



# Congressional Papers Roundtable

## NEWSLETTER

Society of American Archivists

November 2009

### From the Chair

*Brian Keough*

I am delighted and honored to serve as CPR chair for 2009-2010 and to follow in the distinguished footsteps of Linda Whitaker of Arizona State University. Thanks to Linda and the Steering Committee, we had a wonderful pre-conference program in Austin, so I extend a hearty thank you to everyone who was responsible for making those events happen, including the folks at the LBJ Library and the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History. Let me also thank Cass Hartnett, GODORT Chair, Gov Docs and Women's Studies Librarian, University of Washington for her presentation at the CPR annual meeting which is now available at the CPR web page at: <http://www.archivists.org/saagroups/cpr/publications/hartnett-austin09.pdf>

Many of you may be wondering who this person is from Albany that is now CPR chair. Well... the University at Albany Libraries' M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives

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### SAA Annual Meeting , August 12, 2009 Austin, Texas

Congressional Papers Roundtable Business Meeting  
5:30-7:30 p.m.

CPR members assembled at the Austin Hilton for the annual roundtable business meeting. There were 52 people in attendance. Ben Primer, SAA Program Committee, by giving a brief announcement regarding the 2010 SAA annual meeting to be held in Washington D.C.

Linda Whitaker, CPR Chair 2008-2009, introduced the 2009-2010 steering committee: Brian Keough, Chair; Jill Severn, Vice Chair/Chair Elect; Linda Whitaker, Immediate Past Chair; Christopher Burns, Leigh McWhite, Betsy Pittman and Lori Schwartz

Tom Hyre, SAA Council Liaison, addressed the relatively new 50 member requirement for roundtables. In response to concern from CPR and other roundtables, this requirement was eliminated. Tom reported on the SAA Council meeting that had occurred earlier in the week. In that meeting the council adopted a charge for creation of a working group on cultural property and rights claims to property. The council also discussed tightening regulations on elections in roundtables but decided against it. They did note that roundtables are bound to documenting their procedures for elections and that those procedures must be readily available to members. Lastly, Tom brought up the draft SAA strategic priorities document which had

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is a central repository in New York State for the papers of former members of Congress, the New York Legislature, and numerous private interest groups concerned with New York State public policy issues. Our political papers include; the papers of James Delaney, a Queens Democrat who was instrumental in early efforts to eliminate carcinogens from food and cosmetics, a major player on the Rules Committee in the 1960s and 1970s, and was succeeded in the House by Geraldine Ferraro and John Goodchild Dow, one of the quirkiest members of the Cold War Congress. Dow was elected in a major upset in 1964 from a heavily Republican district, was re-elected in 1966, lost in 1968, but came back to win a final term in 1970 after the law-and-order GOP incumbent was investigated for tax evasion. In the process, he refused to bow to district opinion, and emerged as one of the few strongly liberal voices in the 1960s House on foreign policy questions.

Other collections housed at the University at Albany include those of Leonard Farbstein (best known as the House member unseated by Bella Abzug in 1970); Seymour Halpern (a major player in 1960s liberal Republican circles); Norman Lent (who ousted Allard Lowenstein in 1970 and was a key GOP voice on defense issues in the 1980s); and Gerald Solomon (a leader in the caucus of upstate Republicans during the 1980s). Following the 2008 elections, we acquired the papers of Major Owens, who served 20 years as a Brooklyn Democrat, and the papers of former Congressman Michael McNulty, a Capital Region Democrat who also served for 20 years in Congress. Both retired in 2008 after distinguished careers in Congress and the New York State Assembly.

My experience with the acquisitions of the Owens and McNulty papers as well as records from advocacy groups has led to my concern and interest in the perils of preserving electronic records. What we've learned is that both the Owens and McNulty offices had not instituted any type of electronic records management program which greatly hindered our effort to preserve their electronic files. Insuring accessible electronic records is one theme that I hope CPR can focus on in the

upcoming year and a great start toward this goal is evidenced by the CPR Steering Committee's creation of an Electronic Records Task Force.

Ah yes, the Task Force. Since the Austin meeting, the CPR Steering Committee has appointed co-chairs Leigh McWhite (University of Mississippi) and Betsy Pittman (University of Connecticut). The co-chairs have assembled the Electronic Records Task Force membership including: Chrystal Carpenter (University of Arizona); Ben Goldman (American Heritage, University of Wyoming); Mark Wolfe (University at Albany, SUNY); Abby Griner—liaison with SAA Electronic Records (University of Georgia); and Ted Clark—technical consultant (NARA). The Task Force co-chairs are drafting a charge, goals and a list of tasks. Their progress will be posted in the next CPR newsletter and they will present at the 2010 CPR pre-conference program at SAA.

