

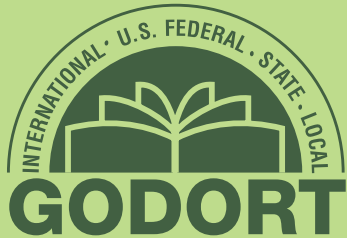
## Student Features:

- The Mental Health Systems Act of 1980
- A County-Level COVID-19 Response
- Exploring History Through Government Documents: The Civil Rights Movement
- Government Documents Story: The Impact of Eugenics Policy on Marginalized Groups in the United States
- U.S. National and Interstate Bicycle Routes

# DttP

## Documents to the People

Winter 2022 | Volume 50, No. 4 | ISSN 2688-125X



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Get to Know . . .

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Not Just in English

# DttP

## Documents to the People

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**About the Cover:** Highsmith, Carol M., photographer. National Archives statue "The Future," Washington, DC, United States, 2009. August 7. Photograph. <https://www.loc.gov/item/2010630511/>.

As government information professionals, I don't think it's a stretch to say most of us have been closely watching the events related to missing sensitive documents and former President Donald Trump unfold. Historically, outgoing presidents did, in fact, take their documents with them when they left office because they were considered personal property, but the Presidential Records Act of 1978 (44 U.S.C. §2201-2209) changed that. Thanks to the Watergate scandal during the Richard Nixon administration four years prior, all presidential and vice-presidential documents are now publicly owned and housed in the National Archives—that includes anything from margin notes and doodles to top secret national security materials.

The PRA states that after a president's term, the administration's records be transferred to the Archivist of the United States and begin to be made public five years after that president left office; it also permits the former president and the vice president to invoke up to six specific restrictions to public access for up to twelve years.<sup>1</sup> During those five years, the records are generally exempt from public access of any kind, including Freedom of Information Act requests—only Congress, the courts, and the incumbent and former presidents may have access.

The act, which took effect January 20, 1981, started with the Reagan administration, but just before he left office, he issued Executive Order 12667, which not only established the procedures for NARA and former and incumbent presidents to implement the PRA but also limited access to certain records that would've been scheduled for disclosure. Exemptions include “national security information that is properly classified; information about appointees to Federal office; information specifically exempt from disclosure by law; trade secrets and confidential business information; confidential communications requesting or submitting advice between the president and his advisors or between such advisors; and information which, if disclosed, would cause a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.”<sup>2</sup> The exemptions are compulsory by the Archivist, following a 30-day review by both former and current presidents.

The Executive Order was annulled by EO 13233, “Further Implementation of the Presidential Records Act.” Issued November 2, 2001, by George W. Bush, it gave former presidents and vice presidents even broader discretion to withhold documents and allowed a former president to “designate a representative . . . to act on his behalf” in the assertion of

presidential privilege in the event of the former president's disability or death. If a former president designated a record as restricted, NARA could not permit access to it upon request “unless and until . . . the former president and the incumbent president agree to authorize access to the records or until so ordered by a final and nonappealable court order.”<sup>3</sup>

Based on this, it's easy to see where Trump's legal team may have gotten their assertions where he could declassify a document by “thinking about it” and it would be so.<sup>4</sup> In *American Historical Association v. National Archives*, an alliance of historians and government transparency activists filed a federal lawsuit following Bush's executive order that sought the immediate release of the Reagan papers, claiming EO 13233 unjustifiably circumvented the law.<sup>5</sup>

Bush's executive order raised concerns for historians and open-government advocates because it effectively opposed the intent of the 1978 PRA, allowing presidents to edit the history of their administrations. It wasn't until Barack Obama's Executive Order 13489, issued on his first day in office in 2009, that most of the provisions of EO 12667 were restored with some modifications.<sup>6</sup> The PRA was amended in 2014, which established several new provisions.

When Trump left office on January 20, 2021, all his administration's records should have been moved from the White House to the National Archives. Instead, FBI agents found multiple sets of classified documents at Trump's private Florida residence, Mar-a-Lago. According to the search warrant, FBI agents were looking for evidence relating to three statutes: Section 793, “applies to activities such as gathering, transmitting and unauthorized person, or losing information pertaining to national defense, and to conspiracies to commit such offenses”; Sections 2071 and 1519 address concealing, altering, destroying or removing federal records.<sup>7</sup>

While attorneys for Trump and the Department of Justice make their arguments before a judge, an appeals court and a special master in this ongoing case, the history of the Presidential Records Act and subsequent executive orders and amendments indicate that regardless of whether an administration's records should be made public, they most definitely are not supposed to be stored haphazardly in a private home.

**Jennifer Castle** (jcastle@tnstate.edu), Instruction and Engagement Librarian, Tennessee State University

## Notes

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# Getting to Know . . .

Kian Flynn, GODORT Chair

Jennifer Castle

**A**lthough I've been a GODORT member since 2016, the COVID-19 pandemic and ensuing move to virtual events has meant that there's many of you I still haven't met in-person and there's plenty of new GODORT members I have yet to meet at all. I thought I would take this column to answer a few introductory questions from the *DttP* editor. Feel free to reach out to me directly if you have any additional questions and I hope to see you all in-person or at a GODORT virtual event soon!

## 1. How/why did you become a government information/documents librarian?

The GODORT Help! I'm an Accidental Government Information Librarian webinar series is for librarians like me! I didn't initially have plans to be a government information librarian, or even be a librarian. In undergrad at Carleton College, my work study job was working the circulation desk at the college's library and I enjoyed the atmosphere and environment so much that after graduating I went from getting my Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics to pursuing my MLIS degree at the University of Washington iSchool.

At UW, I got hired as a student reference specialist in the Suzzallo Library's Government Publications, Maps, Microforms, & Newspapers (GMM) unit and the rest is history! In 2016, I became the Geography and Global Studies Librarian at UW in the GMM unit.

Even though my path to government information librarianship was more a result of a series of happy accidents than a predetermined career path, working as a government information librarian has been a natural fit for my lifelong interests in politics and history, and I even get to put my math background to use when helping students and faculty navigate Census data.

The GODORT community has been an incredibly helpful and supportive community in providing continuing educational opportunities to keep in touch with the national conversation around government information librarianship.

## 2. What do you love about your work?

I can answer this question in so many different ways! I love that each day is unique from the next. We wear so many hats as librarians that there's always at least one project or reference question that has me excited. This can be a source of burnout, but I find for me it keeps me engaged and interested in my work.

I love the process of solving tricky reference questions, much like working on a satisfying puzzle. My work at UW often involves sifting through historic documents—newspapers,

maps, and gov docs—that are fascinating. It's a joy to help connect the UW community to these documents and get them excited about the research process in turn.

I love working with students and introducing them to new resources, especially government data resources, that can advance their studies and tell us so much about our world.

## 3. Are there any government documents-related projects you've worked on you've found particularly meaningful?

In the fall of 2019, the University of Washington celebrated UW Global Month, in honor of the University's global impact and community. As part of this celebration, I worked on an exhibit highlighting library collections that spoke to this global impact of the University. In particular I created a display with a colleague that featured government documents related to international affairs from the papers of two long-serving U.S. Senators from Washington state (and with UW ties), Henry "Scoop" Jackson and Warren G. Magnuson.

Looking through boxes and boxes of these Senator's archives gave me a new appreciation for the whole lifecycle of government information—from its creation to the labor that library workers put in to make these documents discoverable and accessible to its long-term preservation. It was humbling, and a fresh reminder of the value of our work as government information library workers.

## 4. What are you reading?

This is always a three part question for me. I've most recently finished reading Hanya Yanagihara's *To Paradise* (2022). Her previous novel *A Little Life* (2015) was one of the most stunning novels I've read, and her follow-up is not far behind. My favorite novels tend to transport and challenge me, and her alternative history of past and future America told through three generations checks both those boxes. It's a book that left me shaken.

I'm currently reading Frank Herbert's *Dune* (1965) in the hopes of better understanding the recent film adaptation that left me befuddled and I have Gabrielle Zevin's *Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow* (2022) next in line, on the recommendation of a friend.

## 5. What's one interesting/strange fact about you?

I like to run and raced my first 50 mile trail race this summer near Mount Rainier, which was the longest I had traveled by foot in a day. Some people find this hobby interesting, and some people find it strange!

# From the DttP Vault: Librarians and the Moscow Coup—August 16 to 23, 1991

Bernadine E. Abbott Hoduski

*Editor's note: This article originally appeared in vol. 20, no. 2, June 1992, which is available online at <https://searchworks.stanford.edu/view/489643>. This is the final historic article from DttP celebrating 50 years, which I thought appropriate with the ongoing war in Ukraine. The author was Chair of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions Section on Official Publications from 1985 to 1989.*

**A**s we waited in line for a flight out of Moscow on Friday, August 23, E. J. Josey said it for all of us—“It was an emotional week, tiring because of the emotions.” We librarians had been part of the revolution against the Moscow coup, the revolution for freedom. One of the Soviet librarians, who has risked her life at the barricades, explained that because we stayed in Moscow during the coup and continued the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) meeting, that it helped protect those librarians fighting the coup. She and the other Soviet librarians thanked us with hugs and kisses.

I believe that she was right and that IFLA's decision to continue the conference in as normal a manner as possible including holding all the evening receptions, protected the 1500 librarians from 60 countries, especially 500 Soviet librarians. It provided an official reason for their presence in central Moscow and protected them, at least for a few days, from the consequences of their critical analysis of the state of libraries in the Soviet Union. There was no way they could retract their criticism because it has been printed and distributed to all the delegates several days before the coup.

One of the Soviet librarians apologized to me on the morning of Wednesday, August 21 for the possibility that she might not make it back to our Section's Workshop on Freedom of Information the next morning because she was going to spend

the night at the “White House,” the Russian parliament, protecting Yeltsin.

She explained that even though she and her family were unhappy about the economic situation, they valued freedom and without freedom the economic situation would not improve. She believed that Gorbachev was doing his best and that she did not want him deposed by a coup. She emphasized how important it was to protect the democratically elected Russian government, especially their President Yeltsin. She thanked me for staying for the meetings and for giving her moral support.

She said that she loved her country and that she and her husband and their three young sons had discussed immigration but had rejected the idea because of their love for their country. I told her that as a mother of three sons and a lover of my own country, I could understand her feelings and that I was proud of her.

Unbelievable as it seemed Wednesday morning, that night we were celebrating at the Palace of the Kremlin, arriving shortly after the tanks withdrew from the entrance. It was a wonderful, joyous victory celebration. We and the Soviet librarians toasted each other with vodka and danced to gypsy music. Tanya took the gold and black flowers she had made from her blouse and pinned them on my blouse as a memory of our victory.

The Minister of Culture, Nikolaj Gubenko, toasted our bravery and we toasted his and we all toasted victory. He thanked us and our countries for our support during the coup.

In order to put the celebration in context, let me share the events of the week of August 16 to the 23rd. The week had started on a rather stressful note since I had barely managed to obtain a visa in time to catch my Thursday, August 15 flight. Getting a visa from the USSR is so complicated that people in Washington, D.C. pay a firm \$65 to do the paper work. My case was complicated further because a group of us were making

arrangements through a free enterprise firm, not Intours, therefore making my paperwork suspect.

## Friday, August 16

As the plane landed Friday at noon, I looked outside at the patched runway with some uneasiness and wondered why I had gone to so much trouble to get there. My fears were somewhat relieved when I saw Emma, a sweet Russian lady waving a sign with my name on it waiting at the gate. She handed me a bunch of flowers and in Russian told me to wait while she got the car and driver. The harrowing ride into town over a highway being repaired during heavy traffic and our arrival at a decrepit hotel renewed my fears that this was not going to be my favorite IFLA. Our tour director had changed the hotel several times and this hotel was definitely not the hotel in the central city near a metro stop we had been promised. But as events unfolded we were grateful for our out of the way hotel.

My first day in Moscow turned into a bit of a comedy as I was ushered into a room already occupied by a man. Only after many nyets and showing Emma the man's clothing did I convince her that he was not my roommate. My roommate Sieglinde Rooney from the University of Alberta, Canada was scheduled to arrive until that evening. After reading the tag on the luggage I discovered that were were in Rowland and Heather Brown's room since they were part of our tour, at least I knew I was in the right hotel. The floor lady stepped in to resolve the problem and after several phone calls I was taken to another room with startlingly bright red 50s type Scandinavian furniture, a small sitting room, TV, refrigerator and tea cups.

Emma made gestures about my possible hunger, took me to a large dimly lit dining room and left me to a late lunch. All the meals at the Zvezdnaya Hotel were regimented. You had no choice, unless you call refusing the food a choice, and after several days we did en masse refuse the raw eggs served at breakfast. During the coup the chef did not arrive and others made us kasha or mush (similar to grits), which was delicious and kept us full until dinner. We had been warned that there would be no lunch at the Conference Center and we had all brought snacks. After the first couple of days the IFLA organizers convinced the Center staff to sell salami and cheese sandwiches, rolls, instant coffee and Pepsi, which we at standing up at tables.

As coffee addicted Americans, we persuaded the hotel staff to change the rules in one respect. We insisted on our coffee immediately and not at the end of breakfast. We even resorted to going back to the kitchen and fetching it for ourselves.

That night we piled into buses and drove for several hours to a cooperative restaurant housed in a building that reminded me of a tenement. The restaurant itself resembled a tent and the

walls were adorned with icons. We feasted on all the food, juice, vodka, and champagne we wanted for only eight American dollars apiece. I had been warned by several Ukrainian friends who had recently returned from the USSR not to drink the water or juice, so I immediately asked for the vodka and champagne. This impressed Valery, our guide, and he and I started our friendship over a toast and my one Russian word, *nostrovია*.

Our Russian guide Valery, about 50, our 25 year old interpreter Sergei, and our bus driver Luv took good care of us all week, getting us to the meetings and receptions around tanks, barricaded streets and demonstrators in our mini yellow buses. They interpreted the news on the radio and TV and help keep us calm, even though they were visibly worried and believed that if the coup succeeded that their free enterprise tourist business was doomed as Valery said, "I'll go back to growing potatoes." On Monday, as we dodged tanks, he looked in his English/Russian dictionary and wryly commented that "These are slippery times."

We seemed to be constantly talking with each other and our Leningrad Russians about the fast moving events. They were with us from breakfast until bedtime and were very protective. My appreciation and affection grew for them as the week progressed. We could see that the generations were interpreting events differently. Although Valery, former chair of the Communist party in Leningrad, was very unhappy about the coup, he was more certain of a coup victory and spoke cautiously from the beginning.

## Saturday, August 17

We spent the day registering, attending Standing committee meetings and taking a tour of the Kremlin grounds and churches. That night we went to the Arabat, listened to music and surveyed the wares of they many young vendors. We didn't buy anything, thinking that we would be back later. Many of us never got to buy anything because the vendors, like many other Soviets, disappeared when the coup started.

Al Kagan, Linda Williamson and I enjoyed a lunch at the Belgrade Hotel and discovered the cheapest meal in town, a large bowl of borscht for only 17 cents. We also discovered that even if it is on the menu that does not mean it is available for ordering.

## Sunday, August 18

Siglinde and I took a tour of the Kremlin grounds and walked around downtown streets watching the Muscovites line up for ice cream and children's toy store. There were long lines everywhere, particularly in front of Lenin's tomb and St. Basil's. We decided to save Red Square for another day.



Our hotel was located very close to the television tower and was the headquarters for the troops that took it over. The military moved in on Sunday night. We saw the medal encrusted officers and the fatigue clad elevator guards as we picked up our room keys about 11 p.m. after our return from dinner.

The fifth floor was off limits, as we learned when we accidentally stopped at that floor and were ordered not to get off. By Tuesday morning the elevators were locked so that we could not use certain elevators at all, and we saw them hauling boxes of canned good and armfuls of fresh vegetables up to the blocked off floors.

## Monday, August 19

Our American group suddenly found itself eating alone in the vast dining room, while the other guests used the first floor public room. There must have been a party in our dining room on Sunday night, because we found the tables and floor littered with dirty glasses, empty vodka bottle, cigarettes, bread, and a stage still set up for music.

Sergei, our interpreter, openly expressed great dismay and kept repeating, "This is terrible." He sadly speculated that the Russian people might say there is no meat in the stores so perhaps a coup is for the best, but by nightfall he was convinced that his people would fight. He told me that he and his wife had considered immigrating but they loved their country and thought being part of a free enterprise business gave them a good future. He thought that they were much freer under Gorbachev and was optimistic about the future, but now with the possibility of return to the old ways, he was in great despair.

I had brought a history of Russian literature and an unexpurgated English translation of Gogol's "Dead Souls" to share with a Soviet librarian, but seeing Sergei's despair, I decided to give him the book instead. It seemed to cheer him up a bit.

I gave Valery a Budweiser beer key ring and he promptly put his house keys on the ring. I told him that was the beer I drank back home Missouri, and I thought it an appropriate present since he and I toasted each other with vodka that first night in Moscow when we ate dinner at a cooperative restaurant. I did not tell him that it was a favor handed out at the White House Conference on Libraries and I had gathered it up with other small items to trade on the advice of some of my friends who had recently visited the USSR.

We had conferred that morning at breakfast and had decided that we would take the tour of the Kremlin and St. Basil's in spite of the coup because it might be our last opportunity to see them. In spite of our guide's warning, we took photographs of the takeover by tanks and troops of the television tower as we passed it on our way into the central city.

