



Congressional Papers Roundtable

NEWSLETTER

Society of American Archivists

May 2009

From the Chair: Looking Ahead

By Linda A. Whitaker

CPR online voting. The Association of Centers for the Study of Congress (ACSC). Austin 2009 CPR Pre-conference Activities. The future of Government Documents. Electronic records. What does it all mean?

Change. Flexibility. Opportunity. Partnerships. Solutions.

It means not accepting the status quo. It means exploring alternatives, taking risks, and doing SOMETHING even in times of oppressive budget and staff cuts. It means questioning current practices, policies and how we fundamentally do business and engage with each other.

Here is something to cheer about: CPR has the strongest list of candidates in recent memory. The individuals on this list deserve your best consideration. We are thankful for the courage and conviction it takes to run – for anything! After all, what we do depends on people willing to run for office. For the first time, as an SAA Roundtable, we get to test drive online voting. The goal here is to increase membership participation. You no longer have to attend the CPR business meeting to vote. (But we want you to attend the business meeting

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CPR Elections: New Online Voting

The Nominating Committee of the SAA Congressional Papers Roundtable is pleased to present the following candidates for the position of chair-elect and for two (2) positions on the steering committee. Nominations were sought from the membership, with the exciting result that more members indicated an interest in leadership and increased involvement in the roundtable than we might have anticipated. In order to make these people known to the membership as potential leaders in both this and future elections, the committee decided to offer them all as candidates, requesting from each of them the following information:

- *Your name, official title, and institution*
- *Your experience with congressional papers*
- *What you would like to bring to the CPR chairmanship*
- *What you would like to see the CPR doing over the next four years*

Their statements are presented as they submitted them.

Voting will be by electronic ballot through the SAA system and is scheduled to begin May 20.

This array of fine candidates is a credit to both our present and our future as a roundtable.

Watch for notification, and be sure to vote!

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CANDIDATES (2) FOR CHAIR-ELECT (Vote for 1)

JOHN MURPHY

**Curator for 20th & 21st Century Western Manuscripts
L. Tom Perry Special Collections,
Brigham Young University**

John Murphy is Curator for 20th & 21st Century Western Manuscripts in the L. Tom Perry Special Collections, Brigham Young University; as part of his professional responsibilities he acquires, arranges, and describes congressional and political collections. He graduated from Brigham Young University in 1994 with a degree in history and political science, and in 1997 he completed a MA degree from Brandeis University in Comparative History. That same year he completed a MSLIS (Archives Concentration) from Simmons College.

Prior to his current position, he was Archivist for Congressional and Southwest Collections at the University of Arizona Library Special Collections. In graduate school, John worked as a corporate archivist for Kapur Enterprises Inc.; following graduate school he was a Lemelson Center Archives Fellow in the Archives Center, National Museum of American History. He is an active member of the archival community. He is a past president of the Conference of Intermountain Archivists; he is a past president of the SAA Security Roundtable; and he is a past member of the SAA Ethics Committee and the SAA Standards Committee.

If elected, John would like to see the Congressional Papers Roundtable take the lead in developing clear and concise DACS compliant descriptive standards for congressional and political collections. In addition, he would like to collaborate with archivists at smaller institutions to identify and better promote "hidden" congressional collections. Finally, John would like to further promote CPRs work to preserve and maintain electronic records.

JILL SEVERN

Head of Access and Outreach

Richard B. Russell Library for Political Research and Studies, University of Georgia Libraries

In my twelve years at the Russell Library I have worked with congressional papers in our collections in a variety of ways. Initially, I participated in the processing of political papers on the state and federal level including the papers of Congressman Lindsay Thomas. In 2001, the focus of my work shifted to management of reference, access, and outreach initiatives for all of the Library's collections, which include over forty congressional collections.

In this work I developed an instructional program for undergraduates and graduates at the University designed to introduce and illuminate the great potential for research in all of our collections and specifically our congressional collections, which offer a broad snapshot of constituent interests and concerns. I also implemented an outreach program

of exhibits and public programs focused on topical themes instead of individuals. This emphasis has allowed us to incorporate a much broader array of materials from our collections and to help visitors realize the breadth and wealth that political papers offer for understanding our history.

In 2007, I began to define a new major outreach initiative focused on civic engagement. Working in concert with the National Issues Forums Institute, we established the Russell Forum for Civic Life in Georgia. The mission for this project is to encourage community engagement with critical public issues through public deliberative forums, training, and collaboration. This initiative changes people's assumptions about what the archives can be, and provides an excellent opportunity for synergies to develop between forums on current public concerns and exhibits and programs that treat past discourse on the same issues. Also, public forums have the potential to inform and enrich collections development strategy.

If elected chair of the Congressional Papers Roundtable (C.P.R.), I would bring a strong foundation of experience with congressional papers and with the roundtable. I served as a member of the steering committee from 1998 to 2000, and have an active knowledge of issues and projects within the roundtable as well as working within the SAA framework. I also gained relevant leadership experience as president of the Society of Georgia Archivists in 2007. In addition, I would draw heavily upon my experience with outreach and instruction to assess the needs and interests of members to plan engaging and imaginative conference programming and to advocate effectively on their behalf.

In the next four years I would like to see C.P.R. learn more about its members and their needs and interests through a strong program of regular assessment. There are many new faces joining those present since the organization's inception. To understand how best to serve all of our members, we need to learn more about their expectations, experience, interests, and concerns. As chair, I would charge the steering committee to undertake a major membership survey to provide the critical data necessary to plot a direction forward for the organization.

At the same time, we are looking within the organization for inspiration and guidance, I think it is critical to cast our gaze outwards towards those who use congressional collections and, more importantly, those who do not. During C.P.R.'s tenure, its members have built strong and enduring relationships with congressional members and staff. We can build on this foundation and forge new ties by demonstrating the myriad ways that their collections educate and inform citizens long after they leave office.

To do this we need to learn more about the outreach strategies and experiences of C.P.R. members. With this information, C.P.R. can serve as a conduit for developing cooperative projects between and among members and as a clearinghouse for sharing innovative and successful outreach and advocacy programs. Similarly, CPR can look at alliances with related organizations, such as the Association of Centers for the Study of Congress.

CANDIDATES (6) FOR STEERING COMMITTEE POSITIONS (Vote for 2)

JULIA COLLINS

**University Archivist and Moakley Institute Director
Suffolk University**

Julia Collins is University Archivist and director of the Moakley Archive and Institute at Suffolk University. Since 2002, Collins has served in a variety of roles in the development of the archival program at Suffolk University that includes the political papers of Congressman Joe Moakley. As University Archivist, she oversees collection development and archival processing; curates the oral history program; provides curriculum, research and programming support for faculty, students and the general public; has recently launched Suffolk's online archives catalog and is embarking on the development of a university-wide records management program at Suffolk. Additionally, she oversees the Moakley Institute which sponsors speaking programs, exhibits and leads service learning trips to El Salvador – all in relation to Congressman Moakley's public policy campaigns and the study of Congress. Before joining Suffolk, Collins worked at the Harvard Theatre Collection and Widener Library at Harvard University and the Cambridge Public Library.

