,” he wrote, pecking out each letter with his index fingers as he considered the possibilities. Maybe he would announce that Hillary Clinton had died during a secret overseas mission to smuggle more refugees into America. Maybe he would award President Trump the Nobel Peace Prize for his courage in denying climate change.

Libraries
The Competitive Book Sorters Who Spread Knowledge Around New York
“The Lyngsoe Systems Compact Cross Belt Sorter hogs most of a drab, boxy basement under an unremarkable office building in Queens—238 feet of fast-flying conveyor belt, like a cross between a baggage carousel and a racetrack. The machine scans the barcodes on thousands of library books an hour, and shoves them quickly, efficiently into bins so they can make their way between branches of the New York and Brooklyn Public Libraries. Requested books are dropped off here every day by the truckload and, once processed, are promptly shuffled off to eager readers all over the city. A day’s work is typically about 40,000 requests, and each one of those books needs to be placed—by hand—onto an empty space on the relentless sorter, with the barcode facing the right way.”

At L.A. Public Library, the Compulsion to Collect is Explored in ’21 Collections: Every Object Has a Story’
Why do people collect things? The motivations are as varied as the objects people collect. Perhaps it’s loyalty to a sports team, for instance, or an obsessive desire to accumulate a single kind of object such as stamps. It may even be fueled by the “law of contagion” that drives bidders to own celebrity talismans, believing the objects are infused with the essence of their previous owner.

ARCHIVES
Decolonizing the Caribbean Record: An Archives Reader
Decolonizing the Caribbean Record: An Archives Reader is a compendium of forty essays by archivists and academics within and outside of the Caribbean region that address challenges of collecting, representing and preserving the records and cultural expressions of former colonial societies, exploring the contribution of these records to nation-building. How the power of the archives can be subverted to serve the oppressed rather than the oppressors, the colonized rather than the colonizers, is the central theme of this Reader. This collection seeks to disrupt traditional notions of archives, instead re-imagining records within the context of Caribbean cultures and identities where the oral may be privileged over the written, the creative design over text, the marginal over the mainstream. Envisioned initially as a foundational text that supports the archives education program at the University of the West Indies and documents the history and development of archives and records in the Caribbean, this volume addresses such issues as oral traditions, records repatriation, community archives, cultural forms and format and diasporic collections. Although focused on the Caribbean region, the essays, ranging from the theoretical to the practice-based to the personal are applicable to the global archival concerns of all decolonized societies.
http://libraryjuicepress.com/blog/?p=5893

Technology
One of the fathers of AI is worried about its future
Alongside Geoff Hinton and Yan LeCun, Bengio is famous for championing a technique known as deep learning that in recent years has gone from an academic curiosity to one of the most powerful technologies on the planet. Bengio met with MIT Technology Review’s senior editor for AI, Will Knight, at an MIT event recently.

What is machine learning? We drew you another flowchart
Machine-learning algorithms use statistics to find patterns in
massive amounts of data. And data, here, encompasses a lot of things—numbers, words, images, clicks, what have you. If it can be digitally stored, it can be fed into a machine-learning algorithm.

https://www.technologyreview.com/s/612437/what-is-machine-learning-we-drew-you-another-flowchart/

Research

Tracking Property Transactions in Philadelphia using official dataset

“The City of Philadelphia has released a dataset of 3.7 million records detailing all property transactions that occurred in the city over the past twenty years. The dataset includes information such as properties’ market values, mortgages, and deeds. Prior to the dataset’s release, Philadelphia residents often had to visit City Hall to learn about property transactions, making it difficult for them to accurately assess property values.”

“Real Estate Transfers – This dataset is a summary of Real Estate Transfer Tax documents. This table contains both raw source data as well as calculated and geocoded/data fields. Document type, grantor, and grantee information is presented by address for each transaction.”


Professional Development

Quality Time: The Presentation That Changed My Work Life

Have you ever learned something that radically changed the way you work? I experienced that kind of paradigm shift this summer during a Professional Development Day on my campus.

The session was on time management, led by David Gurzick, a professor of management at Hood College. I walked in expecting to hear about tools like Trello and Evernote, or maybe bullet journaling. But the session wasn’t about the HOW or WHAT, but the WHEN. Using workplace research and Daniel Pink’s book When: The Scientific Secrets of Perfect Timing, Dr. Gurzick talked us through how our brains function throughout the day, and how to match the right task to the right time. Dr. Gurzick’s talk and the book When have transformed how I structure my day.


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The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Communications Committee, San Francisco Bay Area Chapter, Special Libraries Association.

Intersect Alert for November 26, 2018


Libraries

Oxford’s Library Once Branded Its Sauciest Books With a Greek Letter

“Built in 1602 and home to more than 13 million items, the Bodleian is the second-largest among British libraries behind only, well, the British Library. It’s a point of pride for the university, but keeping it all running smoothly can be “a bit of a ‘mare,” says Lloyd (Meadhbh) Houston, an Oxford graduate student who published a 2015 history of the Phi collection in the Bodleian Library Record. In 1882, head librarian E.W.B. Nicholson set out to make things more orderly, by schematizing some 7,000 different classifications. One stood out among the traditional numbers and letters used in the classification system: a lone Greek symbol chosen, most likely, as a pun on “Fie!” (As in, “Fie on you for such prurient proclivities!”).”


Archives

How Archivists Could Stop Deepfakes From Rewriting History

“While many have feared the potential of deepfakes to spread misinformation in the here and now, these videos could distort reality long after today’s fake news goes viral if they’re improperly archived as legitimate. Gizmodo spoke with several historians, archivists, and professors who were familiar with the deepfakes phenomenon, some of whom had pragmatic concerns about it. Fortunately, archivists have rigidly established principles meant to catch forgeries and screw-ups, but these protections are only as strong as the institutions that provide them.”
**California: State of Change**

“This portfolio is the first publication from Past Tense, an archival storytelling project of The New York Times. As we digitize some six million photo prints in our files, dating back more than 100 years, we are using those images to bring the events and characters of the past to life in the present. To enhance these photographs’ value as artifacts and research tools, we are presenting these images with some of the “metadata” from the reverse side of each print.”


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**Books**

‘The End of Trust’ – On Sale in Bookstores and Free to Download Now!

“The End of Trust is on sale online and in bookstores now, but it’s also free to download under a Creative Commons BY-NC-ND license. In addition to essays from EFFers, contributors include anthropologist Gabriella Coleman examining anonymity, Edward Snowden tackling blockchain, and EFF Pioneer Award winner Malkia Cyril zeroing in on the historical surveillance of black bodies.”


Oxford University Press: Twelve philosophy books everyone should read: from Plato to Foucault

“Every year the third Thursday in November marks World Philosophy Day, UNESCO’s collaborative “initiative towards building inclusive societies, tolerance and peace.” To celebrate, we’ve curated a reading list of historical texts by great philosophers that shaped the modern world and who had important things to say about the issues that we wrestle with today such as freedom, authority, equality, sexuality, and the meaning of life.”


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**Technology**

More companies are chipping their workers like pets

“The trend of blundering into the void of adopting new tech, damn the consequences, full speed ahead, continues this week.

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**Legal Research Companies Post Laws Online, but Do They Own the Data?**

“As more private companies upload judicial opinions, state and federal regulations and other public court documents, attempting to copyright those documents may prove futile. After all, many public court documents are deemed uncopyrightable and essential for public consumption.”


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**Jobline 2018/11/27**

The Mechanics’ Institute Library and Chess Room seeks a dynamic, passionate about libraries professional to serve as their next Executive Director. As Library Director of the Institute, I can assure potential applicants that this is a unique and special place to work. The successful applicant for this position will have a wonderful opportunity to lead this singular Bay Area literary and cultural institution into the future. For a complete position description, qualifications, and to apply online, go to: https://www.milibrary.org/jobs

Deb Hunt, Library Director
Mechanics’ Institute Library

When applying, please mention that you found this position listing on SLA SF Bay Area Jobline. Thank you!

Intersect Alert for December 3, 2018


Books and Reading

Forget Book Trailers: Book Playlists are the New Hotness

“Book trailers are already such a thing that there’s whole weekly columns devoted to them, a whole slew of tips and tricks; a veritable ecosystem. People want multimedia with their books. But what if the new hotness wasn’t a trailer at all? What if it was something that lots of us already do anyways, with a much lower barrier for entry?”


The 10 Best Books of 2018

“The editors of The Times Book Review choose the best fiction and nonfiction titles this year.”


NPR's Book Concierge: Our Guide To 2018's Great Reads

“What would you like to read? Use the filters below to explore more than 300 titles NPR staff and critics loved this year. (You can also combine filters!) Want even more recommendations?”