When we arrived at the Rossiya Hotel we proceeded directly up the hill to the Kremlin. Everything seemed normal. Tourists were walking about and standing in line at St. Basil's. I photographed the Chair of the Rare Books Section as he stood listening to our tour guide. He seemed unaware of any danger.

We decided to tour Gum's department store first and stop at St. Basil's on our way back. Gums was jammed with people, many of them in line. Gums was built in 1893, still lovely, but in deplorable condition. The clothing, linens and other goods smelled of mold and dirt. Sieglinde and I bought post cards from two enterprising teenagers, but refused the opportunity to buy a military hat.

As we stepped outside we saw an American woman reporter and sound man interviewing people. It occurred to us that we should have stopped them and gotten on TV so our family would know we were all right, but we were too busy photographing the people crossing themselves at the small replica of St. Basil's, which had been constructed as a way to collect funds for the renovation of the church. We learned later that Brian Jacobs, one of our accompanying persons, had been interviewed.

Unlike the day before, a holiday commemorating the Air Force, there were no long lines in front of Lenin's tomb. We stopped and took photographs in front of the tomb and then we went across Red Square to St. Basil's. We heard the unworried voices of American tourists. We joined the ticket line of mostly mothers and children until one of the church guides told us that as IFLA delegates we could tour the church for free.

After our tour, we headed down the hill to the Rossiya Hotel to change some money. It would be our last opportunity since the banks closed that day. We compared notes about the coup with American students standing in the exchange line. As we left the Rossiya and descended the long steep steps to the mini yellow buses, we saw a long line of tanks driving down the highway along the river headed for the central city and the "White House" (Russian Parliament). I climbed up on the wall and photographed the tanks. Our Russian guide urged me to get off the wall and all of us to get into the bus and head back to our hotel.

As we drove back to our hotel, we were stopped in a traffic jam at the Novotny news service as tanks backed onto the front steps. We took photographs through the curtains of the bus, in spite of Sergei's caution about the danger. Those behind us in the traffic jam started honking their horns, perhaps not realizing that this was no ordinary traffic jam. After the tanks were in place, they allowed us to continue and we saw people surrounding the tanks talking to the soldiers. We saw them putting flowers onto the tanks. We saw knots of people discussing the crisis.

Rowland and Heather Brown and Brian Jacobs told us about how they had walked over to the White House to see what was going on and talked with some of the people defending the White House. They had seen an old grizzled war veteran uniformed and adorned with medals, pounding on a tank telling the young soldiers not to side with the fascists and kill their grandmothers and grandfathers. They saw people of all ages arguing with the soldiers that they should not defend the fascists and kill their own people. Rowland said the defenders had been reluctant to allow them inside the lines until they convinced them that they were for the good guys.

On return to our hotel, we caucused as to whether we would return to the Rossiya Hotel for the official opening, reception and ballet. We decided that the only way we were going to find out what was happening was to attend, and we all went to our rooms to change clothes.

As we drove back to the Rossiya, we saw even more tanks and crowds of people discussing the situation. All but one of the TV stations had been shut down, and only one voice could be heard on the radio. And he simply kept repeated that Gorbachev was ill and that the Soviet people should support the emergency committee, go to work and work hard. Sergei told us that probably meant that Gorbachev was dead or would soon be dead.

On arrival at the Rossiya for the 2:30 p.m. official opening, we heard a babble of voices from the delegates, all comparing notes. The Minister of Culture, Nikolaj Gubenko, tried to assure us that we would be protected at that he would personally protect the Soviet librarians, who were beginning to fear that their candid appraisal of the state of Soviet libraries would get them in trouble with hard liners. Mr. Gubenko said that he had spoke with the Emergency Committee and the Head of the Supreme Soviet, and had been assured that the librarians would be find. He asked us to stay calm and to continue our conference.

Bob Wedgeworth, newly elected President of IFLA, told me that the Executive Committee of IFLA would meet Tuesday morning and would decide whether to continue or cancel the meeting. It was our understanding that the Baltic librarians were preparing to leave and that the Scandinavian librarians were considering sympathy boycott of the conference. The Scandinavian librarians were later told by their government to stay.

After the official opening, we had a light buffet, music and dancing. My friend Tae Moon Lee, an American teaching in Korea, came up to visit and told me that some 40 Koreans were attending the conference. The Koreans did not seem inclined to leave the conference.

Several of us had difficulty finding food and decided to go to the other side of the hotel to find a café. On the way we encountered Dr. Billington, the Librarian of Congress, on his way to join a Congress of Compatriots, organized by Boris Yeltsin. Many of the attendee were emigres and they had come back to confer with the Soviets on how to structure a new democracy. Dr. Billington told us that he preferred finding out from them what was going on rather than attending “Romeo and Juliet,” our entertainment for the evening. Mr. Billington told us that he was a delegate to the Conference. He also told us that he had heard that Yeltsin was under house arrest. As we entered the hotel we saw many bearded men leafletting the crowd in the lobby.

Not finding hot food, we returned to our side of the hotel and went to a pub for bratwurst and beer. No one in the pub seemed worried. I assumed that the demonstrators, seen on Red Square that afternoon carrying a large pre-Lenin Russian tricolor flag must be part of the conference that the Librarian of Congress was attending.

After our snack we returned to “Romeo and Juliet,” which seemed quite appropriate as the confrontation on stage mirrored the outside world. Sergei, our interpreter, was quite amazed at the sight of 1000 librarians watching a ballet while a coup was going on just up the hill in Red Square. As the ballet progressed, more and more people left for their hotels. Tanks were already at the White House and those delegates at the Belgrade Hotel would have to walk right past them.

During the intermissions, I exchanged Documents to the People and Depository Logo pins with librarians from Canada, New Zealand, Holland, and the Soviet Union. A friend told me the next day that he had heard shots coming from the Kremlin later than night as he took a walk outside the Rossiya.

At the close of the ballet, we went outside to our buses, only to find that the Leningrad licensed bus had not been allowed to return to pick us up, since only Moscow vehicles were allowed on the streets. Sixteen of us piled into a 10-seater bus. We were reluctant to send anyone home on the subway, not knowing what was going on. Some of our colleagues told us that they had gone to Red Square that afternoon and photographed the tanks that had moved in after our visit, and Jean had even given photos to the soldiers sitting in the tanks. It almost seemed like a party.

We sat on each other’s laps and made jokes about the tanks at every bridge and whether we would make it back to our hotel. We were grateful to be together and heading away from the central city and the growing crowds. We heard that Yeltsin had called for a strike and had asked people to come to the White House. As we drove on, we saw a wall of demonstrators on the

bridges and buses blocking streets and bridges. Our Moscow bus driver was very adept at getting us around barricades. We learned about the famous Moscow u-turns.

Valery gave us a briefing after our return from the ballet and cautioned us to be quiet, let Russian people do whatever could be done, and not try to do anything. We should be careful about photographing tanks and demonstrators. He would protect us and would continue to take us to meetings and receptions as long as it was possible. I had the feeling he had had conversations with the military occupying our hotel. I got the impression that the military had not expected to find a group of American librarians staying at the hotel and were doing their best to keep us isolate and unaware of what they were doing.

## Tuesday, August 20

Tuesday morning some of us brought small Russian tricolor flags to wear on our badges. We wore our badges and carried our IFLA bags as if they were our armor, telling each other that even the emergency committee would not want to kill a bunch of librarians. We boarded our buses at 8:30 a.m. and headed into the central city for our meetings. We could look out the window of the conference center and see the giant blimp with the tricolor Russian flag hanging from it tied to the Russian Parliament building. At one point helicopters seemed to be trying to knock down the blimp.

I attended the 9 a.m. organizing meeting of the new women's group and then went to the American caucus where we were promised a briefing on what our embassy advised us to do. We waited in vain. We had given our passport numbers, names and hotels to Bob Doyle of the American Library Association for transmission to the American Embassy on Monday night. Bob offered his room in the Rossiya as a place for Americans to watch Cable News Network (CNN) between meetings. They soon brought a TV down to the Conference Center lobby so people could stop for a few minutes between meetings.

The IFLA Executive Board met and decided to continue the meeting as if nothing was wrong. We were given no official advice as to whether we should leave early or not. We were advised to consult our embassies. We were told that the reception at the Pushkin Museum would be held that night and that there would be buses. We heard that so many people were canceling their post tours and leaving early that there was a strong possibility that there would not be a quorum on Friday for our next IFLA Council meeting. Sections started canceling workshops for Thursday.

Our Section on Government Information agreed that our workshop on Freedom of Information had taken on added importance because of the coup and the disinformation that

the Soviet people were receiving, and that unless prevented by subsequent events, we would convene our workshop. All of our speakers indicated they were staying. Our Berlin based Chair Siegfried Detemple said that to cancel our workshop would be to give in to what was happening.

Sieglinde and I went to the Pan Am airline office in the conference building and checked to see what earlier flights would be available if we were advised to leave. We were considering canceling our post tour to Kiev and Leningrad. We had heard that tanks were surrounding Leningrad. The ticket agent informed me that a change to my ticket would cost me an additional \$450. I asked her if she had looked out the window to see that there was a coup in progress. Later that day they had lowered the penalty to \$125 and by the end of the week they were making any change you wanted.

Our group returned to our hotel to change for the reception. We arrived at the Pushkin Museum about 7:00 p.m. People were abuzz comparing notes as to when they were leaving and if they were going to take a post tour. Several people told us that the State Department advised Americans to leave as soon as possible. The delegate from the U.S. Geological Survey said he had been called and advised to leave as soon as possible, and when he had asked his Soviet counterparts for some assistance on the phone they had shown a certain amount of reluctance. The Executive Director and International Relations Director of the ALA, as well as many other delegates, were leaving on Wednesday. The U.S. Federal librarians planned to meet that night after the reception to discuss when they should leave. They felt particularly vulnerable as government representatives. Since I was not on an official passport and not in the same hotel as most of the Federal librarians, I decided to skip that meeting.

We heard that the Russian "White House" would be attacked that night. Everyone was sad and subdued. The Minister of Culture gave a brief presentation. The President of IFLA announced that the IFLA meetings would continue. A Lenin State Librarian asked what I thought of the Museum and the Conference. I praised the wonderful museum, the Soviet Librarians' hard work and wished her the best for the future.

They shut down the reception early because of the 11:00 p.m. curfew and we were once more on the streets in our mini bus. We were worried because Sergei was not with us. The official story was that he had gone to see his 90 year old Muscovite grandmother but I suspected that he had gone to the barricades. The streets of Moscow were full of people. We could see thousands of dark figures covering bridges, blocking streets, surrounding tanks. Many of the streets were blocked with buses and the bridges were blocked with people and things that formed the impression of dark metal sculptures against dim

lights. Many of the people were massed on the bridges leading to the Russian “White House.” Our 15 minute trip took over an hour. We passed Pizza Hut and for the first time there were no waiting lines. Because of the curfew and the blockades, there had been little food at the reception and we were tempted to stop for pizza, but our guide was anxious to get us home.

On arrival at our hotel, Sieglinde called the Canadian embassy. We were advised not to leave the hotel. We were told that our hotel was safe because it was 20 minutes from the central city. We did not bother to tell him that our hotel had been taken over by the military, and we were probably the safest librarians in Moscow. He confirmed that the rumored attack on the White House was to take place that night. The Canadians said we were safer at the hotel than trying to go to the airport, because it was rumored that a military plane was going to bring in Mr. Gorbachev and an attempt might be made to attack him at the airport.

### Wednesday, August 21

There was a good turnout for the Section on Government Information program. Tatiana (Tanya) Ershova gave a paper in English on the government publications program at the Lenin State Library, which is the library that receives U.S. publications on exchange from our Government Printing Office. Peter Hajnal of the University of Toronto gave a paper on the Seven Power Summit meeting. Yelena Sarelyeba, our Soviet member of the Standing Committee, expressed her gratitude to the Standing Committee for continuing our meetings.

At the end of the program, I photographed Tanya, Peter, Yelena, Siegfried Detemple and Al Kagan (officers of the Standing Committee) in celebration of the Soviet Librarians’ first attendance at an IFLA meeting since East Germany in 1980. We had issued a number of speaking invitations. But it was only after Henriette Avram of the Library of Congress introduced me to the Director of the Lenin State library at an ALA reception in New Orleans and we had dance, did he promise a speaker for the Moscow program.

Peter Hajnal presented Tanya and Yelena with several books that he had written about international publications. I gave them copies of “Our Flag,” some pamphlets and bookmarks about the depository library program and buttons saying “Documents to the People” and “Documents Love CIP.”

Unbelievable as it seemed Wednesday morning, that night we were celebrating at the Palace of the Kremlin, arriving shortly after the tanks withdrew from the entrance to the Kremlin. It was a wonderful, joyous victory celebration. We and the Soviet librarians toasted each other with vodka and danced to gypsy music. A red bearded Soviet Professor of library automation,

standing across the table from me, toasted me as an American and thanked my President and me for our support. He also thanked my British colleague, Michael Hopkins, who said he had spent most of his time on the barricades instead of at our Section’s meetings, not wanting to miss such an historic event.

Tanya, our speaker from the morning, and I danced with my friend, a Dutch Parliamentary Librarian. Soon it seemed as if everyone in the room was dancing in circles or in long conga lines. Tanya took the gold and black flowers she had made from her blouse as a memory of our victory.

The Minister of Culture, Nikolaj Gubenko, toasted our bravery and we toasted his and we all toasted victory. He thanked us for our countries and for our support during the coup.

### Thursday, August 22

On Thursday morning, August 22nd, our Section on Government Information held a Workshop on Freedom of Information (FOI). The promised Soviet speakers did not appear, but all of our other speakers had stayed through the coup: Celine Walker from the United Nations ACCIS, Lydia Merigot, Documentation Francaise, Siegfried Detemple from Germany, who read a paper prepared by Professor Aubake m El Housh, Al Fatah University Libya. I made a few remarks about the FOIA in the U.S. since Scott Carpenter was unable to attend. Scott later told me that he would take our invitations seriously the next time. As a report and someone who had met with a lot of Soviets interested in FOIA, he missed one of the greatest stories ever.

Siegfried, Chair of the Section, spoke about the necessity for access to government information and that due to the special situation, our workshop on Freedom of Information was particularly appropriate. In the question period, the Chair of the Association of Leningrad Librarians told us that in order to get government information they needed the cooperation of the Leningrad officials and how did we suggest they do that. Siegfried invited them all to a seminar at the IFLA meeting in Spain designed to bring East European librarians together with documents librarians from the West to assist them in addressing the problems involved in changing from the old systems to democracies.

After the meeting, Tanya gave me a hand carved trivet and wood charm from her husband, a rocket scientist, thanking me for protecting his wife. I gave Tanya “Dr. Zhivago” and Yelena “Gorky Park.”

They both praised the international exchange program, and said the publications were an important source of information about what was happening in the rest of the world and helped them and the users of the Lenin State Library to understand

democracy. They invited our sections members to a special visit at the Lenin State Library Friday morning to see the government publications.

That night we attended a victory reception in the great reading room of the Lenin State Library under the watchful eye of the state of the student Lenin. I met Tanay's staff, who hugged and thanked me for the exchange program and for staying in Moscow through the crisis. Our circle of celebrators included an Afghanistan author, who said that ten of the books he had authored were in the Lenin State Library. He hugged us and said he love the Americans and he loved the Russians. We all toasted victory. Tanya invited me to stay at her house on my next visit to Moscow.

I found Arthur Curley, Director of the Boston Public Library, leaning up against the wall watching the dancers. He commented upon the difficulty of giving a speech Wednesday morning at 9:00 am on the "public library and political change," when he did not know the outcome of the historic struggle taking place right across the river. We could see the Yeltsin "White House" from our conference windows, including the giant blimp and the tricolor flag hanging from it. I agreed with him that it had been difficult and that the Soviet librarians had been very brave indeed.

After the celebration, we took the metro home. We saw groups of people reading news sheets posted on the walls. A Romanian delegate was waiting for the train and I asked him to join us. He told me that I was a brave American and when he realized that the librarians with me were also Americans, he called them brave. He said he was writing the great book about Romania and needed a publisher.

On the train we were quite a hit with the Soviet passengers who saw U.S.A on our IFLA badges. A father and his two little boys gave us big smiles and allowed me to take their photograph. The only thing I had to give the boys was a package of gum.

On returning to our hotel, we listened to Gorbchev's speech and press conference, but had to wait until Friday morning for our interpreter to tell us what he said. We celebrated with Sergei, Valery and our bus drivers at breakfast. They were very relieved and happy. I gave the old cleaning woman, who reminded me of my children's Polish grandmother or "Busha," my coffee maker, and the remaining coffee, tea, and sugar. She had already given me a hug just for being an American and after my gift gave me a kiss. I photographed her, the kitchen, and our dining room. Everyone seemed happy, even the guards at the elevators.

Good communication, including fax machines, access to radio, CNN, local telephone service and info sheets posted in the subways and on buildings, helped undo the coup. We, along with many others, managed to get a fax out of Moscow to our loved ones. The coup planners made a mistake when they chose the week 1500 librarians and some 600 Soviet emigres came to town for conferences. The people from these conferences were not only at the barricades but they interacted within their own conferences as a support group for the Soviets who were opposing the coup. They also helped spread the word about the coup all over the world and the Soviet Union.