Ms. Collins earned her B.S. from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and her MLIS from Simmons College. She is active in the following organizations: Congressional Papers Roundtable, Association of Centers for the Study of Congress (Archives Committee Member), Society of American Archivists and New England Archivists.

*What you would like to bring to the
CPR Steering Committee?*

In addition to a passion for political papers and promoting the study of the Congress, to the committee I would bring my experience working with new technologies, strategic planning and public outreach.

*What you would like to see the CPR doing over the next
four years?*

Over the next few years, I would like to see CPR increase its role as standards-making body as it relates to collecting and processing congressional collections, whether in traditional paper format or in electronic formats. Additionally, we should continue to promote the use of congressional papers to new audiences and in new ways; strengthening strategic relationships between congressional papers repositories and the research communities we serve.

MICHAEL LOTSTEIN

**Assistant Archivist for Collections and
Records Management
Arizona State University Libraries - Department of
Archives and Special Collections**

Your experience with congressional papers

During my tenure at the ASU Libraries, Department of Archives and Special Collections, I have processed the Congressman Richard F. Harless Papers, processed a 100 linear foot accretion to the Congressman John J. Rhodes Papers, supervised the inventory of the Congressman Bob Stump Papers and have worked with the papers of Senator Carl Hayden and Senator Henry F. Ashurst.

*What you would like to bring to the
CPR steering committee?*

I would like to bring to the CPR steering committee the enthusiasm that comes with being a new member of an organization that will hopefully translate into a successful term of service.

*What you would like to see the CPR doing over the next
four years?*

I would like to see the CPR over the next 4 years doing more outreach with members of Congress directly to help prepare their papers for transfer to the appropriate archival institution as well as investigate the feasibility of a mentoring program for archivists tackling congressional collections for the first time.

**CARY G. OSBORNE, MLIS
Political Papers Archivist
New Mexico State University**

Professional Experience: Political Papers Archivist, New Mexico State Libraries, Las Cruces, 2008-Present. Graduate Assistant/archivist, Carl Albert Center, University of Oklahoma, Norman, 2006-2007.

Education: Master of Library & Information Studies, University of Oklahoma, 2007. Graduate studies, history, James Madison University. BA, History/Communications, Mary Baldwin College, 1981 (summa cum laude).

Professional Activities: SAA, 2006-Present, attended annual conference, Washington, D.C., 2006. SSA, 2006-Present, attended annual conference, Oklahoma City, 2007. American Library Association, 2006-Present, attended annual conference, Washington, D.C., 2006. New Mexico Library Association, editor, NMLA Bulletin, 2008-Present.

Publications/Presentations: Six novels, 16 short stories, and several articles on writing. Book Review: "Texas Dev-

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ils: Rangers & Regulars on the Lower Rio Grande, 1846-1861," *Southern New Mexico Historical Review*, Jan. 2009. Presentation: "Robert L. Owen, Oklahoma's First Senator," annual conference of Oklahoma Historical Society, 2007. Exhibit: "Dick T. Morgan, Oklahoma Representative," Carl Albert Center, 2007. Online exhibit: "Out of the Dark Room," 2007. Five small articles in professional newsletters on the Pete V. Domenici collection, announcing the state of processing and my appointment as Political Papers Archivist in charge of processing this collection.

One of the qualities I would bring to the CPR Steering Committee would be perseverance, demonstrated by my non-traditional college education. In my career I have worked in two separate archives, the Carl Albert Center, a Congressional Archives with well established collections; Political Papers Archives, the recently acquired Senator Domenici collection. Although NMSU houses several archives, this is the first congressional archive and I came as their first archivist with experience in this field. As such, I have established everything from processing procedures to office procedures based on accepted methods learned at Carl Albert, from manuals published by SAA in several areas of work, and other sources.

I have been a member of SAA for close to 3 years; the same for CPR. In that time I have only begun to get to know other members. I believe it is important that we work together, especially in the face of the small size of both our organization and our profession. Thus far in my short time as a member of CPR and as a recent member of the profession and in coping with a new position – even moving to a new city – I have been mostly a lurker in the organization, particularly on the listserv. Now, work has begun on the Domenici collection in earnest with the help of information and discussions gleaned from other members of the CPR. It is time to begin to give back and to learn more by doing than by simply reading.

As we all know, the next four years will be very interesting ones. Several archival issues wait to be resolved on local, regional, and national levels. Perhaps we will work to increase our effectiveness and influence over archives as a whole, and Congressional Archives in particular. As a major source for processes and procedures, and knowledge of the materials and organization with which we deal in congressional collections, we are well placed to assist others in their efforts at research. We must educate researchers and other professionals not only about who we are and what we do, but also demonstrate the importance of preserving some of our history through these collections.

BETSY PITTMAN
Interim Director, Thomas J. Dodd Research Center
University of Connecticut

Your experience with congressional papers

I have worked with Congressional Collections since 1997 in my capacity as Curator of Political Collections. In the past eleven years, I have been involved in all aspects of access and reference in addition to donor relations, processing, exhibitions and publications associated with the ten Congressional collections I inherited and the 5 I have been involved in adding to the holdings of the Dodd Research Center.

What you would like to bring to the CPR steering committee?

I would enjoy sharing my experience with the CPR steering committee in the hope of enabling others to learn (and not repeat) my mistakes while building upon my successes. All too many of us have a wide spectrum of responsibilities and it is only through ongoing dialog with our colleagues that efficiencies are achieved and "best practices" refined.

What you would like to see the CPR doing over the next four years?

In the next four years, I would like to see CPR engage in more collaborative activities. By sharing our knowledge, resources and experience to highlight the significant materials each of us manages I believe we can highlight more of what is possible in collections that are frequently overwhelming in size, scope and complexity.

LORI SCHWARTZ
Special Projects Archivist
South Carolina Political Collections
University of South Carolina

I have been a full time political papers archivist at SC Political Collections since 2004 when I graduated from the University of South Carolina with degrees in LIS and Public History. Mostly, I have worked with the papers of Ernest F. "Fritz" Hollings, who was lieutenant governor and governor for SC before serving as U.S. Senator from 1966 to 2005. I've attended the pre-conference sessions held by CPR for several years and now would like to step up and serve on its steering committee. I would bring to the committee a willingness to share my honest opinion about what is working for our group and what is not, and what I see as the problems we deal with in our chosen niche in the archives world.

I would like to see CPR identify and reach out to all the part-time congressional papers archivists out there who have not yet connected with our group and could use a

group of peers to reach out to with questions. Though I know there are many part-timers already involved in CPR, we all know there are many more hidden out there in university manuscript divisions and historical societies and state historical agencies. Also, I would like the pre-conference to continue bringing in speakers with whom we can have good question and answer sessions, but I would also like to set aside time for smaller group discussion, perhaps with set topics -- to serve as a bridge between dialoguing with speakers and the networking time that most of us would agree has been valuable and rewarding.