Internet

Behind an Effort to Fact-Check Live News With Speed and Accuracy

“Fact-checking live news has one major downside: It’s slow. By the time a fact-checker can verify a claim, any misleading information has already spread and been consumed.”


Brookings study – Signs of digital distress

“The internet is now a fundamental component of the American economy, creating new ways to educate, employ, bring services to, and entertain every person. Broadband, especially wireline broadband in American homes, is the essential infrastructure for unlocking the internet’s economic benefits. However, broadband infrastructure is far from ubiquitous, both in terms of where it operates and who subscribes to it, and those deficits are not shared evenly across the country.”


Internet Users

The godfather of fake news: Meet one of the world’s most prolific writers of disinformation

“Christopher Blair takes a sip of his coffee. Then he carefully focuses on one of the three screens in front of him. He’s in his home office, 45 minutes outside Portland, Maine, on the US East Coast.”

https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/resources/idt-sh/the_godfather_of_fake_news
Libraries

Should Book Choices Be Private? Harold Washington Library Patron Calls For Change

“A Chicago woman is accusing the Harold Washington Library of failing to protect the privacy of its patrons—and the library is responding tonight.

The iconic owls looming over Chicago’s main library represent knowledge and wisdom, but questions have been raised about whether library staff made a lapse in judgment and violated the American Library Association’s best practices by leaving the names of its patrons out in plain sight.”


Remembering the Howard University Librarian Who Decolonized the Way Books Were Catalogued

“Dorothy Porter challenged the racial bias in the Dewey Decimal System, putting black scholars alongside white colleagues”

https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/remembering-howard-university-librarian-who-decolonized-way-books-were-catalogued-180970890/

—

Technology

Inside the world of AI that forges beautiful art and terrifying deepfakes

“In the last three weeks, we laid down the basics of AI. To recap:

Most AI advances and applications are based on a type of algorithm known as machine learning that finds and reapplies patterns in data.

Deep learning, a powerful subset of machine learning, uses neural networks to find and amplify even the smallest patterns. Neural networks are layers of simple computational nodes that work together to analyze data, kind of like neurons in the human brain.”


—

Intersect Alert for December 10, 2018


Copyright

‘The Pirate Bay of Science’ Continues to Get Attacked Around the World

“A scientific research depository intended to provide open access to scientific data has had its domains blocked in Russia, after a Russian court declared that the website violates publisher copyrights. It’s the latest salvo in a global war on efforts to bring valuable scientific data out from behind paywalls and into the fight of day to better benefit the public at large.”


Education

Study Shows Reading Remediation Improves Children’s Reading Skills and Positively Alters Brain Tissue

“Carnegie Mellon University scientists Timothy Keller and Marcel Just have uncovered the first evidence that intensive instruction to improve reading skills in young children causes the brain to physically rewire itself, creating new white matter that improves communication within the brain.”


Internet Users

The long, tortured quest to make Google unbiased

“Next week, Sundar Pichai will try to reassure Congress that Google’s search engine isn’t rigged. The Google CEO is
testifying before the House Judiciary Committee on Tuesday, answering questions about “potential bias and the need for greater transparency” in Google’s business practices.”


Libraries

Robert Crown Law Library preserves stories of women legal pioneers

“In the last half-century, women in law have made huge strides. But women who came before them faced huge hurdles—and many of them overcame those hurdles, making history by attending law school and succeeding in the profession against the odds.”


Privacy

‘Tis the Season for Our Children’s Privacy

“It’s that time of the year again. The holiday season is almost upon us and with that comes holiday parties, travel plans, and most importantly, gifts. There’s a good chance that some (if not most) of your gifts will be for kids and might even include the latest tech gadget.”

https://cdt.org/blog/tis-the-season-for-our-childrens-privacy/

Publishing

Prominent Doctors Aren’t Disclosing Their Industry Ties in Medical Journal Studies. And Journals Are Doing Little to Enforce Their Rules

“The dean of Yale’s medical school, the incoming president of a prominent cancer group and the head of a Texas cancer center are among leading medical figures who have not accurately disclosed their relationships with drug companies.”

https://www.propublica.org/article/prominent-doctors-industry-ties-disclosures-medical-journal-studies#155153

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Jobline 2018/12/12


Job title: Digital Literacies Librarian  
Location: Berkeley, CA  
Status: Full-time  
Description: The University of California Berkeley Library is looking for a creative, collaborative, and user-oriented colleague to join the Instructional Services Division as the Digital Literacies Librarian. The person in this role will join a team committed to teaching emerging scholars to approach research with confidence, creativity, and critical insight, empowering them to access, critically evaluate, and use information to create and distribute their own research in a technologically evolving environment. The full job description with a link to the application can be found here: https://aprecruit.berkeley.edu/apply/JPF01991

New librarians or those who are just completing an MLIS are encouraged to apply. Many of the job requirements can be met via coursework, internships, practicums, or shadowing, as well as by work experience. If you know of someone you think would be great in this position, please share this description with them. Review of applications will begin on January 14, 2019.

Contact:  
Elliott Smith, esmith@library.berkeley.edu

When applying, please mention that you found this position listing on SLA SF Bay Area Jobline. Thank you!
Books and Reading

The 75 Best Book Covers of 2018 According to Book Cover Designers

“2018 has been many things, but it certainly has not been lacking in great book cover design. Here at Lit Hub, we unpacked the biggest book cover trend of the year, compared US covers to their UK counterparts, and remembered the best and worst covers of Lolita as well as Edward Gorey’s own cover designs. We gave you a brief visual history of Virginia Woolf’s book covers and treated you to 100 covers for One Hundred Years of Solitude.”


Freedom of Information

U.S. Courts Are Figuring Out if the Government Can Block You On Facebook

“In the last two years, there’s been a cascade of lawsuits in the U.S. against public officials who have blocked people on social media and deleted critical comments. The list starts with the highest one in the country, president Donald Trump, and goes all the way down to a county board chair.”


Internet Access

A Report From the Frontlines of the Net Neutrality Litigation

“Reasonable. You keep using that word. I do not think it means what you think it means.

In March of 2018, CDT filed a legal challenge to the FCC’s “Restoring Internet Freedom” (RIF) order in which the FCC removed all of the net neutrality rules it had put in place in 2015. The Commission also reclassified broadband internet access services (BIAS) as an “information service” subject to the weaker regulatory authority Title I of the Communications Act and disavowed the remaining sources of its own authority to implement such rules at all. Instead, the FCC now relies solely on a weakened transparency requirement and market forces to ensure that ISPs refrain from leveraging their gatekeeper positions on the internet to control customers’ access to the internet or to exert influence on providers of online services.”

https://cdt.org/blog/a-report-from-the-frontlines-of-the-net-neutrality-litigation/

Libraries

Library of Congress pushing digitization over next 5 years

“The Library of Congress — which dates to Thomas Jefferson — is marching resolutely into the digital age. Recently it released a new, five-year digital plan. Kate Zwaard, the library’s director of digital strategy joined Federal Drive with Tom Temin to provide more information.”


Privacy

Your Apps Know Where You Were Last Night, and They’re Not Keeping It Secret

“The millions of dots on the map trace highways, side streets and bike trails — each one following the path of an anonymous cellphone user.

One path tracks someone from a home outside Newark to a nearby Planned Parenthood, remaining there for more than an hour. Another represents a person who travels with the mayor of New York during the day and returns to Long Island at night.

Yet another leaves a house in upstate New York at 7 a.m. and travels to a middle school 14 miles away, staying until late afternoon each school day. Only one person makes that trip: Lisa Magrin, a 46-year-old math teacher. Her smartphone goes with her.”


Social Justice Organizations Challenge Retention of DNA Collected from Hundreds of Thousands of Innocent Californians

Two social justice organizations—the Center for Genetics and Society and the Equal Justice Society—and an individual plaintiff, Pete Shanks, have filed suit against the state of California for its collection and retention of genetic profiles from people arrested but never convicted of any crime. The Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF) and the Law Office of Michael T. Risher represent the plaintiffs. The suit argues that retention of DNA from innocent people violates the California
Constitution’s privacy protections, which are meant to block overbroad collection and unlawful searches of personal data.


It’s time for a Bill of Data Rights

“It is the summer of 2023, and Rachel is broke. Sitting in a bar one evening, browsing job ads on her phone, she gets a text message. Researchers doing a study on liver function have gotten her name from the bar’s loyalty program—she’d signed up to get a happy-hour discount on nachos. They’re offering $50 a week for access to her phone’s health data stream and her bar tab for the next three months.”

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Announcing the 2019 SF Bay Area Chapter Executive Board!


December 19, 2018 Categories: Bayline, Chapter Leadership Tags: member highlights

We are happy to announce our new Executive Board. High-fives and shout outs to:

Zac Painter: President Elect

Yael Hod, Assistant Programs Chair

Lisa Carter, Secretary

Thank you to Bridget Thrasher and Kendra Levine for nominating these folks!