I left Moscow happy to have become friends with so many fine and brave people. I believe that we librarians can help the Soviet people develop their democracies. I suggest the following actions as a beginning: 1) each person reading this article could adopt a Soviet librarian and begin by writing a letter of encouragement., 2) GODORT could sponsor a Soviet documents librarian's attendance at an ALA meeting, 3) GODORT could start a scholarship fund so a Soviet librarian can attend an American Library School, 4) GODORT International Documents Task Force could establish a working group to develop a strategy on how American librarians can help Soviet librarians.

# The Mental Health Systems Act of 1980

Katherine Bell

**T**he Mental Health Systems Act (MHSA) of 1980 was intended to be a necessary safety net for those individuals who were unable to obtain mental health services without local facilities available to them. There was a strong groundwork in place for it to be effective, from the Public Health Service Act of 1944 to the Community Mental Health Act of 1963, as well as many champions within Congress and amongst the Kennedy family. However, the 1980 election brought in a change of power and a sitting president with a history of cutting funds for mental health services. The signing of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation of 1981 quickly and efficiently reduced the capacity of the MHSA to provide services to those who needed them.

## The National Stage Before the Carters

Prior to President Jimmy Carter, there were some prior forays into government-assisted mental health services. Notable acts included the Public Health Service Act of 1944, signed into law by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.<sup>1</sup> It was created due to the growing realization of communicable diseases running virulent within the various branches of the armed services in World War II. It set out to establish rules for the government's ability to quarantine persons entering the country for the public good, called a Title 42 appointment, which is an excepted service employment category in the United States federal civil service allowing for the hiring of special consultants as part of the Public Health Service in a more streamline manner.

Another significant act was the Community Mental Health Act (CMHA) of 1963, the last piece of legislation to be signed by President John F. Kennedy. The CMHA planned to build 1,500 community-based mental health facilities which allowed the population living in state-owned mental hospitals to be cut in half. Funding would be allotted to states based on population and need, and it would also allow for the training of teachers for “mentally handicapped children.”<sup>2</sup> Only half of those 1,500

facilities were built, and many lacked adequate funding. Additionally, deinstitutionalization began whether the communities were ready for the mass release of people or not. Antipsychotics were beginning to become available outside of mental health institutions, including Chlorpromazine (known commercially as Thorazine) in the 1950s; this only accelerated further in the 1960s with the advent of Medicaid to provide those in need of antipsychotics with the means to obtain them.<sup>3</sup> After all, Congress barred Medicaid payments “for people in ‘institutions of mental diseases’ but allowed payments for community mental health centers.”<sup>4</sup>

## The Carters in Washington

Even before her husband's election to the presidency, First Lady Rosalynn Carter had long championed the mental health field. As far back as President Jimmy Carter's first term as Governor of Georgia in 1970, she had made that field one of special interest to her, even volunteering at a hospital in Atlanta to learn more and joining her husband's Georgia commission to improve the services available in the state, where the number of hospitalized patients fell by about thirty percent. She decided early on that this would continue to be her focus if her husband were to become president.<sup>5</sup>

Less than a month after President Carter took office, he issued an executive order creating the President's Commission on Mental Health, with Mrs. Carter serving as an honorary chairperson. The Commission took over a year to study the health care needs of the nation before submitting their results in 1978, which would then be shaped into legislation shepherded through Congress by Senator Kennedy and by Congressman Henry Waxman into what slowly took shape into the Mental Health Systems Act in a few more years' time.<sup>6</sup>

The executive order itself was ambitious in scope, seeking to identify “the various ways the President, the Congress, and the Federal Government may most efficiently support the

treatment of the mentally ill.”<sup>7</sup> It sought to determine, as nearly as possible, what role the federal government could play in furthering the treatment of mental illness and how much it might cost. It wanted to know who is being served, who is underserved and to what extent, and who is affected by this eventual piece of legislation.

While the language within the document might have been mired in the ableist terms of the 1970s, such as “mentally retarded,” the title of the Commission itself was a departure from the past, with its focus on mental health rather than mental illness. The Commission which had led to the Community Mental Health Act, after all, had been the Joint Commission on Mental Illness and Health, which ran from 1955 to 1961.<sup>8</sup>

### Stumbling Blocks and Passing the MHSA in 1980

The creation of the President’s Commission on Mental Health was only the first step toward the eventual bill which would become the Mental Health System Act. An early stumbling block was the role of Mrs. Carter: she would have preferred a more hands-on position as she had taken in Georgia, as the Chairman of the Commission. However, on the national level, there were some questions as to the legality of the First Lady being in this role; this was side-stepped by having Doctor Thomas E. Bryant, President of the Drug Abuse Council, serve as Chairman and make Mrs. Carter the Honorary Chairman.<sup>9</sup>

More than a thousand names were submitted for the twenty committee spots. The commission itself was selected with diversity in mind and with the aim of having a committee that was not solely staffed with psychiatrists. Instead, it would contain academics of varying fields, a labor leader, a minister, several lawyers, human rights and mental health activists, and a few psychologists. One member, Priscilla Allen, was a former patient, who insisted on an integrated system linking psychiatrists with community services and discussed the more practical side of matters, such as bringing theory to reality.<sup>10</sup>

Sadly, this pragmatism would be lost in the other panelists’ theoretics. The members who were doctors were generalists with little direct contact with the mental health system. Some of the Commission saw mental health issues as solely a product of the environment that could be improved by merely improving housing, education, or employment. There was ideological disagreement as to which community was the most underserved and which needed to be dealt with in what way. As a result of this diverse group makeup and a lack of clear understanding as to the full spectrum of potential mental health issues, the Commission employed a definition that focused more on societal issues than any chemical imbalance.<sup>11</sup>

The final report was eventually collated and presented to the President. Dr. Bryant trimmed many of the commissioners’ comments and personal agendas to bring the document into something manageable. Children, adolescents, and the elderly were all noted as being severely underserved and lacking access to existing services, as were the physically disabled. Additionally, cultural and linguistic barriers needed to be addressed across the many minorities across the country.<sup>12</sup>

In 1979, President Carter sent a message to Congress to draft a mental health systems act. In the House, H.R. 4156 was introduced by Representatives Harley Staggers and Henry Waxman, Democrats of West Virginia and California, respectively, where it went through enough deliberations and changes, even tacking on an amended second piece of legislation entitled H.R. 3986 to add on provisions for the victims of rape.<sup>13,14</sup> Eventually, an entirely new House bill, H.R. 7299, was introduced by Representative Waxman in 1980, which passed the House by a widely successful margin, 277-15.<sup>15</sup> In the Senate, Edward Kennedy introduced S. 1177 in 1979.<sup>16</sup> Unlike the House bill, it remained largely unchanged until its passing in 1980, again by a wide margin, in this case, 93-3. This final bill, passed by the House and Senate, included grants to ensure mental health patients received needed services, created a position to oversee mental health services for minorities, and authorized funds for rape prevention and control, as S. 1177.<sup>17</sup> A sticking point had been a bill of rights for patients, which was eventually included but “only after deleting the section penalizing those states that failed to protect the rights of patients.”<sup>18</sup>

On October 7, 1980, President Jimmy Carter signed the Mental Health Systems Act into law at an event at the Woodburn Center for Community Mental Health in Annandale, Virginia. In attendance were Mrs. Carter, Senator Edward Kennedy, Congressman Henry Waxman, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Patricia Harris, and Mrs. Eunice Kennedy Shriver, amongst others. Except for Mrs. Shriver, all of them made some remarks on the legislation; many commented on Mrs. Carter’s contributions to the President’s Commission and to making certain that this would become law. Beyond that, however, it was a continuation of the Community Mental Health Act of 1963, a legacy of John F. Kennedy, continued now by his younger siblings and the Carters, made obvious by the number of parallels drawn in the speeches during the signing.<sup>19</sup>

The Mental Health System Act placed special emphasis “on the care and treatment of chronic mental illness to ensure that mental health support and aftercare services are available at the community level.”<sup>20</sup> It allowed for federal grant money for children, adolescents, and the elderly—all target demographics of

the Commission. It strengthened services to the poor in both rural and urban center areas. Additionally, there was authorization in place for grants to nonprofit community mental health centers in order to give appropriate levels of mental health care. Oversight was set in place of persons who had to remain inpatient, with the emphasis that it would be in the “least-restrictive settings” possible.<sup>21</sup> When these people were released, they were to be informed of “available community-based facilities and programs” with the caveat that these were to be adequately staffed and funded with programs to provide help and support.<sup>22</sup> It still included the rape prevention and control section added in the House in 1979. A part of particular significance was the Patients’ Bill of Rights, Section 501, laying out what a person undergoing treatment could expect of their medical team, why it was appropriate, and what rights they had beyond this, including accessibility, confidentiality, and the right to assert their grievances.<sup>23</sup>

## And Then There Was Reagan

Election night 1980 occurred less than a month after the Mental Health Systems Act was signed into law: the legislation that went into effect in October 1980 was repealed less than a year later in August 1981. By the summer of 1981, the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981 was signed into law by President Ronald Reagan. Continuing the controversial trend in denying or disregarding the need for mental health care from his days as governor of California, where there was at least one suicide after the threat of closing a facility, President Reagan made cuts from the budget with mental health being amongst the first to go.<sup>24</sup>

The Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act repealed both the Mental Health Systems Act and the Community Mental Health Act of 1963. Notably, Section 501 of the Mental Health Systems Act, the Patients’ Bill of Rights, remained intact. All the funding boosts to community mental health centers added by the Mental Health Systems Act were converted to block grants to the states by the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act; federal funding was decreased as well.<sup>25</sup>

## The Aftermath

It did not take long for the aftermath of President Reagan’s changes to become apparent. Patients’ rights groups were underfunded and understaffed. Some organizations, some even representing families of the mentally ill, pushed for legislation to make it easier to commit a mental patient involuntarily. Without federal funding, deinstitutionalization rapidly increased, leaving more and more patients on the streets, leading to the estimated homeless population doubling in the

1980s.<sup>26</sup> Estimates in 1990 found that 1 in 15 prisoners in the Cook County Jail in Chicago, Illinois, had some form of mental illness. As of 2015, a conservative estimate is now closer to 1 in 3.<sup>27</sup> Along with Rikers Island and Los Angeles County Jail, it is one of the three largest mental health facilities in the United States.<sup>28</sup>

The COVID-19 pandemic made the mental health care situation even more challenging. Even with the Affordable Care Act ensuring children are more connected to coverage, the pandemic has exposed gaps: lack of broadband access, early intervention, assistance to LGBTQ+ youths, and more. “In 2020, there was a 24 percent increase in emergency room visits for mental health reasons for children between 5 through 11, and a more than 30 percent increase in visits for those between 12 and 17 years old.”<sup>29</sup>

## Conclusion

When the Mental Health Systems Act of 1980 came into effect, it had the chance to be an important step forward in mental health care in the United States. Instead, it was repealed too quickly to be tested long-term. The effects of losing such an important mental health act are still showing strongly today in many communities, many of which still do not have sufficient access to mental health services. Those communities that are fortunate enough to have facilities are either lucky enough to have well-funded organizations providing care to those in need of services or find themselves faced with institutions that lack proper funding, space, and sufficient staff to provide quality of care.

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# A County-Level COVID-19 Response

Chloe Bryant and Emily Terada

*Accurate COVID-19 information has seemed contradictory and inconvenient to find since the beginning of the pandemic in March of 2020. There are many sources that could be blamed for this, including the newspapers, Facebook, or the government itself at federal or even county levels. But where does the average user stand in their ability to access and understand accurate, relevant information relating to COVID-19? We explored twelve county websites picked from six states across the country—Washington, New York, Nevada, Kansas, Louisiana, and Ohio—to see how effective and accessible information at the county-level response differs between Democrat and Republican-leaning states, when those counties acted, and how the information compares regarding lockdowns, vaccines, and quality-of-life documents (such as unemployment forms and aid) during the pandemic. For a birds-eye view of this government information problem, we have chosen to highlight five of these sites to provide a brief look at our findings, which includes observations on population size, political leanings, and information availability and accessibility.*

Throughout the pandemic, news and updates have not necessarily come from organizations such as the WHO or the CDC. Instead, news has come from a variety of sources besides health-related organizations, including NBC News, Reuters, and History Link. One such source is The New York Times, who provided a risk-assessment guide to each county in the United States.<sup>1</sup> Rather than government websites putting out new information (other than the CDC), the pandemic's current state has seemingly been determined by the media's or academia's interpretation of it. Humanities and Social Sciences Communications article "News media coverage of COVID-19 public health and policy information," written by Mach et al., describes this phenomenon and how news media has an important role in communicating public health information, stating that "News coverage communicates risks to readers and shapes public perceptions through the amount, content, and tone of

reporting. . . . Low-quality scientific reporting of pandemics may overstate or understate disease risks or the efficacy of protective measures for different individuals or fail to communicate the nature of the evidence."<sup>2</sup>

As a result, the pandemic has been an ongoing story and information issue for nearly two years, with the media influencing much of the public narrative. For the purposes of this brief look at the information available to the public as of November 2021, we constructed a short narrative timeline highlighting three major milestones and three events that have caused some of the largest information issues for citizens in the pandemic—namely, assessing personal risk and the safety of COVID-19 vaccines. While further strains of the virus have been identified (such as Omicron) and cases have continued to rise, we chose to remain focused on the first 20 months of the pandemic, through the end of November 2021. As a result, these events and milestones include the first U.S. case of COVID-19, originally identified on January 20, 2020, in Snohomish County, Washington, and the first stay-at-home order issued by the governor of California on March 19, 2020.<sup>3</sup> Soon afterwards, 5 million total cases were identified in the U.S. as of August 8, 2020.<sup>4</sup> Finally, on December 14, 2020, the first vaccine for COVID-19 was given in the United States, but the pandemic continued onwards, with Delta becoming the prominent strain in July of 2021, and 45 million U.S. cases being identified as of October of 2021.<sup>5</sup> All of these developments were provided by news sources; however, this is where we expected government sites to step in and provide information about the local county conditions and how people can protect themselves.

## Methodology

To explore how government sites have handled the pandemic and flow of information, we used a random state generator website to select a state, before checking for the political leaning of the state, re-generating if we had already reached our maximum

Table 1. Ranked county sites according to COVID-19 information availability and accessibility

State	Name	Political Leaning	Link To Site(s)	Primary Qualities of Site(s)	First Way-back Date	% of Population Over 18	Population	% White Alone
OH	Franklin County	D	<a href="https://franklincountyohio.gov">https://franklincountyohio.gov</a>	Information front-and-center, designed for and aimed at concerned citizens, CDC based	March 13, 2020	76.6%	1, 290, 360	66.3%
WA	King County	D	<a href="https://kingcounty.gov/depts/health/covid-19.aspx">https://kingcounty.gov/depts/health/covid-19.aspx</a>	Clear website headings, easy to navigate with accompanying icons for user understanding	April 27, 2020	79.6%	2, 195, 502	64.0%
WA	Grays Harbor County	R	<a href="https://www.healthygh.org/directory/covid19">https://www.healthygh.org/directory/covid19</a>	Helpful graphics, accessible language on FAQs	May 11, 2020	79.5%	72, 779	87.7%
LA	Orleans Parish	D	<a href="https://ready.nola.gov/incident/coronavirus/safe-reopening/">https://ready.nola.gov/incident/coronavirus/safe-reopening/</a>	COVID-19 guidelines are found in bullet point form, text is organized but is an overwhelming amount of information	March 10, 2020	79.9%	390, 845	33.9%
KS	Douglas County	D	<a href="https://coronavirus-response-dgco.hub.arcgis.com/">https://coronavirus-response-dgco.hub.arcgis.com/</a>	Large font size for readability, information is fairly easy-to-follow, main COVID-19 information is located on the same webpage which requires too much scrolling for the user's sake	March 24, 2020	81.5%	120, 290	82.4%
NV	Clark County	D	<a href="https://www.clarkcountynv.gov/top_services/covid19/index.php">https://www.clarkcountynv.gov/top_services/covid19/index.php</a>	Drop-down tabs on the left side can be slightly tricky for the user, clearly presented information	Dec. 3, 2020	76.6%	2, 182, 004	60.2%

requirement for a certain political leaning. Two of the states—Washington and New York—were chosen prior to using a state generator, since they were both early epicenters of the pandemic in the United States, and we were curious as to how their information compared to states that had later outbreaks. Ultimately, we chose to highlight six states. Three of them—Washington, New York, and Nevada—leaned Democrat in the 2020 Presidential elections, while the other three, Ohio, Kansas, and Louisiana, ultimately voted Republican, according to Politico data.<sup>6</sup> From there, we selected one county that voted Democrat and one that voted Republican within each state.

We were interested in whether political affiliation affected the quality of information present on a page due to the political polarization that has occurred regarding public health,<sup>7</sup> and so an even spread of political leanings in our data was important to offer a look at how various local governments have handled the pandemic, not just heavily affected states or wealthy counties.

Tables 1 and 2 are a ranked list of those sites, with the first date that COVID information appeared according to the Wayback Machine, as well as the reason(s) for ranking, the political leaning, total population, percentage over 18, and percent white alone according to census data.<sup>8</sup> Table 1 consists of the

sites that we consider to have passed our standard, while Table 2 are those that we do not think offer a good user experience or enough easily accessible data on COVID-19.

