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Column

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Editor's Corner

Laura Sare

Howdy everyone! My name is Laura Sare and I am the Government Information Librarian at Texas A&M University and your new *DttP* editor. I am looking forward to working with everyone to provide great articles about government information.

A little background about me, I have been working in the government information field for nineteen years now. I fell in love with government documents while working on my History thesis, which is when I discovered the State Department's *Foreign Relations of the United States*—this is still my favorite federal publication.

I am active in GODORT and the Technical Report Archive and Image Library (TRAIL) group and I am currently volunteering in the HathiTrust US State Government Documents 1923–1977 Copyright Review Program, so be on the lookout for state publications now available in full view in HathiTrust. Many of these state documents are really interesting and are great primary resources for people needing state level information.

Enough about me for now, time for some shout-outs.

Happy twenty-fifth anniversary to the Government Printing Office (GPO) Electronic Information Access Enhancement Act of 1993! This law moved government information access into the digital age. For more background see https://www.districtdispatch.org/2018/06/happy-birthday-gpo-access-act/.

I want to thank Elizabeth Psyck for all her hard work as editor these past years and helping me transition into this position. I also want to thank Tim Clifford, part of ALA's Production Services team, who gives all the professional polish to *DttP* and who is also helping me grasp the role of editor.

From the Chair

State of the Round Table

<div style="text-align:right">Hallie Pritchett</div>

A funny thing happened on my way to becoming GODORT chair: after ten years as the regional Federal Depository Library coordinator at the University of Georgia, I accepted a new job outside of the government documents community. As of June 28, 2018, I am the associate dean of libraries for research and learning at North Dakota State University. Obviously, my new job was not on my radar when I agreed to run for GODORT chair-elect in 2017. And while I am no longer a depository coordinator, I am still tangentially involved with the depository community. NDSU is a shared regional with the University of North Dakota, and our regional depository coordinator—Susanne Caro, formerly of the University of Montana—reports to me. In fact, Susanne is the GODORT chair-elect, which makes North Dakota the nexus of GODORT for the next few years. Not bad for a state that, according to the Census Bureau, ranks forty-seventh in population!

Moving halfway across the country and starting a new job is exciting, challenging, and nerve-wracking, often all at the same time. My move was unexpectedly complicated by surgery to repair a torn rotator cuff in late May, injured in a fall in early April; apparently you cannot put this type of surgery off, regardless of any life-changing events already on your calendar. Recovery from rotator cuff surgery is a long, drawn-out process that starts with having your arm immobilized for six weeks and continues with months of physical therapy (after eleven weeks, I can lift a one pound weight with my bad arm, which is considered excellent progress!). Unfortunately, the timing was such that I could not attend ALA's Annual Conference this year; trying to do anything, let alone travel, with just one good arm is at best an exercise in frustration. While both my recovery and my new job are going very well, I still cannot quite believe how many aspects of my life have changed in just a few short months.

That said, I have generally found change to be a good thing in the long run, stressful though it may be. One of the things I absolutely hate is hearing someone say "but we've always done it this way." For me, that is a giant red flag indicating that someone or something is stuck in a rut. One of the benefits of starting a new job is that you generally come in with fresh eyes and a fresh perspective. Sometimes that is all it takes to be able to affect change in an organization. Other times, affecting change takes more effort and different tactics than simply stating the obvious. Regardless of how it gets done, organizations need to embrace change or risk becoming obsolete.

While I have been a GODORT member for more than a decade, for a variety of reasons I was not active in our Round Table until fairly recently. Because I started my career as a map librarian, I was quite active in the ALA Map and Geospatial Information Round Table (MAGIRT) for several years, including serving a year as its chair. From there, I was appointed to the Depository Library Council and eventually served as its chair as well. Once I rotated off Council, I had planned to take some time off from my professional activities to focus on my job search. But after John Shuler's untimely passing in 2016, I was asked to step in as chair of GODORT's Legislation Committee; given the circumstances, I could not possibly say no. All of a sudden, I was right in the thick of GODORT, chairing a committee and serving as a member of the steering committee. I quickly realized that, as essentially an outsider to the inner workings of GODORT, I brought fresh eyes and a fresh perspective to the Round Table. In other words, I was someone who could affect change and help move GODORT forward.

I am certainly not the only person who can do that. Between our elected positions, committee members, task force coordinators, interest group leaders, and liaisons, more than seventy-five people are professionally active in GODORT this year, a statistic I find both amazing and inspiring. Yet while interest in and concern for government information in all formats is at an all-time high, GODORT's membership numbers have dropped considerably. This should be GODORT's time to shine; what needs to change to attract more members to GODORT?

That is the question I plan to answer in the coming year, with the help of everyone in our Round Table. Over the past few years GODORT has made tremendous strides to secure its future through reorganization; we are currently working to refresh and update our website, allowing us to finally abandon the obsolete wiki technology. But we cannot stop there. Change is hard, but necessary. If we cannot continue to change and evolve to meet the needs and expectations of our current and potential members, GODORT will become obsolete; there simply is no reason to let that happen. I invite all GODORT members to join me in embracing the change necessary to ensure that our Round Table continues to evolve and thrive. Working together, we can and will ensure that GODORT remains strong, vital, and relevant for years to come.

Documents without Borders

Dear International Organizations: Please Don't Delete Your Data

Jim Church

In the US government-information community, domestic issues dominate the conversation, as they arguably should. Yet at times I feel discouraged at how little traction international issues receive—the situation is just as serious, if not more so, than with the US Federal Depository Library Program. International organizations, including the United Nations, have been effectively ending depository programs and paywalling their publications, in spite of the UN Sustainable Development Goal 16, Target 10, to provide "access to information."[1] International government data is likewise under duress. While the proliferation of online international data has resulted in tremendous research gains, unless the data is deposited in trusted repositories and subjected to best practices, international organizations may alter or delete the data for a multitude of reasons. This is in fact what has happened.

The Human Development Index

The United Nations Development Program's (UNDP) *Human Development Report* is one of the UN's great success stories. In 1990 the inaugural issue was published in collaboration with Oxford University Press, and immediately attracted attention for its critical assessment of conventional development models and their reliance on GDP growth. Its most famous metric, the *Human Development Index* (HDI), was developed by Economist Mahbub ul Haq, a colleague of Amartya Sen who won the 1998 Nobel Prize in the Economics. Sen wrote a paper on the HDI methodology which remains on the UNDP website. The premise of the index, which takes into account factors such as life expectancy, knowledge, and a decent standard of living, is one of human choice or "development as freedom." As Sen says, "It is the lives people lead that is of intrinsic importance, not the commodities or income that they happen to possess."[2]

I use this data often, and in 2015 I was disturbed to notice that some of the annual data had vanished. From 1990 to 2010 the online tabular data was only available in ten and five-year intervals, and finding the five-year data was difficult.[3] Concerned, I asked some colleagues: no-one knew. At a meeting at the Academic Council of the United Nations System in 2016, I attended a panel with representatives from the UN Statistics

Division and the UNDP and asked about this. The UNDP representative replied the annual data had been removed because of changes to the methodology. As it turns out, changes to the HDI have been numerous and well-documented by academics,[4] with some stating the index is not comparable over time as a result.[5] In the 2016 Human Development "Reader's Guide" the UNDP admits as much and states, "the values and ranks presented in this Report are not comparable to those published in earlier editions" and refers users to the five-year tables.[6] For a time, the only access to the annual data was through the statistical tables in the print and online *Human Development Reports*.

These methodological changes may have been important innovations. But what should concern us is the UNDP's removal and revision of globally cited data because of new methodologies. Official government data should not simply be removed or overwritten: when revisions are necessary the obsolete data should be archived as discrete data files. Any methodological changes should be clearly specified in documentation that can be easily found.[7] Ideally for each change there should be a specific dated version, with documentation, on a single webpage or directory.

The annual HDI data has since resurfaced on the UNDP web site, it is not clear as to when the current annual data was revised, if users should consult the five-year intervals, or if the entire index is unreliable for chronicling historical development trends. The only apparent way to construct the HDI over time is to consult the data in the annual yearbooks or to search the Internet Archive for prior data files. Because the UNDP often published their data via dynamically generated databases (which cannot yet be web archived) this can be a daunting task.

The UNCTAD *World Investment Directory* and Country Profiles

In the 1990's the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) *World Investment Report* was the hottest international document around: it had data on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) at a time when the growth of international capital flows were taking off. Lesser known was the UNCTAD *World Investment Directory*, a series of regional volumes with more detailed bilateral FDI data: flows of direct investment data between two countries, at times by economic sector. Altogether there are ten World Investment Directories, but out of these only three are now available on the UNCTAD website. I have searched for the other seven editions and cannot locate them on any archive. This is unfortunate because two of these volumes were about Asia, which was attracting the most FDI at the time.

Several years later, UNCTAD released a series of *Investment Country Profiles* with similar data. For these publications there is solid evidence of take-downs: the current site lists 24 profiles published between 2011 and 2013,[8] while on the Internet Archive there are 124 of them.[9] UNCTAD has apparently removed 100 out of 124 of these publications. The distinguishing feature of the remaining ones seems to be their attractive tables and color covers. To make matters more confusing, UNCTAD now publishes a series of "General" and "Maritime" country profiles. These are not the same.

The *Investment Country Profiles* were not exactly best-sellers. Typically between twenty to forty pages in length, they were mostly tables. But some of these little booklets included "FDI flows in the host economy, by geographical origin" for small developing economies. That is hard to find and of great interest to researchers working on country investment policies. Interestingly, UNCTAD now publishes a very useful series of "Bilateral FDI Statistics,"[10] but users must download the data one country at a time on separate excel sheets. This data is not available on the main UNCTAD statistics portal, UNCTADStat, where most users will look.

I cannot understand why UNCTAD keeps doing this. Their most interesting data disappears, only to pop up elsewhere in formats that are difficult to find and use. This especially pains me because UNCTAD presents data on topics few governments acknowledge—"creative services" for example. UNCTAD also offers us an international economic counter-culture distinguished from its more neoliberal brethren. In 2014, the IMF and other governments implemented new guidelines for FDI data based on the sixth edition of the IMF *Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual*. The revised guidelines categorize FDI as assets and liabilities, not inward and outward investments, showing FDI flowing in and out of countries. This may make sense for budgetary analysis, but for policy-making the "directional principle" of investment is much more interesting and useful. Thankfully, UNCTAD still uses the prior methodology. More about this later.

The International Labour Organization: Laborsta and ILOSTAT

I was recently helping a student locate gender wage data for countries around the world.[11] Surprisingly this is not easy to find: many countries distribute periodic labor surveys to determine wage/earnings levels, but it's a tall order to compile these into one database facilitating cross-country comparisons. The International Labour Organization (ILO) has done an admirable job of this. But in December 2013, the ILO implemented a new statistical data system, *ILOSTAT*, replacing the historic *LABORSTA* database. *ILOSTAT* is much better organized and documented, but I was puzzled because there were significant gaps in the data. Searching diligently for other sources, I finally looked at the Labor section of the UN Statistics Portal (*UN Data*). There we found the UN Statistics Division had archived much of the historic ILO data going back to the 1970s, and were able to find additional data.