And, continuing (some in new roles), please sustain your applause for:

Grace Kim, Treasurer

Maureen Mason, Programs Director

Sarah Cook and Stefanie Vartabedian, co-Past Presidents

Michael Sholinbeck (me), President

The Board will be meeting in January. I will also announce our continuing and new Advisory Board Committee Chairs soon as well.

I will also be going to the SLA Leadership Symposium in January and hope to bring back enthusiasm and ideas to make our chapter yet more awesome than it already is. And, tell us your ideas for tours, professional development, social events, anything/everything. Thank you, and expect cool things!

And … don’t forget the FREE Member Appreciation event on January 24! Food, drink, fun, networking, and – did I mention? – it’s free!

Intersect Alert for December 24, 2018


December 24, 2018 Categories: Intersect Alert Tags: books and reading, government, libraries, privacy, research, technology

Books and Reading

The Library Book: Susan Orlean in Conversation with David Ulin


https://lisnews.org/the_library_book_susan_orlean_in_conversation_with_david_u
“Democracies are healthiest when all people actively participate. Core to that participation—and among the most fundamental rights in our democracy—is the right to vote. However, ensuring that every eligible person has the right to vote, regardless of skin color, language spoken, or income, remains an elusive goal in our democracy. Barriers to voting are plentiful, especially today, amidst the most severe assault on voting rights since the Jim Crow era.”


“Ever since the Facebook/Cambridge Analytica story broke, privacy has been the talk of the town in Washington, DC, and conventional wisdom is that Congress will begin debating comprehensive privacy legislation in earnest in 2019. In preparation, members of Congress are starting to drop their message bills and discussion drafts. Public Knowledge has evaluated each of the proposals so far, and we offer our initial take here.”


“How Computer Scientists Need Philosophers, According to a Mathematician – “Lily Hu is a 3rd year PhD candidate in Applied Mathematics at Harvard University, where she studies algorithmic fairness with special interest in its interaction with various philosophical notions of justice.”

https://www.bespacific.com/how-are-algorithms-distributing-power-between-people/

“Using a neural network to create ridiculous plot lines takes a lot of work—and reveals the challenges of generating human language.”


“When midnight on New Year’s Eve, all works first published in the United States in 1923 will enter the public domain. It has been 21 years since the last mass expiration of copyright in the U.S. That deluge of works includes not just “Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening,” which appeared first in the New Republic in 1923, but hundreds of thousands of books, musical compositions, paintings, poems, photographs and films.”

https://lisnews.org

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The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Communications Committee, San Francisco Bay Area Chapter, Special Libraries Association
Because we are the amazing San Francisco Bay Area Chapter, we are having a FREE member appreciation dinner and networking event on January 24, 2019!

Dinner, drinks are included, but please RSVP: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/member-appreciation-dinner-tickets-53664781807

Location:
Cascal, 400 Castro Street Mountain View, CA 94041
Time: 6 to 9 pm
More details to follow!

Intersect Alert for December 31, 2018

Education

Dante’s Inferno Illustrated Interactive Learning Tool

“The illustrated and interactive Dante’s Inferno, an alternative learning tool for the Divine Comedy first Cantica, made for aiding visual memory. The printed version and this digital version of the Dante’s Inferno have been developed to be a synsemic access point to Dante’s literature, aiding its study.”


Internet

How Much of the Internet Is Fake? Turns Out, a Lot Of It, Actually

“In late November, the Justice Department unsealed indictments against eight people accused of fleecing advertisers of $36 million in two of the largest digital ad-fraud operations ever uncovered. Digital advertisers tend to want two things: people to look at their ads and “premium” websites — i.e., established and legitimate publications — on which to host them.”


How to Delete Online Accounts You No Longer Need

“Having too many digital accounts raises your risk of data being misused or stolen. Here’s how to clean house.”

https://www.consumerreports.org/privacy/how-to-delete-online-accounts-you-no-longer-need/

Libraries

Interview: NYPL’s chief digital officer says public is better off when libraries are ‘risk averse’ about tech

“First: It’s not just about digitizing books. That’s the biggest misconception that the public has about the role of digital technology in libraries, according to the chief digital officer of what is arguably the world’s largest public library. New York Public Library’s Tony Ageh was recently in Seattle to talk about libraries’ digital transformation. Ageh made the point that tech now permeates pretty much all of a library’s operations, from ebooks and article databases, to systems for checking out materials and tracking fines.”


Is Listening to a Book the Same Thing as Reading It?

“Audiobook sales have doubled in the last five years while print and e-book sales are flat. These trends might lead us to fear that audiobooks will do to reading what keyboarding has done to handwriting — rendered it a skill that seems quaint and whose value is open to debate. But examining how we read and how we listen shows that each is best suited to different purposes, and neither is superior. In fact, they overlap considerably…”

https://www.bespacific.com/is-listening-to-a-book-the-same-thing-as-reading-it/

Need a fishing pole? Cake pan? Costume? Borrow it from the library

“Public libraries are pretty cool places. Not only do they let you borrow books, DVDs, video games and e-books or access the internet for free, but many libraries around Wichita have expanded their collections to include some unusual items. Like cake pans. And fishing poles. And costumes. And plug-in
NYT historical news clippings and photos via Google Cloud

“For over 100 years, The New York Times has stored its historical news clippings and photographs in an underground archive lovingly named the “morgue.” Most of us keep stacks of pictures in our attic or basement. And media organizations are no different. The New York Times has archived approximately five to seven million of their old photos three stories below street level near their Times Square offices. Until now finding a photo in the morgue has been a manual task for journalists.”

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Copyright

‘Party Like it’s 1923’: New Out-of-Copyright Works and Where to Find Them

“The year 2019 got off to a sweet start for librarians and copyright nerds as a slew of books, films, and music compositions entered the public domain in the U.S. for the first time in 21 years.”

“The works, which include poetry by Robert Frost and novels by Agatha Christie and Joseph Conrad, are out of copyright, which means anyone can use them without fear of a nasty letter from intellectual property attorneys.”

“The public domain, of course, is not a new concept—it’s what makes works by Shakespeare or Beethoven available to all—but, in the United States, it has been dry since 1998.”

Search

How to Use Google Reverse Image Search

” Using Google to reverse image search is a useful method for researching the origins of a photo found online. Whether it’s a historical picture presented with little context or an image that seems doctored, you can search the web for other instances of its use with Google Images. “

Copyright

Overlooked No More: Karen Sparck Jones, Who Established the Basis for Search Engines

“When most scientists were trying to make people use code to talk to computers, Karen Sparck Jones taught computers to understand human language instead.”

“In so doing, her technology established the basis of search
engines like Google.”

“A self-taught programmer with a focus on natural language processing, and an advocate for women in the field, Sparck Jones also foreshadowed by decades Silicon Valley’s current reckoning, warning about the risks of technology being led by computer scientists who were not attuned to its social implications.”


Privacy

How Apps on Android Share Data with Facebook – Report

“Previous research has shown how 42.55 percent of free apps on the Google Play store could share data with Facebook, making Facebook the second most prevalent third-party tracker after Google’s parent company Alphabet. In this report, Privacy International illustrates what this data sharing looks like in practice, particularly for people who do not have a Facebook account.”

“This question of whether Facebook gathers information about users who are not signed in or do not have an account was raised in the aftermath of the Cambridge Analytica scandal by lawmakers in hearings in the United States and in Europe. Discussions, as well as previous fines by Data Protection Authorities about the tracking of non-users, however, often focus on the tracking that happens on websites. Much less is known about the data that the company receives from apps. For these reasons, in this report we raise questions about transparency and use of app data that we consider timely and important.”

“Facebook routinely tracks users, non-users and logged-out users outside its platform through Facebook Business Tools. App developers share data with Facebook through the Facebook Software Development Kit (SDK), a set of software development tools that help developers build apps for a specific operating system. Using the free and open source software tool called “mitmproxy”, an interactive HTTPS proxy, Privacy International has analyzed the data that 34 apps on Android, each with an install base from 10 to 500 million, transmit to Facebook through the Facebook SDK.”


Open Access

Will the World Embrace Plan S, the Radical Proposal to Mandate Open Access to Science Papers?

“Since the September 2018 launch of the Europe-backed program to mandate immediate open access (OA) to scientific literature, 16 funders in 13 countries have signed on. That’s still far shy of Plan S’s ambition: to convince the world’s major research funders to require immediate OA to all published papers stemming from their grants. Whether it will reach that goal depends in part on details that remain to be settled, including a cap on the author charges that funders will pay for OA publication. But the plan has gained momentum: In December 2018, China stunned many by expressing strong support for Plan S. This month, a national funding agency in Africa is expected to join, possibly followed by a second U.S. funder. Others around the world are considering whether to sign on.”