As part of our methodology and research, any site information prior to November 16, 2021, was pulled from the Wayback Machine and may be accessed via that method. We primarily utilized Wayback Machine to compare when county websites started adding COVID-19 information, with a special focus on which counties were early adopters of COVID-specific sites or pages and which ones waited until later in the pandemic to begin providing information to their residents. Furthermore, census data was used to offer another perspective on COVID-19 data and research availability and whether areas with higher BIPOC representation had information similar to that of areas with a high white-alone population. This was an important part of our exploration, since data shows that BIPOC populations are at higher risk for COVID complications and have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic.<sup>9</sup>

## Accessibility Standards and By-County Data

For the purposes of this project, website accessibility is defined on these characteristics: ease of finding COVID-19 information

Table 2. Ranked county sites according to COVID-19 information availability and accessibility, continued

State	Name	Political Leaning	Link To Site(s)	Primary Qualities of Site(s)	First Way-back Date	Percentage of Population Over 18	Total Population	Percent White Alone
NY	Lewis County	R	<a href="https://www.lewiscounty.org/vaccinate/lewiscounty">https://www.lewiscounty.org/vaccinate/lewiscounty</a>	Nice informational videos, information is there but hard to follow the 'flow' of the website	Nov. 20, 2021 (No 2020 Dates)	76.9%	26, 572	96.8%
NY	Monroe County	D	<a href="https://www.monroecounty.gov/">https://www.monroecounty.gov/</a>	COVID-19 information is located in red-colored boxes on the homepage, the small font size makes it tricky to navigate	Feb. 29, 2020	79.0%	743, 341	76.0%
NV	Humboldt County	R	<a href="https://www.humboldtcounty.nv.gov/AlertCenter.aspx?AID=Humboldt-County-Coronavirus-COVID19-Late-53">https://www.humboldtcounty.nv.gov/AlertCenter.aspx?AID=Humboldt-County-Coronavirus-COVID19-Late-53</a>	Very little visual appeal with a list of links, information is hard to find	April 11, 2021	72.9%	16, 828	86.4%
OH	Holmes County	R	<a href="https://www.holmeshealth.org/">https://www.holmeshealth.org/</a>	Hard to find information on the website with information buried at the end of the page	March 13, 2020	68.3%	43, 901	98.4%
KS	Pawnee County	R	<a href="https://www.pawneecountykansass.com/158/health-Department">https://www.pawneecountykansass.com/158/health-Department</a>	The information buried at the end of the page and links to PDFs are not intuitive for use	April 3, 2020	81.5%	6, 629	89.6%
LA	St. Mary Parish	R	<a href="https://www.stmaryparishla.gov/">https://www.stmaryparishla.gov/</a>	Could not find any COVID-19 information on the website, completed site search, and still no results	Oct. 16, 2020	75.8%	50, 968	58.9%

through obvious website links, clear sense of website organization, and use of non-scientific language to explain complex scientific information. Another accessibility check included using [accessibilitychecker.org](https://www.accessibilitychecker.org) to determine what areas of improvement could be made in accordance with ADA standards. We imagined how an average user might approach when researching each of the county websites, and determined the website's quality based on how easy it was to find COVID-19 information. Websites that have information front-and-center and use non-scientific language allow for a larger percentage of the population to have access to valuable health information and COVID-19 guidelines.

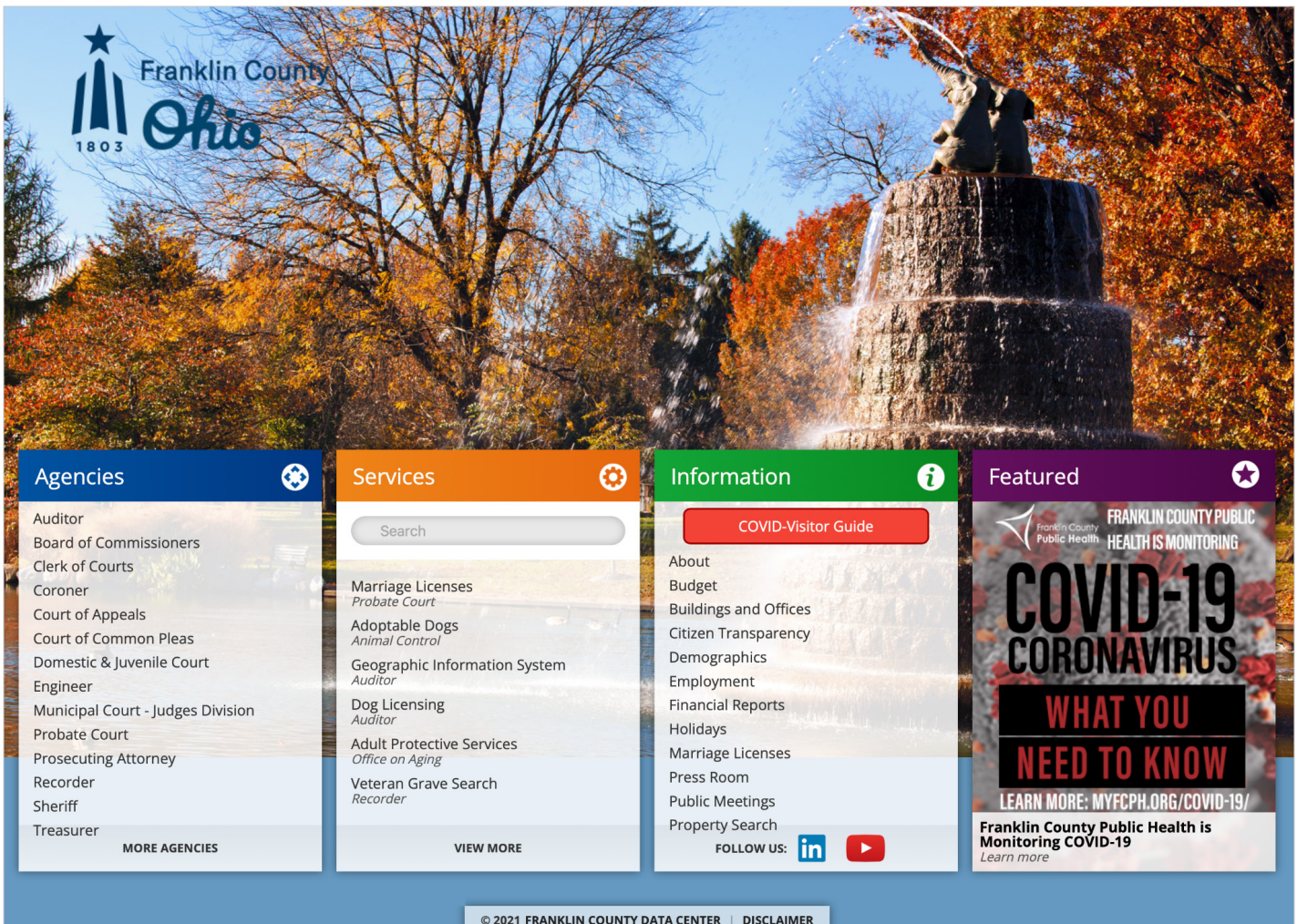
To show the range of pandemic responses we found, we have chosen to elaborate on five of these counties due to their geographical and political diversity—Franklin County, Ohio; Orleans Parish, Louisiana; Monroe County, New York; Grays Harbor County, Washington; and Pawnee County, Kansas. Some of this information was surprising. For example, despite having a decently large population, St. Mary Parish does not provide any COVID-19 information, and so was placed last on our rankings (table 2), while similarly sized Grays Harbor County has reasonably good information (table 1). It is not

surprising, however, that King County has some of the best information available, ranking in at number 2 on our list, likely due to the presence of the University of Washington and being a major epicenter of the U.S.'s part in the pandemic in 2020.

Finally, while we acknowledge CDC data as being relevant to the current state of the pandemic and the authority of the organization on public health, we also recognize that trust in the CDC's recommendations has eroded during the course of the pandemic, with only 52 percent having a "great deal of trust" in the organization, and many others considering the advice to be "arbitrary."<sup>10</sup> As a result, while linking to the CDC's site was considered a point in favor of these sites, we want to acknowledge that for many individuals, the CDC would not be acknowledged as a trustworthy source of scientific information, regardless of its credibility, and this would potentially cause mistrust in the county site's recommendations as well, making it an insufficient source for public health guidance.

### Franklin County, Ohio

Home to Columbus, the capital of Ohio, Franklin County has chosen to delegate most of the dissemination of COVID



Despite the visitor's guide having visual accessibility issues, Franklin County, Ohio's website was assessed to have clear, non-scientific language and large, readable fonts with valuable COVID-19 information.

health and safety information to Franklin County Public Health. However, at the time of this study, Franklin County had COVID information pinned to its front page where visitors could see it and easily access it as one of their featured images,<sup>11</sup> as seen in image 1 (a screenshot of the landing page for Franklin County). The COVID-Visitor Guide, also on this page, takes searchers to a page discussing general building policies and the boards and groups providing the guidelines, which then further links to a page from the Board of Commissioners listing hours and building-specific policies for individual government departments in the county. Many of these entries also have area-specific information, such as the "Children's Services," whose site still provides further information about childcare during the pandemic, illness, and testing.<sup>12</sup> However, using the accessibility checker site, the Covid-Visitor Guide page has a score of 31 percent for background and foreground not having sufficient contrast ratio and because users with visual impairments may experience difficulty using the zoom feature on the webpage.<sup>13</sup>

Clicking the COVID-19 "Featured" image takes a searcher to the Franklin County Public Health site, where there are guidelines for places such as schools and nursing homes, including clear FAQ's regarding vaccines and vaccination, resources such as downloadable flyers for businesses in Franklin County or bulletins and flowcharts for people to determine who they need to contact in case of a positive test, and a page containing all recent relevant CDC information.<sup>14</sup> One seasonal promotion was for "Test-Giving," an initiative encouraging people to take an at-home test before going to Thanksgiving dinners with family and friends.<sup>15</sup> Providing free at-home test kits, up to 6 per person, on the Monday before Thanksgiving, the promotion's details had a clear location and hours for pickup, along with a short FAQ regarding the differences between various test types. The main .gov site was providing links to the Public Health site as early as March 13, 2020, while the Public Health site went from a single page about COVID in March 2020 to a full site by April 2020, which was then given the different

CITY OF NEW ORLEANS OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS Translate: English Español Tiếng Việt

**NOLA READY** **COVID-19** IN NEW ORLEANS

COVID-19 IN NEW ORLEANS CURRENT GUIDELINES TESTING & VACCINES RESOURCES BACK TO NOLA READY

## Latest Coronavirus information

Text COVIDNOLA to 77295 to receive alerts

### Modified Phase Three

- STAY HOME ORDER**  
Residents are mandated to stay home except for essential needs.
- MODIFIED PHASE ONE**  
More capacity and gathering restrictions reinstated starting January 8.
- MODIFIED PHASE TWO**  
Restrictions on some higher-risk operations eased starting February 26.
- MODIFIED PHASE THREE**  
**Indoor mask mandate in effect. Proof of vaccine or negative test required for some activities starting Aug. 16, 2021.**
- PHASE FOUR**  
Most restrictions will be eased, although some may remain necessary.

[View current guidelines](#)

[Back to top](#)

Orleans Parish, Louisiana’s website’s background and foreground colors aren’t fit for screen readers, but it does provide many resources related to COVID-19, including translations to Spanish and Vietnamese.

URL of [vax2normal.org](http://vax2normal.org) in March of 2021.<sup>16</sup> Overall, this site has clear, non-scientific language and large, readable fonts, and can be translated into multiple languages via what appears to be Google Translate, despite the visitor’s guide having accessibility issues.

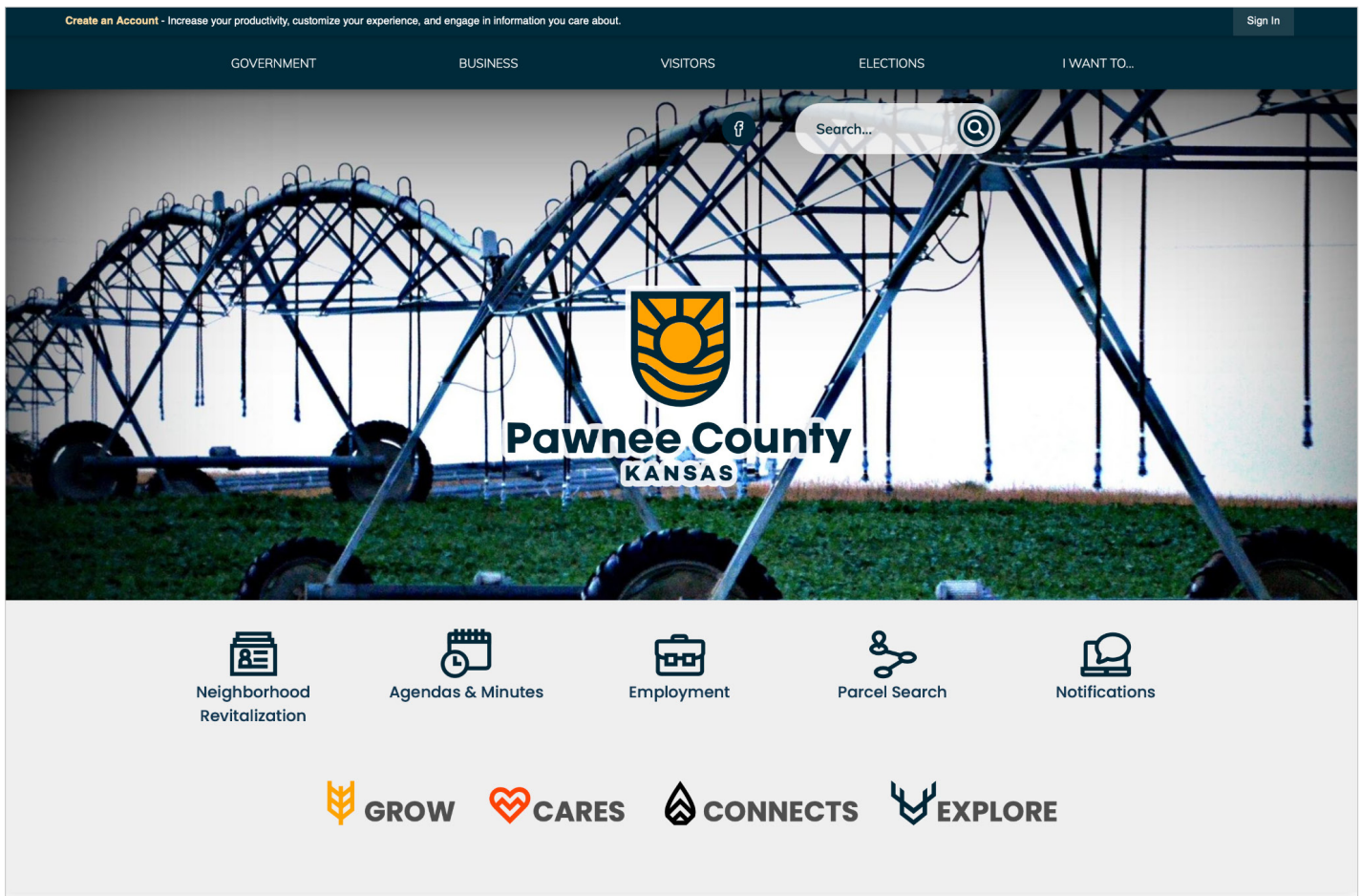
### Orleans Parish, Louisiana

During this study, the main city website for New Orleans—which covers both Orleans Parish and New Orleans, Louisiana—contained the latest information on COVID-19 guidelines and a timeline of which regulations phase the parish was in in a bright yellow banner link to NOLA Ready, the City of New Orleans emergency response website.<sup>17</sup> The website is easy to navigate for non-disabled individuals, with brightly colored, bolded headers and center-page links and provides a COVID-19 Resource Events Calendar for those looking for specific resources related to COVID-19, such as “Drive-Thru Testing” and “Community Vaccine Events.” However, Orleans Parish’s emergency response website has a 44% rating for accessibility, with its main issues being that the background and foreground colors do not have a sufficient contrast ratio and site images do not have alternative text, which presents challenges to users with screen readers.<sup>18</sup> As seen in image 2 (a screenshot of NOLA’s site), the website features a modern web design with large text links present at the top of the webpage

and non-scientific, every-day language for users to understand the many resources available to them, with COVID-19 related information being displayed as early as March 10, 2020.<sup>19</sup> In the middle of the homepage is “COVID-19 in New Orleans by the numbers,” which links to an external website of data on new cases, infection rate, positive test rate, LA COVID hospitalizations, and the vaccination rate for New Orleans.<sup>20</sup> The website can also be translated to Spanish and Vietnamese so that users are able to find the information they need. The guidelines webpage has attached government documents for COVID-19 guidelines and has distilled the requirements under the headings: “Masks required,” “Vaccines required,” and “Gathering guidelines” for users’ ease, along with a section on “Vaccination status,” which provides links for digital vaccination cards and tips on keeping a vaccine card safe from potential damage.<sup>21</sup>

### Monroe County, New York

Monroe County’s site has COVID-19 information front and center, with the county providing COVID-19 specific pages from February 2020 onwards.<sup>22</sup> While the site had web design reminiscent of the 1990’s as of November 2021, making it out-of-touch with modern standards of accessibility and navigability, it has since been updated to reflect more modern aesthetics and needs. However, even at the time of researching this project, it could be translated into many languages with an on-site



Much like Grays Harbor County, Washington, there is no COVID-19-related information on Pawnee County, Kansas' homepage, or clear idea of where the information might be found,

Google Translate tool. Furthermore, COVID information has always been placed front and center on the page for maximum visibility. The information is written and provided in such a way that most non-disabled individuals would be able to use, understand, and access it, despite being sparse when originally looking at this site.<sup>23</sup> When it comes to accessibility, Monroe County's new site received a 75 percent rating, with one critical issue to the website's accessibility being that the background and foreground colors do not have a sufficient contrast ratio; however, this is a significant improvement from their original site, which only received a 46 percent rating, with the additional issues of images not having alt text and links not having discernable names.<sup>24</sup> This may present challenges to those with visual impairments who may want to access information on the county website. The COVID-19 Resources page included daily case counts and accessibility information for those who are deaf or hard of hearing, including ASL versions of CDC health guidance and instructions for getting an ASL-trained contact tracer.<sup>25</sup> There was no scientific information linked to

beyond the CDC, such as vaccine safety or COVID transmission studies, but there is information for actions such as getting paid quarantine orders, applying for government assistance, or getting vaccinated. Furthermore, there do not appear to be any resources related to reopening guidelines or current county-level health guidance, with the bulk of the response being at the city level. Rochester, the main city within the county, has several pages and sites dedicated to the COVID-19 response, including [jumpstartingroc.com](http://jumpstartingroc.com) and [cityofrochester.gov/coronavirus/](http://cityofrochester.gov/coronavirus/), but these sites were not linked to on the county site, and required a separate Google search to find.

