

15 Amazing Facts about Digital Deposit You've Got to See to Believe and How They Could Change Gov Info Collections Forever – Audio transcript

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Hello everyone. Welcome to a comprehensive overview of the IFLA professional report . Before we get started, first please use the chat box for any questions or comments and will make sure they are addressed at the end of the presentation. We are recording the conference and all will receive a link of the recording after the event. Please join me in welcoming our presenter Kate Tallman .

All right. Thank you, Melissa . A lot of you might know me. My name is Kate Tallman . I'm the head of government information collection at the University of Colorado Boulder and the co-lead for the rare and distinctive collections team. We are a new section made a rare books, government information, archives, and maps. I get to talk to you about some work that I do with IFLA , the international Federation of Library Association. We produced a professional report in 2021 called the government information landscape libraries but should be called the global government library. It is an overview of government information systems founder at the role talking about preservation see, freedom of information. You name it. It is a fascinating report that I wanted to introduce you to today. This was edited by Kay Cassell, Jim Church , and myself and we are excited to be presenting to you today. First I wanted to give you an introduction to IFLA and GIOPS. It is made up of librarians and members of the organization throughout the world. IFLA provides professional development and networking to various sections, conferences that we have the annual conference and lots of different types of publications also. GIOPS is a section of IFLA . We are made up of three officers. There is a chair, secretary, coordinator , and a lot of members throughout the world. All of us come together because we share an interest in public information or policy to the equitable access to government information. Over the past few years we have done a survey of GIOPS members to understand what they want our organization to do for them and I provided a link to the newsletter in our chat. We always have a papers session. The biggest work was the creation and promotion of this professional report. In the future we hope to host the content of this report and increase our membership from the United States and Canada but also this year we are targeting folks from North Africa and Eastern Europe. If you know of anyone in those regions who might benefit, please let me know.

That is a little bit about our organization. I wanted to include a slide about some of the output of IFLA . First we have the IFLA Journal which is an academic journal. Another important publication is the standards. IFLA standards are publications that reflect consensus on up-to-date principles, guidelines , and best practices for information related to activities. The most recent standard is Internet access and libraries and some of the standards or guidelines for government department, Parliamentary research services, IFLA disaster preparedness and planning manuals. They have a lot of content that is helpful to librarians from all walks of the earth. The type of publications I'm talking about is the professional report supporting high standards of Library and information service . Content includes guidance on implementing some of the standards, reports and articles and substantial project reports. Really the IFLA report that came out of GIOPS is a substantial project to report. We are proud to present professional report number 137 the government information landscape and librarians. Would like to highlight the primary goal of this report and it is to demonstrate the complexity and dissemination and print online format throughout the world the secondary goal is to prove not all government information is as is et

cetera online as some claim and that this is the case no matter where you are and it was envisioned by Jim Church from Berkeley when they were hanging out in Finland that they were library information conference Karen about the imminent demise of government information librarians. In response they wanted to demonstrate that this was wrong and that in fact we are necessary curators of this complex information. The project grew to encompass 10 different chapters from different regions and countries. It was pretty slow going at first. IFLA is complex and sometimes projects like these get caught up in committees. Finally in 2019 we were able to improve this document were could go through the peer review .

A little about about the structure of the document. Each chapter is a country or a region or organization where there is an overview of the landscape where the repository system. There is a little bit of historical coverage and legislation. A lot of these talk about what government information means to them and whether it benefits sustainable development or democracy efforts at economic growth. A lot of these chapters talk about the standards of access to information. They also discussed types of libraries that provide access. They discuss challenges to access and discovery or dissemination of government information and preservation efforts and it is a look at how what we do today in this conference and what we do in our work compares to other countries and regions. Was going to go into detail about each country and I have decided to minimize the because it is a complex report. I will provide you with an overview of each system and a selection of fun facts. There is a lot of not fun facts that you find throughout this report think it usually points to a significant barrier or challenge that librarians face throughout the world. The goal of my presentation is to not rehash all of the details. I am one of the editors who has read the report a few times but I might not be able to answer your questions but I recommend that if you want to learn more if the report doesn't give me the answers that you want the reach out to the authors and ask . They are great and I would love for you to thank them for dedicating so much time to this report as well. A few highlights . I will start with sub-Saharan Africa and almost every country in Sub-Saharan Africa has enforcement varying greatly . If you're in South Africa and you would like to submit a request for government occurred that wasn't already accessible so place in some kind of a request, you would have to locate a form and fill it out and sign your name and mail it into the agency to make the request so you would need to have access to the cassette and to write your request and felt comfortable enough including your private information. The agency needs to have a place to receive your mail. It is more complicated than it seems that South Africa has a pretty robust freedom of information policy. There's other barriers highlighted throughout this chapter. There is some related to politics. There is a lot of strict classification schedules. Some things are marked as top-secret or classified pet maybe in another context would not be. That provides a barrier to access. Technology in rural areas is a significant barrier and even in society there is not necessarily a letter of understanding among most citizens have the right to access this information.