JACQUE SUNDSTRAND
Manuscripts & Archives Librarian
Special Collections Department
University of Nevada, Reno

Experience with congressional papers:

My work with congressional papers began in 2001 when I came to the Special Collections Dept. at UNR. The department already had three processed congressional collections (both House and Senate) with three more senator's papers waiting in the wings. I began work on former Senator Richard Bryan's papers with a graduate assistant. We also have an agreement of deposit with Majority Leader Senator Harry Reid and have already received some of his early materials. Both collections have been learning experiences on how to work with these large, complex papers, and I learn more each time! I value the written information I've found in the professional literature but even more so the knowledge that other colleagues have shared at the CPR meetings.

What I would like to bring to the CPR steering committee:

Mine would be the voice of a congressional papers archivist from the western section of the continental U.S. The honor and challenge of working with congressional papers is a humbling experience as you learn so much about the inner workings of these political offices, and thus, how to deal with these papers. Therefore, I will continue to encourage the CPR to maintain its informational training voice both in the newsletter and at the SAA meetings, with hopes that we can expand these presentations into additional written formats for all to refer to.

What I would like to see the CPR doing over the next 4 years:

Help document the advice and mentoring of experienced CPR colleagues from the SAA/CPR list through more written guidelines, articles and "best practices." Use the CPR website to house a "Wikipedia" for shared forms, legal guidelines, definitions, etc.

Seeking Enlightenment on E-Records

What percentage of the electronic records in your repository's congressional collections are accessible? All, seventy-five percent, fifty percent, twenty-five percent, none ... or do you even know?

On a scale of one to ten (with one representing "completely terrified" and ten equal to "supremely confident"), how would you rate your repository's ability to handle electronic records in congressional collections?

The Congressional Papers Roundtable has created a survey to ask these and other questions about electronic records in congressional collections. The answers received – and, yes, even those "do not know" responses – will help the CPR to define the current status of archivists to manage this technology when it appears in congressional collections and the scope of the problems associated with it. Survey results may be used in a myriad of ways, including grant applications, discussions with vendors who supply content management systems to congressional offices, the creation of professional standards, and the development educational tools such as training workshops.

Linda Whitaker will be sending an email concerning this survey over the CPR listserv. In case you missed this message, please spend a few minutes responding to the survey at

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=E_2bbmBTP9MN6gUPCC8_2fp1Qg_3d_3d.

anyway!) Let your voices be heard. It's easy, fast, private, and accurate. More importantly, it allows the Steering Committee to coalesce more quickly as a group in order to plan ahead. Not waiting until the annual business meeting affords us a transitional period for outgoing and incoming members. Even a few months buys us time to think about CPR submissions to the SAA Program Committee which has very short deadlines and strict vetting procedures. The CPR "Steers" also have an obligation to respond to issues members face in the field and to monitor a rapidly changing information environment.

The Association of Centers for the Study of Congress will hold their annual meeting the first week in May. One of CPR's own, Sheryl Vogt, has just been elected president. What is ACSC's future? What is its role, CPR's role, and the role of repositories with congressional papers? To advance scholarship? Promote use of their collections? Support acquisition? Lobby Congress? Publish? Create curriculum? All of the above? Stay tuned for a full report in Austin.

With the quick and enthusiastic support of Claudia Anderson (LBJ Library and former CPR Chair) and Don Carleton and Patrick Cox from the Center of American History at UT Austin, we have an excellent day of CPR Pre-conference activities for the Austin meeting. It promises to be fun, engaging, and a chance to ask all sorts of questions. We left time for a leisurely networking lunch and time to re-group at the end of the day for the CPR business meeting. Look for the August 12 agenda in this newsletter. It is also posted online: <http://www.archivists.org/saagroups/cpr/events.asp> It will be posted again on the CPR listserv.

For the first time, we have a guest column by someone who previously had no links with CPR. Meet Cass Hartnett, Chair of GODORT <http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/rts/godort/index.cfm>, Government Documents and Women's Studies Librarian at the U. of Washington. This began as an email message exploring speakers for the CPR business meeting program. Why? Because some gov docs departments are disappearing. Others are forgoing print for electronic formats. If you think of giving Committee Prints, Congressional Directories or other GPO products found in congressional collections of a certain era to your local friendly gov docs librarian, you might want to think again. What we share in common is that congressional papers and gov docs are an acquired taste for archivists and librarians – a little marginalized, a little misunderstood but passionate about their specialty. Note Cass's plea for help with appraisal and perseveration issues. Our plea to GODORT is to think of congressional collections as gov docs writ large. Our goal here is not to forge long term commitments or unsustainable initiatives that would obligate our respective organizations but to exchange information. Cass tells me her group is working on a "Gov Docs for Dummies" publication for the profession at large. Please put me on the mailing list!

Now for our favorite 800 pound gorilla - electronic formats found in congressional collections. In the

past year, a fair number of electronic records queries have come through the CPR listserv. As CPR Chair, some have come directly to me asking "What is CPR doing about this?" Enter Abby Griner, Access and Electronic Records Archivist at the U. of Georgia and member of the SAA Electronic Records Section. Here was an opportunity to get a handle on the problem as it pertains to our work. Leigh McWhite (a self-described technophobe), Jan Zastrow (a self-described techie), and Robin Reeder (serving as ballast and a sounding board), have joined forces to create a CPR-E records survey. Look for it posted on the CPR listserv. We need to identify of the scope of the problem before we engage creators of these particular e-records and the software that supports them. Note that we are not seeking a universal solution to e-records nor is this intended to duplicate initiatives elsewhere. The time of waiting for someone else to solve archival problems specific to congressional collections are over. One thought is to explore solutions with the five vendors now on the Hill such as creating an access product for the repositories that inherit these collections. Our goal is to set up a CPR task force and report some initial findings at the business meeting with the idea of more presentations in 2010 for the SAA meeting in Washington, DC.

On that pro-active note, I look forward to seeing you in Austin.



The World Digital Library

A collaborative project between the Library of Congress and UNESCO to "makes available on the Internet, free of charge and in multilingual format, significant primary materials from countries and cultures around the world. "

This project is actively seeking contributions. For more information you may contact project staff at <http://www.wdl.org/en/contact.html>

<http://www.wdl.org/en/>

Guest Column: Collaboration with Government Documents

By Cass Hartnett
U.S. Documents & Women Studies Librarian
University of Washington Libraries,
cass@u.washington.edu

Archivists, beware! The government documents librarians are coming!

Thanks to the persistence of Linda Whitaker and Rebecca Johnson Melvin, librarians from the American Library Association's Government Documents Round Table (GODORT) will be collaborating with CPR members at least twice in the coming year. I am greatly looking forward to putting CPR faces with names. From the moment of Linda's first call, I have felt as though I have tapped into a group of experts, a parallel universe to GODORT's, with colleagues just as passionate as we are about their work with government resources.