### Grays Harbor County, Washington

While the main site for this county is clean and modern, there are unfortunately no direct links to any COVID-19 information, and information seekers must either do a site search or go to the Departments drop-down menu and find the Public Health and Social Services item for info.<sup>26</sup> However, upon accessing the Public Health and Social Services site—[healthygh.org](http://healthygh.org)—the top

items are information on COVID-19 and COVID-19 vaccines in both English and Spanish.<sup>27</sup> These links take those searching for information to FAQ's, Zoom presentations, and/or flyers on the specific topic. These FAQ's (and associated flyers) are written in accessible language and have sections specifically for different groups of people or individual concerns, such as "Taking care of your whole self," which redirects to mental health resources, "Parents and caregivers," which provides tips for helping kids cope with changes such as school closures and lack of social activity, or "Business resources," which provides forms such as workplace safety reports and small business resources from StartUp Washington.<sup>28</sup> The county's website received a 75 percent for accessibility with its main accessibility issues being the background and foreground colors not having a sufficient contrast ratio and website links not having discernible names which may present challenges to those who use screen readers.<sup>29</sup>

The site that houses COVID-19 information is cleanly designed and is easy to navigate despite the mild difficulty in finding it, and healthyh.org started providing COVID information as early as March 13, 2020, though it has grown in usefulness over time.<sup>30</sup> Ultimately, Grays Harbor did not pin information to its main home page, but its public health site is one of the better ones for finding relevant, reliable information as a citizen looking for support during the pandemic.

### Pawnee County, Kansas

Much like Grays Harbor, there is no COVID-19-related information on Pawnee County's homepage or clear idea of where the information might be found, as seen in image 3 (a screenshot of Pawnee County's homepage), thus requiring users to complete a site search to find relevant information.<sup>31</sup> Upon searching "COVID-19," the user can find relevant health information on COVID-19 in the format of PDF links. The first result, "HCC COVID 19 Resource Sheet," is a PDF that contains many of the main public health websites for COVID-19 resources, including the Pawnee County Health Department. However, once a user is on that site, information is buried at the bottom of the webpage, making it difficult to navigate and not accessible enough for user needs.<sup>32</sup> Pawnee County's Health Department received a 48% from the accessibility checker site with the major issues being not enough contrast ratio between foreground and background colors and website links not having a discernible name, which may affect individuals using screen readers to navigate the website.<sup>33</sup> One major feature of the health department's webpage is an embedded PDF with community health resources and contact information. Some headings include: "Family Medical Care" and "Social Service Organizations," to reach community needs. One major detraction

from this PDF is that the pages have been scanned, so it is not possible for a user to simply click on the website links listed. A user would not be able to find COVID-19 information from the website's homepage, therefore leaving a potential knowledge gap amongst residents on appropriate COVID-19 measures. Furthermore, as of this study, the Pawnee County Health Department had last updated its website on August 17, 2021, potentially providing out-of-date information as a result.<sup>34</sup>

Early on in the pandemic the COVID-19 public health information was more prominent and findable on the website, and appeared as early as April 3, 2020 according to the Wayback Machine, but by November 2021 the "Community Health Needs Assessment" and Flu Season information had more site presence than the COVID-19 information.<sup>35</sup> One PDF that is labeled as "Reduce\_the\_Spread," is not as intuitive to the user and we would strongly suggest a more visual and accessible way of displaying the PDF information, such as embedding the PDF so users could click-through the information.

### Conclusion

Overall, the story that we have found from these government sites is that throughout the pandemic, the earliest responses and clearest information have generally come from Democrat-leaning counties, in spite of geographic location or state politics, with a few exceptions, such as Grays Harbor County, which is both a Republican-leaning and has the lowest population of the passing sites. This was especially interesting, as we found that larger populations seem to have a minor correlation to better quality of information, with Monroe County as an exception. This may be due to either larger cities being located in Democratic counties, and thus having a more diverse population and larger voice in the state's overall politics, or having better overall funding due to increased tax revenue.

Another outlier that we found was New Orleans County, with both its lower population compared to other high-ranking sites and far higher BIPOC population compared to the other counties (33.9 percent white-alone vs 60 percent or greater). We believe that this is due to the number of public health and other emergencies that New Orleans has faced in the past two decades, including Hurricane Katrina, which has given them grounds to invest in their emergency response site that other places in the U.S. have not had.

While this is a small sample, considering that the U.S. has over 3000 counties across 50 states, it shows an unsettling pattern of public health being under-prioritized in Republican counties, regardless of population size. Whether this is due to those counties looking to Democratic ones for their guidance or due to the increased politicization of public health causing



Republican counties to ignore the pandemic and their citizens' information needs is unknown. There are also other factors that we were unable to explore during the course of this project due to time constraints, including public health budgets in our selected counties, especially during the 2019–2021 period, the average age of a county or if there is a significant retirement-age population in an area (as those 65 and older are considered higher risk), the availability of affordable phone data plans or internet connections that do not require being in public spaces, and the percentage of families and individuals living below the national poverty line.

Future studies on this subject should consider one or more of these factors when evaluating sites, since all would contribute to the accessibility of COVID-19 information for the general population and what information should, ideally, be provided by the county. In the end, COVID-19—and now the new concerns regarding monkeypox—poses a constant need for correct, timely information to protect our families and communities, and when government sites do not provide information on life during a pandemic to their citizens, confusion and panic are likely to follow.

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# Exploring History Through Government Documents

## The Civil Rights Movement

Ani Karagianis

**Collection Statement:** This collection is a starting point for deeper exploration into the Civil Rights Movement of the 20th century using government documents and websites. These documents are just a sample of the many documents available to learn about the historical context, key events, and people important to the movement. The goal of this collection is to provide a series of documents that can work together to provide some history of the Civil Rights Movement. This reference collection spans from 1948-2015, with the bulk of the documents in the 1960s, which mirrors the heyday of the Civil Rights Movement and the notable leaders of the movement (Malcolm X and Martin Luther King, Jr.). It is broken up into three main categories: historical context, key events/documents, and notable people/organizations. These were selected due to the differences in the government sources and provides a range of information about voting, the civil rights commission, and the actions of the leaders of the movement. The key events/documents are arranged chronologically so researchers can see the evolution of some Civil Rights documents and legislation. The historical context and key figures/organizations are organized alphabetically by content (which is why “Honoring the NAACP” will go after Malcom X and Martin Luther King, since the content is about the NAACP). Some documents will have related items with it to add context or another angle of research.

**Audience/Patron Focus:** Historians/students using records (both historical and current) to research social justice issues, in this case, Civil Rights movements in the 20th century. These documents are intended to act as an entry point for using government documents in historical research. These are not all inclusive of what is available about civil rights.

### Historical Context

JFK Library, The Modern Civil Rights Movement and the Kennedy Administration

Common title: Civil Rights Movement

Official title: The Modern Civil Rights Movement and the Kennedy Administration

SuDoc stem: Associated with the National Archives (AE)

Issuing agency: This is associated the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library, which is linked to the National Archives.

Publication history—print and online: This is online on the website and available on the National Archives webpages.

Key finding aids / indexes / tools for working with the item: This particular page about civil rights is in the JFK in History page on his Presidential website. There is an inclusive list of the pages on the JFK Presidential Library website available through the National Archives.

Source: It is not available in print.

Purpose/Key Use: The presidential libraries include key government documents associated with the presidents, including personal and official papers. These documents were available to the public around six years after the end of John F. Kennedy’s term. This page also includes personal papers of people associated with the president.

Link: <https://www.jfklibrary.org/learn/about-jfk/jfk-in-history/civil-rights-movement>

### Summary and Notes

This site provides context about the Civil Rights Movement and the Kennedy Administration, providing a timeline about the movement from 1960 through to the Civil Rights Act of 1964. This would be best used for the context surrounding the

later documents about the Civil Rights Movement and specifically, the Civil Rights Act in 1964. All of this information is limited to President Kennedy's term, so the information within this section does end with the Civil Rights Act (which was spearheaded by Kennedy). There is a pro-Kennedy sentiment due to the location of the information, and the more negative aspects of the Civil Rights movement at the time (for example, the violence of the Freedom rides) is glossed over. This could be best used as the context for the timeframe and the leadership when key events occurred.

### *Related Content*

This content will provide further context about Presidents and their roles in the Civil Rights Movement: Harry S. Truman, Lyndon B. Johnson

### **Library of Congress, Civil Rights History Project**

Common title: Civil Rights History Project

Official title: Civil Rights History Project

SuDoc stem: LC (Library of Congress).

Issuing agency: The Library of Congress, with support from The Civil Rights History Project Act of 2009 (PL 111-19), passed by Congress.

Publication history—print and online: Some of these interviews from the project are available online, which allows for users to filter by year and format. Since these are oral histories, they are available online and have full text transcripts (online, rather than in a print format).

Key finding aids / indexes / tools for working with the item: There is a specific finding aid for this collection, located through the Library of Congress. It notes a summary, the extent of the collection, and a link to the online resources. There are related collections found on the Library of Congress American Folklife Center page, which provides information about the survey database that is associated with the interviews, information about the interviews, and information about the act itself.

Source: These are archival records, so they are limited to their home online through the Library of Congress.

Purpose / key use: This document would be used to provide archival information about civil rights in the United States through people that were involved in the movement. These interviews are housed through the Library of Congress and are associated with a specific act to gain information through oral histories.

Link: <https://www.loc.gov/collections/civil-rights-history-project/about-this-collection/>

### *Summary and Notes*

These interviews, conducted in 2010 after the passage of the 2009 act, show oral histories of various civil rights activists. These oral histories help provide a background to the Civil Rights movement at large and show another side of the actions taken to aid in the Civil Rights causes from the 1950s through the 1960s. A document like this one could be used for specific anecdotes and more hands-on testimonies about the civil rights movement rather than generalized information about the movement. It's a little bit more personal, so there is an opportunity for bias or misremembering information. However, there are interesting stories to be told and information to be gleaned from this document.

### **Key Events/Documents**

Civil rights program. Message from the President of the United States transmitting his recommendations for civil rights program. February 2, 1948.—Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed.

Common title: Message from the President of the United States transmitting his recommendations for civil rights program

Official title: Civil rights program. Message from the President of the United States transmitting his recommendations for civil rights program. February 2, 1948.—Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed.

SuDoc stem/class number: This is a house document, so Y 1.1/8: This is a serial set document, so Y1.1/2.

Issuing agency: Documents like this one are from the Congressional Serial Set, which is published by Congress.

Publication history—print and online: The Congressional Serial Set is available online at Readex, HeinOnline, Proquest, the Library of Congress' American Memory, and Govinfo. The Serial Set is also available for sale on the Government Publishing Office website. Not all of these sites have every serial set document. This is also available through the American Presidency project here: <https://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/documents/special-message-the-congress-civil-rights-1>.

Key finding aids / indexes / tools for working with the item: Govinfo, Readex, and HeinOnline are searchable for Congressional Serial Set documents like this one. Readex does have a good amount of indexing already done, often by topic. HeinOnline also has created a Libguide for

searching various Congressional documents like the Serial Set.

Source: Govinfo has the serial set from the 82nd, 69th, and earlier Congresses. As this is the 80th Congress, 2nd Session, it is not available on GovInfo. However, HeinOnline has the 15th Congress through the 114th Congress. The full available versions are on Readex and Proquest but may be limited to users with certain affiliations (for example, university libraries). Some libraries have print versions, but many opted to stop receiving the print versions due to costs and many updates.

Purpose / key use: The Congressional Serial Set provides historical resources about Congress and the special reports created by Congress. This document looks at how President Truman reacted to the issues of race after World War II, and this document has the recommendation to create the Civil Rights Program.

### *Summary and Notes*

This document is a speech given by President Truman after World War II and extends upon his State of the Union speech from January 7, 1948, in which he outlines his goals to strengthen democracy and to promote welfare of the people. President Truman uses the ideals in the Declaration of Independence of all men being created equal to support his recommendation to create a Civil Rights program. He does not explicitly say civil rights program in this document, but he does emphasize the diversity that created the United States as it was and the rights of all people to be treated equally under the law. This document marks the start of the civil rights movement after the turmoil of World War II and should provide a good bit of context for the 1950s and eventually, the movement's growth in the 1960s.

### *Search Notes*

This document was found on the Readex version of the Congressional Serial Set by looking at the "Social Issues" under Subjects by Category and then navigating to "Civil Rights Movements." Note: The Readex version requires a library sign in, and the HeinOnline may require a library sign-in and may be limited to institutions with log-in credentials.

This document, and documents like this one can also be found by going to HeinOnline and looking at their Congressional Serial Set. Here, you can browse by Congress, and look at guides and indexes. For documents concerning the Civil Rights Movement, I searched Civil Rights in the serial set, which populated many relevant results. For the sake of this

reference collection, I limited this search to 1940-1970 as a starting point. Serial set documents prior to 1976 are not on the catalog of U.S. government publications.

### **Extending the Commission on Civil Rights and its duties. August 18, 1961.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed.**

Common title: Extending the Commission on Civil Rights and its duties

Official title: Extending the Commission on Civil Rights and its duties. August 18, 1961.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed.

SuDoc stem: This is a house document, so Y 1.1/8: The serial set document has the SuDoc number Y1.1/2.

Issuing agency: Documents like this one are from the Congressional Serial Set, which is published by Congress. The committee that created the document was the Committee on the Judiciary.

Publication history—print and online: The Congressional Serial Set is available online at Readex, HeinOnline, Proquest, the Library of Congress' American Memory, and Govinfo. The Serial Set is also available for sale on the Government Publishing Office website.

Key finding aids / indexes / tools for working with the item: Govinfo, Readex, and HeinOnline are searchable for Congressional Serial Set documents like this one. Readex does have a good amount of indexing already done, often by topic. HeinOnline also has created a libguide for searching various Congressional documents like the Serial Set.

Source: Govinfo has the serial set from the 82nd, 69th, and earlier Congresses. HeinOnline has the 15th Congress through the 114th Congress. The full available versions are on Readex and Proquest but may be limited to users with certain affiliations (for example, university libraries). Some libraries have print versions, but many opted to stop receiving the print versions due to costs and many updates.

Purpose / key use: The Congressional Serial Set provides historical resources about Congress and the special reports created by Congress. This particular document looks at the Civil Rights Commission in the early 1960s during the time of the Civil Rights movement, providing information about exactly what Congress was doing during this time.

### Summary and Notes

This document proposes amendments to the bill to make the Commission on Civil Rights a permanent agency in the executive branch. The recommended amendments include adding in an extended portion of Section 104(a) of the Civil Rights Act of 1957 to investigate allegations that people were being denied the right to vote or to have their vote counted. This is a timely document and predicts what was to come in 1965 with the Voting Rights Act. This provides an early time stamp that focuses on the issues surrounding voting and Civil Rights.

### Search Notes

Like the previous document, this document was found on the Readex version of the Congressional Serial Set by looking at “Social Issues” under Subjects by Category and then navigating to “Civil Rights Movements.” Note: The Readex version requires a library sign in, and the HeinOnline may require a library sign-in and may be limited to institutions with log-in credentials.

This document, and documents like this one can also be found by going to HeinOnline and looking at their Congressional Serial Set. Here, you can browse by Congress, and look at guides and indexes. For documents concerning the Civil Rights Movement, I searched Civil Rights Movement in the serial set, which populated many relevant results. For the sake of this reference collection, I limited this search to 1940-1970 as a starting point. After doing different searches, including “Civil Rights,” “Civil Rights Movements,” and “Commission on Civil Rights,” I found this document, among other similar and relevant documents about Civil Rights in the 20th century, specifically the 1960s. HeinOnline is searchable by Congress, year, and volume, if looking for a specific document.

### 1961 United States Commission on Civil Rights Report 1: Voting

Common title: 1961 United States Commission on Civil Rights Report 1: Voting

Official title: 1961 United States Commission on Civil Rights Report 1: Voting

SuDoc stem/class number: CR 1.1:961/

Issuing agency: This agency that issued this report was the United States Commission on Civil Rights. This commission was created by the Civil Rights Act of 1957. The members can either be appointed by the President or by Congress. There are eight total members of the commission.