“Plan S, scheduled to take effect on 1 January 2020, has drawn support from many scientists, who welcome a shake-up of a publishing system that can generate large profits while keeping taxpayer-funded research results behind paywalls. But publishers (including AAAS, which publishes Science) are concerned, and some scientists worry that Plan S could restrict their choices.”

https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2019/01/will-world-embrace-plan-s-radical-proposal-mandate-open-access-science-papers

Research

Plants of the World Online

“In 2015, the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew launched its first Science Strategy establishing its vision to document and understand global plant and fungal diversity and their uses, bringing authoritative expertise to bear on the critical challenges facing humanity today. The Science Strategy also committed Kew to delivering nine strategic outputs with the overarching aim to disseminate Kew’s scientific knowledge of
plants and fungi to maximize its impact in science, education, conservation policy and management. The Plants of the World Online portal (POWO), is one of the nine strategic outputs and its aim is to enable users to access information on all the world’s known seed-bearing plants by 2020.”

“With over 8.5 million items, Kew houses the largest and most diverse botanical and mycological collections in the world in the Victorian Herbarium and Fungarium in West London. They represent over 95% of known flowering plant genera and more than 60% of known fungal genera and yet, only 20% of this knowledge is available online. POWO is Kew’s way of turning 250 years of botanical knowledge into an open and accessible online global resource.”

“POWO draws together Kew’s extensive data resources including its regional Floras and monographs, alongside images from the digitisation of the collections. The portal has been designed to maximise accessibility and enables the dissemination of plant information to its users via a mobile, tablet or desktop computer.”

http://www.plantsoftheworldonline.org/

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Intersect Alert January 14, 2019


January 14, 2019 Categories: Intersect Alert

Privacy

Please Forget Where I Was Last Summer: The Privacy Risks of Public Location (Meta)Data

“Abstract—The exposure of location data constitutes a significant privacy risk to users as it can lead to de-anonymization, the inference of sensitive information, and even physical threats. In this paper we present LPAuditor, a tool that conducts a comprehensive evaluation of the privacy loss caused by publicly available location metadata. First, we demonstrate how our system can pinpoint users’ key locations at an unprecedented granularity by identifying their actual postal addresses. Our experimental evaluation on Twitter data highlights the effectiveness of our techniques which outperform prior approaches by 18.9%-91.6% for homes and 8.7%-21.8% for workplaces. Next we present a novel exploration of automated private information inference that uncovers “sensitive” locations that users have visited (pertaining to health, religion, and sex/nightlife). We find that location metadata can provide additional context to tweets and thus lead to the exposure of private information that might not match the users’ intentions.”


(Don’t) Return to Sender: How to Protect Yourself From Email Tracking

“Tracking is everywhere on the Internet. Over the past year, a drumbeat of tech-industry-scandals has acclimated users to the sheer number of ways that personal information can be collected and leaked. As a result, it might not come as a surprise to learn that emails, too, can be vectors for tracking. Email senders can monitor who opens which emails, when, and what device they use to do it. If you work for a business or a non-profit that sends mass emails, maybe you’ve used tools to perform this kind of tracking before. Even if you have used them, this might be the first you’ve heard of it — because unfortunately, in email marketing software, tracking is often enabled by default.”

“There are a lot of different ways to track email, and different techniques can lie anywhere on the spectrum from marginally acceptable to atrocious. Responsible tracking should aggregate a minimal amount of anonymous data, similar to page hits: enough to let the sender get a sense of how well their campaign is doing without invading users’ privacy. Email tracking should always be disclosed up-front, and users should have a clear and easy way to opt out if they choose to. Lastly, organizations that track should minimize and delete user data as soon as possible according to an easy-to-understand data retention and privacy policy.”

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2019/01/stop-tracking-my-emails

Remember the FCC’s Broadband Privacy Rules? The Motherboard Exposé Takes Us Down Memory Lane

“On Tuesday, Motherboard published an article exposing the jaw-dropping ease of data collection and commercialization practices that can allow a stranger to find a cell phone’s location with just a phone number and $300. Motherboard’s investigation found that telecommunications companies, including T-Mobile, AT&T, and Sprint, would sell location data
with an aggregator, which sold the data to MicroBilt, which then sold it to a Motherboard investigator for ‘dirt cheap’.”

“It was just last year when Senator Ron Wyden wrote to the Federal Communications Commission about Securus, a firm that that was offering geolocation of phones to low-level law enforcement without a warrant, thereby jeopardizing cell phone locations of not only inmates, but anyone with a phone number – which is pretty much everyone.”


Podcasts

The Room of Requirement – This American Life

“Libraries aren’t just for books. They’re often spaces that transform into what you need them to be: a classroom, a cyber café, a place to find answers, a quiet spot to be alone. It’s actually kind of magical. This week, we have stories of people who roam the stacks and find unexpected things that just happen to be exactly what they required.”

https://www.thisamericanlife.org/664/the-room-of-requirement

Open Data

What Makes a Good Open Data Use Case?

“Cities have made great strides in publishing foundational open data, and are constantly working to release more and better data. But many city officials still wonder: what will this data do for the community? Who is actually using it?”

“Understanding how data will be applied in the public domain is a key element of planning and allocating the limited resources dedicated to open data programs. Ground-truthing data in its potential use cases can ensure that when data is opened, it is for a purpose.”


Copyright

The Internet is Facing a Catastrophe For Free Expression and Competition: Sweden, Germany, Poland and Luxembourg Could Tip The Balance

“The new EU Copyright Directive is progressing at an alarming rate. This week, the EU is asking its member-states to approve new negotiating positions for the final language. Once they get it, they’re planning to hold a final vote before pushing this drastic, radical new law into 28 countries and 500,000,000 people.”

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2019/01/internet-facing-catastrophe-free-expression-and-competition-only-europeans-can

Please feel free to pass along in part or in its entirety; attribution appreciated. The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Communications Committee, San Francisco Bay Area Chapter, Special Libraries Association.

Intersect Alert January 21, 2019


Privacy

Privacy and Digital Rights for All

“The United States confronts a crisis. Digital giants invade our private lives, spy on our families, and gather our most intimate facts for profit. Bad actors, foreign and domestic, target the personal data gathered by U.S. firms, including our bank details, email messages, and Social Security Numbers.”

“Our privacy laws are decades out of date. We urgently need a new approach to privacy protection. We must update federal laws and create a data protection agency specifically tasked with safeguarding the privacy of Americans. The time is now.”


Toying with Privacy: Regulating the Internet of Toys

“Abstract – Recently, toys have become more interactive than ever before. The emergence of the Internet of Things (IoT) makes toys smarter and more communicative: they can now
interact with children by ‘listening’ to them and respond accordingly. While there is little doubt that these toys can be highly entertaining for children and even possess social and educational benefits, the Internet of Toys (IoToys) raises many concerns. Beyond the fact that IoToys that might be hacked or simply misused by unauthorized parties, datafication of children by toy conglomerates, various interested parties and perhaps even their parents could be highly troubling. It could profoundly threaten children’s right to privacy as it subjects and normalizes them to ubiquitous surveillance and datafication of their personal information, requests, and any other information they divulge. While American policymakers acknowledged the importance of protecting children’s privacy online back in 1998, when crafting COPPA, this regulatory framework might become obsolete in face of the new privacy risks that arise from IoToys. Do fundamental differences between websites and IoToys necessitate a different legal framework to protect children’s privacy? Should policymakers recalibrate the current legal framework to adequately protect the privacy of children who have IoToys? Finally, what are the consequences for children’s privacy of ubiquitous parental surveillance through IoToys — allegedly granted to safeguard children from online risks? And how might children’s privacy be better framed and protected in this context?"

“This Article focuses on the privacy concerns that IoToys raise. Part I briefly outlines the evolution of IoToys while examining their capacity to collect and retain data. Then, in reference to the legal framework chosen to protect children from online datafication twenty years ago, the next part discusses the American perception of children’s privacy, focusing on COPPA. Through this analysis, this part will show how key market players currently comply with COPPA regulation, and evaluate whether such compliance is relevant to IoToys’ dangers and challenges. Part III revisits COPPA, challenges it, and in calling for its recalibration offers some practical solutions to IoToys’ privacy threats. Thereafter Part IV normatively evaluates children’s conception of privacy and argues that IoToys’ monitoring practices could jeopardize the parent-child relationship and calls for recalibrating children’s privacy in the digital era. The final part summarizes the discussion and concludes that children’s privacy matters today perhaps more than ever before, and that the potential movement toward a ubiquitous surveillance era should not lead to its demise.”


DuckDuckGo Search Switches Mapping to Apple Maps

“Privacy-focused search engine DuckDuckGo announced yesterday that the search engine’s map and address related searches and functions are now powered by Apple’s MapKit JS framework.”