As Chair of GODORT, I will attend CPR's meetings and activities in Austin this August, at SAA 2009. There I hope to hear firsthand about the operational challenges CPR archivists face in your daily work and give you the same rundown for government documents librarians. It will be quite a cultural exchange, and both sides must resolve now to accentuate the positive. Goodness knows we are aware of the financial and organizational constraints under which we all operate. One process about which librarians need fundamental education is in the area of archival appraisal. Few of us have ever had exposure to this concept, although we may go through similar mental machinations as we assess large gift collections. Encoded Archival Description could use some real explaining, too! Our second shared project will be a program for the ALA Annual conference in Washington DC (June 2010), titled Librarians and Archivists: Together We Can Save Congress. With this ninety-minute program, we hope to gain some real momentum in our shared endeavor of stewarding resources of Congress and of some of its illustrious individual Members.

In my role as GODORT ambassador, let me share a little of our story. We are a 1,000 member organization within the 65,000 member American Library Association. We actually have a patron saint, the mother of government documents librarians: Adelaide Hasse, developer of the SuDocs classification system, famously fired from the New York Public Library for ambiguous reasons despite her exemplary record. (See Clare Beck's excellent 2006 biography: *The New Woman as Librarian: the Career of Adelaide Hasse*.) GODORT was launched nearly four decades ago and we are fortunate to have some of our founders as active members. (We are conducting an oral history project to preserve the wisdom of our founding members.) Our flagship publication *DtP (Documents to the People): a quarterly journal of government information practice and perspective* is always an engaging read – find out more at <http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/rtsgodort/dtpp/dtpponline/>. One of our unstated philosophies is that the internet has made it possible for every librarian – for every interested

person, for that matter – to be a government information specialist, and we wish to assist any such seeker. We see the value of government information in our everyday lives. The new spirit of civic engagement and online activism has put us in touch with new users and collaborators beyond our traditional circles. Institutionally, it feels good to be stretched in new directions. Our younger members inspire us with a palpable idealism for transparency in government and a desire for unrestricted access to digital content; they amaze us with their fearless embrace of new technologies in the endless search for “killer apps” to strengthen our collective work.

In GODORT, we learn about all jurisdictions of government: local, state, federal, international, and foreign governments. We have committees for Cataloging & Metadata, and Rare & Endangered Government Publications, among other topic areas. Just this year, we have formally expressed our interest in the publications of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), the myriad organizations as diverse as Amnesty International and the American Water Works Association, whose work frequently repackages government information in targeted and useful ways. We consult with sister library associations such as the American Association of Law Librarians (AALL), the Special Library Association Government Information Division (SLA-DGI), the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) and many groups within ALA, especially the ALA-Washington Office, ACRL, the Committee on Legislation, FAFLRT (Federal Librarians) and MAGERT (Map Librarians). We look to activist groups such as OpenTheGovernment.org, OMB Watch, Free Government Information (FGI) and others to catch issues and legislation that may not have made it onto our radar yet. We have enjoyed many years of direct communication with the Government Printing Office and with vendors whose products enrich our collections.

Congress has historically been a major focus within GODORT. Most of our librarians have solid experience providing access to the printed record of Congress: published hearings, reports, the Congressional Record and its predecessors, the U.S. Serial Set, calendars and journals, to name but a few. Not surprisingly, we struggle with such issues as whether to maintain collections in print, in government issue diazo microfiche, in silver halide commercial microfiche, or digitally. Advanced researchers dig deeply into our collections searching for evidence of “legislative intent”. In this area, archival collections, with personal papers and constituent correspondence, could prove invaluable. And as we know, our users care less and less about the distinction between manuscript collections and the published record: these are all government-produced primary sources as far as they are concerned, and they would love to have all material delivered digitally. Someday, in the not too distant future, the invisible curtain separating our two professions will be lifted. At least in the case of GODORT and CPR, we will already have had more than a glimpse of each other by then.

Report from the Association of Centers of Congress annual meeting

The sixth annual meeting of the Association of Centers for the Study of Congress (ACSC) was held May 6-8 at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, DC. The welcomes by Don Wolfensberger of the Congress Project at the Wilson Center and by new ACSC president Sheryl Vogt were preceded by a brief surprise welcome by Wilson Center president and director Lee Hamilton. In a keynote speech, John Lawrence, chief of staff for House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, talked about the total change in the environment over the last three months, at the same time noting that there is always a push and pull with a regard to an acknowledged need for transparency and the wariness of committing too much to paper. A case in point is the earmark issue, where the House is creating greater transparency but feels the need to protect earmarks as one of the main ways in which members of Congress can deliver federal benefits to their districts. Lawrence took questions regarding the projected consequences from the William Jefferson case regarding access to members' papers, the prospects for more equitable funding for congressional repositories vis-à-vis the presidential libraries, and whether new strategies were being developed to deal with the 24/7 news cycle.

A session entitled "Congressional Papers and Congressional Scholarship" was intended to sketch out the scope of scholarship on Congress, directions it might go, and problems with doing archival research on Congress. Gareth Davies, a visiting scholar from Oxford University who has worked with 25 different congressional collections, commented that in comparison to presidential and judicial history, it was far harder to form a textured history of Congress, due in large part to the absence of staff memos and other internal documentation that would provide insights into the actual dynamics of the legislative process. The first collection he worked with, the Jacob Javits Papers at SUNY-Stonybrook, was exceedingly rich in this regard, but his expectations based on that experience were generally not fulfilled in subsequent research because of the paucity of staff records and because of access problems, such as correspondence arranged alphabetically by correspondent. Committee papers also seem to be uneven, with some offering extensive memos and notes, others offering virtually nothing. He has thus found that in order to

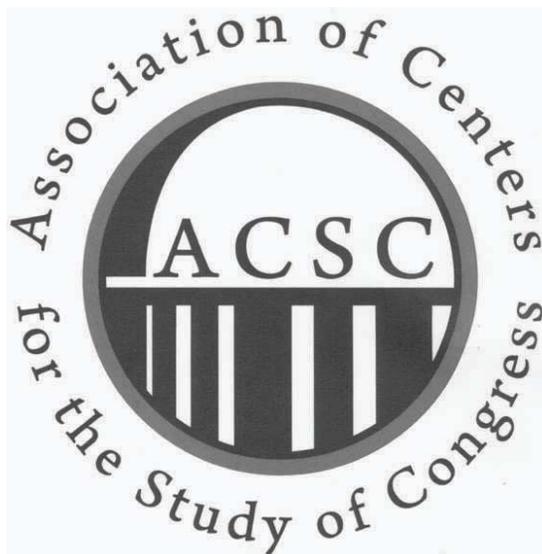
write congressional history he has had to turn to executive documents, which he did for his second book (on education policy) and continues for his present research. He is also using interviews and has found oral histories extremely useful, as well as earlier political science research written from observation, such as the work of Robert Fenno.