Publication history—print and online: This document was found on the commission website under historical

publications through the Thurgood Marshall Law Library. This document is fully digitized and there are many other documents associated with the commission online at the Thurgood Marshall Library. According to the stamp on the digitized document, it was available through the Government Publishing Office, however, it is not available now on the site.

Key finding aids / indexes / tools for working with the item: The website associated with this document (the online library) has an index for all subjects associated with the commission, and for this document, voting.

Source: The online library is the best way to get an open access version of this document. It is also available through google books and HathiTrust, but the most straightforward and easiest to find version is through the commission page.

Purpose / key use: This document was created by a government commission and provides information about voting rights in 1961. This document also breaks down general voting information, civil rights information, and information on the state level, which was very pertinent for the voting rights issue (and Civil Rights in the 1960s).

Link: <https://www2.law.umaryland.edu/marshall/usccr/documents/cr11961bk1.pdf>

### Summary and Notes

This document shows an early version of the Civil Rights Commission and how they viewed voting rights and the link to states. This early document could be used to pinpoint the early days of the Civil Rights movement and exactly how the government planned to get involved with the movement. What is particularly interesting is the statistics on registration and Civil Rights in Black Belt counties, where African Americans outnumber whites. While this whole document is a good source for the early days of the Civil Rights Commission and voting, chapter four provides information about African American rights, including information on education, libraries, housing, the administration of justice, employment, public accommodations, and the military. This particular chapter could be used as a basis for comparison to today.

### Civil Rights Act of 1964

Common title: Civil Rights Act of 1964

Official title: The Civil Rights Act of 1964

SuDoc stem/class number: GS 4.110:88-352

Issuing agency: Statutes at Large, which is part of the Office of the Federal Register and the National Archives and Records Administration.

Publication history—print and online: This was published by the Government Publishing Agency and is available online on Govinfo. The United State Statutes at Large is available on Govinfo.

Key finding aids / indexes / tools for working with the item: There is the Statutes at Large index which makes this act findable. Congress.gov has the option to browse by Congress, which is one of the easier ways to find/work with this item.

Source: It can also be found on the Congress site in a PDF version and on the Statutes at Large site on govinfo. This law is available in print at many law libraries and other depositories, but Statutes at Large and the Congress site have made it so that this law and others like it are readily available online.

Purpose / key use: This is a piece of legislation that outlines voting rights and the desegregation of public spaces. This is a public law that was enacted by Congress and supported by President Johnson in 1964.

Link: <https://www.govinfo.gov/features/civil-rights-act>

### Summary and Notes

This act prohibits segregation in many different settings. This act outlines voting rights, including denying registration, enforcing literacy tests, among others. Beyond the voting rights, this act also limits segregation in public spaces and that all persons were entitled to “full and equal enjoyment of goods” regardless of race. Later in the document, it does specify desegregation in public spaces, education, and information on the Commission of Civil Rights, complementing the document listed above. This would be used to have the exact language of the civil rights act and the actions taken by the government in the 1960s.

### Key People and Organizations

National Archives, Civil Rights Accomplishments, Office Files of Lee C. White, 1963-1966

Common title: Civil Rights Accomplishments—LBJ

Official title: Civil Rights Accomplishments—LBJ

SuDoc stem: The archives SuDoc stem is AE.

Issuing agency: These files come from the National Archives and are also associated with the Lyndon B. Johnson Presidential Library.

Publication history—print and online: This collection is unpublished, as they are archival records. These specific files are available on the National Archives site, as they are digitized pdfs. However, not everything in the Office Files of Lee C. White is digitized and some may be restricted.

Key finding aids / indexes / tools for working with the item: There is a finding aid on the National Archives site for

the Office Files of Lee C. White collection, which provides information about the series within the collection and the overall scope of the collection. Within this finding aid, you can “search within this collection” and filter by “available online” and “web pages” to find digitized content. Among those available online, the Civil Rights accomplishment folder is available as well as files on specific states.

Source: There is no commercial version of these files due to their archival status.

Purpose / key use: These archival records include correspondence and key highlights of President Johnson’s work concerning Civil Rights.

Link: <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/183523712>

### Summary and Notes

Lee C. White was an advisor for President Kennedy and President Johnson, who primarily focused on Civil Rights issues. These scanned papers cover the key highlights of President Johnson’s work with Civil Rights in 1964, including voluntary actions surrounding civil rights issues, a campaign fact sheet about civil rights and notes on Civil Rights activities during President Johnson’s first 100 days in office. These documents provide a snapshot of the early work done for the Civil Rights movement that predates (or is around the time of) the Civil Rights Act of 1964. They provide a good amount of context for the actions taken in the 1960s. However, I should note that this file is called “Civil Rights Accomplishments” which only shows one half of the story concerning civil rights era legislation and should be viewed with the potential bias associated with it.

### FBI Records, Malcolm Little (Malcolm X)

Common title: Malcolm Little (Malcolm X)

Official title: FBI Records, Malcolm Little (Malcolm X)

SuDoc stem/class number: The FBI Vault SuDoc number is J 1.14/34. Malcom X’s FBI file from 1999 has the SuDoc number J 1.14/2:M 29.

Issuing agency: The issuing agency for these files is the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Part of their mission is to protect civil rights, combat crime, and to combat terrorism.

Publication history—print and online: These files are available online on the FBI vault due to their popular status. Other files that are available online are agency policy statements, administrative staff manuals and instructions, frequently requested records, and proactive disclosures.

Key finding aids / indexes / tools for working with the item: Through the FBI vault website, you can browse the vault alphabetically and by subject area to find similar items.

This specific document is completely viewable (except 1 page) online without any special finding aids.

Source: Since this is an FBI file, there are no commercial versions or reprints, as the entire file is available through the FBI site.

Purpose / key use: FBI records are a branch of the government and could be used to gain further information about various people that were on the FBI list. Malcolm X was a controversial figure with a lengthy FBI file due to his radical beliefs and the need for the government to keep tabs on him.

Link: <https://vault.fbi.gov/malcolm-little-malcolm-x>

### *Summary and Notes*

This document provides information about Malcolm X's actions starting in 1953, showing that the FBI had tagged him as worthy of having a file. Malcolm X was labeled as being a subject of the Communist Index Card, noting his tendencies even prior to the Civil Rights heyday. This provides good contextual information about a key civil rights movement leader and his work with the Muslim Cult of Islam to help further the movement. This needs to be viewed with a critical eye for bias because it was created by the FBI and labels Malcolm X as potentially antagonistic to the state. Based on this bias, these documents should be supplemented with a different document to provide a full perspective.

### *Related Files*

These files are related to Malcolm X due to their link to Communism, his personal life, or his identity (Nation of Islam): NAACP, Black Panther Party, Bayard Rustin, Betty Shabazz (Betty X), Nation of Islam

### **FBI Records, Martin Luther King Jr.**

Common title: Martin Luther King, Jr.

Official title: Freedom of Information and Privacy Acts Subject: Martin Luther King Jr.

SuDoc stem/class number: The FBI Vault SuDoc number is J 1.14/34:. His FBI file from 2004 has the SuDoc number J 1.14/2:M 36/3.

Issuing agency: The issuing agency for these files is the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Part of their mission is to protect civil rights, combat crime, and to combat terrorism.

Publication history—print and online: These files are available online on the FBI vault due to their popular status. Other files that are available online are agency policy statements, administrative staff manuals and instructions, frequently requested records, and proactive disclosures.

Key finding aids / indexes / tools for working with the item:

Through the FBI vault website, you can browse the vault alphabetically and by subject area to find similar items.

Source: Since this is an FBI file, there are no commercial versions or reprints, as the entire file is available through the FBI site. The FBI files are not commercial, as they are either available online or available through FOIA requests.

Purpose / key use: FBI records are a branch of the government and could be used to gain further information about various people that were on the FBI list. This is a shorter document of Martin Luther King, Jr. that was requested through FOIA/P and is an excised version of his FBI file.

Link: <https://vault.fbi.gov/Martin%20Luther%20King%2C%20Jr>

### *Summary and Notes*

This file is an excised report from 1977 about Martin Luther King, Jr. that focuses on his assassination in 1968. This provides a different perspective on the FBI records of MLK Jr. by looking at the assassination investigation and the conspiracies associated with it. What is interesting to note is that early on in this document, within the introduction, the FBI does say that Martin Luther King, Jr. was noted as being targeted because of his actions in the Civil Rights movement. This file is incredibly biased because it's the FBI essentially investigating itself and a key figure that they focused on, which means that the subjectivity of this report may be compromised.

### *Related Files*

These files are related through people and events associated with Martin Luther King Jr.: Coretta Scott King, 16th Street Church Bombing, Southern Christian Leadership Conference

### **Congressional Record, Honoring the NAACP**

Common title: Honoring the NAACP

Official title: Honoring the NAACP

SuDoc stem/class number: X 1.1/A:

Issuing agency: This document was issued by the Congressional Record, which is created by Congress.

Publication history—print and online: This record (a speech) is fully available online through GovInfo. This document is the Congressional Record Volume 161, Issue 24 from February 12, 2015. Copies of the Congressional Record are also available on Congress.gov. Print copies of the Congressional Record are available through the Government Publishing Office bookstore.

Key finding aids / indexes / tools for working with the item: This item doesn't have any specific finding aids/tools to



work with it, but the Congressional Record itself is browsable on GovInfo and on Congress.gov. Both the govinfo site and the congress.gov site breaks down items by Senate, House of Representatives, extension of remarks, and Daily digest and includes page numbers for easier browsing. In this case, the govinfo site gave the page numbers as H1022-1025 (house pages 1022-1025). Both sites have a table of content for each section.

Source: The Congressional Records have been fully digitized online with some print copies. It is also available on HeinOnline.

Purpose / key use: The Congressional Record outlines what is done in Congress on a specific day, including proceedings, measures taken, reports, meetings, and updates. This particular document outlines a speech given by Representative Al Green of Texas who wanted to memorialize the NAACP.

Govinfo link: <https://www.govinfo.gov/app/details/CREC-2015-02-12/CREC-2015-02-12-pt1-PgH1022/summary>

Congress.gov link: <https://www.congress.gov/congressional-record/2015/02/12/house-section/article/H1022-1>

## Summary and Notes

On February 12, 2015, Representative Al Green of Texas brought to the floor a resolution to honor the NAACP which was previously passed by the House of Representatives in 2006. For 30 minutes on the floor, Representative Green spoke on being a member of the NAACP and the importance of the creation of the NAACP. He turns over the floor to Honorable Charles Rangel and later, Honorable Sheila Jackson Lee, who all spoke on the NAACP being on the right side of history. This document is biased due to the people who made the speech, but it shows a reverence towards the NAACP and its importance in U.S. history.

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# Government Documents Story

## The Impact of Eugenics Policy on Marginalized Groups in the United States

Teresa M. Lausell

### Introduction: A Brief Overview of Eugenics in the United States

In recent years, debates centered around the idea and phenomenon of discrimination existing or being built directly into our governmental system(s), which is commonly referred to as institutional racism/discrimination, have been increasing. We can see from the historical record of governmental documents, however, that at times throughout the history of the United States, government institutions have repeatedly passed and enforced legislation that is directed toward, and caused harm to specific groups of individuals based on their mental health status, status within the criminal justice system, or race.

The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines eugenics as “the practice or advocacy of controlled selective breeding of human populations (as by sterilization) to improve the population’s genetic composition”.<sup>1</sup> Typically, the subject of eugenics is brought up in the historical context of World War II, in association with genocide programs carried out during the Nazi regime. However, from the late nineteenth century through to the late 1970s, the United States engaged in the practice and promotion of eugenics through forced sterilization, with most sterilizations being done without the individual’s knowledge or consent. According to Alexandra Stern by 1913 most states had either passed sterilization laws or were in the process of passing laws that would allow sterilization based on the idea of eugenics to be carried out within their state.<sup>2</sup> Stern also notes that:

Its [the United States] sterilization laws actually informed Nazi Germany. The Third Reich’s 1933 “Law for the Prevention of Offspring with Hereditary Diseases” was modeled on laws in Indiana and California. Under this law, the Nazis sterilized approximately 400,000 children and adults, mostly Jews and other “undesirables,” labeled “defective.”<sup>3</sup>

The map in figure 1 shows the landscape of the United States in 1913 regarding sterilization legislation.

In the regions of the country where these sterilization laws were passed, the legislation targeted those suffering from mental illness, women, people of color, and other marginalized groups.

### The Eugenics Movement in the U.S. Early Evidence of Forced Sterilization being Legalized

In 1907, Indiana became the first state to pass a sterilization law, the precursor to thirty-one more states passing their own legislation during this early period of the 20th century.<sup>4</sup> With the passage of each state law for the legalization of forced sterilization, documentation that the proponents and supporters of eugenics had four main areas of focus; removal of mental illness and criminality from the population, promotion of the white race through continued segregation, eradication of undesirable traits, and overall population control.

#### *Sterilization of Marginalized Persons*

#### **Sterilization of Individuals Diagnosed with Mental Illness**

The primary goal of eugenics is to improve the genetic composition of the human population, by selectively eliminating what were considered undesirable traits.<sup>5</sup> Since the Eighteenth Century, individuals who were diagnosed with, or who were perceived to have, mental illness were marginalized and often “removed” from regular society by being placed in various types of mental health institutions. Sterilization laws targeted these individuals by arguing that “feeble-mindedness” (a term used during the early 1920s) could not be allowed to continue through future generations.

One case illustrating this is that of Carrie Buck (1906-1983), a victim of rape that led to a pregnancy and the birth of a daughter. The state of Virginia labeled her “morally delinquent”

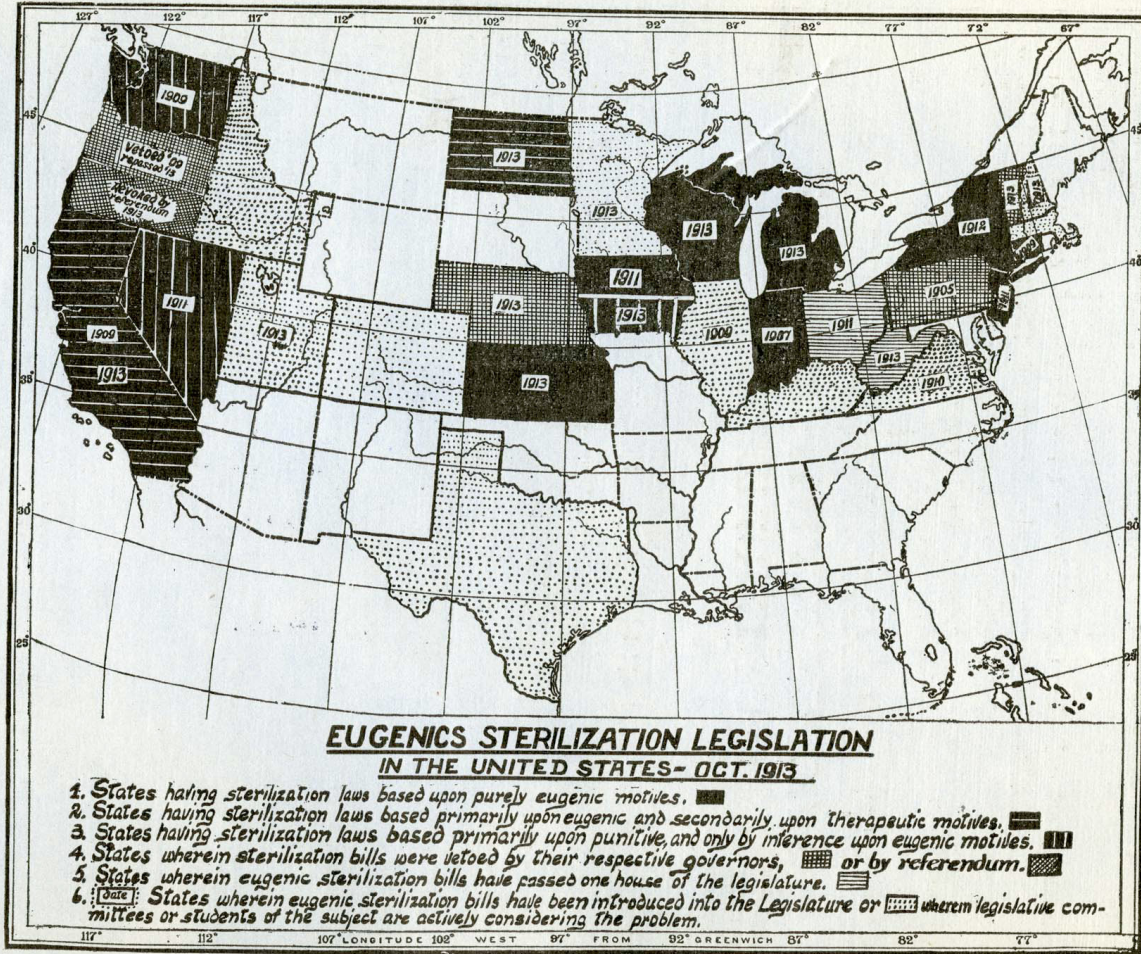


Figure 1. Map of eugenic sterilization laws by state. Source: Harry Hamilton Laughlin, "Map of Eugenic Sterilization Laws by State," OnView: Digital Collections & Exhibits Center for the History of Medicine at Countway Library, accessed April 25, 2022, <https://collections.countway.harvard.edu/onview/items/show/6230>.