This concerned me, so I wrote to the ILO to ask why there were gaps. The first thing they said was, "The data from *LABORSTA* are completely obsolete and should not be used" and they would write to the UN to check (the data is still there). They also noted, "a massive cleaning exercise was done when moving data from LABORSTA to ILOSTAT and this is why some data can be missing in ILOSTAT compared to the previous system."[12]

I am sure the older data had problems. But this made me shudder. It first of all shows a serious lack of coordination between intergovernmental organization (IGO) statistical offices. Why did it take an academic librarian to notice this? Why is the current ILO data not on the UN web portal while the old data remains—evidently against the ILO's wishes? Did the UN Statistics Division intentionally archive the data, or was this just inertia? None of us should feel good about either scenario, but if it is the latter, here's to inertia: we could never have found the older data without it. By all means fellow librarians, when our governments decide that data is "obsolete" archive it—or urge your institutions to do so. And going forward, IGO statisticians, please don't undertake any massive cleanings of your data without archiving, publishing and documenting the prior versions.

The IMF Balance of Payments Manual

In the entry for "Balance of Payments" in the first edition of the *Concise Library of Economics and Liberty*, economist Herbert Stein quipped "few subjects in economics have caused so much confusion—and so much groundless fear—in the past four hundred years as the thought that a country might have a deficit in its balance of payments."[13] This is amusing and still true. The Balance of Payments (BoP) is the record of all transactions between residents of one country with another, including direct investment abroad and international trade. Changes made to the way the BoP is calculated can dramatically alter its usefulness. In 2014, as noted above, some countries and International Organizations adopted the revised IMF guidelines for the compilation of FDI data. The IMF now calculates on an asset/liability basis instead of the directional principle (inward or outward). As UNCTAD notes in the FDI information note on UNCTADStat:

While the presentation on an asset/liability basis is appropriate for macroeconomic analysis (i.e. the impact on the balance of payments), the presentation on directional principle is more appropriate to assist policymakers and government officials to formulate investment policies. *This is because the presentation of the FDI data on directional basis reflects the direction of influence by the foreign direct investor underlying the direct investment.*[14] (author's emphasis).

UNCTAD goes on to say that "the absence of information on FDI on the directional basis may even hamper policymakers from making appropriate decisions and formulating investment policies for development."[15] I am very glad, as I am sure others are as well, that UNCTAD continues to use the directional method.

The fear that powerful countries may exert a sinister political influence on their direct investment recipients is a long-standing one, at times leading to accusations of neocolonialism: I leave that debate to the pundits and professors. But what concerns me is the online wiping of historical government data due to changes to statistical methodology. You cannot go to the IMF BoP online tabular data now and find a historical table for "Brazil—Direct Investment Abroad" or "Direct Investment in China." It is now an asset or a liability. In order to document when this happened, I consulted the print yearbooks: the change seems to have taken place in 2013, but the online data has been recalculated as far back as I can tell. If users want to access the historic data in tabular format (as opposed to PDFs) they need to use the historic IMF CDs or DVDs or a commercial service such as IHS *Global Insight*. I hope I am wrong here and would love to be so proven, but I don't think so.

Conclusion

Perhaps all this should not bother me, but it does: I hate it when online data just vanishes, or reappears with new names. It needs to stop. The best practice would be for IGOs to document and explain changes to methodologies where users are likely to first encounter the data. IGOs should never delete renowned data cited by researchers the world over: in the interest of reproducibility and transparency, the historical versions should be archived as discrete files, with dates and documentation for each version.[16] A perusal of the practices undertaken by the Data verse Network, ICPSR, and other data archives, and spelled out in the Data Seal of Approval could serve as a first step to ensure that data created by international organizations[17]—not to mention national governments—remains both accessible and usable.

Acknowledgment

References

1. See "Sustainable Development Goal 16," Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform, 2017, https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg16, target 10.

2. Amartya Sen and Sushi Annand, "Human Development Index: Methodology and Measurement" (paper written in preparation for the 1994 Human Development Report): http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/human-development-index-methodology-and-measurement, p. 1.

3. See "Human Development Data (1980–2015)," United Nations Human Development Programme, Internet Archive Wayback Machine, March 1, 2017, https://web.archive.org/web/20170301010747/http://www.hdr.undp.org/en/data. This only has five-year intervals starting from 1990, and annual after 2010.

4. Stephen Morse, "Stirring the Pot. Influence of Changes in Methodology of the Human Development Index on Reporting by the Press," *Ecological Indicators* 45 (October 2014): 245–54, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecolind.2014.04.023.

5. Jean Claude Saha, "Comparability over Time of the Human Development Index: A Shapley Value Approach," *Canadian Journal of Development Studies* 28, no. 3/4 (2009): 475–87, https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1080/02255189.2009.9669225.

6. United Nations Development Programme, "HDR 2016 Reader's Guide," http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/hdr-2016-readers-guide.

7. The UNDP documents methodological changes in their Human Development Reports. But these are not obvious for data users and it took an entire research article to summarize them all.

8. See "Investment Country Profiles," United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, accessed September 25, 2017, http://unctad.org/en/Pages/Publications/Investment-country-profiles.aspx.

9. See "Search by Country/Economy," United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Internet Archive Wayback Machine, May 14, 2008, https://web.archive.org/web/20080514004529/http://www.unctad.org/Templates/Page.asp?intItemID=3198&lang=1.

10. See "Bilateral FDI Statistics," United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, April 2014, http://unctad .org/en/Pages/DIAE/FDI%20Statistics/FDI-Statistics -Bilateral.aspx.

11. Technically "earnings" data. Earnings can include income from sources other than employment.

12. Personal email communication from the ILO Statistics office dated April 11, 2018.

13. Herbert Stein, "Balance of Payments," in *Concise Encyclopedia of Economics*, ed. David R. Henderson, http://www .econlib.org/library/Enc/BalanceofPayments.html.

14. See "Foreign Direct Investment: Inward and Outward Flows and Stock, Annual," United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, accessed September 25, 2018, http://unctadstat.unctad.org/wds/TableViewer/tableView .aspx?ReportId=96740. Click the "i" icon next to the word "annual" in the table title.

15. See "Methodological Note," World Investment Report 2016, http://unctad.org/en/PublicationChapters/wir2016 chMethodNote_en.pdf, p. 5.

16. The World Bank has done a commendable job: see "World Development Indicators," World Bank, 2018, https://data.worldbank.org/products/wdi. However, not all the data files have readme.txt files.

17. See "Assessment," Data Seal of Approval, accessed September 25, 2018, https://www.datasealofapproval.org/en /assessment/.

Unspooling the Legacy of Submarine Cables

M. Wynn Tranfield

Submarine cables represent an invisible yet crucial infrastructure that enable all manner of global communication. Despite their impact, they are seldom a matter of public interest or debate. Further, they are uniquely represented in state, federal, and international legislation. Throughout history, legislative concerns surrounding submarine cables have shifted from colonial monopolies to environmental health and national security. The following document examines the evolution of submarine cables from the first transatlantic copper wire cable to the present fiber-optic cable boom through the legislative lens.

Over 95 percent of all international communications are routed through submarine cables, which are an almost invisible infrastructure upon which global trade depends.[1] There are more than a million kilometers of cables linking every continent except Antarctica like threads in a web. The first cable crossing relied on a single copper wire insulated with gutta-percha, a latex derivative, and has since evolved into fiber optics that can accommodate streaming video in the blink of an eye.[2] Submarine cables have also been uniquely protected and promoted by international treaties since 1884. They are a resource that has fueled globalization, enabling rapid communication over long distances.

In 1866, the first transatlantic cable opened the doors for telegraphic globalization and long-term social changes (see figure 1). At first, telegram prices were so high that functional use was limited to government, business, or otherwise elite patrons.[3] British colonial powers were primary drivers, incentivized by both improved communication with colonies and monopolized access to raw materials, namely rubber. The rubber was necessary for cable insulation. Thus, as cable routes expanded they followed the trade routes of British colonial powers. Increasing globalization cemented the need for reliable communication. As fiber optics and the World Wide Web have expanded, demand for cable use routes have grown and diversified. We are

in the midst of a "cable boom," as countries and telecommunication companies rush to supply bandwidth to users. Large software companies like Facebook and Microsoft are also taking the plunge, investing in their own proprietary submarine cables. Demand for international bandwidth doubled from 2014 to 2016 and is steadily increasing.[4]

The geographies of cable landing sites can be complex and have an impact on the surrounding environment. Their installation and maintenance alone can cause serious habitat disruptions, particularly to benthic species or larger mammals that traverse oceanic zones. During the 1950s, it was not uncommon for whales to get tangled in lightweight telegraph cables.[5] Presently, modern cables are engineered to be heavy enough to rest on the seafloor without tangling but remain approximately the width of a garden hose (see figure 2). The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the International Cable Protection Committee (ICPC) have laid out international directives for cable-laying and suggested treatments. However, many of the more fragile coastline habitats fall within territorial waters. In the United States, there is a rich history of legislation and reports detailing submarine cables from their infancy until around 1920. Following that, there was a long silence until the 1990s when our understandings of environmental protection called for stronger legislation in that arena. Permitting is an ongoing concern which has been passed through the hands of several federal bodies and requires the input of many disparate departments. The following document examines the history of submarine cables through the lens of United States legislation, from British domination to our present privatized boom.

Regulations—Historic

The first mention of submarine cables in United States government legislation arose in 1884 when President Grover Cleveland issued a proclamation acknowledging a legal precedent for reimbursed repair work following negligent or willful

Figure 1. Chart of the much-hailed Atlantic Telegraph Wire linking Ireland and Newfoundland. William J. Barker, *Chart of the Submarine Atlantic Telegraph* (Philadelphia: W.J. Barker & R.K. Kuhns, 1858), map, retrieved from the Library of Congress, https://www.loc.gov/item/2013593216/.

disruption of a cable.[6] The Submarine Cables Act of 1886 states that any person who attempts or succeeds at injuring a submarine cable so as to "interrupt or embarrass" the telegraphic communication is guilty of a misdemeanor offense and liable to a fine or imprisonment.[7] Negligent injury, such as that caused by an errant fishing net, is considered a misdemeanor. A treaty was ratified in 1886 and eventually recognized by the majority of coastal governments involved in global trade, including France, Brazil, and Japan.[8] This treaty has been updated to reflect advances in cable technology and inflation, but the intentions of the legislation remain identical.[9]

President Cleveland saw the importance of maintaining close relations with British-controlled telegraph companies (see figure 3). In the Atlantic, a price war ensued between the three main players (Telcon, the Anglo-American Telegraph Co., and Western Union Telegraph Co.) to see who could provide the lowest rates. Each company underbid the next, nearly to the detriment of the entire industry.[10] The Sherman Anti-Trust Act of 1890 addressed price-fixing, but Cleveland saw the need for more control over future cable endeavors.[11] He established a precedent that citizens of the United States should "stand on the same footing" as citizens of other terminus countries with regard to priority and cost of message.[12] Since cable

communication was swiftly becoming a necessity, it would be a catastrophic mistake for the American people to become subject to the whims of an industrial baron.