Speaking of SAA 2010, I am thinking and looking for suggestions for our pre-conference events on Wednesday August 11, 2010. So save the date and please send ideas for programs, locations, or speakers. One theme I want to address is the transfer of electronic records in Congressional collections. In addition, it is always useful to visit a Congressional office that has an archivist on staff or Congressional offices that are developing sound records management plans that might be modeled by other offices. The Steering Committee is planning for events so look for more details soon and send me your ideas.

Contact Brian Keough:  
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FYI:  
Congressional Research Tutorial  
Videos @ UC Berkeley

[Find a Bill](#)  
[Find a Hearing](#)  
[Find Congressional Debate](#)  
[How Congress Works](#)

# Congressional Papers Roundtable Pre-Conference 2009

## Lyndon B. Johnson Presidential Museum and Library, August 12, 9:00-11:00 a.m.

The Congressional Papers Roundtable met at the Lyndon B. Johnson Library at 9 a.m. Claudia Anderson, Supervisory Archivist, began with a discussion of the library's collection of Presidential office recordings. President Johnson regularly recorded his telephone conversations using various forms of magnetic belts, usually through a Dictaphone recorder. This collection of recording includes conversations with a variety of people including congressmen, cabinet members, friends and the media. Claudia played some samples of the recordings for the group.

The CPR group then went on a "behind the scenes" tour of the library that included the stacks, processing areas, museum registration, audio-visual storage including the cold storage vault and private meeting areas.

One of the hallmarks of the LBJ Library is the stunning view of the archives from the entrance of the museum. Row upon row of specially designed red manuscript boxes with a gold presidential seal are central focal point of the museum. Created by the same architect, Gordon Bunshaft, who also designed the similar Beinecke Library at Yale Univer-

sity, the purpose is to call attention to the core research functions of the institution.

CPR members enjoyed a box lunch at the library and were able to explore the exhibits and visit the gift shop.



Pre-conference attendees enjoying box lunches at the LBJ Library



## Presentation and Reception, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

The pre-conference meeting resumed at the Arno Nowotny building on the campus of the University of Texas. Brenda Gunn, Associate Director for Research and Collections, began with an overview of The Dolph Briscoe Center for American History (CAH). The CAH, based at the University of Texas, incorporates five divisions, encompassing research and museum facilities both in Austin as well as locations in Bonham, Uvalde and Round Top, Texas.

Patrick Cox, Associate Director for Congressional and Political History, gave an overview of congressional collections held by the center, specifically focusing on the John Nance

Garner collection. Garner, served as a U.S. Representative from Texas for over 30 years and went on to become Vice-President of the United States under President Franklin Roosevelt. The Garner Papers, available for research at the CAH, contain manuscript materials, scrapbooks, sketches, political cartoons and photographs.

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been circulated to membership and asked for comments to be submitted to council. Tom is available for any questions or comments which CPR members wish to convey to council.

Sheryl Vogt, ACSC President, gave an update from the 2009 Association of Centers for the Study of Congress (ACSC) meeting. At that meeting the ACSC membership engaged in a study of their expectations for the organization. They explored possible collaborations between CPR and ACSC and how the two organizations can complement each other. It was decided that ACSC would keep a strong alliance with CPR but would also work towards differentiating itself.

A portion of the ACSC meeting was also devoted to advocacy issues. A number of new ideas were put forward including: defining new committees, obtaining 501c3 status, developing a grant program and seeking C-SPAN coverage of the next conference. Meeting attendees discussed the development of a "best practices" document for new congressional centers as well as various other education initiatives. Finally, the ACSC announced that a new website for the organization will debut in October.

Robin Reeder, Office of History and Preservation, U.S. House of Representatives, gave an update from her office. She introduced Heather Bourk, newly appointed Assistant Archivist in the Office of History and Preservation. Robin discussed the transfer of committee records that occurred earlier in the year and her continuing work with Matt Fulgham of the Center for Legislative Archives to transfer electronic committee records.

The Office of History and Preservation is now publishing weekly historical highlights on their website. These highlights can be viewed and searched through a Flash presentation.

Robin gave a brief overview of the continuing work of the Office of History and Preservation which included the oral history program, portrait commissions and consultations with House member offices and committees.

Karen Paul, Senate Historical Office, announced the retirement of Richard Baker, who has served as Senate Historian for 34 years. He will be replaced by Don Ritchie, Associate Senate Historian. Karen also reported that the Senate Historical Office is hiring a Deputy Senate Archivist.

H. Con. Res. 307, 110<sup>th</sup> Congress "Expressing Sense of Congress That Members' Congressional Papers Should Be Properly Maintained" was briefly discussed. Karen reported that the unanimous passage of the resolution has helped gain members' confidence in archives.

Secretary of the Senate Nancy Erikson was recognized for her knowledge of archives—she formerly worked in the Senate office of Tom Daschle where she witnessed the destruction of most of that Senator's collection due to anthrax. Karen reported that Nancy has instituted several new programs highlighting the importance of archives including an orientation for congressional staff, a tour and reception in the archives and meeting with the staff director at the Center for Legislative Archives. Nancy has also begun a quarterly meeting for records managers and staffers assigned to records management or archival duties. In addition, there is a new list serv exclusively for archival and records management issues. Karen asked that CPR members forward her anything that may be of interest to that list serv.