“The new functionality is live already for desktop and mobile devices that use DuckDuckgo for searches.”

“DuckDuckGo highlights two main benefits that come out of the move: improved privacy and better mapping functionality.”

“Users may see maps and related data when they run searches for places or addresses. A search for the best Thai, Vietnamese or Italian restaurant displays a map and related information in the sidebar or at the top on search results pages.”

“Searches for addresses, geographical places, local businesses, a type of business, or nearby places return embedded maps usually.”

https://www.ghacks.net/2019/01/16/duckduckgo-search-switches-mapping-to-apple-maps/

Facebook Algorithms and Personal Data

“About half of Facebook users say they are not comfortable when they see how the platform categorizes them, and 27% maintain the site’s classifications do not accurately represent them.”

“Most commercial sites, from social media platforms to news outlets to online retailers, collect a wide variety of data about their users’ behaviors. Platforms use this data to deliver content and recommendations based on users’ interests and traits, and to allow advertisers to target ads to relatively precise segments of the public. But how well do Americans understand these algorithm driven classification systems, and how much do they think their lives line up with what gets reported about them? As a window into this hard-to-study phenomenon, a new Pew Research Center survey asked a representative sample of users of the nation’s most popular social media platform, Facebook, to reflect on the data that had been collected about them.”


Location Data is Ground Zero in Privacy Wars

“Our phones’ GPS and location capabilities are a key part of what make them magical — enabling them to speed our commutes, hail rides and find the devices when we lose them. These capabilities are also ground zero for the looming fight over defining the boundaries of privacy and acceptable uses of our personal information.”

“The big picture: Three recent stories show just how common problems with location data can be — and how thorny they’ve become.”

https://www.axios.com/location-data-is-ground-zero-in-privacy-wars-6177bbc4-92df-4b8a-ba72-e0e956efc51f.html

‘Right To Be Forgotten’ By Google Should Apply Only In EU, Says Court Opinion
“The ‘right to be forgotten’, which enables claimants to request the removal of links to irrelevant or outdated online information about them, should not be enforceable globally, the European court of justice (ECJ) has found in a preliminary opinion.”

“The controversial power, requiring search engines to prevent access to material on the internet, should be enforceable only in the EU and not worldwide, the court’s advocate general, Maciej Szpunar, said. Final judgments by the ECJ usually endorse initial opinions.”

https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2019/jan/10/right-to-be-forgotten-by-google-should-apply-only-in-eu-says-court

Copyright

Now EVERYBODY Hates the New EU Copyright Directive

“Until last spring, everyone wanted to see the new European Copyright Directive pass; then German MEP Axel Voss took over as rapporteur and revived the most extreme, controversial versions of two proposals that had been sidelined long before as the Directive had progressed towards completion.”

“After all, this is the first refresh on EU copyright since 2001, and so the Directive is mostly a laundry list of overdue, uncontroversial technical tweaks with many stakeholders; the last thing anyone wanted was a spoiler in the midst.”

“Anyone, that is, except for German newspaper families (who loved Article 11, who could charge Big Tech for the privilege of sending readers to their sites) and the largest record labels (who had long dreamed of Article 13, which would force the platforms to implement filters to check everything users posted, and block anything that resembled a known copyrighted work, or anything someone claimed was a known copyrighted work).”


Publishing

Editorial Mutiny at Elsevier Journal

“The entire editorial board of the Elsevier-owned Journal of Informetrics resigned Thursday in protest over high open-access fees, restricted access to citation data and commercial control of scholarly work.”

“Today, the same team is launching a new fully open-access journal called Quantitative Science Studies. The journal will be for and by the academic community and will be owned by the International Society for Scientometrics and Informetrics (ISSI). It will be published jointly with MIT Press.”

“The editorial board of the Journal of Informetrics said in a statement that they were unanimous in their decision to quit. They contend that scholarly journals should be owned by the scholarly community rather than by commercial publishers, should be open access under fair principles, and publishers should make citation data freely available.”


Copyright’s Safe Harbors Preserve What We Love About the Internet

“How is the Internet different from what came before? We’ve had great art, music, film, and writing for far longer than we’ve had the World Wide Web. What we didn’t have were global conversations and collaborations that millions can participate in. The Internet has lowered barriers to participation in culture, politics, and communities of interest. Copyright’s safe harbors for intermediaries are essential to making this possible. But today, those safe harbors are under threat from laws like Article 13 of the EU’s proposed Copyright in the Digital Single Market Directive. And some voices in the U.S. want to gut the safe harbors here.”

“In the U.S., the safe harbors of the Digital Millennium Copyright Act protect Internet companies of various kinds against the possibility of massive copyright infringement damages when one of their users copies creative work illegally. In return for that protection, Internet companies have to take some concrete steps, like adopting and enforcing a repeat infringer policy. Some companies—the ones that store user-uploaded content—have to register an agent to accept and act on takedown notices from rightsholders (the familiar ‘DMCA notices’). The law is explicit that Internet companies aren’t required to surveil everything uploaded by users to find possible copyright infringement. It also provides a counter-notice process for users to get non-infringing uploads put back online.”


Jobline 2019/01/24
Head of Electronic Resources & Serials  
Santa Clara University

Join the Library leadership team at Santa Clara University in a key position managing electronic resources and serials at an award-winning, comprehensive Jesuit university located in California’s vibrant Silicon Valley. Reporting to the Associate University Librarian for Collections & Scholarly Communication, the Head of Electronic Resources & Serials provides leadership in the procurement, assessment and management of print and electronic continuing resources, including individual and package subscriptions, streaming services and demand-driven acquisitions for e-books. This position supervises two full-time staff and serves on our Library Management Council, providing input and direction into the strategic growth of the Library. Two critical areas of responsibility for this position are the review of vendor licenses and providing data for the ongoing assessment of subscriptions.

Why Santa Clara University? You will be joining a dynamic, service-oriented team committed to developing a vibrant and vital center for learning, inspiring both intellectual pursuits and community engagement. Santa Clara University Library is situated in our state-of-the-art Learning Commons on a beautiful campus located in one of the most diverse areas of the United States. We recently earned U.S. News & World Report’s 2019 top ranked regional university in the western United States and our Library was awarded ACRL’s 2017 Excellence in Academic Libraries Award for our innovative climate of program and service delivery.

Learn more about this position, our institution, and how to apply at [https://jobs.scu.edu/postings/8115](https://jobs.scu.edu/postings/8115). Applications received by February 8, 2019 will receive first consideration.

When applying, please mention that you found this position listing on SLA SF Bay Area Jobline. Thank you!

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**Intersect Alert – January 28, 2019**

Knowledge Management

10 x 10: 100 Insightful KM Resources

“I am very thankful for my colleagues in knowledge management (KM) and the knowledge they share.”

“To express my gratitude, I am sharing ten categories of KM resources, each with ten links to useful sources of knowledge about the field. The ten resources in each category are recommended starting points for those who want to learn more about KM.”

“Each category heading is linked to a more extensive list for greater exploration. I hope you will find this information helpful. If so, please share this article further, adding links to other resources you have used.”

[https://llrx.com/2019/01/10-x-10-100-insightful-km-resources/](https://llrx.com/2019/01/10-x-10-100-insightful-km-resources/)

Privacy

Survey: Few Americans Willing to Pay for Privacy

“Only one in four Americans want online services such as Facebook and Google to collect less of their data if it means they would have to start paying a monthly subscription fee, according to a new survey from the Center for Data Innovation.”

“Few surveys of Internet users’ attitudes toward online privacy ask about such tradeoffs, so the Center probed Americans’ reactions to a series of likely consequences of reducing online data collection. The survey found that when potential tradeoffs were not part of the question approximately 80 percent of Americans agreed that they would like online services such as Facebook and Google to collect less of their data. But that support eroded when respondents considered these tradeoffs. For example, initial agreement dropped by 6 percentage points when respondents were asked whether they would like online services to collect less data even if it means seeing ads that are less useful. Support dropped by 27 percentage points when respondents considered whether they would like less data collection even if it means seeing more ads than before. And it dropped by 26 percentage points when respondents were asked whether they would like less data collection even if it means losing access to some features they use now. The largest drop in support (53 percentage points) came when respondents were asked whether they would like online services to collect less of their data even if it means paying a monthly subscription fee. Only 27 percent of respondents agreed with reducing data collection in that circumstance.”


