

>> "Please stand by for realtime captions.">> Hi everyone this is Laura at GPO with an audio check. Will get started in five minutes, 2 PM Eastern.>> I everyone this is Laura with GPO in the last audio check. We will get started shortly at 2 PM Eastern.>> Good afternoon everyone and welcome to the webinar, Discover Economic History with FRASER. My name is Laura Flynt and we have Ashley on tech support and our presenters are Aaron, and Matthew from the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis that runs the FRASER site. I will walk you through a few housekeeping reminders. If you have any questions or comments on the presentation feel free to chat them in the chat box located in about the bottom right-hand corner of the screen. I will keep track of all questions that come in and after the presentation our presenters will respond to each of them. We are recording today's session and we'll email a recording to the slides to everyone registered for the webinar. We will also send you a certificate of participation using the email you used to register for the webinar. If anyone needs additional certificates, because multiple people are watching with you, please email us VLPoutreach@GPO.gov and include the title of today's webinar. With the names and email addresses of the people that need certificates. At the end we will share a survey with you. We will let you know when the survey is available. There is an extra question in the survey this time for those of you familiar with the webinar. It's slightly different so we appreciate you taking it. And now I will hand the microphone to Aaron and he will take it from here.>> All right, thank you for coming. A special thanks to Laura and the crew for inviting us to present. My name is Aaron Coley the digital library services manager. I am joined today by my colleagues Jonah and Matthew to share an overview of the digital library and we are excited for this opportunity to share about FRASER, because it's an application and resource that has evolved over time. While some of you may be familiar with FRASER, it's really evolved over time. Today it's used for a variety of purposes such as public policy and economic history, exploring historical context. Matt will show it also helps establish a focus of the documents usable for computational analysis. However before we go too much further I wanted to share that the information used and views in this webinar are strictly your own and do not reflect the official position of the federal bank of St. Louis or its systems.>> So what is FRASER, a digital library that brings together resources related to banking, finance and economic history, from all around the United States. I do like to click around during the webinar, you can go to Frazier.us Fed. FRASER was developed in 2004 when there were very few digital libraries available on the web. Developed as an adjunct to another popular resource out of the St. Louis Fed, which is a front runner in the economic information world, and has spread. If you're not familiar with Fred, that's often referred to as FRASER's bigger brother, with over 500,000 financial and economic time series datasets. FRASER was created to provide a snapshot in time of a position that may impact economic data. Showing what it is like, in the front top half this morning. Joking aside, the FRASER team has also evolved quite a bit over time. Making the mission seriously. The past 15 years they have worked hard to collect public access to over half a million resources that adds up to over 5 million pages of content. I will discuss in more detail in a minute, we spent a lot of time curating the collections so there be findable in a digital research environment. and our efforts are towards communicating the value of FRASER building relationships with our users. It's a simple mission but has been very effective for us and that the resources collected and FRASER have expanded over time, and we are continuously amazed at how users are engaging with the content. One great example of this is the prices and deputy guide which was developed by the University of Missouri. If you're not familiar it's a hugely popular resource to aggregate together primary source documents from FRASER and other resources that show the average retail cost throughout the history of the United States. If you wanted to learn what the price of fuel was in 1942, you could find that very detailed information in the resource. What is fascinating to us is this resort is built on top of the FRASER resources, so something that exist out there beyond the University of Missouri. We are excited about that resource.