Karen discussed the successful adoption of an e-mail preservation policy for congressional committees, although several committees are still non-compliant. Roll Call newspaper recently published an article concerning electronic records preservation. The Senate Historical Office is urging all committees to hire credentialed archivists, and currently four committees have archivists on staff. Karen used the example of the Senate Health Committee, which has had staff turnover of 53 people, to illustrate the importance of having an archivist on staff.

Lastly, Karen showed an advance copy of the American Political Archives Reader.

Matt Fulgham of the Center for Legislative Archives (CLA) gave a brief report of the activities

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of that office. The CLA has 19 staff members responsible for 5,000 feet of new records each year as well as processing loans and return of records to committees. One of the challenges faced by the CLA is providing adequate description. The Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress recently advised the CLA to look outside the National Archives models to find new ways to describe committee records and is instituting a task force specifically for this project.

The CLA is also taking in more and more electronic records, and currently hold somewhere between 20-40 TB of data. One of the biggest storage challenges will be keeping up with the House and Senate recording studios which are making the transition to recording in High Definition.

Matt gave an update on the recently opened Capitol Visitor Center. The CLA supplied about half of the documents on exhibit, and works with the Visitor Center to rotate documents, select new documents and prepare the documents for exhibit.

The CLA worked closely with the 9/11 Commission to meet their goal of opening the Commission records by 2009. Many of these records can be viewed on the CLA website. Matt reported that commissions are a new trend in Congress and he gave several examples of new commissions.

Herb Hartsook reported as Chair of the SAA Government Affairs Working Group. This group has focused on two specific items, advocating for passage of H.R. 2256, Preserving the American Historical Record (PAHR) as well as advocating for the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. The group also investigated hiring a part-time lobbyist to work on behalf of SAA. The working group compiled a draft advocacy agenda which is available on the SAA website and was open for commenting through July 2009.

L. Rebecca Johnson Melvin gave a report from the annual SAA Leadership Forum. Rebecca spoke to the forum about the NHPRC supported Congressional Guidelines publication as well as gave an update on other recent CPR activities. You

can read Rebecca's full remarks to the Leadership Forum on the CPR website.

Rebecca also gave an overview of an ACSC presentation entitled "Exploiting the Online World for Access to Collections." Please see Page 6 for more information about the presentation.

Leigh McWhite reported as co-chair (with Betsy Pittman) of the Electronic Records in Congress Taskforce. The primary work of this taskforce has been the CPR-E Survey. Leigh shared some of the data from the survey: 70% of recent donations of congressional papers include electronic records but 83% of repositories have no electronic records policy in place. This task force is actively seeking new members.

Guest speaker Cass Hartnet gave a presentation on congressional publications in government documents. Cass is the Government Documents Librarian at Washington State University and Chair of the Government Documents Roundtable of the American Library Association.

Congressional publications in the university are used by a variety of researchers: students finding citations in the OPAC, graduate students seeking out primary source documents and the general public. Some of the most used congressional publications are the Congressional Information Service microfiche and indexes, Congressional Quarterly online (cq.com), HeinOnline.org and the Congressional Record.

Cass discussed the types of appraisal performed by government documents librarians (although they do not refer to it as "appraisal"). Non-regional documents are regularly removed from the collection as well as some congressional publications that have been transferred to microfilm.

Many government documents librarians are finding that their space and resource allocations are dwindling as more government publications become available on-line. Cass suggested creating a support system with congressional archives to help save existing congressional publication in the library as well as advocate for the continued existence of a government documents section.

## Update: Repurposing Congressional Data

Rebecca Johnson Melvin (UDel), Kat Shirley (Russell Library) and Betsy Pittman (UConn) first spoke at ACSC 2009 on the topic of repurposing already existing data about congressional collections to further improve access to archival holdings.

In this talk the presenters gave an overview of the history of congressional archives data collection-- collections reported to NUCMC, printed congressional guides (Guide to Research Collections of Former Members of the U.S. Senate as well as the later one for the House), and finally the merger of collection location data with authoritative biographical entries in the online version of the Biographical Directory of Congress.

They also discussed the development of archival description standards, using standards developed in the library community such as MARC and name authority files as examples.

The need for the creation of a national database of archival records, or at least a subject portal for congressional collections, was voiced and the potential of incorporating EAD and MARC records with linked Encoded Archival Context (EAC) was discussed. The power of EAC in relation to congressional collections was stressed with relation to records creators and corporate identities of committees.