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Copyright

Copyright and Visual Works: The Legal Landscape of Opportunities and Challenges

“The internet age has dramatically affected the lives and livelihoods of visual artists both positively and in ways that were not expected. Photographers, graphic artists, and illustrators have highlighted a growing list of issues in recent years, including whether copyright law adequately addresses the new challenges facing visual artists today. The Office has reviewed how certain visual works, particularly photographs, graphic artworks, and illustrations, are registered, monetized, and enforced under the Copyright Act. In April 2015, the Office sought commentary on the marketplace for these visual works, as well as observations regarding the obstacles that creators and users of visual works face when navigating the digital landscape. The Office’s resulting review builds upon previous studies and public inquiries in a number of areas, including small claims, orphan works, moral rights, section 512 notice and takedown, and overall Office modernization.”

“The Copyright Office’s review both reinforces the importance of visual works to this nation and identifies common obstacles that Congress and the Office itself may be able to alleviate. A number of stakeholders, including photographers, graphic designers, illustrators, and licensees, raised specific issues they face on a regular basis regarding current copyright law and practices. These challenges fall within three general categories: (1) difficulties with the registration process; (2) challenges with licensing generally and monetizing visual works online; and (3) general enforcement obstacles.”

https://www.copyright.gov/policy/visualworks/

Online Courses

400 Free Ivy League University Courses You Can Take Online in 2019

“The eight Ivy League schools are among the most prestigious colleges in the world. They include Brown, Harvard, Cornell, Princeton, Dartmouth, Yale, and Columbia universities, and the University of Pennsylvania.”

“All eight schools place in the top fifteen of the US News and World Report 2017 national university rankings.”

“These Ivy League schools are also highly selective and extremely hard to get into. But the good news is that all these universities now offer free online courses across multiple online course platforms.”

“So far, they’ve created over 494 courses, of which around 396 are still active. Here’s a collection of all of them, split into courses in the following subjects: Computer Science, Business, Humanities, Social Sciences, Art & Design, Science, Health & Medicine, Data Science, Education & Teaching, Mathematics, Science, Engineering, Personal Development, and Programming.”


International Outlook

Once Centers Of Soviet Propaganda, Moscow’s Libraries Are Having A ‘Loud’ Revival

“The Chistye Prudy neighborhood is one of Moscow’s liveliest, with restaurants and cafes clustered along a boulevard with a tram line and grand old apartment buildings.”

“Before the bars fill up in the evenings, the neighborhood’s most popular hangout is the Fyodor Dostoevsky Library, named for the 19th century Russian writer. While young people huddle over laptops as city traffic growls past the large windows in the main reading hall, a theater group is rehearsing a play in another room. A constant stream of visitors comes through the entrance, with the front door banging behind them.”

https://www.npr.org/2019/01/21/685585591/once-centers-of-soviet-propaganda-moscows-libraries-are-having-a-loud
**Libraries**

**Minneapolis Central Library Opens Vinyl Listening Room to Share Collection**

“Right now, thousands of vinyl records are stored in the third floor of the Minneapolis Central Library downtown.”

“They’re not easy to find — the stacks are in a remote room, far from where patrons usually look for books, CDs and movies. But librarians are now beginning to bring the collection out, little by little, to the public.”

“On Saturday, Hennepin County Library hosted the first event in its new ‘Vinyl Revival’ series, which aims to bring attention to the thriving audio format. Through June, artists will present vinyl-themed programming and curate records from the library’s stacks, many of which are the works of local musicians.”

[http://www.startribune.com/minneapolis-central-library-opens-vinyl-listening-room-to-share-collection/504603881/?fbclid=IwAR10OaqKqdfCL3Qv-k4NXspog8H9XQYJ6yEPYwbqQCeEELB0P0pRqEoLqi4](http://www.startribune.com/minneapolis-central-library-opens-vinyl-listening-room-to-share-collection/504603881/?fbclid=IwAR10OaqKqdfCL3Qv-k4NXspog8H9XQYJ6yEPYwbqQCeEELB0P0pRqEoLqi4)

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**SLA Leadership Symposium musings, and more, from the SF Bay Area Chapter President**


January 30, 2019 Categories: Chapter Leadership Tags: President's message

Greetings, colleagues.

Thank you for electing me chapter president! Allow me to introduce myself. I am the Public Health Librarian at the UC Berkeley Bioscience, Natural Resources & Public Health Library. I have worked at UC Berkeley since 2002, and have been a chapter member since about 15 minutes after starting work here. (Actually, it took a little longer). I am so happy to be working for the chapter, along with the others on the Executive Board, Advisory Board, committee members, and all of the members. The San Francisco Bay Area Chapter is SLA’s 5th largest chapter with 171 members; SLA as a whole has about 4000 members.

I was happy to see many folks at the **Member Appreciation Dinner** last week. Good food, good company. Thanks to Sarah Cook for the idea, and to Maureen Mason for the heavy lifting to make it happen, and to all the folks who had a hand in making this event real.

Just over a week ago, I attended **SLA’s Leadership Symposium** in New Orleans, aka NOLA. I highly recommend attending, if you ever wish to be immersed in all things SLA, especially if you are serving, or plan to serve, a chapter, division, or caucus in any leadership position. Our President-Elect Zac Painter was also at the Symposium, Here are some thoughts coming out of my experience:

Part of the time there was spent reflecting on what I consider my qualities and my goals in this position, my communication styles, and so forth. What would my colleagues say about me? After all, one’s reputation – and the actions that lead to one’s reputation – is more important than one’s intent. Despite occasional bouts of imposter syndrome, I am hopeful that after my year of being president ends, my reputation with all of you will be positive. But that’s your call.

Also taking up much of the time in NOLA were sessions on the “nuts and bolts” of SLA: How to use GoToMeeting and SurveyMonkey (2 tools that SLA provides for us); who among the SLA staff we would contact for what; and so forth.

SLA President Hal Kirkwood and SLA Executive Director Amy Burke gave a brief presentation on the state of SLA as an association. Frankly, the outlook is a little gloomy: SLA’s expenses were about $500,000 over income last year (Anyone can view SLA Board meeting agendas that have this information). Obviously that’s not sustainable. According to Hal and Amy, they are looking at everything to come up with solutions. They gave no real specifics, but there were hints that big changes may be coming to SLA. My sense was, we would hear within a couple of months what those changes might be. I wish I had something more specific on this but I know nothing more than what I am saying here. But, one quote I wrote was this: *The most strategic thing an association can do is build its “stop doing this” list. What should SLA stop doing? The SLA Board would welcome your ideas – really! (Send ideas my way; I will forward, or you can communicate directly with the SLA Board.)*
Here is a link to 2 slide decks from the Leadership Symposium.

Because I also serve as a Diversity Inclusion Community Equity Caucus co-convener, I want to report that there was a good amount of conversation on those kinds of topics at some of the NOLA sessions. (In case you were unaware, the DICE Caucus is free to join for all SLA members – just log on to sla.org and click Access Membership to add the Caucus to your membership). The Caucus has some ideas that, with SLA Board approval, may move forward. These include a climate survey (if you are unfamiliar with that term, see, for example, http://www.climatequal.org/about) of SLA membership, and an examination of the language of SLA policies, procedures, etc. for inclusiveness (ie, removal of gender pronouns or other exclusive language). More on those efforts later, I hope.

I look forward to talking with you all during the upcoming year; I plan on calling some folks just to check in. You are all welcome to contact me via email, phone, mail, passenger pigeon, whatever. Two other quotes I noted from the Symposium I’d like to share: “change is fun; you go first” and “learn to love the doing.” Here’s hoping for a year of fun, daring, and doing!

Best,

-Michael

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Intersect Alert February 3, 2019


Values:

A Design to Bring Life to Death

“NYT Special tribute to extraordinary black men, women who were left out of obituaries when they died.”

“A special section in the Sunday paper paid tribute to extraordinary black men and women who were left out of The Times’s obituaries when they died. Its design aims to bring joy to readers. Andrew Sondern: “Death is not often a cause for joy. But a special edition of Overlooked, which tells the stories of a dozen extraordinary black men and women who were left out of The Times’s obituary pages when they died, is a reason to celebrate.” “I designed the print edition of the project, which marks the arrival of Black History Month with a special section in Sunday’s newspaper. These obituaries reanimate the legacies of the overlooked, so it was important that the design felt as joyful and respectful as the articles themselves.”


Internet Access:

Why Won’t This Page Load? Net Neutrality Hits the DC Circuit

“The U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit heard oral arguments today determining whether the FCC was wrong to eliminate its own rules protecting an open internet. In a lively panel, Judges Millet, Wilkens, and Williams jumped in with questions less than a minute into the case, and kept all six advocates at the podium for wide ranging questions taking more than five hours to complete – almost double the allotted time for this case.”