The turn of the century saw a push for more cable development beyond the Atlantic theatre into the Pacific. In a statement to the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, J. A. Scrymser, president of the Pacific Cable Company, asked for the contract to what would eventually become the first Pacific cable. The cable was slated to connect the West Coast to the Hawaiian Islands, then on to China and Australia.[13] At the time, 120,000 of the 160,000 miles of submarine cables in operation were owned by Great Britain or British subsidiaries. Only 22,000 miles were under US control.[14] The cable was eventually completed by the Pacific Cable Company; however, further legislative hearings reflect a long tail of claims against the US Navy by the Pacific Cable Co. for damaging the cable at landing sites around Hawaii and other Pacific islands.[15]

In 1917 President Woodrow Wilson issued an executive order addressing the state of war between the United States and Germany. Wilson decried that all companies or persons owning, controlling, or operating telecommunication-related submarine cables are prohibited from transmitting messages to points outside the continental United States or "on or near" the
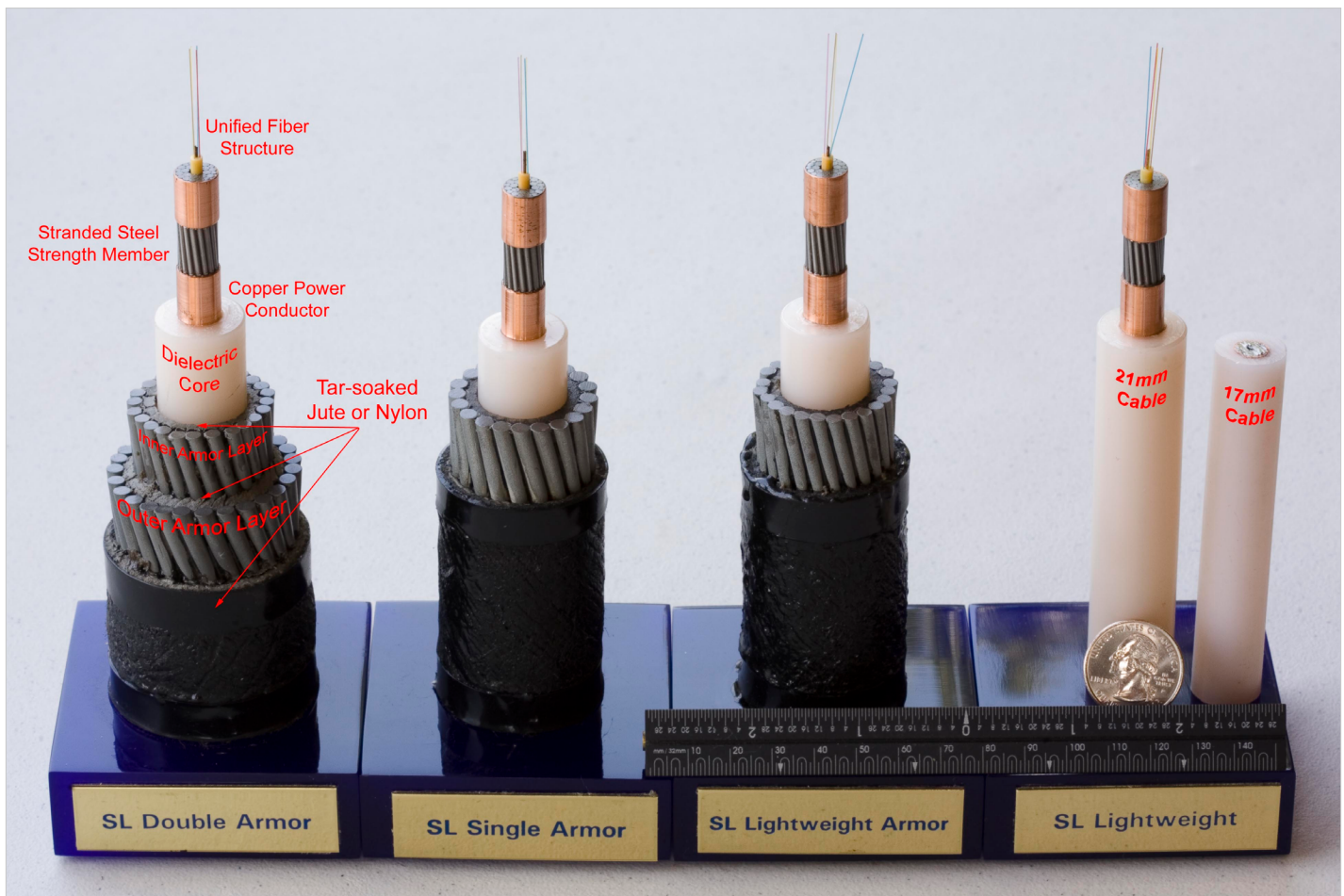
Figure 2. Modern fiber-optic cables. The light-weight (right) cables are typically used in the deep ocean. Armored cables (left) are used on coastlines. Lonnie Hagadorn, *Submarine Optical Cables*, 2009, Wikimedia Commons. Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International. https://commons .wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Submarine_Optical_Cables.jpg.

Mexican border.[16] This was also the first indication that cables could be used as an espionage tool. The Secretary of War and Secretary of the Navy were given exemptions, and able to operate the cable at their own discretion. The United State government established the full authority to control cable landings in 1921 through the Kellogg Act.[17] The Kellogg Act resulted in at least one instance of a naval intervention to block the unlawful landing of a Western Union Telegraph Co. cable linking Barbados to Miami Beach.[18] Perhaps sensing the need for more oversight, President Warren G. Harding issued an order in 1921, directing permissions for all new cable landings to go through the Secretary of State.[19] This was amended in 1934 to transfer permissions to the newly created Federal Communications Commission (FCC).[20] Further authorization for the FCC to address permits was provided by Executive Order 10530 in 1954.[21]

The Present

There was little attention paid to submarine cables from the 1960s into the 1990s, largely because of static technological development. What changed was the number of influencing regulatory agencies with vested coastline interests. The formation of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) was compelled by the Marine Resources and Engineering Development Act of 1966,[22] when a number of agencies associated with the marine wildlife, safety, and resource development joined under one umbrella. Upon its formation, President Richard Nixon elected to nest it within the Department of Commerce instead of the Department of the Interior, allegedly as payback to the head of the Department of Interior for his comments about the Vietnam War.[23] President Obama joked that this was why we had one agency that monitored salmon in fresh water and a completely different one that monitored salmon in salt water.[24] NOAA is essentially an environmental agency, although it is nested within an agency whose express purpose is to help the American economy grow.
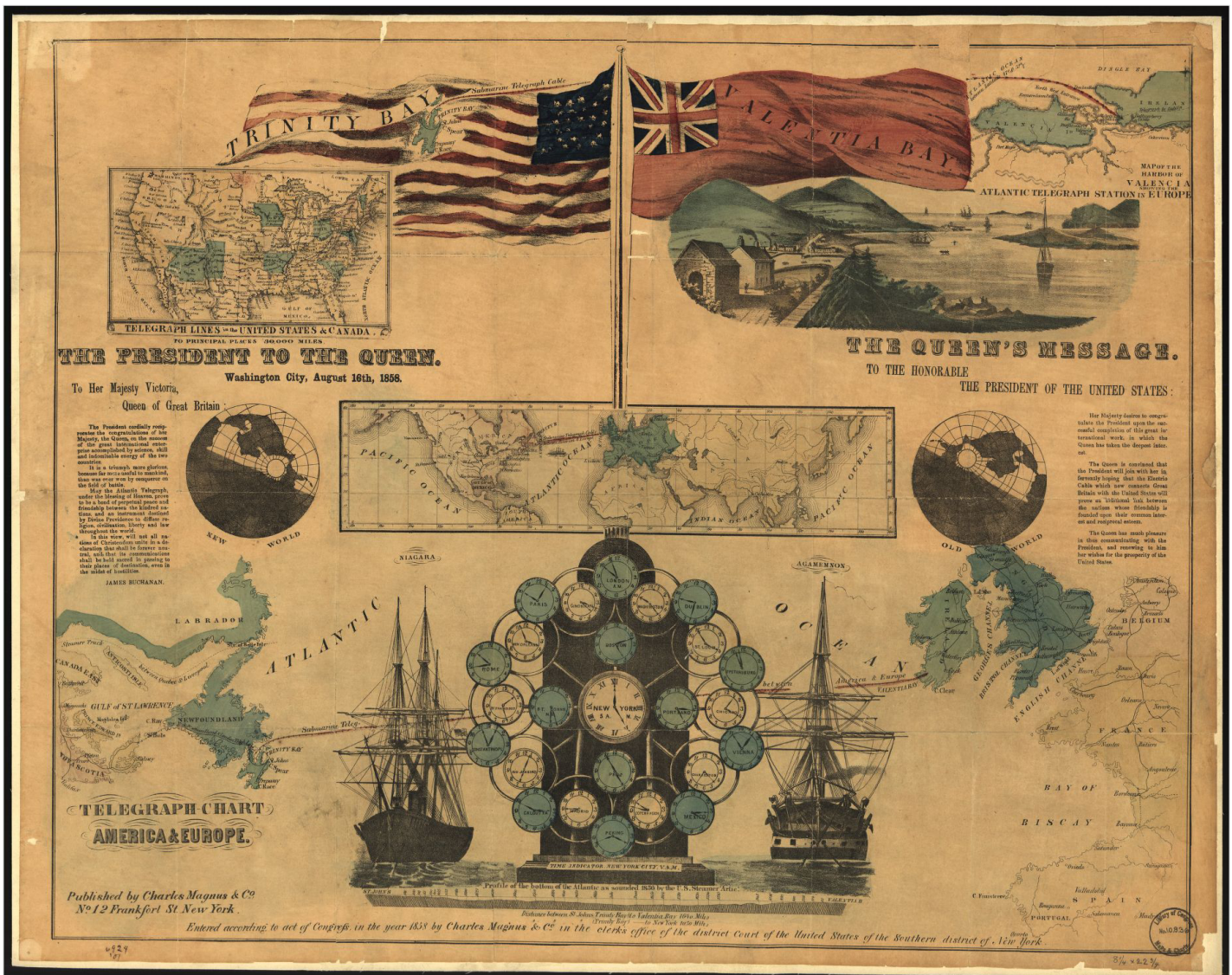
Figure 3. In the early years of the Transatlantic cable, both sides of the ocean were thrilled with the prosperity promised by expedient communication. Charles Magnus & Co., *Telegraph Chart, America and Europe* [S.l, 1858], map, retrieved from the Library of Congress, https://www.loc.gov/item/99466769/.

The NOAA oversees the National Marine Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (NMSA), forcing the Secretary of Commerce to designate and protect "significant" marine areas.[25] Within those areas, approvals and regulations for submarine cable-laying are delegated to NOAA before they can be approved by the FCC. Currently, there are fourteen designated marine sanctuaries subject to NMSA Special Use permissions and monitoring. If a submarine cable laying permit is requested, NMSA authorizes NOAA to conduct Environmental Impact Assessments and issue discretionary permits for the "placement and recovery of objects associated with public or private events on non-living substrate of the submerged lands of any national marine sanctuary" and "the continued presence of commercial submarine cables on or within the submerged lands of any national marine sanctuary."[26] NOAA may also request a "fair market value" fee

for continued monitoring and administrative fees associated with marine sanctuary monitoring.[27]

Also listed under the NOAA umbrella are requirements to adhere to regulations outlined in the Endangered Species Act and Marine Mammal Protection Act. The Endangered Species Act prevents the "taking" of an endangered species, broadly defined as the harassment, pursuit, hunting, shooting, wounding, killing, trapping, capturing, or collecting of specimens.[28] The Marine Mammal Protection Act takes this a step farther by protecting marine mammals from externalities such as elevated noise levels and increased traffic. Cables can participate in the "taking" of endangered species or mammals by increasing noise and traffic during installation, disturbing sediments, and tying up kelp.[29]

Overlapping all permitting and exceptions is the Antiquities Act, which allows the President of the United States to declare federal lands as national monuments.[30] The land must have some significant natural, cultural, or scientific value in order to qualify.[31] In fact, the largest such monument is the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument surrounding the Hawaiian Archipelago, established June 2006.[32] Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument is automatically considered a Marine Sanctuary, subject to additional environmental protections.