The overarching vision is to exploit a huge amount of already existing information about con-

gressional collections. It would be ideal for EAC records for congressional biographies and committee histories to link to collection level records and/or finding aids. EAC records for personal names could be based directly on the authoritative records available in the Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress ([bioguide.congress.gov](http://bioguide.congress.gov))

Since the ACSC meeting in May, Rebecca has talked with one of the developers of EAC, Daniel Pitti, to explore the potential use of EAC for congressional collections. Unfortunately, the U.S. House of Representatives, which oversees the Biographical Dictionary, will not authorize an export of the XML data populating the "Bioguide."

Rebecca has also presented this talk to the Center for Legislative Archives and a special focus group that met during the Rare Books and Manuscripts Section of the Association of College and Research Libraries. The focus group included Pitti, as well as representatives from OCLC / RLG Research (Jackie Dooley, Jen Schaffner, and John Chapman) and Mary Lacy from the Library of Congress. In particular, she asked the OCLC group about hosting EAC records and utilizing WorldCat Local Identities to exploit EAC for archival sources. Pitti has several development grant proposals in the works and remains interested in the potential of using EAC for congressional collections.

<EAC-CPF>



Mark your calendar now for SAA 2010 in  
Washington D.C.!  
August 10-15, 2010

Congressional Papers Roundtable  
Pre-Conference  
August 11, 2010

Look for details in the May CPR Newsletter!

# Book Review: An American Political Archives Reader

By Linda Whitaker, Arizona Historical Foundation

When was the last time you read or better yet, purchased a book that represented the broadest spectrum of issues and trends in political papers?

When was the last time you found a text that included the best of the classic professional literature pertaining to your specialty and the latest thinking on data mining case files and managing artifacts?

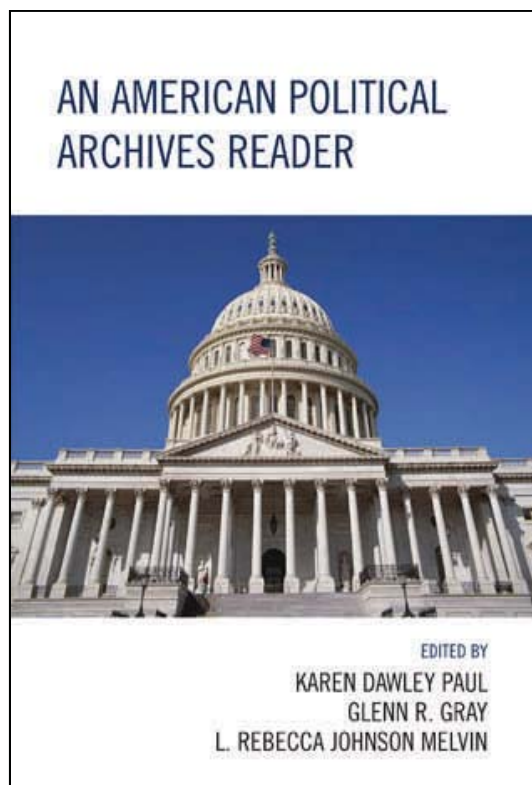
When was the last time you discovered a book directly speaking to you as congressional papers archivists and to the users of your collections?

Answer: Never until now.

What Karen Paul, Glenn Gray and Rebecca Johnson Melvin have achieved is nothing short of a **milestone in archival literature** by focusing on the acquisition, documentation, appraisal, arrangement, description, evolution of research centers, and user perspectives of political papers. It was Glenn's idea to compile an anthology that could serve as reference for those professionals working in the field managing and building congressional collections. Getting there wasn't easy.

Relevant articles were scattered among various journals, books were out-of-print, new scholarship had developed, and new authors had to be found. It was also an opportunity to include, under one cover, thoughtful commentary from users of political collections. The result: 30 contributors representing a broad spectrum of institutions and 29 articles organized by topic. The articles include endnotes which often reveal "behind the scenes" details, historical context, and personal observations. The citations are often interdisciplinary and connect the reader to a wider political archives world.

The material feels fresh, thoughtful, reliable, tested, and grounded both in theory and practice. Patricia Aronsson's piece is as relevant today as it was 25 years ago. In my view, she was the first to declare what congressional papers were



and were not. Her clear thinking and questioning of practice paved the way for later critical analysis by Mark Greene and others. And for those who have any doubt, the push for efficiency and cost effectiveness started with congressional papers!

For this reviewer, there are three "classics" that no practicing archivist should be without:

- *The American Archivist*, vol. 41, Number 3, July 1978 - a watershed issue featuring congressional collections and frank commentary by Lydia Lucas, Eleanor McKay, and Richard A. Baker. They are the pioneers.
- *Managing Congressional Collections* by Cynthia Pease Miller 2008 - a 30 year journey and a lifeline for those in the trenches and for those making policy from above.

*An American Political Archives Reader* edited by Karen Dawley Paul, Glenn R. Gray, and L. Rebecca Johnson Melvin - a scholarly, practical, fundamental work that should be included in any library/archives graduate program. This is a model for how a specialty archives anthology should look, feel and function.