Research:

Attacking a Pay Wall That Hides Public Court Filings The New York Times

The New York Times: “The federal judiciary has built an imposing pay wall around its court filings, charging a preposterous 10 cents a page for electronic access to what are meant to be public records. A pending lawsuit could help tear that wall down. The costs of storing and transmitting data have plunged, approaching zero. By one estimate, the actual cost of retrieving court documents, including secure storage, is about one half of one ten-thousandth of a penny per page. But the federal judiciary charges a dime a page to use its service, called Pacer (for Public Access to Court Electronic Records). The National Veterans Legal Services Program and two other nonprofit groups filed a class action in 2016 seeking to recover what they said were systemic overcharges. “Excessive Pacer fees inhibit public understanding of the courts and thwart equal access to justice, erecting a financial barrier that many ordinary citizens are unable to clear,” they wrote. The suit accuses the judicial system of using the fees it charges as a kind of slush fund, spending the money to buy flat-screen televisions for jurors, to finance a study of the Mississippi court system and to send notices in bankruptcy proceedings”

Stanford Libraries’ transformative gift creates hub highlighting Silicon Valley history

“Stanford Libraries has received a $25 million gift from the Harold C. and Marilyn A. Hohbach Foundation to create a vibrant collections-centered research hub and endow the Silicon Valley Archives program. The first floor of the East Wing of the Cecil H. Green Library will be renovated and renamed Hohbach Hall. The newly renovated space in the East Wing of the Cecil H. Green Library will be named Hohbach Hall and will include a new Special Collections classroom, as well as spaces for group study, seminars, events and exhibitions.”


The Relationship Between Publishers and Libraries

“Publishers and libraries need to recognize their shared responsibility to perpetuate the distribution of knowledge to researchers, academics, and students. Ultimately, this should be the top priority of any company and/or individual operating in this sphere. Of course, profit is paramount to the success of any business, but that should not come at the expense of libraries and education. Likewise, libraries must understand the commercial nature of resource provision and work with publishers to build a fruitful relationship for both parties.”


What We Should Learn From “Facebook Research”

“Once again, Facebook has broken the trust of its users—this time, through reportedly paying people to give up their privacy by installing an application that sucks up huge amounts of sensitive data, and explicitly sidestepping Apple’s Enterprise Developer program rules. In doing so, the company has repeated several of the privacy-abusive practices that it’s been chastised for before. This underscores just how little the company has learned from a year of user complaints, privacy group criticisms, and Congressional hearings, and it emphasizes the need for legislators to pass new laws to protect the public.”

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2019/01/what-we-should-learn-facebook-research

Intersect Alert February 10, 2019


First African American Congresswoman Featured at National Archives

WASHINGTON, February 8, 2019 — “The life and contributions of Shirley Chisholm—the first African American woman elected to Congress—will be celebrated this month at the National Archives and Records Administration.”

“A new ‘Featured Document’ display at the National Archives Museum in the East Rotunda Gallery marks the 50th anniversary of Shirley Chisholm’s historic entry into the U.S. House of Representatives. The display features her oath of office and a record from her service on the House Rules Committee.”


Thousands of scientists run up against Elsevier’s paywall

“Researchers at German institutions that have let their Elsevier subscriptions lapse while negotiating a new deal are hitting the paywall for the publisher’s most recent articles around 10,000 times a day, according to Elsevier — which publishes more than 400,000 papers each year. But at least some German libraries involved in negotiating access to Elsevier say they are making huge savings without a subscription, while still
providing any articles their academics request.”

https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-019-00492-4

Research:

Think with Google

“We know how important it is for marketers to have their pulse on the latest consumer insights and industry trends. To help you easily stay up-to-date we organized hundreds of Google insights and facts by industry, platform, and theme. Search through to find inspiration, or the perfect insight to power your thinking. Insight cards are shareable and downloadable, so you can easily use in a presentation, or send as inspiration to your colleagues…”

“Digital innovation continues to propel the marketing industry forward, and the pace is mind-blowing. As marketers, we rely on data, analysis, and insights to stay informed and inspired. Think with Google is our way to share all of this and more with you. Think of us as your resource for everything from high-level insights to deck-ready stats to useful tools. Here you will find the data we’re exploring and the trends we’re tracking along with forward-looking perspectives and behind-the-scenes looks at digital campaigns—across industries, platforms, and audiences. We hope you find it helpful and visit often.”

https://www.bespacific.com/think-with-google/

Technology:

Trump has a plan to keep America first in artificial intelligence

“Artificial intelligence may have been invented in the United States, but other nations, including China, Canada, and France, have made bigger moves to back and benefit from the technology in recent years.” “President Donald Trump will seek to change that Monday by signing an executive order that launches the US government’s own AI play.” “The key focuses of the “American AI Initiative” have been released ahead of time by the Office of Science and Technology Policy.”

“The initiative is designed to boost America’s AI industry by reallocating funding, creating new resources, and devising ways for the country to shape the technology even as it becomes increasingly global.” “However, while the goals are lofty, the details are vague. And it will not include a big lump sum of funding for AI research.”


Libraries & Privacy:

New Library Bill of Rights Provision Recognizes and Defends Library Users’ Privacy

“The Library Bill of Rights — first adopted in 1939 and last amended in 1980 — has been updated to include an article focused on the concept of ensuring privacy and confidentiality for library users.”

“The new article of the Library Bill of Rights, Article VII, states: ‘All people, regardless of origin, age, background, or views, possess a right to privacy and confidentiality in their library use. Libraries should advocate for, educate about, and protect people’s privacy, safeguarding all library use data, including personally identifiable information.’

‘Libraries across the nation now have the support needed to protect and fight for the privacy rights of their patrons,’ said Erin Berman, chair of the Intellectual Freedom Committee’s Privacy Subcommittee and co-leader of the working group that drafted the new article. “They may use the privacy article to update policies and practices, bringing the new article to governing bodies, vendors, funders and their patrons.”

“Helen Adams, an IFC member and co-leader of the working group, commended the working group and those who contributed to the privacy article. She also noted the article’s significance to school libraries.

‘With the addition of Article VII, students in K-12 public schools are promised the right of privacy and confidentiality in their library use,’ said Adams. ‘Adding the core values of privacy and confidentiality to one of the profession’s foundational documents places school librarians in a stronger position from which to advocate for and educate about library privacy for minors.’


Freedom of Information:

State Department Makes FOIA Reading Room Less User-Friendly

“The Department of State has inexplicably made its FOIA reading room significantly less user-friendly. The previous version allowed researchers to sort the reading room’s tens of thousands of documents by date or title, among other filters, or search through curated collections. The current iteration has no such features and the documents are now unsortable. The move is a frustrating head-scratcher from an agency that – until recently – had one of the best examples of the kind of FOIA reading room that is required by 2007 FOIA amendments. The change shows, as Alex Howard points out on Twitter, ‘how technical changes to searchability can degrade public access & impeding the public’s rights to know.’”

State Department Makes FOIA Reading Room Less User-
**Intersect Alert February 17, 2019**

February 18, 2019  
Categories: Intersect Alert

**Public Policy:**

A Look at Past and Future Climate Change in Less Than a Minute

Two new videos visualize how drastically global temperatures have changed since 1900 — and how much worse they will get by the end of this century. The data visualizations, created by Antti Lipponen, a research scientist at the Finnish Meteorological Institute, depict 200 years of climate change in each of the world’s 191 countries in less than a minute.

“Rapid global warming really exists, has been global in the past, and has affected all the countries in the world,” Lipponen told Yale Environment 360. “Unfortunately, the future does not look different — temperatures will continue rising rapidly and all countries will be affected by climate change.”

https://e360.yale.edu/digest/a-look-at-past-and-future-climate-change-in-less-than-a-minute

National Emergencies: Constitutional and Statutory Restrictions on Presidential Powers

“When a president threatens to exercise the power to declare a national emergency, our system of checks and balances faces a crucial test. With President Trump threatening such a declaration in order to build his proposed physical border wall, that test could be an important one that could quickly implicate your right to privacy and a transparent government.”

“EFF has long tangled with governmental actions rooted in presidential power. From mass telephone records collection to tapping the Internet backbone, and from Internet metadata collection to biometric tracking and social media monitoring, claims of national crisis have often justified digital policies that have undermined civil liberties. Those policies quickly spread far beyond their initial justification. We have also seen presidential authorities misused to avoid the legislative process — and even used to try to intimidate courts and prevent them from doing their job to protect our rights.”

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2019/02/national-emergencies-constitutional-and-statutory-restrictions-presidential-powers

**Open Access:**

Public Knowledge Applauds Bill Eliminating Paywalls from Public Court Records Access

“Yesterday, Representatives Doug Collins (R-GA) and Mike Quigley (D-IL) introduced the ‘Electronic Court Records Reform Act’ (ECRRA) to remove any and all paywalls on public court records. Currently, users must pay to obtain public court records through the Public Access to Court Electronic Records (PACER) system. The ECRRA would guarantee free public access to these records through PACER by waiving all fees. Furthermore, the bill would also mandate updates to the PACER system, including a search function for court documents.”