>> FRASER is unique in that it's an entirely digital archive. The collections have been digitized in cooperation with libraries across the country. We actively scout for collections on the lists such as the F DLP exchange and also source materials from the network of archives at each of the banks. FRASER has been developed from FDLP and we have collections from partners you may not initially expect, such as when we partnered with the University of Utah, published papers or the history Museum in St. Louis, we digitize the papers of Martin Junior did both of which were long serving chairman's of the board of governors, first and third. We think our partnerships are mutually beneficial to our partners and not only do we pay for digitization but we also provide access to preservation data created in the digitization process. We have been exploring processes with partnerships, to leverage the partners for the mutual benefit and the benefit of the collection. Because what we have learned, a lot of times the partners really know the collections much better than we do. So if you think you might have materials relevant to FRASER users, we would love to hear from you. Much of the day today work involves curating materials for ease of access. As I mentioned, we have the capacity for both in-house and outsourced scanning. In-house we have three high throughput scanners for materials. For fragile where and unique materials, we have both flat and planetary scanning set up. All of our scans, whether internally or whether we outsource them, go through postprocessing with rigorous quality control checks. We are watching for things like Mrs. in pages, the missing pages, deep text and others that might issue the experience of our users. Between the collections using detailed metadata such as author, date and so on, and users are able to find relevant information when browsing our website. Many of the materials we encounter require cataloging and description which is a very time intensive process. To capture this information we use the mod metadata standard. And identifiers such as gel codes in the economics world. And numbers for government publication. We also maintain the website with the support of an agile team. In the web application folders, it works on the desktop and [indiscernible]>> Our job is to communicate and build relationships with existing users, and to reach out and attract new users. The communication strategies for pronged, we post content almost daily on the website. We also post data to the twitter feed. And we summarize sort of monthly updates in our newsletter that goes out to around 8000 subscribers. The longer form content we also have a blog audit. So that little bit about what FRASER is and what we do, now I would like to turn it over to Jonah who will talk more about the collections and how they are organized on the site.>> Hello everyone and thank you for listening. Today I want to quickly take you through a little bit about how the site is set up in some of the features unique to FRASER. There are many ways to interact with and search FRASER. The quickest, a full text search across all the collection. For ease of reference we categorize a majority of material into four primary content areas. Data, Federal Reserve, archives and education. Economic data provides access to releases of publications held by Frazier. Statistical releases is a collection unique to Frazier, we now hold over 50,000. Federal reserve is where you can find our curated collection of historical and operational documents, related to the federal reserve and such as the Federal open market committee that sets monetary policy. The archives section is where you are able to browse all the collections of archival material related to the history of the Federal Reserve. The FRASER team has partnered with libraries and archival repositories to make this available online. You will also find digitized collections of archival materials from other federal reserve banks. The education section includes educational material and features unique to FRASER. Which we will talk about in a moment. We have so much content and FRASER that it can't all be made to fit in the four primary areas. The rest of the materials and FRASER are easily found by list of title, author, date, theme or subject area. Directing to the timeline, a FRASER feature with historical content. You can also direct to another area of content unique to FRASER. We have further valued historical records by organizing the materials. You can see the theme on employment, a collection of a titles related to employment issues available on FRASER. You can find physical policy, gold and silver, banking and financial legislation, and many others to help direct your research. One of the newest content areas is the teaching and learning FRASER section. Which can be