Bottom line: I've already cited *An American Political Archives Reader* for another project!

# Guest Column: How Congress Uses Twitter & Implications for Archivists

By Dr. Jennifer Golbeck, Anthony Rogers, and Justin Grimes—University of Maryland College Park

Twitter is a microblogging and social networking service boasting over 18 million members and growing at a tremendous rate. With the buzz surrounding the service have come claims of its ability to transform the way people interact and share information, and calls for public figures to start using the service. We were particularly interested in if and how Twitter was being used for improving government transparency and communication between legislators and citizens.

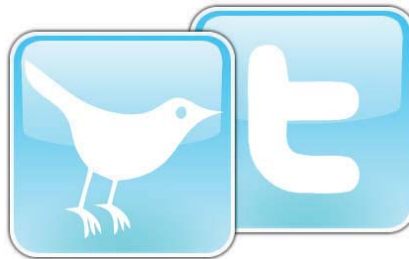
In our study, we examined the way Twitter is being used by members of Congress. We read and categorized over 6,000 posts from all members of Congress using the site. Most of those – approximately 4,500 – were gathered in February 2009 going back as far as possible. A follow-up set of all posts from June and August, 2009 was also collected.

Our analysis showed that Congresspeople are primarily using Twitter to post information, particularly links to news articles about them and their blog posts, and to report on their daily activities. Over 80% of posts fall into these categories. These tend not to provide new insights into government or the legislative process or to improve transparency or communication; rather, they are vehicles for self-promotion. Many posts read like sound bytes. There is some direct communication between Congresspeople and citizens, though this is a less popular activity (about 7% of all posts).

While the current state of Congressional

use of Twitter is such that not much new information is shared, that does not mean there is no value in tracking the posts. Rep. John Culberson has said that he considers his Twitter posts to be a form of record keeping. Indeed, beyond the intentions of individual members of Congress, tracking tweets over time can reveal debates, insights into the progression of issues, and consistency or changes in position on a given topic.

“... tracking tweets over time can reveal debates, insights into the progression of issues, and consistency or changes in position on a given topic.”



For example, comparing the June and August collections of posts highlighted several differences. In June, there were many more posts about official business – votes, debates, amendments, etc. In August, there were no posts like this but many more posts about daily activities off the floor. This, of course, corresponds to Congress being in or out of session; they were in session in June and out of session in August. Also, we found a long back-and-forth debate on Twitter between John Culberson and Tim Ryan about oil drilling policy in June 2008. While these are simple insights, they represent the kind of analysis that can be done over time with a body of posts.

Fortunately, collecting Twitter posts and all the associated metadata is very straightforward. Twitter provides an interface for obtaining a list of posts by an individual in an XML format. This includes the content of the post, the name of the person posting, date and time, and information about if the post was a response to someone else and, if so, who. Regular collection of these posts can be done automatically with some very simple software. Such an archive would be a useful collection as a record of activities, positions, and interactions.





# INSTITUTIONAL UPDATES

## Baylor University - Poage Legislative Library

On October 3, 2009, Poage Legislative Library celebrated its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a barbecue lunch in the Allbritton Foyer of the main library. Over one hundred friends of the library attended, including 17<sup>th</sup> district Congressman Chet Edwards. The program after lunch included remarks by Edwards and several others. Bob Darden, a journalism professor, shared his experience working with Poage Library on "Drawing Power," an exhibit last year of his original editorial cartoons. Mike Parrish, a history professor, spoke about the importance of a congressional archive on a university campus. Merri Carol Mar-

tens from Ogdensburg, Wisconsin, introduced a book by her father, Hyde Murray. The autobiography recalls his experiences as Republican counsel for the House Agriculture Committee and House Republican leadership for 35 years. Fowler West, chairman of The Standing Committee and former chief of staff for Congressman Bob Poage, concluded the program by introducing his book, *He Ain't No Lawyer: Memories From My Years with Congressman Bob Poage*. Each guest received an anniversary tote, pen, cup and a copy of West's book.

Following the program, everyone was invited to visit Poage Library to see the new anniversary exhibits. The main gallery highlighted the work on former congressmen Bob Poage, Marvin Leath, John Dowdy, Sam Hall, O. C. Fisher and Alan Steelman. Congressman Poage's Washington

office desk was part of the exhibit, along with a video of an oral history interview with Poage from 1981. Another exhibit reconstructed the home office of Bob Poage using materials purchased at the Poage estate auction in 2008.

Prior to lunch, there was a dedication of the Jack Hightower book vault. Although former congressman Jack Hightower was unable to attend, his wife, Colleen, and daughters, Amy Brees and Alison Suttle, shared stories about Jack's love affair with books. The vault was constructed to house Judge Hightower's collection of rare books and 3,000 signed books dating back to President John Quincy Adams. Pattie Orr, Dean of University Libraries, gave a background on the construction of the vault. Chuck Bailey, an Austin lawyer and friend of the Judge, related his experi-

ences collecting books and political memorabilia with Hightower. John Wilson, assistant director of The Texas Collection, recalled the Judge's long affiliation with Baylor, the libraries and books. Tours of the book vault were given following the dedication and again after lunch.