The first transatlantic fiber-optic cable laid in 1988 pioneered what would become an eventual 1.25 million kilometers of fiber-optic cables added over the next twenty-five years to support the modern internet.[33] This development renewed political and environmental interest at a global level. The document governing the majority of Earth's surface is provided by the United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), which came into effect in 1994.[34] Broadly, the Convention outlines the rights and responsibilities of nations sharing use of the ocean as a resource and defines International Maritime Boundaries. The Convention recognized existing agreements governing submarine cables,[35] submarine cables on the continental shelf,[36] and the rights of a country or corporation to lay submarine cables and receive compensation for losses.[37] This means an archipelagic state or group of states, such as the Antilles in the Caribbean Sea, must respect the existing cables that traverse their waters without making landfall, and permit maintenance and replacement of the cable as the owner sees fit. Fundamentally, UNCLOS reinforces the "Freedom of the High Seas," permitting any nation, coastal or landlocked, to lay submarine cables in International waters.[38]

Although the United States remains the only maritime power to have not officially ratified UNCLOS due to disagreements over deep-sea mining constraints,[39] they otherwise practice de-facto compliance. Details of the cable landing requirements are outlined in greater detail by the FCC, who acknowledge that there are many additional application and certification requirements depending on the nationality of the applicant and state of proposed landing.[40] For example, in the United States a number of states have chosen to exercise their rights under the Submerged Lands Act of 1953, extending state's rights three nautical miles from shore.[41] Overlapping the Submerged Lands Act of 1953 is the Coastal Zone Management
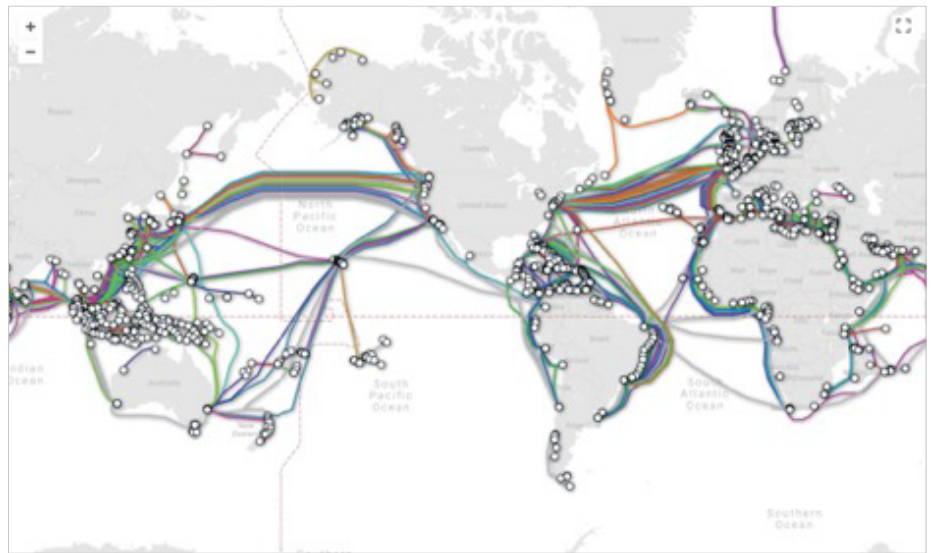
Figure 4. Current snapshot of the Global Submarine Cable Landscape. TeleGeography, *Submarine Cables*, March 2018, TeleGeography. Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs 3.0 Unported License, https://www.submarinecablemap.com.

Act of 1972, which allows states the authority to review federal activities affecting land or water use.[42] Environmental Impact Assessments are expected. Due to these overlapping jurisdictions, the FCC suggests that applicants be vigilant and submit applications at least six months in advance.[43]

The Future

For a company to receive permission to land a telecommunications cable with a non-continental terminus on the shore of the United States, the company must complete a great deal of paperwork. First, they must receive permits from the coastal state in question, clear NOAA requirements, and finally receive permission from the Federal Communications Commission. It is not an easy process, but it is a relatively private process and one that does not call for public input.[44] Once the cable is laid, their notation on nautical charts is wholly at the discretion of NOAA.[45] Despite how vital cables are, there is very little public discussion about regulations and physical presence. There may never be a public mention of a tangible connection between continents. It is ironic that cable infrastructure is so poorly communicated about, yet so necessary for global communication (see figure 4).

This may be changing as lawmakers become increasingly aware of national security concerns associated with cable facilities. Recently, the FCC passed a ruling requiring submarine cable licensees to formally report outages, or "a failure or significant degradation in the performance of a licensee's cable service regardless of whether the traffic can be re-routed to an alternate path."[46] This data was previously collected on an ad-hoc basis, leaving questions about infrastructure vulnerabilities. This may

also be due to increasing security concerns. A recent US Army War College Strategy Research Report addresses the dependence of international voice and data traffic on the well-being of the cables. The greatest threats to cables appear to come from mariners who inadvertently drag nets along the ocean floor.[47]

Conclusion

The value of the submarine cable to modern life cannot be understated, yet we are only beginning to see this supported in legislation and the public record. There has been a massive amount of time, energy, capital, and labor invested in maintaining these cable networks and their infrastructures.[48] They are the literal threads that bind the globe, and rare examples of successful international treaty-making. The early transatlantic years are a thoughtful look back into a world yet to be globalized, startled by a technology that could transmit a message faster than a swift horse. Early messages were priced by the word, too expensive for the layperson. Yet a mere century later, we can easily exchange live video feeds around the world. While past legislation regulated monopolies, landing permissions, and damages, today's legislation attempts to balance long-term geopolitical and environmental interests while supporting economic and technological development. It will be interesting to revisit this topic in the future to determine the impact of cybersecurity concerns on legislative decisions.

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Veterans (Librarians) Helping Veterans

Tom Adamich

Libraries serving veterans and veterans' needs is not a new concept. More than 120,000 libraries across the United States support veterans by providing "safe places where people care and want to help, and where core professional values of respect and confidentiality are upheld."[1] This role defines not only the inherent service mission of libraries in general, but also the democratic and inclusive qualities that library workers strive to uphold daily.

Library Support for the Veteran and Military Communities

There have been a number of recent efforts by library workers to provide spaces, services, collections, and programming specifically aimed at patrons from the veteran and military communities. Roy et al. found that "libraries of all sizes and locations offer services tailored for patrons who are veterans and their family members."[2] Many of these initiatives originate at the individual library level. The High Springs Branch Library of the Alachua County Library District, for example, partnered with the veteran service organization Help Heal Veterans to host a therapeutic craft kit program for local veterans.[3] Another example is the University of Utah, where library workers developed displays of student veterans in the library in order to "inform and educate the campus about the experience of their veteran classmates."[4]

Although many libraries have been supporting the veteran and military communities at the local level, there are limitations to this approach. Library workers interested in developing programs and services for the veteran and military communities may have to develop their approach from scratch. Members of the veteran and military communities are also likely to find that availability of programming or services may be uneven from one library to another. Fortunately, there are recent initiatives to provide services, and establish guidelines and best practices, for serving veterans at the state or national level. The Library of Congress's Veteran History Project, for example, engages libraries, educators, and other stakeholders at the national level to collect and submit veteran oral histories for preservation and research.[5] Another national initiative is the Institute for Museum and Library Services' (IMLS) Community Salute project, which developed a series of white papers aimed at developing and sharing best practices for libraries interested in working with the veteran and military communities.[6]

Veterans Connect @ the Library

One major effort toward engaging veteran and military communities in libraries can be found in the State of California,

where IMLS funds Veterans Connect @ the Library. The project is administered by the State Library, and the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet) is the chief partner. The project's purpose is to make sure that 1.8 million veterans in California, the highest in the country, receive their benefits. It is estimated that only approximately 20 percent of veterans utilize their benefits, and libraries' roles as service centers within the community put them in an ideal position to help connect veterans with those resources. There are currently fifty-seven Veteran Resource Centers in public libraries in California, and there have been more than 30,000 interactions with veterans and their family members.

Libraries and volunteers work in partnership with CalVet, County Veteran Service Offices, and local veteran service organizations. The project mission is to make veterans aware of vital resources and to send them to agencies that can help them claim and better utilize the benefits to which they are entitled. Library Veteran Resource Centers are staffed by trained volunteers, often veterans themselves. In addition to providing information about benefits, these libraries provide usual patron

services, including assisting veterans on their resumes and job applications, helping them set up and access email and providing guidance with research on health, housing, education, and employment.

Veterans are served locally, and libraries are actively engaged in their communities. Library workers participate in regional stand downs for homeless veterans (http://nchv.org/index.php /service/service/stand_down/), coordinate or assist at veteran job fairs, and are active on local community veteran councils. Libraries also create and deliver well-attended programs specific to veterans, including job-search and résumé-writing workshops, book and film clubs, computer-skills classes, financial literacy for veterans, and veteran panel presentations.

The Veterans Connect @ the Library website (https:// calibrariesforveterans.org/index.html) features resources that include the online edition of *Federal Benefits for Veterans, Dependents, and Survivors*, the California Veterans Resource Book, a map of CalVet liaisons in California, as well as other important guides, forms, and links.[7]

The ALA Veteran Caucus Membership Initiative Group (MIG)

Although initiatives such as IMLS's Community Salute and Veterans Connect @ the Library have furthered discussions of how to best serve the veteran and military communities, ALA does not currently offer a space dedicated to this conversation. Accordingly, a group of library workers led by Sarah LeMire, an Army veteran and librarian at Texas A&M University, initiated a petition in July 2018 to create a Veteran Caucus Membership Initiative Group.

The Veteran Caucus, according to its Statement of Purpose, is intended to be "an Association-wide, national initiative built by a network of veteran- and military-affiliated library workers, trustees, supporters, and partners from government, private industry, academia, and civil society."[8] The library workers behind the Veteran Caucus petition envision the organization as a space for library workers from all types of libraries to discuss their efforts toward serving veterans and military communities. One goal of the Veteran Caucus, for instance, is to develop a cultural competency toolkit for working with the veteran and military communities. This toolkit will help library workers "identify potential pitfalls when working with the veteran and military communities and also share best practices for effective outreach, programming, and policies."[9]

In addition to supporting library workers who work with the veteran and military communities, the Veteran Caucus aims to support and recruit library workers who are veterans and members of military communities. Veterans often feel an affinity toward other former service members, and many veterans miss the camaraderie they experienced in the military. Although there is little information about the number of veterans who work in libraries, the Veteran Caucus intends to create a space for library workers who are veterans, allowing them to find each other and develop their own community. The Veteran Caucus will also to encourage library workers who are veterans to further support their military communities through their libraries. This is a personal ethos for the Veteran Caucus leadership team, several of whom are veterans themselves. Many also have other ties to military communities.

Military Veterans as Library Workers— GODORT Member Profile

Veteran Caucus anticipates finding members from virtually every ALA division and round table, but one group that may include a disproportionate number of library workers who are veterans, or who serve veterans, is GODORT. In its mission to serve government information needs, ALA GODORT members, including those members who administer and contribute as FDLP coordinators have been frequent and natural partners in providing veterans with information, particularly information created and produced by the US Department of Veterans Affairs. ALA GODORT members are also experienced in connecting veterans with federal agency resources and services, which may include the US Office of Personnel Management, Department of Homeland Security, and the Office of Management and Budget. GODORT has experience supporting the development of early career librarians by participating in the ALA Emerging Leaders program since 2015. This background in professional support provides great potential for GODORT to serve as a key partner in the Veteran Caucus. It is in that spirit that GODORT member, and veteran-as-librarian, Sean Buckner is profiled in this article. His experience reflects the benefits of encouraging veterans to join the government information profession.