**Technology:**

The Secret History of Women in Coding

“Computer programming once had much better gender balance than it does today. What went wrong?”

“As a teenager in Maryland in the 1950s, Mary Allen Wilkes had no plans to become a software pioneer — she dreamed of being a litigator. One day in junior high in 1950, though, her geography teacher surprised her with a comment: “Mary Allen, when you grow up, you should be a computer programmer!” Wilkes had no idea what a programmer was; she wasn’t even sure what a computer was. Relatively few Americans were. The first digital computers had been built barely a decade earlier at universities and in government labs.”
The technology behind OpenAI’s fiction-writing, fake-news-spewing AI, explained – MIT Technology Review

The language model can write like a human, but it doesn’t have a clue what it’s saying.

Last Thursday (Feb. 14), the nonprofit research firm OpenAI released a new language model capable of generating convincing passages of prose. So convincing, in fact, that the researchers have refrained from open-sourcing the code, in hopes of stalling its potential weaponization as a means of mass-producing fake news.

https://www.technologyreview.com/s/612975/ai-natural-language-processing-explained/

We should gene-sequence cave paintings to find out more about who made them

Standard archeological techniques can’t determine whether the prehistoric artists were hunter-gatherers or farmers. Analyzing the paintings’ surfaces with techniques from biology offers much more information about how they worked and when they lived.


Machine learning is contributing to a “reproducibility crisis” within science

Scientific discoveries made using machine learning techniques cannot be automatically trusted, a statistician from Rice University has warned.


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The Intersect Alert is a newsletter of the Communications Committee, San Francisco Bay Area Chapter, Special Libraries Association.

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Online Oral Histories of the Manhattan Project

“‘Voices of the Manhattan Project’ is a joint project by the Atomic Heritage Foundation and the Los Alamos Historical Society to create a public archive of our oral history collections of Manhattan Project veterans and their families. The Manhattan Project was a great human collaboration. Participants included recent immigrants who fled anti-Semitism in Europe, young men and women straight from high school or college, and numerous Hispanics, Native Americans, and African-Americans. Some 125,000 people worked in secret locations in communities developed by the government for the sole purpose of the project. Most surprisingly, very few knew that they were working on an atomic bomb.”

“Launched in October 2012, this website captures the stories of Manhattan Project veterans and their families. Thanks to grants from the Crystal Trust, Department of Energy-NNSA, Institute of Museum and Library Services, the Kerr Foundation, and the M. J. Murdock Charitable Trust, the Atomic Heritage Foundation and the Los Alamos Historical Society are digitizing and transcribing our oral history collections and adding the interviews to this website. We hope that in time others will add to these oral histories. Our goal is to provide a sense of both the commonality and diversity of the Manhattan Project experience for scholars, students and the public. There are many ways to search this site. In addition to the search bar and the filters used to organize by location and subjects (which are intended to emphasize important themes), you can also click on ‘tags’ to find out more about a specific topic on the oral history and location pages. For example, the location page for Metallurgical Laboratory includes a tag for Enrico Fermi. Click on the tag, and all the key pages on this website discussing Fermi will pop up…”
How Do You Preserve History On The Moon? : NPR

“Historic preservationists are hoping that the upcoming 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing this summer will persuade the United Nations to do something to protect Neil Armstrong’s footprints in the lunar dust. Some of his boot marks are still up there, after all, along with other precious artifacts from humanity’s first steps on another world.

Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin left behind tools and science equipment, a plaque that read, “We came in peace for all mankind,” and the U.S. flag, which has likely been bleached white by five decades of harsh ultraviolet light.”

Libraries:

Drag queen story hour in America’s Bible Belt

“Drag queen story hours – events where drag performers read to children – are moving out of the big cities and coming to conservative southern US states.”

“A group of drag queens stand in a small room at the back of a public library in South Carolina, their bright outfits in contrast with the beige walls.”

“Children file in and quickly scan the larger-than-life characters before turning their attention to running around and playing.”

“‘There are five drag queens walking around this room and not one kid has walked up to us and said “you’re so weird”,’ says drag queen Rylee Hunty. “Kids exist in their own fantasy world and we fit into that.’”

Books and Reading:

‘I can’t even look at the cover’: the most disturbing books

“We only read at the end of the day—and only for the three minutes between cracking open a book and falling asleep. We’re halfway through about nine books. And our bookshelves are littered with titles that we remember reading but don’t exactly remember anything about.”

Research:

The Stanford Open Policing Project

“Currently, a comprehensive, national repository detailing interactions between police and the public doesn’t exist. That’s why the Stanford Open Policing Project is collecting and standardizing data on vehicle and pedestrian stops from law enforcement departments across the country — and we’re making that information freely available. We’ve already gathered 130 million records from 31 state police agencies and have begun collecting data on stops from law enforcement agencies in major cities, as well. We, the Stanford Open Policing Project, are an interdisciplinary team of researchers and journalists at Stanford University. We are committed to combining the academic rigor of statistical analysis with the explanatory power of data journalism.”
What’s the Weather Like on Mars? NASA has a site for that

Weather Report at Elysium Planitia – “This plot is being updated daily throughout the duration of the InSight mission. The plot shows the latest three sols (Martian days) of weather data at InSight’s landing site near the equator of Mars. Time runs along the bottom of the plot with the most recent data at the right. Numbers along the bottom show hours of local time at the InSight lander (Local True Solar Time, based on Sun angle). Lighter and darker vertical bands indicate daytime and nighttime at the lander, respectively. The corresponding Earth time is also shown at the top of the plot, in Coordinated Universal Time (UTC). All data points are one-hour averages of the calibrated data from the spacecraft.”

https://mars.nasa.gov/insight/weather/

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http://sanfrancisco.sla1.org/2019/03/intersect-alert-march-4-2019/

Values

If the map becomes the territory then we will be lost

"Many publishers – including Wiley, Taylor and Francis, IEEE, and IOP – already use a third party manuscript service; https://librarian.aedileworks.com/2019/03/03/if-the-map-becomes-the-territory-then-we-will-be-lost/"

Bill To Bring Libraries To NYC Jails Faces Opposition From The Correction Department

“On Tuesday, the City Council’s Criminal Justice Committee heard testimony on Councilmember Daniel Dromm’s bill, Int. 1184, that requires the Department of Correction to provide access to the library for all incarcerated people within 48 hours of entering the jail system. The Department would be required to report on the number of books they receive, the source of those books and, if books are censored, the reason for the censorship.”


Privacy

“The first complete human genome sequence was published in 2003, after a 13-year international effort that involved hundreds of researchers and cost $2.7 billion. Since then, sequencing technology has gotten faster and much less costly. At the same time, the advent of supercomputing centers that can analyze and compare millions of genomes has turned the mountain of raw genomic data into a motherlode of invaluable information. National agencies, huge corporations, and tiny startups all are vying to amass the biggest and best collections of genomes and discover their marketable secrets. In 2017, investment in genomics businesses topped $3 billion.https://news.psu.edu/story/560655/2019/02/26/research

Archives

Canadian province digitizing centuries-old trading post records to mark Manitoba 150

"The Hudson’s Bay Company Archives (HBCA), which is part of the Archives of Manitoba, is getting help from The Hudson’s Bay Company History Foundation for a mass digitization project, one of the first Manitoba 150 projects. HBCA is digitizing over 1000 reels of microfilm copies of pre-1870 trading post records, making them available to the world online.

The records include post journals, accounts and district reports that provide information about the history of the fur trade, North American exploration and the development of Canada as a country.

“They provide a real snapshot into life here in Canada hundreds of years ago. You can get a real sense of Indigenous voice for example and these records continue to be used for land tenor rights and hunting rights even today,” said Quarry.”

https://winnipeg.ctvnews.ca/province-digitizing-centuries-old-trading-post-records-to-mark-manitoba-150-1.4317365

Research

Research Tool: American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) State Immunization Information System

“The AAFP has developed a web-based map that displays immunization rates and exemption laws in all 50 states, D.C.,
Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and Guam. In addition, our searchable IIS Registry database provides state-by-state regulations for immunization registries across the U.S. These tools provide immunization data that can help family physicians identify populations that may be at risk of vaccine-preventable diseases like measles and pertussis (whooping cough), determine what additional resources and/or programs are needed to increase immunization rates, determine how immunization exemptions affect their state immunization rates, and advocate for stronger immunization legislation in their communities."

**Freedom of Information**

**Deloitte Launches FOIA-Processing Software**

“One of FOIA's perennial head-scratchers is why agency FOIA offices seem able to search for and review only hundreds of pages of documents a month for release – even when under court order – when existing eDiscovery tools allow lawyers to review tens of thousands of pages of records in a comparable amount of time. Deloitte has launched a new FOIA-processing software based on eDiscovery tools for its government clients as a possible solution to this imbalance.”