Doug Harris, associate professor of political scientist from Loyola College of Maryland, sketched out the evolution of political science research on Congress from Woodrow Wilson's *Congressional Government*, which was based on official documents, the *Congressional Record*,

and news accounts, through the behaviorist orientation of the 1950s that focused on quantification, to the development of "rational choice theory" with the work of Robert Peabody and Robert Fenno. The underlying questions of the discipline, namely why people behave as they do and how they make choices, began in the 1980s to be pursued through "historical institutionalism," i.e. the study of behavior in context, with an emphasis on the influence of that context. Robin Kolodny's history of four campaign committees and the study of committee assignments by Sean Kelly and Scott Frisch, as well as Harris' own work grew out of this paradigm and incorporated extensive archival research, which Harris, along with Kelly and Frisch, continues

to actively promote as an appropriate mode for political science research. Current studies of how congressional leaders use mass media demonstrate the limitations of a solely quantitative approach, which only counts the success stories, whereas archival work can produce accounts of decisions behind the scenes. Harris underscored the importance of collaborations between political scientists and archivists to maximize access to and use of congressional collections.

Frank Mackaman's report on the 84 proposals submitted to the Everett Dirksen Congressional Center for funding in 2009 to support research around the country on Congress described patterns in the 42 proposals involving archival research both as to topic and type of study. Four categories of research on members, on representation, on law-making/policy-making, and on context captured the proposals in a general topical way. The report provided a closer look through brief descriptions of projects within seven types of study, namely studies of the inconspicuous, of the context for congressional action, of the sociology of congressional life, of how members of Congress decide, of specific phenomena such as blue slips and how they are



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used, of constituent case work, and case studies of particular pieces of legislation.

Larry Weimer, who as a project archivist just completed both the processing of, and a major exhibition from, the Hamilton Williams Papers at Rutgers University, focused on the local history research that may be addressed through congressional papers, connecting local issues to larger themes or, conversely, moving from larger themes to concrete examples in local contexts. The contact point between the two lies in documents relating to the funding of projects, including the masses of materials sent to members on those projects. Examples presented visually included materials on the ingenious pursuit of a highway improvement through casting it as a bomb shelter, a failed tactic that nevertheless illustrated competing visions that intersect in the member's office, as did examples of environmental concerns, industrial development, historic preservation, and the relationships of military bases to their surrounding communities. Awareness of this potential of congressional collections can expand the range of users but also presents a challenge, as a given topic may be found scattered throughout the collection and not always so labeled, a dilemma addressed by Weimer via added terms within the folder lists.

Patrick Cox of the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History at the University of Texas at Austin described additional uses of collections at the center beyond historians and the occasional political scientists, as the center works with both the Lyndon Baines Johnson School of Public Affairs and the Johnson Presidential Library. Documentary film-makers are increasingly finding funding, leading to the center becoming a major resource to the media.

Sessions on the second day of the meeting focused on exploiting the potential of online access and the challenges of transferring and administering electronic records. Betsy Pittman of the Dodd Research Center at the University of Connecticut, Kat Shirley of the Russell Library at the University of Georgia, and Rebecca Johnson Melvin of Special Collections at the University of Delaware presented a brief visual history of the development of collection description of congressional papers, leading up to a proposal for exploring the potential of Encoded Archival Context (EAC) as the next step in providing access through description. How this might be undertaken across all known congressional papers collections might be the subject of a planning grant.

The concrete problems of transferring and administering electronic records were presented by Ted Clark, IT specialist at the Center for Legislative Archives at NARA, and Steve Hussman, head of the Department of Archives at New Mexico State University, which is receiving the Pete Domenici Senatorial Papers. Senate Archivist Karen Paul began the session by introducing the new 5th edition of the handbook, *Closing a Senate Office*, which can be downloaded in pdf form from the Senate website and has a

great deal of helpful information for receiving repositories as well as senatorial staff. Her office has also developed "quick cards" for staff, which give them tips in a nutshell for dealing with specific parts of the collection. Jan Zastrow, who is on leave from the University of Hawaii to work in Senator Harry Reid's office, presented handouts that she had developed for working with the CapCorr correspondence system. Among the dangers that Ted Clark warned about was that what seems like the straightforward copying of files may in fact strip out the original creation data. Steve Hussman emphasized the importance of working closely with the chief of staff and as early as possible, of keeping track of where staff members go when they leave their positions in the office, and of beginning to work with the IT staff within the repository immediately upon learning of the planned transfer. A timeline for closing the office should be laid out, with multiple back-ups of electronic records built in, and there should be regular and frequent contact with staff and legal counsel. Final shipment should be of hard drives via private truckers who will control the materials door-to-door, and records should be put on a server and duplicated immediately upon receipt. In Hussman's situation, the efficiency of their work will be tested by the necessity for e-discovery because of portions of Domenici's papers being subpoenaed.

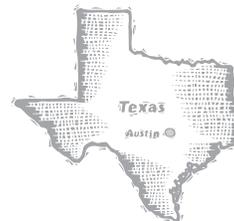
On Friday, Jill Severn of the Russell Library at the University of Georgia and Taylor Willingham of the LBJ Library in Austin demonstrated the National Issues Forum deliberative dialogue approach to engaging groups in constructive discussion of policy issues, providing an example of the kind of education and outreach that could be done by congressional centers. A subsequent session focused on other groups engaged in supporting the study of Congress, including an introduction by director Don Wolfensberger to the work of the Congress Project at the Woodrow Wilson Center in bringing together scholars, journalists, and policy-makers. Richard Baker, Senate Historian, traced the history of the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress from its founding in 1989 in the wake of the concern about preserving congressional records that also gave rise to the Congressional Papers Roundtable. Questions that drove and continue to drive the group are how to preserve congressional papers, how to ensure their preservation in NARA, and how to impress the leadership of House and Senate of the importance of doing so. Linda Whitaker described the history and current status of the Congressional Papers Roundtable as part of the session's attempt to sketch out the scope of work being done by complementary organizations so that the ACSC can delineate what its own distinctive contribution to support for the study of Congress might be.

To that end, the annual meeting included several sessions in which developing a multi-year plan of activity was begun. How the work of the ACSC and that of the CPR might complement each other was one thread of those discussions.

Congressional Papers Roundtable Pre-Conference Schedule



August 12, 2009
Austin, Texas



9:00-11:00 am—Lyndon B. Johnson Presidential Library

Behind the scenes tour of the LBJ library with host Claudia Anderson. Includes a "tape session" from the LBJ vault. Everything you wanted to know about Presidential Libraries, LBJ and more. Open to non-CPR members but space is limited. Please RSVP: linda.whitaker@ahfweb.org

11:30-1:30 - Networking lunch

Location TBA. All are welcomed. Restaurant will need numbers. Please RSVP linda.whitaker@ahfweb.org

2:00-4:30 pm—Center for American History, University of Texas

Presentation and reception at the Arno Nowatny building, headquarters for the Center for American History with hosts Don Carleton and Patrick Cox. Note that the Nowatny building is the oldest structure (1859) on the UT Austin campus and served as General Custer's HQ during Reconstruction. Both the setting and the gracious hospitality offer a unique experience for CPR members and anyone managing political collections. As a courtesy to our hosts and for planning purposes, please RSVP linda.whitaker@ahfweb.org.

5:30-7:30 pm: CPR Business Meeting.