found via the education section on the main page. Here developed by the excellent curriculum developers on the economic education, these lessons created for a variety of different educators drawn Frazier, FRASER collections for teachers across grade levels. We also include easy sharing and integration for Google Classroom allowing educators to use FRASER materials in a virtual classroom environment. The digital collections within FRASER make many researchers possible. This is the kind of reference question we feel there in regularly. Resources available and FRASER, in this case the person found the answer in the Federal Reserve bulletins and annual reports on the secretary of the treasury from the year 1917 to 1919. FRASER holds a variety of publications you see, congressional documents on economic history, banking legislation, economic legislation, publications by government agency, and Federal Reserve itself. In FRASER's collection of the documents produced by government agencies, the data they contain that might be particularly [indiscernible] for example when the Bureau again writing their own history they turn to FRASER to fill in the gaps. FRASER is the most complete digital archive of historical and operational documents. This is another interesting question answered with FRASER. With the Federal open market meeting and collecting of meeting materials, with extensive materials available for most meetings. From the first in 1933 to the most recent. Each meeting date is linked to as many documents as are publicly available. Researchers have repeatedly shared about finding the collections of archival materials helpful. With the audience in mind, we have the libraries and repositories to make available papers of important players in the history of the Federal Reserve. One of the popular selections is the Mariner papers. We digitized in partnership with the University of Utah. The member of the board of governors, beginning in 1934. The architect of the banking act of 1935, which reform the structure, power and function of the Federal Reserve system. With the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, key economic policy under President Roosevelt. This collection is proven to be extremely valuable, both researching the Federal Reserve system during the 1930s and 1940s. As you can see the financial historian and economist here spoke about the Federal Reserve, power and independence of the Federal Reserve system. Now my colleague Matt will go with the Frazier API. >> This Matt. I will close out the presentation just going through sort of how you can use the FRASER API to extend FRASER for your own application. Just a little background, and API is an application programming interface. To try to explain what that is, in a simple way as possible, and API basically allows you to access FRASER's server data through a series of public endpoints, to use that data at scale that would otherwise not be possible. Commonly this consists of four main requests. The get, post, put and delete request. In our situation, we only use the get request because we are a public facing guide, we don't want people missing around with the data. We want people to access the data. So we offer the API and it is based off of the open archive initiative protocol for metadata. Which is a fairly typical schema of API to use in libraries and archives. What it allows you to do is open up your digital library, two other platforms that may want to use your metadata for discovery services, so they can cut people can find our materials via some similar portal. So what really the OI PMH schema specializes in this idea that metadata can be harvested. So with that there are six main API get requests associated with OI PMH. They each have their uses but for the purposes of this exercise, this example, I think we will look at mostly the list records and get records a PRA request. API request. These are the ones that actually allow us to access all of the metadata that we need. So with the list records API, what we potentially see is structured data associated with every single item in FRASER. What this allows is different tech platforms to do, is actually get links and metadata to all those records. An example of the use case is Missouri Hub. Which is a, behind all the slides. Basically local, digital platform that aggregates digital resources from a number of different libraries in the Missouri area. What they are able to do via the FRASER API is aggregate this and inject it into digital public library of America. What we are doing here is just opening up FRASER resources to users that may not know about FRASER, but who are interested in finding some material that we have. Another popular use case that you might be familiar with, which is a universal catalog of libraries across the world. What they are able to do with list records API, is get references to all

of our materials and inject them into their catalog. And so that is one use case. This idea that FRASER records can be accessed at a large-scale and opened up to the public. Another use case eliminating that a little bit, you have the getrecords request. Just for an example of how this can be used, I want to take a look at the economic reports and precedents, one of the most popular items we have. We actually have a complete run going back to the 1940s, where the president of the United States issued the mid-year economic report. And so I think if I was an academic or sort of someone working in the digital amenities, I would be interested in looking at the text of the economic reports and finding some sort of patterns. So rather than actually go through and click on each link, to get data, what we can do is use the getrecord API, to access those and get links to each of the PDFs. And then perform analysis on them. What this process looks like, is basically it sends a request to get data associated with the economic reports, via the get in point. And the API returns a response of structured data with each link to the PDF. That if we can use the partner of our choice, like oxygen or XLT can be used.

We can parse that and get a number of links to a report for each year. So now we are going to do, actually a video, to explain this process a little bit. What we can do with each of those PDFs then, is parse each sentence into a list of sentences. Parse each PDF into a list of sentences, and then use an analysis to assign a sentiment score based on whether the sentence contains mostly positive, mostly neutral or mostly negative words in it. And assign a score

based on Matt. So after that is done, we get the structured data, and we can apply a number of different manipulations to sort of create a chart, showing the findings.

And again this is not me being

an analyst, it's me creating a toy program, to show what sorts of analyses might be possible. Via the FRASER API. This is particularly interesting because it does show a sort of stronger, neutral sentiment associated with the years between 2007 and 2010. But also stronger language, stronger positives, stronger negatives. This can sort of act as the platform for the analysis. >> So that's just one use. I think really we are interested in hearing what your use might be, from the FRASER API or from any of the FRASER documents .