On October 15, Poage Library held its annual Open House in association with National Archives Week and to commemorate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the library. A number of friends from throughout campus visited the library to tour the new exhibits. Student assistants also gave behind-the-scenes tours and explained the various projects they work on. Texas barbecue was served to all who attended.

-Ben Rogers



Inside the newly constructed book vault

## Southern Illinois University-Carbondale

An exhibit and programs celebrating the legacy of Senator Paul Simon will kick off Sunday, October 18th at 2:30 pm in the John C. Guyon Auditorium of Morris Library at Southern Illinois University Carbondale. Sunday's invited speakers are Edward M. Smith, president of ULLICO and a member of the Democratic National Committee (and a life-long member and long-time regional leader of the Laborers' International Union of North America) and Sheila Simon. This exhibit, "Paul Simon: Compassion, Vision, Courage," will feature kiosks with images and text from the papers of Senator Paul Simon held by Special Collections Research Center (SCRC). The official debut of the exhibit and reception will follow the program.

This traveling exhibit will visit Chicago, Troy, and Benton, Illinois, with a series of companion lectures. These programs are free and open to the public. Director of SCRC Pam Hackbart-Dean offered, "Our traveling exhibit explains the contributions of Senator Paul Simon and features the collections held by SIUC. Exhibit highlights include influences on Simon's political career, his political campaigns, and legislative issues."

Raised in a family of faith, Simon saw politics as a call to service. His early years formed traits exhibited throughout his career: a commitment to help society's needy, the responsibility to exercise good stewardship of public goods, and the courage to stand for what he felt was right.

- Pamela Hackbart-Dean, C.A.

## Tarleton State University

Tarleton State University recently updated the Charles W. Stenholm Congressional papers website by adding box lists to the webpage. The papers are still unprocessed; however, the lists do make the papers searchable for researchers. Work is beginning on creating a box list of the second donation of Stenholm's papers (170+ boxes). The two donations will be combined as the papers are

processed. Access the box lists by clicking on the Collections Inventories link on the homepage of the Charles W. Stenholm Congressional papers site: <http://www.tarleton.edu/~archive/stenholm/>

The Charles W. Stenholm Congressional papers document Congressman Stenholm's 26-year career in the United States House of Representatives. The papers consist of 359 boxes (448.75 ft.)

- Gary Spurr

## University of Connecticut

The Dodd Center at the University of Connecticut awarded the fourth annual Thomas J. Dodd Prize in International Justice and Human Rights to the Committee to Protect Journalists.

For nearly 30 years, the [Committee to Protect Journalists](#) has been defending the rights of journalists worldwide to report the news without fear of reprisal. Every year, CPJ receives more than 2,000 reports of press freedom violations ranging from censorship and harassment to arbitrary detention and homicide. Their five regional program coordinators - representing Africa, the Americas, Asia, Central Europe and the former Soviet republics, and the Middle East - track developments through independent research, fact-finding missions, and firsthand contacts in the field, including reports from other journalists.

By publicly revealing abuses against the press and by acting on behalf of imprisoned and threatened journalists, CPJ effectively warns journalists and news organizations where attacks on press freedom are occurring. CPJ organizes vigorous public protests and works through diplomatic channels to effect change. CPJ publishes articles and news releases; special reports; and Attacks on the Press, the most comprehensive annual survey of press freedom around the world.

In 2001, CPJ created the Journalist Assistance Program to provide direct assistance to journalists whose needs could not be addressed by advocacy alone--journalists who must go into hiding or exile to escape threats; journalists in need of medicine and other material support in prison; and journalists injured after violent attacks, to give some examples. Since then they have helped more than 400 journalists from 52 countries.

-Betsy Pittman

# University of Georgia - Richard B. Russell Library for Political Research and Studies

## Finding Aid Database Launch

The Richard B. Russell Library for Political Research and Studies at the University of Georgia is pleased to announce the launch of a new database of research finding aids - a new way to assist researchers in finding primary source materials. Powered by the open source application, eXtensible Text Framework (XTF), the database allows patrons to conduct full-text searching of collection finding aids, browse by subject, and browse alphabetically by collection title and collection creator. This quick search tool not only makes Russell Library's collections more accessible for off-site users but also enables all patrons to target collections that are most relevant to their areas of interest.