Location TBA. Program: "Gov Docs in Motion: What You Don't Know Can Hurt You and Your Collections" This panel discussion will focus on the rapidly changing world of government documents, the need for collaborative appraisal, and the synergies of partnerships. This is also a call for collaborative models of gov docs and archival partnerships – online, offline, grants, instruction design and beyond. Audience participation encouraged!

Panelists: Cass Hartnett, GODORT Chair, Gov Docs and Women's Studies Librarian, University of Washington; Kate Cruikshank, Political Papers Specialist, Indiana University; Leigh McWhite, Political Papers Archivist and Assistant Professor, University of Mississippi.



INSTITUTIONAL UPDATES

University of Montana

Archives & Special Collections at the University of Montana's Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library is pleased to announce that a finding aid for the John Melcher Papers is now available online at <http://nwda-db.wsulibs.wsu.edu/findaid/ark:/80444/xv39351>.

John Melcher represented Montana in the U. S.



House from 1969-1977 and in the U.S Senate from 1977-1988. In both the House and the Senate, Melcher was noted for his interest in agriculture, protection of public lands, animal welfare and animal health protections. He was a cosponsor and advocate of the coal strip mining bill (Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act), which was vetoed twice before being passed in 1977. In 1984 he contributed to the Animal Welfare

Act with an amendment requiring consideration of the psychological wellbeing of primates used in medical research.

Melcher was a supporter of the Equal Rights Amendment and affirmative action. He was an active advocate of the Food for Peace program, nutrition programs, food safety, and animal health research. He served on the Agriculture and the Interior committees of the House, and on the Agriculture, Energy, and Natural Resources committees of the Senate. He was the chairman of the Special Committee on Aging and the Indian Affairs Committee.

Processed series in this 770+ linear foot collection include Correspondence, Speeches and Writings, Bills Sponsored, and Project Files. Future processing will focus on still and moving image materials. The finding aid will be updated as these series are completed.

The John Melcher Papers are part of a larger collection of congressional papers held by the Mansfield Library including those of Joseph Dixon, James Murray, Pat Williams and Mike Mansfield. Guides to these and other congressional collections at The University of Montana are available via the NWDA (Northwest Digital Archives) website: <http://nwda.wsulibs.wsu.edu/index.shtml>. For additional information please contact Donna McCrea, Archivist & Manuscripts Librarian.

- Donna McCrea

University of Connecticut, Dodd Center

Researchers interested in the nuances of federal campaign finance reform law will likely find considerable grist regarding the issue in the papers of former Congressman Christopher H. Shays, which are now housed in the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center.

A Republican who represented Connecticut's 4th District from 1987 until 2008, Shays was an original co-sponsor of the landmark Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 2002, also known as "Shays-Meehan" and "McCain-Feingold," which banned in federal elections soft money from corporations, labor unions and wealthy individuals and barred issue advocacy ads within 60 days of an election unless hard money has paid for them.

The collection consists of almost 100 linear feet of materials documenting Shays' long career in public service. It is expected that processing will take several years during which time the collection is closed. The opening of the collection for research will be announced at a later date.

"The Dodd Center provides a wonderful resource for researchers around the country, and UConn is a premier institution I was privileged to help support during my 34 years in elected office," Shays said. "If these records can be helpful and are of interest to students, I'm grateful they can continue to be of service."

A longtime leader among centrist Republicans, Shays worked with the Clinton Administration to establish the successful COPS program, which was widely hailed as a measure that resulted in a reduction of serious crime throughout the United States. In Congress, Shays worked to end racial profiling and sexual discrimination in the workplace and was an ardent supporter of a woman's right to choose. He helped author the 1993 Gun Control Act and advocates a sensible assault weapons ban reauthorization bill. A former Peace Corps volunteer, Shays helped establish the AmeriCorps national service program and co-founded the Congressional National Service Caucus.

Prior to his election to Congress in 1987, Shays was elected to the Connecticut House in 1974, when he was 29, and served for 12 years. He earned his M.B.A. and M.P.A. from New York University and his undergraduate degree from Principia College.

In January 2009, he joined the Board of Directors of the Campaign Legal Center, a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization, based in Washington, DC, which works in the areas of campaign finance and elections, political communication and government ethics.

- Betsy Pittman

University of Oklahoma, Carl Albert Center

The Congressional Archives at the Carl Albert Congressional Research and Studies Center at the University of Oklahoma would like to announce the opening of the Richard Keith “Dick” Arme y Collection. Called a “think tank in cowboy boots,” Arme y served as the congressman from the 26th District of Texas from January 3, 1985, to January 3, 2003. A Republican, Arme y enjoyed legisla-



Rep. Richard Keith “Dick” Arme y

tive success in 1987 with the creation of the bipartisan plan to close surplus military bases. In December 1992, Arme y ascended to the leadership of the House Republican Conference. One with a penchant for detail, Arme y saw his chairmanship of the Conference as one of overseeing a policy think tank.

On the eve of the election of 1994, the House Republicans saw an opportunity to become the majority party. In September 1994, the Republican Party issued the Contract with America which listed the actions that the party promised to take if they were successful in November. Arme y and other GOP leaders traveled throughout the country raising money and support for the party’s candidates. The effort was successful and for the first time in forty years, the party won control in the Congress. The House GOP rewarded Arme y for his work and elected him as majority leader. He would hold this office for his remaining terms in Congress. Always a staunch fiscal conservative, Arme y continued to strive for cutting taxes and balancing the budget. Leader Arme y also worked for passage of lower cost automobile insurance, for school choice, for campaign finance reform, and for efforts to reduce big government. In addition, he led the GOP in challenging the Clinton health care plan. Following the terrorist attack of September 11, 2001, Arme y chaired the Select Committee on Homeland Security.

The Arme y collection comprises 78 cubic feet of documents as well as videocassettes, audiocassettes, and memorabilia. The collection spans the period 1939-2002 although most materials date from 1985 and after. Documents include correspondence, legislation, publications, clippings, Internet material, press releases, reports, proceedings, invitations, and scheduling files. The largest series is the legislative which is comprised of 20.6

cubic feet. Major topics found in this series include agriculture, automobile insurance (auto choice legislation), budget and the economy, campaign finance reform, the Capitol Visitor Center, congressional reform, B-2 Stealth bomber, base closure and realignment, school choice, health care, Wright amendment, aviation, privatization, tax reform, flat tax, and transportation. Also in this series are groups of folders on the Office of the Majority Leader as well as the House Republican Conference. Other significant series are the schedule files (19 cubic feet) and the clipping files (8 cubic feet). In addition, there are 289 videocassettes on a wide variety of topics. A detailed inventory to the collection can be accessed at <http://www.ou.edu/special/albertctr/archives/Arme yInventory/armey.htm>.

There is also a sizeable photograph collection of 484 items. Because Arme y served in leadership for much of his time in Congress, there are several images of the congressman meeting world leaders or taking a key role in GOP activities. An item-level inventory exists for this photo collection and can be accessed at <http://www.ou.edu/special/albertctr/archives/Arme yInventory/armeyphoto.htm>.