>> And we have been hearing a lot from our users, quite a bit of interest in working programmatically with the collections . an area we are kind of trying to explore the boundaries of a little bit. So if you all have researchers who are doing digital entities

, especially in the world of economic history of public policy research, we really would be interested in hearing from you, hearing about your use cases. This is an area we really see Frazier, FRASER moving forward. And I wanted to provide a little bit of information before we wrap up, and for questions, where you want to come in on the chat. And I wanted to share that if you have any comments or suggestions for us we would love to hear from you, we have the email addresses on this slide. I would love it if you would follow us on Twitter. just tweet out between five and 10 tweets a day that showcase and highlight some of the collections. It is a great place to interact with Tran, FRASER with some of your faculty and users.

Also I wanted to point out that we have a reference center in-house. If you do have collections that come to you that might be good for FRASER, or to direct your faculty to us, that is great as well. And finally for those of you that do have guides related economic history, or history, we have developed a search widget that is embeddable in the interface. Allowing you to send searches directly to FRASER from your guide . it's sort of a new tool we have developed for folks interested in using it. You can learn more about that on our website at FRASER dot St.Louis.org/

>> So at this time I'd love to open it up to questions. >> Thank you so much, all three of you. We did have one that got answered about the research build on top of FRASER that was the prices and wages guide, there is a link to that now in the stack . Bert noticed FRASER has materials dating back to January 1784 . What kind of materials are available on FRASER from 1784 to 1789? >> It's a little bit of a miss that far back. But we do have some materials that are available. They are not necessarily primary source material, but

there are some from that timeframe. The earlier materials that we have are a little bit harder to get a hold of. They are of course of interest to our users, so we would love to expand the collections in that area. But it is not as comprehensive as the sort of 1914 timeframe. Which is when the act was the system started. We really have significantly more collection.

>> Okay, a comment from Maria who loves FRASER, a great resource and she appreciates it. And one from Barbara who appreciates the heads up on the API and will recommend it to her researchers. And the question from Mimi, if the library has volumes of a series not shown on FRASER who would we contact to see if we want these? >> This is Jonah. You can contact me, my email is in the middle. I would be happy to hear from you. >> Thank you

>> We do have a needs list and I believe it's available on the about page. a link out from the text, a descriptive paragraph. I'm sure we could get that link and posted into the chat for you all. We have that needs list and we keep it accurate so it is up to date. That is kind of what we are aware that we need. There are many collections we may not be aware that we need. if you have something you think we would be interested in, or you think are users would be interested in, we would love to hear from you. >> Sarah asked about integrating FRASER documents into the classroom. We do have some recommendations. I think you will have access to the slides, at least a recording. We have a teaching and learning FRASER page. that contains lesson plans, and individual items that you can pull, primary source documents to pull into your classroom, fairly easily. With some learning objectives and things like that. We do have recommendations for that. We are really excited about how folks are using FRASER in the classroom. That is why we recently built out that service. >> Okay, thank you. do we have any more questions for the presenters? We will give that a minute or two. I will ask Ashley in the meantime to post the link to the satisfaction survey for the webinar. Like we said it would be great if you could take the survey for us. Just take the last couple of minutes to put in, here is a question. What age or grade or the education pages aimed at? >> They are aimed at a variety of ages and grades. Actually anywhere from K-12. There are a lot of resources for economic education K-12. It goes up from high school to college and university and after grad professionals. >> Laura was so inclined to include a question for us about FRASER in the survey did

a question of how we might improve, whether the website or if you have comments to share, we would love to hear those. >> Okay, do we have any last questions for the moment? I am not seeing any more questions. We do have all the contact information for the three presenters. Once again a big thank you for Aaron, Joan and Matt for a useful webinar today. We hope you check out the past webinars on the website. This one will also get posted there. We hope you will join us for future webinars. And one question, can you post the link to the needs list. Cannot find it on the about FRASER page

>> Absolutely. We will get that in just a minute. >> Some library and has already posted it.

>> Excellent, thank you.

>> Okay great, once again thank you everyone did the presenters and attendees, please fill out the survey. Have a great day.

>> Thank you.

>> Thank you. >>

[Event concluded]