for giving birth out of wedlock, gave her a diagnosis of being a "middle grade moron," and in 1924 confined her to the Virginia Colony for the Epileptic and Feeble-minded.<sup>6</sup>

The board of the Colony decided that Carrie should be their test case for the recently passed sterilization law in the state. The Virginia Sterilization Act of 1924 outlined the justification for sterilization of deemed to be mentally ill. The act stated:

Whereas, both the health of the individual patient and the welfare of society may be promoted in certain cases by the sterilization of mental defectives under careful safeguard and by competent and conscientious authority, and

Whereas, such sterilization may be effected in males by the operation of vasectomy and in females by the operation of salpingectomy, both of which said operations may be performed without serious pain or substantial danger to the life of the patient, and

Whereas, the Commonwealth has in custodial care and is supporting in various State institutions many defective persons who if now discharged or paroled would likely become by the propagation of their kind a menace to society but who if incapable of procreating might properly and safely be discharged or paroled and become self-supporting with benefit both to themselves and to society, and

Whereas, human experience has demonstrated that heredity plays an important part in the transmission of sanity, idiocy, imbecility, epilepsy and crime, now, therefore

1. Be it enacted by the general assembly of Virginia, That whenever the superintendent of the Western State Hospital, or of the Eastern State Hospital, or of the Southwestern State Hospital, or of the Central State Hospital, or the State Colony for Epileptics and Feeble-Minded, shall be of opinion that it is for the best interests of the patients and of society that any inmate of the institution under his care should be sexually sterilized, such superintendent is hereby authorized to perform, or cause to be performed by some capable physicians or surgeon, the operation of sterilization on any such patient confined in such institution afflicted with hereditary forms of insanity that are recurrent, idiocy, imbecility, feeble-mindedness or epilepsy; provided that such superintendent shall have first complied with the requirements of this act.<sup>7</sup>

The board chose her because she posed an apparent “menace,” and they argued that her lineage proved this as her mother was also an inmate at the colony. They recommended her for sterilization because that way she could not produce “socially adequate offspring.” The lawyer that she was assigned to appeal her sterilization, was a supporter of eugenics and worked for the state hospitals, wanted to take the appeal to the Supreme Court to help establish a national precedent in favor of sterilization.<sup>8</sup> Their arguments, per the appeals document, stated that the procedure was unconstitutional at both the state and federal level because it did not provide due process, denied the petitioner and other inmates equal protection under the law, and imposed cruel and unusual punishment.<sup>9</sup>

When the Supreme Court of the United States agreed to hear the case of *Buck v. Bell* in April of 1927, they ultimately decide in favor of the state of Virginia and uphold their sterilization law, and the lower courts decisions to sterilize Carrie Buck. The final lines of the decision rendered by Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes read as follows:

It is better for all the world, if instead of waiting to execute degenerate offspring for crime, or to let them starve for their imbecility, society can prevent those who are manifestly unfit from continuing their kind. The principle that sustains compulsory vaccination is broad enough to cover cutting the Fallopian tubes.

*Jacobson v. Massachusetts*, 197 U. S. 11. Three generations of imbeciles are enough.<sup>10</sup>

### **Sterilization of Criminal Inmates**

Historically, criminality has been viewed by society as a trait that not only is tied to mental illness but could be inherited. Many states have passed legislation aimed at imposing compulsory sterilization of their criminal population.

One example of this comes from the Supreme Court of Oklahoma. In 1935, the court ruled in favor of the *Habitual Criminal Sterilization Act*, which gave that state permission to force sterilization of inmates who had been convicted of three or more felonies.<sup>11</sup> Individuals did not have to be convicted of all these crimes within the state of Oklahoma, they just had to be serving their time in an Oklahoma prison.

Jack T. Skinner was sentenced to sterilization for his crimes in 1936, however, appealed this sentence to the Supreme Court of Oklahoma, which upheld his sentence.<sup>12</sup> He brought his case before the U.S. Supreme Court who decided, unanimously, in June of 1942 that Oklahoma’s Act violated the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment.<sup>13</sup> It is important to note, however, that this decision did not overturn the previous U.S. Supreme Court decision in the *Buck v. Bell* case, and only ended the small amount of punitive sterilization that was occurring in the United States during this time.

## **A Shift in Focus During the Latter Part of the 20th Century**

### **Sterilization of African Americans**

As the national conversation turned towards integration of races, there was also an increase in the number of African Americans, specifically African American women, being targeted by state-funded forced sterilization programs. Arguments in favor of eugenics to prevent the mixing of African Americans with White Americans was also taking place on the floor of the United States Senate.

The Congressional Record from January 17, 1938, provides a transcript of the discourse between Senators, and in particular the arguments from Democratic Senator Allen J. Ellender (1890-1972) of Louisiana who cites a book, “White America” (1923) by Earnest Sevier Cox. The passage the senator chose to read aloud to the Senate reads as follows:

While the future of the colored races is concerned so deeply with the purity of the white, we are not for a moment to consider it proper to permit their judgment to determine whether the white is to remain white.

This is a question for the white to decide, but it would seem that light from history on this matter ought to reach even the mind of the colored. The white man founded the cultures of Egypt and India and eventually interbred with his colored subjects, leaving a mixbreed population heir to the culture of the pure white. With what result? Arrested development. Stagnation. This is light from history that should penetrate the densest intellect. The African Negro was raised from a brutelike condition by white Egypt; what influence for good has mongrel Egypt had upon the Negro? The African Negro's knowledge of the present civilized arts has come from the pure whites of Europe, not from the mixbreed whites contiguous to his domain.

[ . . . ]

It may readily be seen that the Negro problem is a part of the greater problem of heredity. When eugenics seeks to eliminate the unfit and establish the fit it has for its purpose not the betterment of physical types merely, but the establishment of those types of greatest value to progressive civilization. A race which has not shown creative genius may be assumed to be an unfit type so far as progress in civilization is concerned and is a matter of concern for the eugenicist. Those who seek to maintain the white race in its purity within the United States are working in harmony with the ideals of eugenics. Asiatic exclusion and Negro repatriation are expressions of the eugenic ideal.<sup>14</sup>

This document shows that an elected representative to the federal government was openly supporting eugenics policy as a viable solution to prevent the mixing of races within the United States and supported the idea that individuals who are not white inherently possess a variety of undesirable traits that should not be permitted to contaminate the white race as a whole.

In North Carolina, where 7,600 people were forcibly sterilized from 1929 to 1973, the third highest number in the United States, Black women were sterilized at more than three times the rate of white women, and more than twelve times the rate of white men as desegregation efforts increased and mixing of individuals from different racial backgrounds became more likely.<sup>15</sup>

In 1970, a report was published by the Library of Congress Congressional Research Service, which mentions and highlights growing concerns about this topic. The report discusses genetic engineering in relation to human beings and quotes several scientists who bring up concerns about using eugenics principles

for the "improvement of mankind."<sup>16</sup> McCullough goes on to state that "there is a great deal of concern being expressed about the procedures by which criteria will be selected for the identification and classification of 'desirable' traits."<sup>17</sup>

This did not, however, cause enough concern for these programs to be scrutinized or shut down, and in 1973 two minor aged African American sisters, Minnie Lee (12) and Mary Alice Relf (14), were involuntarily sterilized after their mother, who was illiterate, was deceived into thinking her daughters were receiving birth control shots agreed to their treatment.<sup>18</sup> Once the young girl's parents discovered that they had been sterilized without their knowledge, they received assistance from the Southern Poverty Law Center and filed a lawsuit with the Federal District Court for D.C. The case was decided by the court in favor of the Relfs and resulted in the prohibition of the use of federal funds for involuntary sterilizations.<sup>19</sup>

### Sterilization of Latino Americans

Mexican American immigrants were the targets of sterilization campaigns by the state of California during this time. Katherine Andrews details how Mexican American women were sterilized without knowledge or consent while they were giving birth in the hospital.<sup>20</sup> The case *Madrigal v. Quilligan* was a civil rights class action suit brought by ten Mexican American women who had been sterilized without their knowledge or consent. Although they argued that they had been coerced into signing consent forms during labor, and that they had not received appropriate counseling on the consequences of sterilization, the court ultimately ruled in favor of the Los Angeles County-USC Medical Center and decided that the consent given was valid and any misunderstanding was due language barriers and not proper consent protocol.<sup>21</sup>

This targeting of Latino peoples was not limited to the contiguous United States. Women in the territory of Puerto Rico were also targeted by the ongoing eugenics campaign in the United States. Andrews notes that between the 1930s and 1970s one third of the female population in Puerto Rico had been sterilized, making this the highest rate of sterilization in the work.<sup>22</sup> The program in Puerto Rico was conducted differently from other places in the U.S., as it was actively promoted, and many women were convinced that it was the best form of birth control. Andrews states the following about the U.S. justification for the practice on the island:

Some argue that the pressure to increase sterilization procedures was a targeted practice to decrease the high level of poverty and unemployment. The government

blamed these issues on overpopulation on the island. The legalization of contraception in Puerto Rico and the Puerto Rican government's passage of a law allowing sterilization to be conducted at the discretion of a eugenics board both occurred in 1937. Soon after the legal change, a program endorsed by the U.S. government began sending health department officials to rural parts of the island advocating for sterilization. By 1946, postpartum sterilizations happened frequently in various Puerto Rican hospitals.<sup>23</sup>

## Sterilization of Native Americans

Native peoples of the United States were also targeted by government-sponsored sterilization and population control initiatives. Unlike African Americans, who were targeted by the states in which they lived, Native Americans were specifically being targeted by the federal government.

During the 1960s and 1970s the Indian Health Service (IHS) was conducting sterilizations without consent, and in some cases on minors as young as fifteen years old, without consent or with the knowledge of their parents. Some physicians with the agency even went so far in some cases as to mislead Native women into thinking that the sterilization procedure was reversible via a "womb transplant" at any time; even though a complete hysterectomy is a permanent sterilization procedure.<sup>24</sup>

Native women and families also faced an additional problem during the 1970s in the United States. Social workers would go to their homes and convince them in various ways to give up their children so that they could be placed with non-native families who were told they would be able to adopt the children.<sup>25</sup> According to Sally J. Torpy, a Native woman named Serena was able to regain custody of her children, and was awarded damages, however, when she sued over the abuse of her reproductive rights, the jury did not offer the same level of empathy.<sup>26</sup> Her attorney's theory was that her living situation—she was an unwed mother and living with an African American man—caused the jury to disapprove, and they ruled that she had given consent to her sterilization procedure and acquitted the doctors who performed it.

In 1976 the United States Government Accountability Office (GAO) conducted an investigation which was aimed at determining if the Indian Health Service was abusing individuals' reproductive rights by performing sterilizations without consent. According to the GAO report:

We [They] found no evidence of IHS sterilizing Indians without a patient consent form on file, although

we did find several weaknesses in complying with HEW's sterilization regulations. The primary weaknesses related to (1) sterilization of persons under 21 years of age, (2) inadequately documenting what the Indian subjects were told before signing the consent form (largely attributable to the use of consent forms that failed to meet HEW standards), (3) lack of widespread physician understanding of the regulations, and (4) the lack of definitive requirements for informed consent when sterilizations are performed by contract doctors at contract facilities.<sup>27</sup>

This report was criticized, by Democratic Senator James Abourezk (1931-) of South Dakota due to its limitations such as only investigating four out of twelve IHS areas; the implication being the GAO did not seek to find an accurate number when counting forced sterilizations.<sup>28</sup>

However, due to this investigation, legislation was passed in 1978 in part 50 of Title 42 that required clearer procedures for obtaining consent of individuals who were to undergo sterilization procedures and ensured that any federal benefits would not be taken or revoked due to an individual refusing a sterilization procedure.<sup>29</sup>

## Conclusion

Today, the very thought of an individual undergoing a sterilization procedure without having given consent is considered a violation of someone's civil rights. However, while attempts have been made to see a federal ban on eugenics practices in the realm of population control and forced sterilizations, these attempts have been largely unsuccessful. The American Civil Liberties Union in the 1980s filed a complaint on behalf of 8,000 women who had been

sterilized in the Lynchburg Training School and Hospital as a part of Virginia's eugenics program. They asked the court to decide that these women's constitutional rights had been violated. However, the court deemed their rights had not been violated, even though the statute on sterilization of individuals with mental illness had been repealed, because *Buck v Bell* had previously upheld that it was constitutional.<sup>30</sup>

Other measures by the federal government can also be seen as lackluster at best, such as Public Law 114-241 passed in 2016, which made it so payments individuals received as compensation under the Eugenics Compensation Act could not be considered taxable income.<sup>31</sup>

The United States has a history of starting eugenics programs, influencing eugenics ideals globally, and then keeping the evidence of these practices close to the vest. Throughout

our history, we have yet to pass federal legislation that eliminates the practice of eugenics. It continues to be an important topic of discussion even in the current social climate surrounding women's reproductive health and rights. The decision made by the U.S. Supreme Court on June 24, 2022 to overturn *Roe v. Wade* was discussed in an op-ed by Michelle Williams, Dean of Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, in which she outlined how the Supreme Court opinion inaccurately frames reproductive health care like abortion and eugenics. Williams states:

The leaked draft of Justice Samuel Alito's majority opinion nodded approvingly to the discredited theory that those who promote access to birth control and abortion have a eugenicist motive to limit reproduction in Black communities. That is a gross distortion of both history and health care. Embedding this disinformation in a landmark Supreme Court decision will legitimize it—and, in the process, whitewash the vile history of eugenics in our country.

The eugenics movement has never been about giving women the right to choose when they're ready to bear children. On the contrary, it has been about ripping that autonomy from women deemed inferior, unworthy, irrelevant.<sup>32</sup>

As reproductive rights continue to be discussed, debated, legislated, and decided by the three main branches of government and the people, historical information regarding all areas of this subject become increasingly important. By outlining the history of eugenics in the United States, this article can assist librarians who are conducting research on the legislation and policy history surrounding it and serve as a guide to others who are researching the legislative history of the topic.

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# U.S. National and Interstate Bicycle Routes

Melanie M. Smith and Oscar McNary

The Oregon Coast Bicycle Route is an internationally celebrated route, with between 6,000 and 10,000 riders per year, but it is not recognized within the national U.S. Bicycle Route System (USBRS).<sup>1</sup> The USBRS is not a government program but rather a collaborative project of state and local officials and nongovernmental organizations. Federal action on interstate bicycle routes has been largely symbolic and intellectual, while state jurisdictions continue to undertake most of the work of building and implementing bike routes and bikeways. Most of the federal government's published information on national bicycle routes is directed toward local and state governments, not addressed to the general public.

The flow of information about bicycle routes has tended to be a bottom-up process. Increased recreational cycling and cycle touring led to the creation of the nonprofit organization Adventure Cycling Association (ACA) in the early 1970s and spurred the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO)'s advocacy of bicycle routes. Most information about national bicycle routes is still created and mapped by ACA and other nonprofits. Where the government provides information targeted toward individuals, local and state jurisdictions are usually the primary actors.

The focus of this article is the period from the 1970s to the present, with a special emphasis on the rapid growth of official route designation in the past decade. It considers the nationwide USBRS and Oregon's state-designated routes as examples of two important examples of the development of national bike routes, though many other routes and maps have been in use by cyclists across the country for many decades.

## Federal Documents

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DoT) has left funding and logistics of routes to state and local authorities, which is a deliberate strategy of outlined in the DOT's 1972 joint publication with the U.S. Department of the Interior, *Bicycling for*

*Recreation and Commuting*.<sup>2</sup> This strategy of providing minimal guidance has been reflected in most federal documents relating to bicycle routes.

The USBRS first appears in the federal documentary record in the December 1979 revision of the sixth edition of the *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways* (MUTCD), a publication of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). This document featured the first design for an interstate U.S. Bicycle Route sign, M1-9.<sup>3</sup> AASHTO, a nongovernmental organization that serves as a liaison between states and the federal government, and that is responsible for numbering interstate highways, "unanimously adopted the U.S. Numbered Bicycle Route Purpose and Policy" at its 1979 annual meeting.<sup>4</sup>

In 1994, the federal government made a strong statement in favor of active transportation with *The National Bicycling and Walking Study*.<sup>5</sup> Specifically, the report set a goal of "doubling the current percentage of bicycling and walking trips and reducing by ten percent the number of pedestrians and bicyclists killed or injured."<sup>6</sup> The emphasis was on facilitating short trips in urban and suburban areas.<sup>7</sup> Long-distance interstate or national bike routes were not mentioned.

Despite occasional hostility from motorists, bicycle routes have near-universal goodwill in national politics. The lack of controversy may be because such projects do not receive federal funding: People are unwilling to fight over a sentiment they will not have to pay for anyway. The House of Representatives passed *Concurrent Resolution 305* in May 2008, voting unanimously to recognize the importance of bicycling.<sup>8</sup> Before the vote, a few legislators spoke about why Congress should actively support more bicycle facilities, including "creating bicycle-friendly Federal lands and developing a national bike route system."<sup>9</sup> The bill had thirty-four cosponsors, twenty-seven Democrats and seven Republicans, and no one spoke against it. At the time, there were still only two designated routes in

provided at decision points along the bikeway, including signs to inform cyclists of bicycle route direction changes and confirmatory signs to ensure that route direction has been accurately comprehended.