The Carl Albert Center has also recently expanded the inventories to the legislative and bills series of the Tom Steed Collection. A Democrat, Steed is the longest serving Oklahoma congressman to date. He represented Oklahoma’s Fourth District from 1949-1980. He was a member of the Appropriations, Small Business, Public Works, and Education Committees as well as the Transportation Subcommittee and the Subcommittee on Military Construction. His most powerful legislative position was that of chair of the Appropriations Subcommittee on the Treasury and Post Office. In 1976, he was elected as chair of the House Small Business Committee, thus becoming the first Oklahoman to hold a full committee chairmanship in the House since the Congressional Reorganization Act of 1946. He served as a member of the Federal Paperwork Commission and worked to achieve passage of the Paperwork Reduction Act. Some of his more notable legislative accomplishments included helping to create the nation’s vast Interstate Highway System, the federal impact aid to schools programs, the Library Services Act of 1956, and the Small Watersheds Act. A description of the Steed Collection is available at <http://www.ou.edu/special/albertctr/archives/steed.htm>.

The congressional archives has also updated and expanded three subseries of the Fred R. Harris Collection. A Democrat, Harris served in the Senate from 1965-1972. As a member of the Select Committee on Small Business, as well as the Government Operations,

(Continued on page 13)

(Continued from page 12)

Public Works, and Finance committees, Senator Harris centered his legislative interests on human needs. Known for his ability to understand and work with opposing factions, he focused on improving the welfare system and increasing job opportunities for poor and unskilled workers. President Lyndon B. Johnson named him to the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders (Kerner Commission) in the summer of 1967. In 1969, Harris was elected chairman of the Democratic National Committee (DNC). Graduate student Jackie Slater re-processed and developed new inventories to the files of the Democratic National Committee, of nationally known Native American activist LaDonna Harris, and of Harris's two presidential campaigns of 1972 and 1976. A description of the Harris Collection is available at <http://www.ou.edu/special/albertctr/archives/harris.htm>. Slater also developed an online exhibit on Senator Harris's life which is available at <http://www.ou.edu/special/albertctr/archives/exhibit/harris/Harrisexhibit.htm>.

- Submitted by the staff of the Congressional Archives of the Carl Albert Congressional Research and Studies Center, University of Oklahoma

Tarleton State University



Tarleton State University recently received approximately 300 additional boxes of the Charles W. Stenholm Congressional papers, the Congressman's desk, and desk chair were received as well. The papers include photographs, correspondence, subject and case files, and daily legislative folders. Memorabilia from Stenholm's office were also received.

A display of the Congressman's office was created in the Special Collections Suite of the Dick Smith Library using the desk and chair and memorabilia recently received. Pictured is Former Congressman Stenholm visiting the display recently.

-Gary Spurr

Ohio State University

The Ohio Congressional Archives at The Ohio State University recently acquired the papers of Congresswoman Deborah Pryce and Congressman Ralph Regula, both of whom retired from the United States Congress in January 2009. Pryce served 16 years representing Ohio's 15th Congressional District, while Regula served Ohio's 16th Congressional District for 38 years.

A graduate of The Ohio State University and Capital University Law School, Pryce was first elected to Congress in 1992. In 2002, she was elected chairman of the House Republican Conference, becoming the fourth highest-ranking member of Congress and the highest ranking Republican woman in history. She served as Republican deputy whip from 1996 until her retirement. During her years in Congress, Pryce's legislative focus reflected her commitment to children, women, and health care issues. She worked to make the process of adoption more affordable for families, was a leader in the effort to reform welfare, and secured annual funding for physician training at children's hospitals. She also authored laws to require that drugs be tested for their effect on children and co-chaired the House Cancer Caucus. Just prior to her retirement she was instrumental in the passage of a pediatric cancer bill.

First elected in 1972, Regula was longest continuously serving member of Congress in Ohio history. A member of the House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee for 30 years, he chaired the subcommittee from 1995 to 2000. During this time period he secured funding for the historic redevelopment of the Ohio and Erie Canal Way and the Cuyahoga Valley National Park. From 2000 to 2006, Regula chaired the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education. As chair, he oversaw legislation that strengthened the nation's education system, funded medical research, and retained various workforce training programs. During his eighteen terms, Regula provided more than \$450 million in funding for Ohio universities, hospitals, parks, and highways.

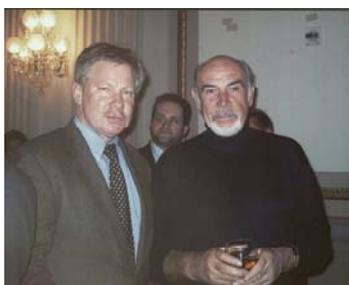
Processing work on the Regula papers has begun, with a goal to open the collection to research by the end of this year. Plans call for the Pryce Papers to be processed and open for research by the end of 2010.

- Jeff Thomas

George Mason University



Rep. Davis and Yasser Arafat



Rep. Davis and Sean Connery

Tom Davis Papers at the George Mason University Libraries' Special Collections and Archives Beginning in the fall of 2008, Special Collections and Archives staff began working with the staff in the office of Tom M. Davis, III, the retiring United States Representative for Virginia's 11th District, to bring his papers to Fenwick Library. In December 2008, the bulk of the Tom Davis Papers arrived, which brought the total number of boxes to 67, not including many framed

pieces of memorabilia from Davis' 14-year career.

Elected in 1994, Davis began his career as chairman of the House Government Reform and Oversight Commission's Subcommittee on the District of Columbia. In January 2003, he was elected to chair the House Government Reform and Oversight Committee and was reappointed in January 2005 because of his outstanding work. He also served as the chairman of the National Republican Congressional Committee from 1998 to 2002. The collection contains issue files, legislative files, committee hearing files, thank-you letters, and constituent mail from his entire congressional career. There are also videotape cassettes, photographs, and many pieces of memorabilia. The collection will be closed to research for six years. Currently, Special Collections and Archives is working on creating a contract archivist position to process the papers.

- Jordan Patty

University of Mississippi

The Modern Political Archives has completed work on the unrestricted portions of the third file series in the James O. Eastland Collection. A Democrat, Eastland represented Mississippi in the U.S. Senate for a few months in 1941 by gubernatorial appointment and then in his own right from 1943 to 1978. He

chaired the Judiciary Committee from 1956 until his retirement.

Although Eastland's File Series 3: Constituent Files consists of a mere five subseries, it represents the largest segment of the collection at 904.5 linear feet. Only three of its subseries are currently open to researchers: Issue Correspondence, State/Local Files, and Routine Requests. Due to privacy and confidentiality concerns, individual records in Academy Appointments and Case Files will remain closed for seventy-five years after the last dated document in each folder. The finding aid for the collection is available online at

<http://purl.oclc.org/umarchives/MUM00117/>.

The Modern Political Archives also recently posted online finding aids for the following: the Felton M. Johnston Collection

(<http://purl.oclc.org/umarchives/MUM00235/>); the "Cora Norman Bid for State Auditor Office, 1991" Scrapbook

(<http://purl.oclc.org/umarchives/MUM01695/>); and the Presidential Debate Collection

(<http://purl.oclc.org/umarchives/MUM01697/>).