Please tell us about yourself.

My name is Sean Buckner and I am the digital preservation librarian at Texas A&M University. I came to Texas A&M over three years ago from the University of Utah where I worked as the digital preservation systems coordinator for two years. I received my MS in Information from the University

of Michigan in 2012. I also hold BA and MA degrees in Linguistics from Brigham Young University and the University of Utah respectively. Additionally, I hold a TESOL Certificate (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) and I taught English in Chile for a number of years. I am fluent in Spanish and have studied languages such as Arabic, Japanese, German, Pashto, and Italian. I am a father of four and we all share some Latin American background.

Please tell us about your military career.

I joined the Army in my early thirties and have served for over sixteen years in the Army National Guard. The entirety of my career I have worked in military intelligence, primarily as an Arabic or Spanish linguist. In 2008, I deployed to Afghanistan where I served for a year. My father, wife, and brother all served in the Army, while another brother, a brother-in-law, and my son currently serve in the Air Force.

Please tell us about your library education and career to date.

As I stated earlier, I received my librarian degree in 2012 and was very fortunate to be able, upon graduation, to immediately begin working in the area of my choice, digital preservation. After two years working at the J. Willard Marriott Library at the University of Utah helping to implement the Ex Libris Rosetta digital preservation system and develop interoperable workflows with other content management systems,[10] I was happy to accept a faculty position (trailing my wife, a fellow librarian and veteran herself) at the Texas A&M University Libraries. Becoming a Digital Preservation Librarian was a dream job for me and at A&M I was given the charge of developing a digital preservation program for the Libraries. I now work with Archivematica, DuraCloud, and the Digital Preservation Network (DPN), while managing content on numerous local server spaces, in order to preserve the Libraries's sizeable digital collections.

How has your role as an armed services professional contributed to your work as a librarian?

Believe it or not, I see my military and library occupations as similar in many ways. "Intelligence" is simply a military term for "information," and in either position, it has been my job to gather or process information and make it available to those who need it. Granted, my military role isn't one of preservation per se, nor does my library role come with as many inherent dangers, inconveniences, or severe outcomes, but the core task is one of managing data and providing accurate information, mostly in digital form. Attributes and skills that I have gained

from my military service that contribute to my success as a librarian include attention to detail, accuracy, and thoroughness; leadership, collaboration, and interpersonal skills; as well as reliability, responsiveness, and perspective. I am also appreciative of my supervisor and library administrators who are patient and supportive of my continued service, understanding that I have to deal with demands and time commitments from the Army that have occasionally taken me away from my work and family for days, weeks, or even months at a time.

Describe your experience as an ALA Emerging Leader.

I was honored to be accepted as a 2016 Emerging Leader (EL), and further honored to be sponsored financially by GODORT for that year. The EL program brings early career library professionals together to develop collaborative skills by working in small groups on a project proposed by any one of ALA's various organizations. I was glad to be chosen to work on a project submitted by the International Relations Round Table (IRRT) that had major preservation considerations. Over the course of six months or so, my fellow team members and I developed web content on disaster planning for libraries around the world,[11] which we also shared in a poster presented at the 2016 ALA Annual Conference.[12] The EL program additionally attempts to provide participants with subsequent opportunities for committee work within ALA while endorsing equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) throughout the library profession. I am grateful to GODORT for selecting and sponsoring me, and I have been a member ever since.

How has the ALA Emerging Leaders Program contributed to your success as a librarian?

I'd say my greatest take-away from the EL program was a novice understanding of how important EDI is to the library field. I learned a lot from my EL experience, but a piqued interest in EDI issues has had the greatest effect on my nascent career. I followed up my EL experience by attending the Minnesota Institute for Early Career Librarians (MIECL) from Traditionally Underrepresented Groups. Like EL, MIECL is a selective process and I was fortunate to be accepted. My participation in MIECL gave me an even deeper understanding of the need for EDI and a greater appreciation for the intrinsic value and strength of EDI in the field.

Describe your experiences as an ALA GODORT member.

As a GODORT member, for two years I served on the Rare and Endangered Government Publications (REGP) Committee,

which also has strong preservation considerations. I've also attended GODORT presentations and sessions at the ALA Annual Conference and have followed topics of interest on listserv threads. But I haven't had a larger role within the Round Table as the majority of my ALA service has been in the Preservation and Reformatting Section (PARS) of ALCTS.

How has your membership in GODORT contributed to your success as a librarian?

What I have gleaned from my GODORT service and exposure, I have eagerly applied in working on our library's Government Documents Digitization Initiative (GDDI), where I've had a small but key role in the workflow to digitize our government documents, save and preserve the digital files, and make them accessible online as part of the HathiTrust US Federal Government Documents Program. Also, GODORT has given me opportunities to serve and learn in areas outside of day-to-day digital preservation duties, which I believe has helped me to become a more well-rounded and better-informed librarian.

What, in your opinion, is the greatest need for veterans that libraries can help satisfy?

Well, LeMire and Mulvihill literally wrote the book on that, so I'd say read it (*Serving Those Who Served, Librarian's Guide to Working with Veteran and Military Communities*).[13] But I'll add a couple of cents' worth of my opinion and say that veterans are as diverse as the general population and have information needs similar to those of other library patrons. In that sense, veterans are looking for similar information and resources as the next individual; however, the military experience is often transformative and veterans may perceive and internalize things differently from other patrons and may locate and utilize resources in different manners. In essence, library professionals can best help satisfy veterans' needs by learning to communicate effectively with veterans and by accommodating the way in which they locate and utilize resources within the library space.

You are aware of the development of the ALA Veteran Caucus Membership Initiative Group; how do you see this group benefitting veterans and ALA members who are veterans?

I'm excited for the Veteran Caucus. Having served in the military is a defining experience and it creates an affinity or a sort of kinship that many veterans want to share. There are few veterans among the librarian ranks and I know a very few, but I have yet to meet another librarian who is currently serving. I've heard there may be a few out there and I'd like to network with them. I'd also like to work toward developing best practices

for serving patrons who are veterans, as well as exploring how librarianship might be a more appealing career opportunity for those who have served. I'd also like to look into studying how current library and/or archival best practices might help to address the military community's information needs.[14]

Concluding Thoughts

Supporting military veterans like Sean Buckner to become librarians, and providing veterans services resources to libraries, are just a few of the benefits of creating the Veteran Caucus. As ALA's government information support group, GODORT will be a great partner for the Veteran Caucus as it grows and develops into an important veteran resource and advocacy group.

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US Government Resources Related to Research Rigor and Reproducibility

Alicia Kubas, Amy Riegelman, and Franklin Sayre, University of Minnesota

The reproducibility of scientific studies has recently come under increased scrutiny in both the popular and scientific press.[1] Studies from various disciplines (e.g., psychology, health sciences) have revealed failures to reproduce and replicate research.[2] This has led to declarations that science is experiencing a "reproducibility crisis" and that this crisis has negative consequences for science, the public, and public policy. Two of the authors have previously published on reproducibility and the services and expertise librarians and libraries offer that make the library community a key part of supporting reproducible research, and we direct you to these articles for more information on this broader topic.[3]

In this article we extend this work to government documents by outlining some of the government publications and information related to reproducibility. Funders, including government agencies, have responded with specific recommendations and guidelines for researchers and we include some of those materials here. This issue has also been politicized by actors and groups looking to undermine science and evidence-based policy. Therefore these issues have increased relevance for all librarians and the public at large.

Briefly, we adopt a distinction between reproducibility and replicability where reproducibility is defined as "the ability of a researcher to duplicate the results of a prior study using the *same materials and procedures* as were used by the original investigator." Whereas replicability is defined as "the ability of a researcher to duplicate the results of a prior study if the *same procedures are followed but new data are collected*."[4] Thus, reproducibility largely relates to accurate reporting and transparency and is especially relevant to the work of librarians as demand rises for guidance and assistance with reproducibility within the research lifecycle. This often entails assistance with managing data and data sharing requirements, finding repositories for pre-registering studies and analysis, and finding discipline-specific guidelines for what to report in a research publication to promote transparency and reproducibility. A call for data availability and transparency of data used for federal policy-making has grown out of the research publishing world where data transparency and sharing has become a best practice across disciplines. Libraries are uniquely situated to assist faculty, researchers, and graduate students in thinking and moving proactively through the research lifecycle with these tenets in mind.

A number of the government publications included below refer to "sound science" and "questionable research practices." It is important to understand the context behind these phrases. The phrase *sound science* is sometimes used to create scientific doubt and therefore limit or delay government action, and examples include attempts to stall regulation related to second-hand smoke and climate change.[5] *Questionable research practices*, often shortened to QRPs, are referenced by government officials (as noted in this article) but also widely referenced by researchers. QRPs could refer to criticized research practices; some examples include *p*-hacking (manipulating data in a certain way to induce a statistical significant *p* value during analysis), intentionally excluding data, and HARKing (hypothesis after results are known). The more blatant and flagrant practices would include falsification and fabrication of data and plagiarism.

With this topic appearing in the popular press, this source guide can be used by government information librarians and others to familiarize themselves with the government resources on this topic. The resources below give an idea of which agencies are discussing and responding to this issue as well as how Congress is looking at implementing laws to govern agency use

of scientific data and what agencies should be doing to promote reproducibility and *sound science*.

Agency Initiatives and Grant Funding
A Framework for Ongoing and Future National Science Foundation Activities to Improve Reproducibility, Replicability, and Robustness in Funded Research, Office of Management and Budget, December 31, 2014

The *Framework* summarizes reproducibility, replicability, and robustness in relationship to confidence of published research results. It emphasizes that different practices exist across various fields and subfields. This framework notes that the key elements include scientific question formulation, data collection, data sharing, data curation, instruments, models, analysis of findings, and research outputs. Regarding data, the text emphasizes exploration of open access policy changes. Regarding interpretation of findings, "directorates will launch initiatives to introduce language into solicitations requesting that research plans describe how datasets would be assembled and analyzed" as to prevent data dredge (otherwise known as searching for statistical significance or HARKing). The *Framework* also mentions the need to disseminate studies with negative results stating, "NSF will also explore policy changes that would encourage researchers to include null findings and negative findings in project reports." *Access*: https://www.nsf.gov/attachments/134722/public/Reproducibility_NSFPlanforOMB_Dec31_2014.pdf.

Rigor and Reproducibility, National Institutes of Health (NIH), Undated (Internet Archive first capture on October 31, 2015 shows identical information)

This is the portal for information related to rigor and reproducibility in research at the National Institutes of Health. It includes further information and links to reporting guidelines, grant application requirements, funding opportunities, training modules, announcements, meetings, workshops, publications, and resources. *Access*: https://www.nih.gov/research-training/rigor-reproducibility.

Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences Perspectives on Robust and Reliable Science, National Science Foundation, May 2015

This report was written by the Subcommittee on Replicability in Science Advisory Committee to the National Science Foundation (NSF) Directorate for Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences (SBE). This subcommittee was launched to investigate ways to promote "robust research practices." One result of this committee was a workshop that occurred in February 2014 in which they attempted to "assess the scope and magnitude of the problem," identify recommendations, and "position SBE to support research exploring the causes and consequences of scientific behavior that enhance the likelihood of generating non-replicable findings and replicable findings, and into research practices to improve the validity of research findings." This report suggests that NSF SBE promote the identification of questionable research practices, encourage attempts to replicate, reproduce, and generalize findings, discover impetus for QRPs, and propose interventions to reduce frequency of QRPs. *Access*: https://www.nsf.gov/sbe/AC_Materials/SBE_Robust_and_Reliable_Research_Report.pdf.

NSF 16-083 Dear Colleague Letter: Reproducibility and Robustness of Results, May 18, 2016

This "Dear Colleague" letter from Roger M. Wakimoto, Assistant Director, Directorate for Geosciences, National Science Foundation reaffirms support for reliability, reproducibility, and robustness and notes that the directorate continues "to welcome proposals related to enhancing the validity of the data and outcomes of research in all GEO programs." Specifically mentioned are community approaches, including comparisons of techniques, instruments, and models, assessment and development of best practices, implementation of data management policies, and investments in infrastructure to make data and metadata available. *Access*: https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2016/nsf16083/nsf16083.pdf.

Reproducibility and Rigor in REE's Portfolio of Research, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), September 20, 2016

REE in the title of this document refers to Research, Education, and Economics, a unit in the Department of Agriculture. This document covers the USDA's Science Advisory Council examination of reproducibility in agriculture and nutrition related disciplines. The Science Advisory Council report includes definitions of reproducibility, replicability, and generalizability. The main question addressed was, "What actions can and should USDA take to foster reproducibility and rigor in USDA-supported research?" They refer to agriculture and nutrition research rigor issues also being identified in biomedical and social science disciplines. Topics explored included data dredging, null results as related to publication bias, underpowered studies, suboptimal reporting of methods, and weak study design and execution. Specific to agriculture research, underpowered studies may be a result of crop production season durations. Regarding human research, this report addresses

ethical issues that may make it difficult to reproduce research. The following solutions were proposed and summarized: open data, pre-registration, collaboration (e.g., cooperative data sharing agreements), computer automation to reduce errors, open methods, and USDA reporting guidelines. They advise that funding requests and post-award management should address rigor and reproducibility similar to processes already in place at NIH. This report cites several existing documents that provide guidance on rigor (e.g., USDA Scientific Integrity Policy Handbook). *Access*: https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/nareeeab-reproducibility-rigor-report.pdf.

NSF 17-022 Dear Colleague Letter: Encouraging Reproducibility in Computing and Communications Research, October 21, 2016

In this "Dear Colleague" letter from Jim Kurose, assistant director, Computer and Information Science and Engineering (CISE), recognition of concerns about standards of reproducibility and rigor in research led to the directorates intention to "support research that improves the level of reproducibility in research on computer systems and networking; modeling, analysis and simulation of computing and communication systems; and cybersecurity." It encourages primary investigators to create rigorous protocols and make these and data available to other researchers. Also encouraged are proposals that "specifically seek to reproduce, verify and/or characterize recent results." *Access*: https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2017/nsf17022/nsf17022.pdf.

NIH Initiative on Enhancing Research Reproducibility and Transparency, National Institutes of Health, Last Revised January 2017

This initiative description cites a 2014 *Nature* article that focuses on self-correcting preclinical research.[6] The article was written by NIH director Francis S. Collins and principal deputy director Lawrence A. Tabak. Collins and Tabak emphasized NIH commitment to systematic changes and encouraged engagement from the biomedical-research community. The initiative webpage cites NIH notices (e.g., NOT-MH-14-004) reflecting efforts to improve the quality of National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) funded research by enhancing the reporting of methods and results. *Access*: https://www.drugabuse.gov/offices/office-nida-director-od/office-translational-initiatives-program-innovations-otipi/nih-initiative-enhancing-research-reproducibility-transparency.

Annual Report of the Office of Economic Research FY 2016, Small Business Administration (SBA), January 2017

This annual report summarizes updates made to the Office of Economic Research's (OER) Small Business State Profiles in which the state profiles were described as reproducible products. This report defined reproducible research and explained the value to having OER reproducible products. This document also lists OER hosted small business Economic Research Forums. One session was called "Reproducibility," and the speaker was Dr. Richard Schwinn, a Research Economist from the SBA Office of Advocacy. This session included an explanation of tools and languages (e.g., R, LATEX) that could be used to support transparency and reproducibility. *Access*: https://www.sba.gov/sites/default/files/OER_Annual_Report_FY2016.pdf.

NSF 18-053 Dear Colleague Letter: Achieving New Insights through Replicability and Reproducibility, March 9, 2018

This letter from Dr. Fay Lomax Cook, Assistant Director, Directorate for Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences encourages the submission of proposals that replicate, reproduce, or generalize studies utilizing neuroimaging or neuroelectric data. The letter states that "proposals should: (1) make a strong case for the studies chosen for replication, reproduction or generalization; (2) substantiate the chosen analytic strategy; and (3) present a plan or template for evaluating, documenting, and communicating the lessons learned during the work." The letter provides further guidance on the traits of successful proposals in light of reproducibility and replicability. *Access*: https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2018/nsf18053/nsf18053.pdf.

Rigor and Reproducibility, National Institutes of Health (NIH), updated May 30, 2018

This website provides information to extramural researchers on NIH expectations for addressing rigor and transparency in NIH grant applications and progress reports. It includes detailed information on the key areas of rigor and reproducibility that are expected in applications and assessed by reviewers, expectations for formal instruction in experimental design and transparency, and other available resources. *Access*: https://grants.nih.gov/reproducibility/index.htm.

Systematizing Confidence in Open Research and Evidence Grants Notice, Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, Department of Defense, June 12, 2018

This Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) grant notice is for a funding opportunity titled, "Systematizing Confidence in Open Research and Evidence (SCORE)." The Defense Sciences Office within DARPA is seeking proposals to automate assignment of Confidence Scores (CSs) to Social and Behavioral Science (SBS) research. They define CSs as "quantitative measures that should enable someone to understand the degree to which a particular claim or result is likely to be reproducible and/or replicable." The desired tools are expected to assign CSs with reliability that is equal to or improves upon human methods. The stated desired outcome is that consumers of SBS research products would quickly be able to calibrate "the level of confidence in the Reproducibility and Replicability (R&R) of a given SBS result or claim." *Access:* https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=306186.

Science Advisory Board (SAB) Consideration of EPA Proposed Rule: Strengthening Transparency in Regulatory Science, Environmental Protection Agency, June 28, 2018

This document is a report written by the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Science Advisory Board (SAB), a public advisory group authorized to advise the agency on scientific matters and review EPA research programs and plans. SAB reports like this one are then hosted at epa.gov/sab among other places. In this document, the SAB is responding to a proposed rule, Strengthening Transparency in Regulatory Science (RIN 2080-AA14 and see entry below). The SAB expresses concern over the time allotted to respond to the rule and how SAB was made aware of the proposed rule. This document summarizes SAB discussions during a teleconference meeting where many topics were discussed including the trend for scientific disciplines to allow for public access of data and analytic methods. Sensitive situations were explained and included confidentiality and privacy of human subject data, cost, effort, and Institutional Review Board requirements. They advise that the EPA define *sound science* concepts including "replication" and "validation." *Access*: https://yosemite.epa.gov/sab/sabproduct.nsf/LookupWebReportsLastMonthBOARD/4ECB44CA28936083852582BB004ADE54/$File/EPA-SAB-18-003+Unsigned.pdf.

Congressional Publications

Subcommittee on Research, Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, House Hearing "Scientific Integrity and Transparency," March 5, 2013

Through this hearing, committee members attempt to understand, "the scope of the problem with scientific integrity, especially how thorough researchers deal with underlying data" and how openness fosters replicability and reproducibility in research. The editor-in-chief of *Science* magazine discusses the issue of data availability and the crisis of reproducibility; those from academia discuss data and code sharing so that replication can lead to validation; the last witness exhorts Congress, funding agencies, and journal editors to "require data analysis strategies that demonstrate reproducibility." *Access*: http://purl.fdlp.gov/GPO/gpo37400.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, House Hearing "Strengthening Transparency and Accountability Within the Environmental Protection Agency," November 14, 2013

This hearing reviews the EPA's policies regarding the use of science and research in creating regulations and policies as well as calling for additional transparency and openness in the name of replicability. The administrator of the EPA, Gina McCarthy, is the sole witness with almost fifty pages of discussion and questions with the committee members and almost seventy pages of post-hearing responses to questions submitted by the committee after the hearing concluded. These post-hearing questions from committee members of both parties focused in on specific EPA programs and studies, EPA regulations and rulemaking, and the actions of the agency around particular topics or issues, including the EPA hydraulic fracturing study, air pollution and air quality regulations, and conflicts of interest related to grant funding and participation on advisory groups, to name a few of the many areas examined. *Access*: http://purl.fdlp.gov/GPO/gpo54932.

Subcommittee on Environment, Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, House Hearing "Ensuring Open Science at EPA," February 11, 2014

This hearing examines options to improve transparency and reproducibility of regulatory science used by the EPA and to receive testimony on the Secret Science Reform Act of 2014 (HR 4012), legislation that limits the research the EPA can use

for making regulations to research that is publicly available and therefore usable in the name of reproducibility. Testimony from witnesses discussed why access to data underpinning regulations is so important, with one witness also calling upon more transparency of data by industry since this deference to industry privacy is part of why the EPA cannot make data it uses for regulatory purposes public. In addition, one piece of testimony focused on the impact of regulations on small businesses and how making this data available will help weed out regulations that are not legitimately needed. *Access*: http://purl.fdlp.gov /GPO/gpo52192.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, House Report 113-619 "Secret Science Reform Act of 2014," November 12, 2014

This report outlines H.R. 4012, a bill that would prohibit the EPA from "proposing, finalizing, or disseminating regulations or assessments based upon science that is not transparent or reproducible," and gives analysis for each section of the bill, why legislation was needed, proceedings of the committee markup, and letters submitted from the public in support of the legislation, among other information related to the bill. It also includes the reported bill text. The bill, sponsored by Rep. Smith (TX), chairman of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, passed the House but died in committee in the Senate. *Access*: http://purl.fdlp.gov/GPO/gpo53304.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, House Report 114-34 "Secret Science Reform Act of 2015," March 2, 2015

This report outlines H.R. 1030, that would prohibit the EPA from "proposing, finalizing, or disseminating regulations or assessments based upon science that is not transparent or reproducible" and includes committee statements and views, explanations of amendments, minority views, and other relevant information to the bill. The bill, sponsored by Rep. Smith (TX), chairman of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, passed the House and died in committee in the Senate. See bill text as referred in the Senate at https://www.congress .gov/114/bills/hr1030/BILLS-114hr1030rfs.pdf. *Access*: http:// purl.fdlp.gov/GPO/gpo55749.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, House Report 114-107, pt. 1, "America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2015," May 8, 2015

This report outlines H.R. 1806 with amendments as well as majority and minority views of the bill. The bill is sponsored

by Rep. Smith (TX), chairman of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. The first section of the bill seeks to revise NSF programs and includes a section about how NSF should police research misconduct and conduct a report "to assess research and data reproducibility and replicability issues in interdisciplinary research and to make recommendations on how to improve rigor and transparency in scientific research." The bill passed the House but died in committee in the Senate. *Access*: http://purl.fdlp.gov/GPO/gpo57384.