At present, the database contains finding aids for over a hundred of the Russell Library's collections a number that will grow extensively as staff members continue to build this online resource. The finding aids included therein consist of the papers of Georgia public officials, journalists, influential citizens, political and policy groups and organizations from the late nineteenth century to the present. They provide significant documentation of the broad spectrum of political activities of modern Georgia through papers, printed material, electronic records, photographs, sound recordings, film, editorial cartoons, artifacts, and oral history. The collections also document the global relationships and interests formed by Georgians through political action, foreign service, trade, and other activities. Though a huge undertaking, developing the database is just one step in the Russell Library's ongoing efforts to make its collections more accessible to the public and to prepare for the opening of the new special collections building at the University of Georgia.

To explore Russell Library's new finding aids application, please go to <http://russelldoc.galib.uga.edu/russell/search>

-Abby Griner, C.A.

## J. Roy Rowland Papers Open

The Richard B. Russell Library for Political Research and Studies is pleased to announce that the J. Roy Rowland Papers are now open for research. Rowland, a Democrat from Georgia, served in the U.S. House for twelve years from 1983 to 1994. He represented Georgia's 8<sup>th</sup> District, which included the city of Macon. Albany, Valdosta, and Warner Robins were added to district in 1992.

Rowland served on the Energy and Commerce Committee, the Veterans' Affairs Committee, the Public Works and Transportation Committee, and the Select Committee on Children, Youth and Families. As one of the few medical doctors in Congress (and the only doctor in Congress from 1985 to 1988), Rowland capitalized on his experience as a family physician in a largely rural district of Georgia to develop new legislation and contribute to commissions, coalitions, caucuses, and task forces. He was significantly involved in the National Commission on Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), an independent, bipartisan commission charged with making recommendations to Congress and the president on the creation of a uniform national policy on AIDS and HIV. Rowland drafted the legislation for the commission's founding (H.R. 2881), and Vice President George H. W. Bush appointed him a member of the commission in 1988. He was also appointed to the National Commission to Prevent Infant Mortality by Speaker of the House Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neil in 1987, and served as vice-chairman. The commission was charged with developing a uniform policy and making recommendations to Congress about infant mortality.

Since leaving congress, Rowland has continued to be active in public policy and health care. In 2003, Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue appointed Rowland to the Commission for a New Georgia to assist with health care issues in the state, and later appointed Rowland to the Board of

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*(Continued from page 11)*

Directors of Medical College of Georgia Health, Inc. Rowland has also served as an Advisory Board member to Prevent Child Abuse, Georgia.

The papers primarily document the activities of Rowland's Washington, D.C. office, and include legislative research files, bill files, legislative mail, speeches and statements, project and grant files, casework, press releases, photographs, and audiovisual materials. The majority of the collection, over 220 linear feet of legislative files, focuses on healthcare and health-related legislation, such as bills to help stop drug abuse, to create disability benefits for veterans affected by radiation during World War II, to create a bi-partisan commission on AIDS, and to offer an alternative to President Bill Clinton's health reform plan through the Rowland-Bilirakis health bill. Rowland also authored or supported legislation in the areas of transportation, agriculture, education, defense, the environment, and foreign affairs. The finding aid for the J. Roy Rowland Papers is available on the Russell Library website, at <http://russelldoc.galib.uga.edu/russell/search>.

- Katherine Shirley

## Hugh Peterson, Sr. Papers Open

The Richard B. Russell Library for Political Research and Studies has completed a two-year project to process the Hugh Peterson, Sr. Papers. Peterson was born in 1898 in Ailey, Georgia and was a 1918 graduate of the University of Georgia. He served in the Georgia Legislature from 1922 to 1932 and his involvement in state politics included work on the Aviation, Public Highways, and Appropriations Committees. His most well-known piece of legislation was the State Reorganization Act of 1931, which consolidated over 100 state agencies into 19.

In 1934, Peterson won a seat in the 74<sup>th</sup> Congress as a representative of Georgia's 1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District. His service included extensive research on agriculture and public lands and territories in the United States. He spent his first few terms drafting H.R. 8286 - A Bill to Provide Homesteads Free of Debt for Actual Farm Families, the



**Photograph:  
Hugh  
Peterson,  
Sr., Patience  
Russell  
Peterson and  
Hugh  
Peterson, Jr.  
in front of  
the  
U. S. Capitol,  
June 10,  
1939**

goal of which was to help American farmers during the Great Depression with their farm debt. As in the state legislature, Peterson was active on numerous committees including: the Committee on Public Lands, the Committee on Territories (in which he spent time studying Hawaii and Alaska), and the Public Roads Committee, the service of which took him to Central America to inspect the Inter-American Highway (now known as the Pan American Highway) as it was being built.

After his retirement from Congress in 1946, Peterson continued to be active in politics. He was appointed by General Lucius Clay to serve as an advisor in Germany in 1948 and also had a successful career as a lobbyist for the Georgia Power Company, the United States Cane Refiners Association and the American Turpentine Farmers' Association. He also pursued development interests around southeast Georgia, including the resurrection of the Ocean Steamship Company and the establishment of a radio and television station. He researched further development around Sylva, North Carolina, where he died of a cerebral hemorrhage on October 3, 1961. He was survived by his wife, Patience Russell Peterson (a sister of Senator Richard B. Russell), who died in 2002 at the age of 100, and his son, Hugh Peterson, Jr., who is a retired attorney in Atlanta, Georgia.