Known to his friends as "Skeeter," Felton M. Johnston moved from Mississippi to Washington, DC in 1929 to serve on the staff of U.S. Senator Pat Harrison. Democratic senators elected him their party's secretary after World War II. He also served as secretary of the Committee on Platform and Resolutions at the Democratic National Conventions in 1948 and 1952. In 1955, Johnston became Secretary of the Senate, an administrative post he held until 1965. President Lyndon B. Johnson then appointed his old friend to the American Battle Monuments Commission where he remained until 1969. Material in the Felton M. Johnston Collection dates from 1925 to 1972 and occupies thirty-six linear feet.

Dr. Cora Norman served as executive director of the Mississippi Humanities Council from 1972 until 1996. An active member of the League of Women Voters, she decided to enter the race for State Auditor in 1991 after attending a number of LWV workshops on campaigning for public office. Norman was the only female to run for state office that year, and her scrapbook records this unsuccessful race.

The Presidential Debate Collection consists of nine linear feet of material which document the September 26th, 2008 presidential debate at the University of Mississippi as well as the numerous academic courses, programs, and activities associated with the debate. After an extensive campaign to solicit material for the collection, over thirty individuals from across the campus and community donated records and items in a wide array of formats.

- Leigh McWhite

University of Kansas, Dole Institute

The Dole Institute was awarded a grant from the American Association of Museums to participate in the 2009 Museum Assessment Program. The grant covers the expenses of a museum professional to visit facilities and work with staff in developing core policies and procedures. This is the first of three Assessment Programs offered by AAM, and it is hoped that through working with the Assessment Programs the Dole Institute will be able to eventually achieve AAM Museum Accreditation.

The passing of Secretary Jack Kemp was memorialized by archivists at the institute by a small exhibit and a memorial book for visitors to sign. Jack Kemp was Senator Dole's running mate in the 1996 presidential election.



Archivists will be shifting gears this summer to begin preliminary inventories of processed materials from the Dole Senate Papers. Due to changes in the original deed of gift negotiated earlier in the year, most restrictions on this collection have been removed, making the papers more easily accessible to researchers.

Changes to the deed of gift also included a provision to allow de-accessioning of artifacts from the institute's collection of several thousand pieces. Items selected for de-accessioning will be offered to other local museums.

The Dole Archives Advisory Board met in mid-May to discuss new archival initiatives and review progress made in the past year. The Advisory Board is composed of faculty, staff, librarians and local community members. Board members received copies of processing reports and the accessions notebook.

Senior Archivist Morgan Davis was selected to attend the Archives Leadership Institute sponsored by the NHPRC and the University of Wisconsin. She will attend the Institute July 20-24.



News Round-Up

Congressional Research Service Reports sought by website

Frustrated by the Congressional Research Service's refusal to make their reports available to public, The Center for Democracy and Technology created opencrs.com, a web based tool for locating publicly released CRS reports.

The Congressional Research Service, a branch of the Library of Congress, provides research services to members of Congress. These reports are made available solely to members of Congress, and are only available to the public when they are "released" by members of Congress.



Opencrs.com is partnering with well known collectors of CRS reports such as the National Council for Science and the Environment, the Thurgood Marshall Law Library and the Federation of American Scientists as well as small contributions from individuals and repositories.

Although reports do not contain classified or copyrighted information, Congress is resistant to make reports available to the public directly.

"Reports are produced by the Congressional Research Service staff for the education of members of Congress," Kyle Anderson, a spokesman for the House Administration Committee, which has jurisdiction over the issue in the House, wrote in an e-mail message. "Just as other memos produced by staffers for members of Congress aren't made public, these are not."

Not all Congressmen agree with this policy. A bi-partisan group of Senators including John McCain, Patrick Leahy and Joseph Lieberman have proposed legislation that would make the reports available.

Recent addition to opencrs.com have included "Airport Passenger Screening: Background and Issues for Congress," "NATO Enlargement: Albania, Croatia, and Possible Future Candidates," and "Taiwan-U.S. Relations: Developments and Policy Implications."

Group Seeks Public Access to Congressional Research
<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/05/05/us/05research.html>

Open CRS
[Opencrs.com](http://opencrs.com)



News Round-Up

Sen. Stevens Archive to go to University of Alaska—Fairbanks

From the Anchorage Daily News, Feb. 25, 2009

Former Sen. Ted Stevens has agreed to allow his Senate papers to be kept at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, the university announced Wednesday, but he will retain control over access to the collection and he or his estate can rescind the agreement in 10 years.

The material won't be available to researchers until five years after Stevens' death unless he gives special permission, according to the contract between Stevens and the university.

Specially excluded from the collection are any personal papers, financial records or correspondence with members of his immediate and extended family. If archivists discover any personal documents in the collection, they must be removed and returned to Stevens or his estate. Among the members of his family to whom that section would apply is at least one successful Anchorage lobbyist, brother-in-law Bill Bittner, and a former state Senate president, son Ben Stevens, also once a Washington lobbyist and a consultant to companies seeking legislation from Congress.

Even though the records will be maintained by the state, the contract specifically exempts the archive from the Alaska or federal public-records laws. If a judge ever disagreed and ruled they were public records, the contract specifies the entire collection must be returned to Stevens or his heirs as quickly as possible.

Members of Congress Who Twitter

The website congressional140.com maintains a constantly updated list on members of Congress who use Twitter and also serves as an aggregate tool for reading Twitter updates from Congress.

From the website, “From Reagan's diary to Truman's journal, Lincoln's notes, and Kennedy's scribbling we are fascinated with the inner most thoughts of our national leaders during times of intense political discourse and national change. We look towards the unvarnished, un-spinned, raw, and truthful thoughts of the elected officials we have chosen to represent us in our American Republic as having more interpretive value than the highly sanitized speeches, releases, and talking points that strip away substance in favor of non-offensiveness.”

May 21, 2009 10:10 am		Jason Chaffetz (jasoninthehouse)	Congratulations, Colorado. You helped elect Pres. Obama and now you are likely to become a major target if detainees are in Colorado
May 21, 2009 10:09 am		Jason Chaffetz (jasoninthehouse)	The President's desire to bring GITMO detainees to the USA is wrong, wrong, wrong and we should NOT try detainees in USA courts
May 21, 2009 9:51 am		Rep. Cynthia Lummis (CynthiaLummis)	Higher interest rates likely down the road
May 21, 2009 9:50 am		Don Manzullo (manzullo2010)	Help Rep Manzullo fight for human rights in Burma! http://bit.ly/ZJW8C... #tcot
May 21, 2009 9:50 am		ChuckGrassley (ChuckGrassley)	Now in hearing on Panama Free Trade Agreement. This shld hv been passed in2007
May 21, 2009 9:45 am		ChuckGrassley (ChuckGrassley)	My office softball team beat my Chr Baucus softball team last nite