Figure 9-2 shows an example of the signing for the junction of a bicycle trail with a highway. Figure 9-3 shows the signing and marking for the beginning and ending of designated bikeways. Guide signing should be repeated at regular intervals to ensure that bicyclists approaching from side streets know they are traveling on an officially designated bikeway. Similar guide signing should be used for shared lane bikeways with intermediate signs placed frequently enough to ensure that cyclists already on the bikeway do not stray from it and lose their way.

#### 9B-20 Bicycle Route Sign (D11-1)

This sign is intended for use where no unique designation of routes is desired. It should be placed at intervals frequent enough to keep bicyclists informed of changes in route direction and to remind motorists of the presence of bicyclists.



D11-1  
24" x 18"



M1-8  
12" x 18"



M1-9  
18" x 24"

#### 9B-21 Bicycle Route Markers (M1-8, M1-9)

Where it is desired to establish a unique identification (route designation) for a State or local bicycle route, the standard Bike Route Marker (M1-8) should be used. The route marker (M1-8) shall contain a numerical designation and shall have a green background with a reflectorized white legend and border.

Where a bicycle route extends for long distances in two or more States, it is desirable to establish a unique numerical designation for that route. A coordinated submittal by the affected States for assignment of route number designations should be sent to the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, 444 North Capitol Street NW., Suite 225, Washington, D.C. 20001. The route marker (M1-9) shall contain the assigned numerical designation and have a black legend and border with a reflectorized white background.

Bike Route Markers are intended for use on both shared facilities and on designated bikeways, as required, to provide guidance for bicyclists.

9B-10

Rev. 12/79

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1980 O - 315-946

**Image 1. The original black-and-white design for the interstate bicycle route marker, M1-9, was published in the December 1979 revision of the Federal Highway Administration's *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways*, Sixth Edition. Formal adoption of a new green-and-white design is among the proposed amendments to the *MUTCD* as published in the Federal Register on December 14, 2020. The upcoming 11th Edition will also shift information about the sign and its uses into three new sections of the manual focused on bicycle facilities, including "Section 9D.07 U.S. Bicycle Route Sign (M1-9)."**

the USBRS—not counting the many regional, local, and privately mapped interstate routes in unofficial use. This resolution did not change the number of bicycle routes, provide funding, nor establish any concrete plans or objectives. It did, however, advocate "a coordinated system of United States bicycle routes across the country." Despite this support in the House, the Senate never voted on the bill after referring it to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.<sup>10</sup>

Specific federal action on bicycle routes has occasionally been proposed, but not implemented. For example, members of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee proposed the creation of a new Office of Livability under the

FHWA in 2009.<sup>11</sup> The Office of Livability would be responsible for making USBRS a federal agency. This visionary plan placed the federal government in a supervisory role, leaving the main work of route creation to local and state authorities. For example, the draft legislation called for a program of grants that the Office of Livability would award to local and state authorities. For political reasons, the transportation authorization bill of which it was a part was never introduced. The Obama Administration asked Congress to delay work on the unfinished bill, which lacked financing and other details, in favor of a temporary extension of the existing transportation legislation, which was due to expire in three months.<sup>12</sup> In response, members of the transportation committee published a white paper, sent a sharply worded letter to the president, and circulated the draft text of the bill.<sup>13</sup>

*Designating Scenic Bikeways*, a 2019 toolkit produced jointly by a division of the Federal Highway Administration, the U.S. Forest Service, and the Association of Oregon Counties, presents the USBRS and Oregon's Scenic Bikeway program as models for establishing bikeways on rural roads nationwide.<sup>14</sup> This is an example of the pattern of unfunded federal agency support for the creation and maintenance of long-distance interstate bike routes. The report itself is designed to highlight key concerns and opportunities for the target readership of rural road owners, as opposed to bikeway proponents, whose interests are addressed by other publications. This report emphasizes safety considerations, potential liability, enforcement, and funding.<sup>15</sup> The report also provides current and historical context. For example, the introduction cites a U.S. Department of Transportation policy statement supporting bicycle facilities, and it gives a few lines of background on USBRS and the Oregon Scenic Bikeways program.<sup>16</sup> A map of the USBRS National Corridor Plan, displaying 13,000 miles of designated routes along with future development corridors that would bring the total to 50,000 miles, is included in the report.<sup>17</sup>

The upcoming 11th edition of the *MUTCD*, which is expected to incorporate proposed changes that were published in December 2020, appears to continue the federal government's pattern of outlining best practices and guidelines for bicycle routes without offering financial support.<sup>18</sup> The changes will provide a new standard for bicycle route signage but will not significantly address safety policies, despite the appeals of cycling advocates. The public comment period had to be extended by two months because of the volume of responses to its content. The ACA was one of the organizations that submitted a letter, which called for more radical safety measures in the *MUTCD* to protect non-vehicular road users.<sup>19</sup> Information related to bicycle routes and bikeways is hidden deep in

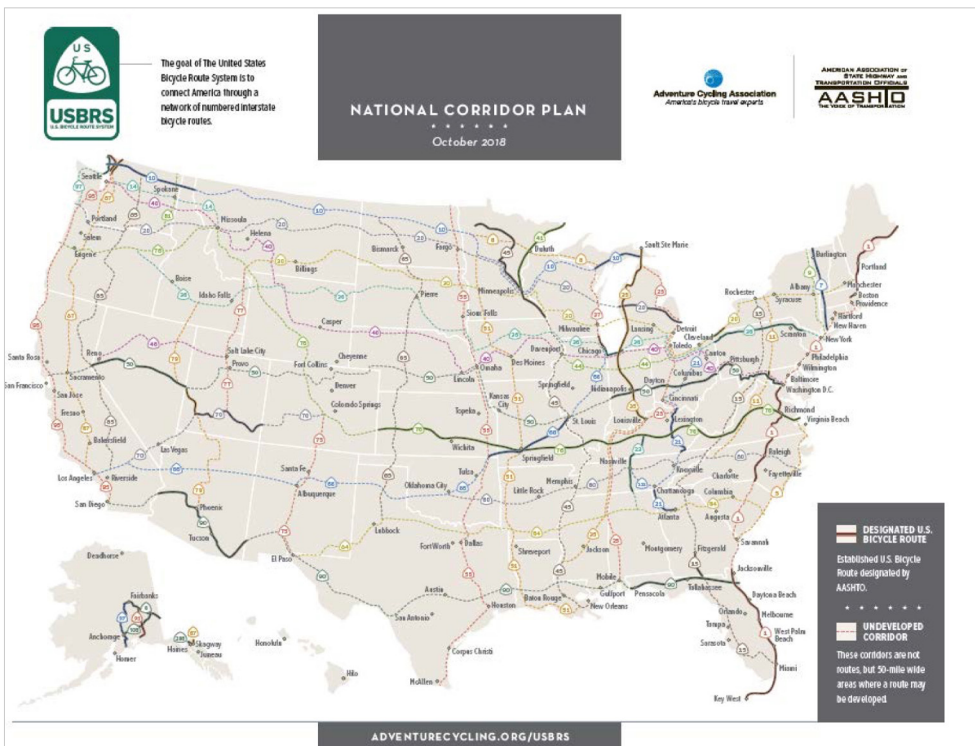


Image 2. A map of the U.S. Bicycle Route System National Corridor Plan dated October 2018 was published in *Designating Scenic Bikeways: A Framework for Rural Road Owners*, FHWA Publication No. 19-004. (The latest version, available on the Adventure Cycling Association website, shows the 18,534 miles of routes designated as of June 2022.)

this sprawling document about traffic control in general, making the information difficult to find. By contrast, if the United States had an Office of Livability and the USBRS were a federal agency, as proposed in 2009, it could create more focused and discoverable bicycle guidelines.

When viewed holistically, federal documents addressing bicycle routes follow this pattern of being lengthy, difficult to read, and dense. Their sprawling nature is more suited to their intended audience of state and local governments, and less approachable for private individuals who might want more information on national bicycle routes. It makes sense to be comprehensive. Yet the people who must implement these guidelines are still human beings, with limited attention spans. Editing the information to be more readable and relevant to the most common uses, or perhaps providing selected excerpts targeted to specific needs, could make a greater impact on the state and local government workers they address.

For accessibility purposes, most of the documents have been prepared with optical character recognition (OCR) and are reasonably accessible; however, long documents become large digital files, which require a high-speed internet connection to download and navigate. The digital divide means that many federal documents online are inaccessible to people without high-speed internet.

## State Bicycle Routes

As mentioned above, state and local authorities have done most of the groundwork, communication, and funding for the establishment and maintenance of bicycle routes in the United States. The first two U.S. Bicycle Routes were established in 1982 after AASHTO invited states to identify and propose appropriate routes in 1979. Route 1 initially ran from North Carolina to Virginia, and Route 76, named in honor of the bicentennial a few years earlier, extended from Illinois to Virginia.<sup>20</sup> Both have since been extended, with Route 1 now running from Maine to Florida and Route 76 stretching from Colorado to Virginia.

In the early 1970s, the Oregon state government became a leader in bicycle route designation, largely by means of the implementation of new funding models. In 1971, the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) decided that 1 percent of all state highway funding had to go toward bicycle spending.<sup>21</sup> Ten years later, in 1982, Oregon designated its internationally renowned scenic Oregon Coast Bicycle Route.

In contrast to federal bicycle route documents, ODOT provides a detailed map and practical instructions for traveling the Oregon Coast Scenic Bicycle Route.<sup>22</sup> The intended audience, which is individual bicyclists, informs the form, style, and content of Oregon's maps. They are easy to find, read, and use. Internet search engine results for "Oregon coast bicycle" turn up multiple web sources. The maps are clear, with enough detail to be useful for a bicyclist to understand the directions even at a glance. An estimated elevation graph allows cyclists to account for anticipated effort and fatigue between stops. Concise and useful advice, including information about weather, accommodations, and safety, equips novices as well as experienced riders to successfully navigate this route. The route is broken into four sections, with enough detail to aid someone traveling at the speed of a bicycle. Downloading the two-page PDF still requires internet access and does not completely bridge the digital divide, but the small file size does mean those without ultrafast internet service or high-powered computer equipment can view this map.

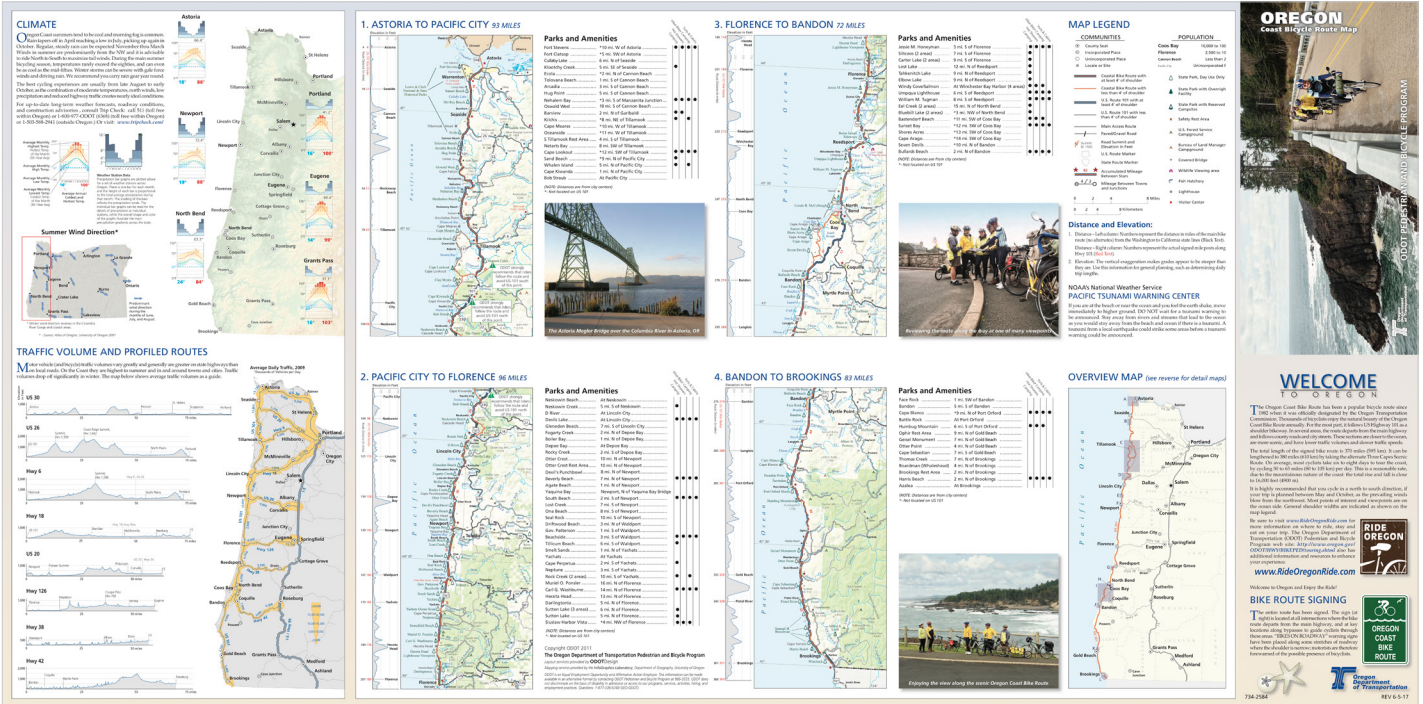


Image 3. The Oregon Coast Bicycle Route Map published by the state of Oregon, containing such details as prevailing winds, traffic patterns, elevation changes, lodging tips, and inset maps with notable landmarks, is unmistakably designed for the long-distance cyclists who travel the route.

Although it is easy to find the Oregon Coast maps online, it is not always clear whether the document being viewed is the most recent version. Several first-page results from a major mainstream search engine led to undated maps of the route, hosted on a variety of nongovernmental websites, that were older than the most recent version from 2017. Version numbers are not noted on the maps, and some of the earlier maps do not indicate the year of creation. With wide dissemination, it becomes hard to control the information lifecycle, and superseded information may be unwittingly left in circulation, which could lead cyclists to use more dangerous routes than those intended. A better approach for the information seeker is to forgo search engines and navigate directly to the ODOT website (<https://www.oregon.gov/odot>), where current, printable bicycle route maps can be found either by using the search function at top right or by selecting Plan Your Trip on the Oregon Pedestrian and Bicycle Program page.

## The Future of Long-Distance Bicycle Routes in the U.S.

As of this year, U.S. Bicycle Routes extend through 33 states.<sup>23</sup> On February 24, 2021, a renewable five-year memorandum of understanding between AASHTO and ACA formalized their longtime partnership in maintaining USBRS planning and

route numbering.<sup>24</sup> Several new routes were added as lately as June 2022, expanding the network to more than 18,000 miles.<sup>25</sup>

A survey of state bicycle and pedestrian coordinators in 2013 found that signage for USBRS routes was unfunded, inconsistent, and lacking adequate guidance from AASHTO and the MUTCD.<sup>26</sup> As noted, proposed changes to the upcoming edition of that manual will establish more detailed guidance for bicycle route signs and markings.

The continued bottom-up information flow means that most of the long-distance cycling routes in the United States are not recognized by federal or state governments, and instead represent nonprofits' mapping of cyclists' use of existing highways. Pushes for change over the past fifteen years may shift this trend, especially as the bicycle boom fueled by the COVID-19 pandemic continues. The Biking on Long-Distance Trails (BOLT) Act, H.R. 6337, passed by the House of Representatives in July 2022 and awaiting committee discussion in the Senate, aims to map as many as twenty off-road and gravel bicycle routes through federal land.<sup>27</sup> Should this bill pass into law, it would upturn the usual order of private organizations and local and state authorities taking the lead in designating long-distance bicycle routes.

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# GODORT Awards Summaries and Deadlines

## James Bennett Childs Award

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

**Deadline 12/9/22**

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

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

**Deadline 12/9/22**

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

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

**Deadline 12/9/22**

## Bernadine Abbott Hoduski Award Founders Award

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

**Deadline 12/9/22**

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

The Margaret T. Lane / Virginia F. Saunders Memorial Research Award will be given annually to an author(s) an outstanding research article in which government information, either published or archival in nature, form a substantial part of the documented research. Preference may be given to articles published in library literature and that appeals to a broader audience. The award is not restricted to articles in library journals. This award is to honor the memory of two women who worked with endless enthusiasm to make the ideal of citizen access to government information a reality. The award winner receives a contribution of \$1000 from Readex Newsbank.

**Deadline 12/9/22**

## The Larry Romans Mentorship Award

The Larry Romans Mentorship Award is given annually by the Government

Documents Round Table (GODORT) and the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Round Table (GLBTRT) of the American Library Association. The purpose of the award is to recognize librarians who, through their sustained mentoring efforts, have made a difference in our profession. Each year, the award will honor a librarian who has demonstrated excellence in the area of mentoring, who has successfully encouraged others to serve as mentors, and who has impacted the lives and careers of others through tirelessly devoting time, energy, and talent toward helping others succeed in our profession. The award consists of a citation and \$1,000. The award will be presented at the GODORT Awards Program at the ALA Annual Conference. In addition, recognition of the recipient will also take place at beginning of the Stonewall Book Awards Program held at the ALA Annual Conference.

**Deadline 12/9/22**

## W. David Rozkuszka Scholarship

The David Rozkuszka Scholarship provides financial assistance to an individual who is currently working with government documents in a library and is trying to complete a masters degree in library science. This award, established in 1994, is named after David Rozkuszka, former Documents Librarian at Stanford University. The award winner receives \$3,000.

**Deadline 3/1/23**

For information on nomination procedures, please visit <https://www.ala.org/rt/godort/awardscommittee>.