Committee on Environment and Public Works, Senate Report 114-69 "Secret Science Reform Act of 2015," June 22, 2015

This report outlines S. 544, that would prohibit the EPA from, "proposing, finalizing, or disseminating regulations or assessments based upon science that is not transparent or reproducible" and includes committee majority and minority statements and views, explanations of amendments, section-by-section analysis, costs of these changes in legislation, and other relevant information to the bill. The bill is sponsored by Sen. Barrasso (WY), chairman of the Committee on Environment and Public Works. The bill was reported favorably by the Committee but never made it to the Senate floor. See bill text as reported in the Senate at https://www.congress.gov/114/bills/s544/BILLS -114s544rs.pdf. *Access*: http://purl.fdlp.gov/GPO/gpo58645.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, House Hearing "Making EPA Great Again," February 7, 2017

This hearing examines how the EPA evaluates and uses science in making policies and regulations. The hearing was a precursor to the HONEST Act (see below) introduced in the House by Rep. Smith (TX), the chairman of the committee for this hearing. Testimonies and statements offer possible steps for EPA reform (reforming Science Advisory Board, making all data public that it uses to make decisions, peer-review process for recommendations and regulations, etc.), but also an urging for Congress to not try to regulate science and the scientific process through which the EPA functions and relies. It also discusses the EPA's over-exaggeration of risk related to public health and environmental hazards and the related lack of clarity within EPA procedures when determining hazards and risk. *Access*: http://purl.fdlp.gov/GPO/gpo80315.

Subcommittee on Research and Technology, Committee on Science, Space and Technology, House Hearing "National Science Foundation Part II: Future Opportunities and Challenges for Science," March 21, 2017

This hearing explores research challenges and future opportunities related to the NSF and what the Foundation funds, including the issue of using taxpayer funds to encourage reproducible open science. Oral and written statements from the witnesses shed light on the complexity of data sharing and open science, what the NSF already does to support and promote "good science," and some areas and initiatives to focus on for continuing federal monetary investment. *Access*: https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CHRG-115hhrg24672/pdf/CHRG-115hhrg24672.pdf.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, House Report 115-59 "HONEST and Open New EPA Science Treatment Act of 2017," March 24, 2017

This report outlines H.R. 1430, that would prohibit the EPA from "proposing, finalizing, or disseminating regulations or assessments based upon science that is not transparent or reproducible" and includes committee statements and views, explanations of amendments, cost estimates, and other relevant information to the bill. This legislation is sponsored by Rep. Smith (TX), chairman of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. Note that it includes identical language to the Secret Science Reform Acts of 2014 and 2015. The bill passed the House and has been sitting with the Committee on Environment and Public Works since March 30, 2017. See bill text as referred in the Senate at https://www.congress.gov/115/bills/hr1430/BILLS-115hr1430rfs.pdf. *Access*: http://purl.fdlp.gov/GPO/gpo79049.

"HONEST and Open New EPA Science Treatment Act of 2017," H.R. 1430. 115th Congress, 1st session, Congressional Record p. H2536-2547, March 29, 2017

A discussion of H.R. 1430 (HONEST Act, see above), which includes spirited debate for and against the bill covering various topics including costs associated with the bill, data privacy and sensitive data, economic effects of the bill, and the effect on the EPA's practice and ability, among other important points. Also included are letters of support and opposition from various external groups and a motion to recommit the bill back to committee with an amendment that would allow the EPA administrator to use "the best available science, whether or not it is publicly available in any form, when responding to threats to public health," which ultimately failed. *Access*: https://www.congress.gov/crec/2017/03/29/CREC-2017-03-29-pt1-PgH2536.pdf.

HONEST Act and Open New EPA Science Treatment Act of 2017, 115 S. 1794. September 12, 2017

Legislation introduced and sponsored by Sen. Rounds, majority member of the Committee on Environment and Public Works. The bill is sitting with the Committee on Environment and Public Works. It contains almost identical language to H.R. 1430 (see above). *Access*: https://www.congress.gov/115/bills/s1794/BILLS-115s1794is.pdf.

Subcommittee on Federal Spending Oversight and Emergency Management, Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, Senate Hearing "Broken Beakers: Federal Support for Research," October 18, 2017

This hearing examines the federal government's role in funding research and discusses the worth and value of public investment in light of the perceived lack of transparency and/or reproducibility in funded research. Testimony and statements highlight a need for Congressional oversight in ensuring federal agencies make taxpayer funded research openly accessible to the public and a debate on the government's involvement in funding scientific endeavors. One witness claims that it does little to advance economic growth, while another outlines how federal research funding positively influences innovation and fills a funding niche that industry does not. *Access*: https://purl.fdlp.gov/GPO/gpo91334.

Rules, Regulations, and Executive Orders and Documents
Executive Order 13777 of February 24, 2017, Enforcing the Regulatory Reform Agenda," 82 Federal Register 12285

President Donald Trump's Executive Order demands "lower regulatory burdens on the American people by implementing and enforcing regulatory reform." Section 3 directs agencies to establish a Regulatory Reform Task Force that will evaluate existing regulations with a focus on "those regulations that rely in whole or in part on data, information, or methods that are not publicly available or that are insufficiently transparent to meet the standard for reproducibility." *Access*: https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-03-01/pdf/2017-04107.pdf.

Executive Order 13783 of March 28, 2017, Promoting Energy Independence and Economic Growth," 82 Federal Register 16093

President Donald Trump's Executive Order outlines his desire to avoid "regulatory burdens that unnecessarily encumber energy production, constrain economic growth, and prevent job creation." He also emphasizes in Section 1e the development of environmental regulations "through transparent processes that employ the best available peer-reviewed science and economics," which hearkens to some of the bills introduced in Congress around the idea of using open data in creating EPA regulations. *Access*: https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-03-31/pdf/2017-06576.pdf.

Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies, Executive Office of the President, August 17, 2017

This memorandum from Mick Mulvaney, the director of the Office of Management and Budget, as well as Michael Kratsios, the Deputy Assistant to the President in the Office of Science and Technology Policy, provides fiscal year 2019 research and development budget priorities. This memo includes Research and Development (R&D) Priority Practices, and one of the listed priority practices is "Increasing Government Accountability and Efficiency." In the explanation for this priority practice, the text references proposed programs based on *sound science*. Further "quantitative metrics to evaluate R&D outcomes should be developed and utilized for all Federal R&D programs." *Access:* https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/whitehouse.gov/files/ostp/fy2019-administration-research-development-budget-priorities.pdf.

Strengthening Transparency in Regulatory Science, 83 Federal Register 18768 (proposed April 30, 2018) (to be codified at 40 C.F.R. pt. 30)

This EPA proposed regulation would require the "EPA [to] ensure that the data underlying [regulations] are publicly available in a manner sufficient for independent validation" including "regulations for which the public is likely to bear the cost of compliance." This regulation would particularly focus on "pivotal regulatory science," which is essentially the research and data that plays the largest role in creating significant regulations. *Access*: https://www.regulations.gov/docket?D=EPA-HQ-OA-2018-0259.

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4. Kenneth Bollen et al., "Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences Perspectives on Robust and Reliable Science," *Report of the Subcommittee on Replicability in Science of the Advisory Committee to the*

National Science Foundation Directorate for Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences (2015), https://www.nsf.gov/sbe/AC_Materials/SBE_Robust_and_Reliable_Research_Report.pdf. Emphasis added.

5. Christie Aschwanden, "There's No Such Thing as 'Sound Science,'" *FiveThirtyEight,* December 6, 2017, https://fivethirtyeight.com/features/the-easiest-way-to-dismiss-good-science-demand-sound-science/.

6. Francis S. Collins and Lawrence A. Tabak, "NIH Plans to Enhance Reproducibility," *Nature* 505, no. 7485 (2014): 612–13, https://doi.org/10.1038/505612a.

GODORT Annual Conference Highlights

Membership Update

Following a welcome and introductions, GODORT Chair Shari Laster gave a brief progress report on the migration of content from the GODORT wiki to the ALA website. Treasurer Rebecca Hyde also presented the most recent Treasurer's Report. The organization's overall financial outlook is good, although the reception costs were higher for New Orleans without a corresponding increase in fundraising.

Councilor Bill Sudduth reported on ALA Council activity at the Annual Conference. The Organizational Effectiveness review addresses two questions: (1) what would you fix in ALA? and (2) if you were creating an organization today, what would you do? He asked that GODORT endorse the "Resolution to Honor African Americans Who Fought Library Segregation," which was done unanimously. Bylaws Coordinator Vicki Tate presented two proposed Bylaws changes, which were approved by membership (discussed below). The chair of Legislation Committee, Geoff Swindells, moved that membership endorse in principle "Resolution Recognizing the 25th Anniversary of the GPO Access Act and Calling for the Enactment of the FDLP Modernization Act," which was unanimously approved.

GODORT Chair Shari Laster discussed the conclusion of GODORT's reorganization process; these remarks will be published as the chair's column in the Summer 2018 issue of *DttP*. Geoff Swindells gave an update of Washington Office's recent work regarding H.R. 5305, "The FDLP Modernization Act of 2018."—*Shari Laster, GODORT Chair*

Steering Committee

Discussion continued about the ALA Organizational Effectiveness review. GODORT Chair Shari Laster will serve on a Round Table Coordinating Assembly task force to provide feedback for this process. The chair of Cataloging Committee, Andrea Morrison, asked that the Chair sign a letter to the Government Publishing Office requesting public progress reports on addressing PURLs that are no longer working due to changes in web security requirements. The motion carried unanimously, and a letter will be drafted.

Natasha Arguello gave an overview of a juried program proposal for Annual 2019 that the Business Reference and Services Section (BRASS) will formally submit to GODORT for consideration as a cosponsored-in-name-only program. GODORT Chair Shari Laster reported that she is working with GODORT Emerging Leader Kenya Flash and Social Responsibilities Round Table (SRRT) Coordinator Kenny Garcia to develop a juried program proposal for Annual 2019 on Census 2020. She requested that Steering approve up to $1,500 for honoraria, which carried unanimously. On behalf of Chair-Elect Hallie Pritchett, Shari Laster presented the slate of nominees for 2018/2019 GODORT officers. The slate was unanimously approved.

Following membership's endorsement of "Resolution to Honor African Americans Who Fought Library Segregation," Chair Shari Laster noted that the sixth Resolved reads that ALA "will review policy documents and internal procedures to ensure Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) principles are reflected throughout." She proposed the creation of a GODORT Ad Hoc Working Group on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI), to review GODORT's policies and procedures to improve adherence to EDI principles, which was unanimously approved. The group will provide an initial report to Steering by the 2019 Midwinter Meeting, and will recommend action items. The final report will be due by the 2019 Annual Conference, at which time the group will dissolve. Initial volunteers came from those assembled at Steering, and a call will be put forth to membership for participation.