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The papers primarily document Peterson's political career in Georgia and Washington, D.C. as well as his personal and business affairs in Ailey, Georgia. They include legislative research files regarding agriculture, public lands and transportation, correspondence with contemporary politicians, campaign files, correspondence from constituents, speeches and statements, photographs, and artifacts. The final phase of this project, providing access to the finding aid via the Library's website, will be complete at the end of November 2009.

- Renna Tuten

## University of Kansas-Dole Institute of Politics



In July 2009 the Dole Archive was awarded \$62,000 by the NHPRC to expedite processing of the Robert J. Dole Senate Papers. Archivists are working towards making detailed inventories available as soon as possible. The Dole Archive was one of six institutions to receive funding in the detailed processing category.

Researchers are encouraged to explore two new Dole Archives funding opportunities. Applications are currently being accepted for travel grants up to \$750 and a research fellowship award of \$2,500. More information is available at <http://www.doleinstitute.org/archives/grants.shtml>. These grants are designed to support substantial contributions to the study of Congress, politics and policy issues. Applicants may consult detailed series and sub-series descriptions for processed portions of the collection on our website <http://www.doleinstitute.org/archives/senateseries.shtml>.

Archivists at the Dole Institute memorialized the death of Senator Edward Kennedy with a special exhibit and memorial book. Archivists also digitized five episodes of the radio program "Face-Off" which featured Senators Dole and Kennedy during the 1980's. "Face-Off" was a nationally syn-



### Archives volunteer with Kennedy exhibit

icated program in which the two Senators each had 45 seconds to face-off on topics of the day. These episodes were hosted by the Lawrence Journal-World newspaper as part of their Kennedy coverage. The five episodes featured on the website deal with the budget, Cambodia and technological innovation among other subjects.

Audio clips are still available here <http://www2.ljworld.com/audioclips/sets/face-sen-edward-kennedy-and-sen-robert-dole/>.

-Morgan Davis, C.A.

Don't Forget to add *An American Political Archives Reader* to your Christmas List!

Available now from Amazon.com

<http://www.amazon.com/American-Political-Archives-Reader/dp/081086746X>



## News Round-Up

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### **GPO launches new website, improves access to congressional records**

As reported by Emily Yehle for Roll Call, July 20, 2009

Locating Congressional records has always been hit or miss — some documents come only in print, while others are lost in the annals of unsearchable databases.

But the Government Printing Office is trying to make many federal documents searchable and accessible with a recently launched Web site called FDsys.

Costing \$30 million so far, the system includes bills, committee reports, Congressional calendars and other documents as far back as 1994. All of that information has been available for years on the GPO Access site, but a mediocre search engine meant that most of it was hard to find.

FDsys — which stands for the Federal Digital System — appears to be doing much better than its predecessor. It allows users to search by keyword, Member, committee, year, topic and dozens of other criteria. And this week, Government Computer News highlighted FDsys as one of 10 “Great Government Web Sites.”

Read full article: [http://www.rollcall.com/issues/55\\_16/news/37375-1.html](http://www.rollcall.com/issues/55_16/news/37375-1.html)

Try FDsys: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/>

### **Federal Register available in XML through data.gov**

A collaboration between the White House, GPO and National Archives’ Office of the Federal Register resulted in the conversion of the past nine years worth of the Federal Register into XML that can be downloaded freely through numerous government portals.

From the FDsys blog:

“Providing ten years of Federal Register data in a format that is easy to manipulate is an exciting and ground-breaking development,” said Ray Mosley, Director of the Federal Register. “This paves the way for consumers, rather than Government officials to be in charge of deciding how to access critical information. The Government Printing Office and the Office of the Federal Register accomplished a minor miracle in warp-speed time.”

“I want to congratulate GPO employees who worked with The White House and the Office of Federal Register in providing the American people the tools to provide openness and transparency to the documents of our democracy,” said Public Printer Bob Tapella. “GPO’s Federal Digital System not only provides transparency to our Government, but provides Americans a permanent repository of authentic Federal Government information.”

Fedsys blog: <http://fdsys.blogspot.com/>

## **SAA Scholarship & Awards Nominations**

Each year the Society of American Archivists sponsors an awards competition to recognize achievements in the archival profession. Winners are selected by subcommittees of the SAA Awards Committee. Awards are presented during a ceremony held in late summer at the SAA Annual Meeting.

You may nominate individuals and institutions for a variety of awards recognizing distinguished service, publications, advancements in archival description, archival advocacy and many other areas.

**Deadline for most award nominations is February 28, 2008.** Please see the SAA Awards website for more information or to download a nomination form. <http://www.archivists.org/recognition/awards.asp>