James Jacobs proposed that the chair write a letter to the Librarian of Congress to thank the Library and the Congressional Research Service for their work on providing open access to CRS Reports. The letter will also serve to encourage them to continue to develop tools in conjunction with their users. This proposal was unanimously approved.—*Shari Laster, GODORT Chair*

Awards Committee

The Awards Committee extends congratulations to the 2018 GODORT Awardees! (https://wikis.ala.org/godort/index.php/Announcing_the_2018_GODORT_Awards_Winners):

- James Bennett Childs Award: Karen M. Russ
- ProQuest/GODORT/ALA "Documents to the People" Award: Rosemary L. Meszaros
- Bernadine Abbott Hoduski Founders Award: Marilyn Von Seggern
- Larry Romans Mentorship Award: Courtney L. Young

- Margaret T. Lane/Virginia F. Saunders Memorial Research Award: Robert Lopresti, for his book, *When Women Didn't Count: The Chronic Mismeasure and Marginalization of American Women in Federal Statistics* (Praeger, 2017)
- GODORT-Sponsored American Library Association Emerging Leader: Kenya S. Flash
- W. David Rozkuszka Scholarship: Susie O'Connor
- NewsBank/Readex/GODORT/ALA Catharine J. Reynolds Research Grant: Hayley Johnson and Sarah Simms

The committee met in a closed meeting at ALA Annual to discuss plans for the 2018 Awards Reception, held on Sunday June 24 from 6 to 8 pm at the Louisiana Supreme Court Building, 1st Floor, 400 Royal Street. The committee also discussed the 2017–18 year and plans for 2018–19.—*Ann Marshall, Chair*

Bylaws Coordinator

This spring there were two changes for the GODORT Bylaws that were presented to Steering Committee for consideration: (1) dropping the first Steering Committee at conferences and (2) reducing the number of elected positions on committees. The rationale for the first change was because of the increase use of virtual meetings for the Steering Committee and because of the reduction of meeting times available through ALA conference scheduling. The rationale for the second change was to simplify the recruitment process for most of the positions within the committee structure and to increase the opportunities for volunteers to serve in leadership roles.

The initial wording for the proposed changes in the Bylaws was presented to the Executive Committee which then recommended forwarding the proposed changes to the Steering Committee for discussion. After some suggestions were made, the final proposed wording was formally presented to the Steering Committee for a vote on June 6. It was recommended by the Committee, with a vote of 11 in favor, 1 opposed, and 5 not voting, to bring the proposed changes before the general membership at the Annual Conference. The text of the proposed Bylaw changes was posted on the wiki and communicated to the members through the GODORT listserv. A notice regarding the upcoming vote at ALA Annual conference was also posted on GOVDOC-L.

At the GODORT Membership Update meeting, both proposals for Bylaws changes were presented. Each proposal was decided separately with discussion from the membership on both issues. The first proposal was passed with two votes in opposition. The second proposal was passed with no opposing votes.

The updated Bylaws will be posted on the wiki until the new GODORT web site is ready. All Policies and Procedures Manual (PPM) chapters will be reviewed for necessary changes to comply with the adopted changes in the Bylaws. As of the summer of 2018, almost all PPM chapters have been updated in the last year with current information. Only six chapters remain "under review."—*Vicki Tate, GODORT Bylaws and Organization Coordinator*

Cataloging Committee

The Cataloging Committee is working on moving the Toolboxes for Processing and Cataloging Government Documents to the GODORT LibGuides. The federal toolbox is in draft and will be

completed later in 2018; work is beginning on the international toolbox. Volunteers are needed for editing the guides. Stephen Kharfen gave the Government Publishing Office report and chair Andrea Morrison commended GPO for their excellent cataloging partnerships and projects. Of special note is the new copyright statement that will be updated globally in existing bibliographic records in the Catalog of US Government Publications (CGP) in MARC21 field 542. The Committee asked GPO for public progress reports on the scope and progress of the project updating CGP record links to IT security standards, especially because of the effect of broken links on users.

Jim Noel gave the MARCIVE report. The chair also updated the Committee on progress with the GODORT website migration and the Committee agreed that the new website should link to the new LibGuides, not to the Toolboxes on the wiki. Michael Alguire gave a written report that summarized continuing education in cataloging initiatives and the committee agreed to work on a webinar and infographic covering federal government thesauri and vocabularies.—*Andrea Morrison, Chair*

Education Committee

Members and guests at the Education Committee meeting discussed the development of a proposal for an Emerging Leaders project with GODORT's Emerging Leader, Kenya Flash. The committee will move forward to develop a proposal for a civic engagement toolkit for libraries.

The Government Information Online (GIO) virtual reference service now has seventeen volunteers. A schedule will be created to ensure that questions are monitored and distributed

among the volunteers. GIO receives about ten questions per week that are received via direct patron input or are forwarded from the Government Publishing Office's AskGPO.

Migration of documents from the GODORT Wiki is continuing. The Education Committee discussed the status of the GODORT Handout Exchange, which contains many outdated guides and broken links to external sites.

The decline in the number of LIS programs that offer government information courses continues to be a matter of concern. The Education Committee is considering surveying LIS programs that do not offer such courses to understand why. At the same time, the committee is exploring alternatives to LIS courses to educate librarians about government information, such as developing Open Educational Resources and online tutorials beyond what is available through the FDLP Academy and the "Help! I'm an Accidental Government Information Librarian" webinars.—*Gwen Sinclair, Chair*

Federal Information Interest Group (FIIG)

FIIG hosted a varied discussion with topics ranging from strategies for approaching a mandated reduction in a government documents collection to the availability of up-to-date information on federal government websites.—*Justin Otto, Interest Group Leader*

Government Information for Children (GIC) Committee

The Government Information for Children (GIC) Committee met in New Orleans at ALA Annual. The committee began with a discussion about possibly producing brief video tutorials on government information. These would be short, focused videos aimed at teachers and librarians. The committee also discussed the ongoing migration of the GIC LibGuides from the University of Central Florida site to the GODORT LibGuide site. The guides will have an updated look and include lesson plans, links to national educational standards, and scope notes for all suggested government sites. The GIC LibGuides site can be found at http://godort.libguides.com/?group_id=16537.—*Liza Weisbrod, Chair*

International Documents Task Force (IDTF)

Representatives from the OECD, United Nations, World Bank, and International Monetary Fund joined a full room to discuss recent updates. Ramona Kohrs, head of the United Nations (UN) Depository Library Program, and Thanos Giannakopoulos, Chief of the United Nations Dag Hammarskjöld Library, attended via Skype. Jim Church mentioned the GODORT Cataloging Committee's Toolbox for Processing and Cataloging International Government Documents needed updating and sought volunteers. There were no responses.

Vendors from the international organizations present gave updates and reports. Conversation then shifted towards international documents acquisition issues and strategies. It was noted that suggestions for vendors would be welcome because some users still read print documents. Vendors such as MEA/Hogarths and Mary Martin were suggested. Ramona Kohrs gave a brief report on the UN Depository with no substantial updates.

The conversation then shifted into the realm of Open Access (OA) and international organizations. Stephen Wyber, chair of advocacy at IFLA was in attendance and made a brief report urging librarians to advocate for IGO OA adoption. He shared a presentation (https://goo.gl/xAvBp9) that he and Kris Kasianovitz from Stanford University prepared about OA and copyright policies in international organizations. The situation can be best described as chaotic. Some international organizations such as the World Bank, UNESCO, and WIPO have embraced, either partially or completely, OA policies, such as Attribution 3.0 IGO (CC BY 3.0 IGO), a Creative Commons License designed especially for IGOs. Others have absurdly restrictive policies: for example, the International Energy Agency requires permission for users to link to their content. Sheri Aldis from UN Publications insisted that in order for OA to be adopted at the United Nations this would need to be proposed by member states. Stephen Wyber and Jim Church noted in the case of other representative international organizations this initiative had come through their respective Secretariats.—*James Church, IDTF Coordinator-Elect*

Legislation Committee

The joint meeting with the ALA Committee on Legislation's Government Information Subcommittee (COL-GIS) opened with an update on GPO operations by David Walls, the agency's preservation librarian. David announced the retirement of Andy Sherman as Acting Director of GPO at the end of June, the appointment of Chief Operating Officer Herb Jackson as acting director in his place, and the president's nomination of Robert C. Tapella as director of GPO. Walls then summarized the status of the FDLP Modernization Act of 2018 (H.R. 5305), including the Congressional Budget Office's positive scoring

of the legislation, reviewed the agency's FY 2019 appropriations, and concluded with an overview of preservation priorities from GPO's 2016 National Plan and related preservation activities at the agency.

This was followed by a presentation by on recent developments at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), by Meg Phillips, external affairs liaison at NARA. After briefly discussing the agency's 2018–22 strategic plan, she focused much of her time on the work of the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) and the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC). The meeting concluded with a brief discussion of the latest draft of the "Tribute Resolution Honoring the 25th Anniversary of the GPO Access Act," during which some amended language was proposed. COL-GIS approved the resolution in principle.

At Legislation II, Geoff Swindells, chair, reviewed the work of the committee since the ALA Midwinter Meeting, with a focus on urging depository libraries in states with Senators serving on the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration to write letters supporting the FDLP Modernization Act of 2018 (H.R. 5305). The Rules Committee will have jurisdiction over the legislation in the Senate, should it pass the House. The committee's efforts were particularly successful in Missouri, home of Roy Blunt Jr., chair of the Senate Rules Committee; and Geoff thanked Marie Concannon (University of Missouri-Columbia), Rebecca Hyde (Saint Louis University), and Jennifer Peters (Rockhurst University) for ensuring that their library administrations wrote letters to Senator Blunt. This was followed by a discussion

of continued advocacy around the bill following ALA Annual. In a related action item, the chair agreed to distribute to GODORT members information packets containing draft support letters and contact information for members and staff of the Senate Rules Committee, and other committees as appropriate.

This was followed by a brief discussion of the latest draft of the tribute resolution on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the GPO Access Act. The committee approved the revised draft to bring the resolution to the floor at the Membership Update. The meeting ended in a general discussion of GODORT's approach to the nomination of Robert C. Tapella as director of GPO. The consensus of those in attendance was that GODORT should focus on the future of the FDLP and GODORT's long-standing support of permanent, no-fee, public access to federal government information and that GODORT Legislation will develop materials and strategies to support this effort. In two related action items, the chair agreed to compile an information packet containing relevant GODORT resolutions and other documents on the FDLP; and will draft a resolution calendar, outlining important dates and other milestones in preparing resolutions for consideration by ALA Council.—*Geoff Swindells, Chair*

Program Committee

This year there were two great programs focused on government information. GODORT cosponsored "Endangered Government Information: Strategies to Protect Government Collections" with panelists: James R. Jacobs (Stanford University Library), Susan Paterson (University of British Columbia), and Amanda Wakaruk (University of Alberta). Jim

Church (University of California, Berkeley) acted as moderator on discussions that focused on unintended, and intended, consequences of the Canadian government moving to electronic only content and how Crown Copyright prevents organizations from capturing data.

The GODORT chair's program "Government Information for a Cynical Public" presented panelists Alicia Kubas (University of Minnesota), Yasmin Sokkar Harker (CUNY School of Law), and Allan Van Hoye (CU Boulder) who explored issues of trust, how millennials view government information, and inequality. Panelist promoted healthy skepticism as a tool for librarians and users dealing with the current information environment and the sometimes questionable reliability of government information.—*Susanne Caro*

Rare and Endangered Government Publications (REGP) Committee

REGP attendees discussed several issues, including the Congressional Budget Office Report regarding H.R. 5303, and current news stories related to the Presidential Records Act of 1978. The committee will develop a letter template for asking legislators to encourage the president to preserve his legacy and stop destroying documents that will give researchers insight into his presidency.

The committee also heard from representatives from GPO about upcoming initiatives including trainings, tools, and resources to help libraries with preservation and conservation efforts. A discussion followed about storage and environmental control with regard to microformats collections.—*Aimee Slater, Co-Chair*