This is a huge chapter and it is not all bad news. I really like in the conclusion the authors point out government and political structures have enhanced access to government information over the past few years. All right. Canada. This is a wonderful chapter by Susan Patterson providing a great overview of the Candida repository services plan. It goes on to explain the 2013 transition of almost all tangible information in Canada to electronic format. This happened really quickly starting in 2006 with Stephen Harper's advantage plan. In 2013 as many of you might know all government information was transitioned to the web. I may have lost my spot, and after the decision was made for all government information to be transitioned it was followed by an announcement that they were no longer warehouse hard copies of publications. This set huge consequences for librarians . the repository services plan was void . Librarians had to focus on digital preservation quickly. At the same time there is

a push to minimize the number of government websites as well resulting in the loss of a lot of publications.

I will note study of the time discovered from 2006 through 2011 in the span of five years the fisheries and oceans agency deleted 40% of its web content.

Legal deposit is stronger. The sellers for library and kinds of Canada to keep two copies. In 2007 this extended. This chapter goes into detail about the types of documents and finding what would be most useful. I do not want to leave Canada without mentioning digital preservation. And has required librarians to adapt very quickly taking lessons from the United States project these preservation challenges seem to be difficult. Canada does not even have a tangible publication system to fall back on. There is a ton of interesting things in this chapter. All of these changes are required the need for quick cooperation and collaboration among librarians.

All right. Middle East and North Africa. What it does well as it describes the importance government information in that context. It also provides a comprehensive list of recommendations and training and advocacy for freedom of information. This is the place of the modern library. It is unfortunate one of the challenges to access is due to the low status of libraries in the eyes of their parent organizations. There is also a lack of training and networking, except in Qatar . sometimes you will see job postings for librarians there. They are not for recruiting but not necessarily training . Another question is how has some of this impacted the region? They can move more toward the open government initiatives but the authors note many citizens believe in order to access information they just need to ask permission and it is still not a basic or a fundamental right. Greece is an amazing chapter and a detailed explanation. An example I think a pretty forward thinking government publication system. I do want to point out a couple examples and they started the transparency initiative to called clarity and it is the transparency portal. Is essentially all government institutions are required to upload their decisions to the Internet as soon as they are formally signed. As soon as they started to happen, everything was out of date so a new all was introduced soon after so the decisions are only valid when they are published on the portal. This ministers 41 million decisions published but easy it is to find and understand it is a lot of information to understand how to search. Greece also has a really incredible array of digital services and a public data portal and I really encourage you to read this chapter to see what they provide. Another fun fact is the digital service is called Prometheus which I thought was interesting. Okay so IGOs . This chapter was edited by the founder of this report. I cannot say enough about this chapter and how important it is. I really like something Jim Simons. It is a global important in the modern professional left only needs to understand the traditional forms and publication were to be familiar with the swiftly changing IGO databases . This chapter provides an excellent overview of IGOs and their official publications . A IGO is international governmental organization comprised of representatives from at least three nationstates . It needs to have a permanent office and we are talking the something like the United Nations. IGO publications are intended for public consumption but documentation information that they create for their own use internally is another matter and this is much more difficult to manage and understand and where it lies is in the classification schedules. I think we can all sympathize with that. In the IGO system I have Ron Hunt is a different schedule and most have their own and they are often similar. Library and expertise is important here because since this was written down to be able to find this information takes a lot of skill. What you might already know is United Nations fiber is no longer is the print documents practices because of hurricane Sandy and after that point and other IGOs used to have a system also . matches the United Nations but the international labor organization have the system also. This chapter goes into great detail about all of the most important documents that you

might want to use to understand how the documentation works. It is a description and explanation. So it does a great job of helping us digest its complexity.

All right. Korea. This chapter was written by someone you might know from the University of Michigan . This is a really straightforward and easy to understand overview of the current government publishing system. It is very similar to errors in the United States. It is governed by one specific act called the public records management act the scope of publications not just those of the legislative and judicial branches but also includes local governments and even government invested enterprises and research institutions. In 1991 their own communications office was created so they have a GPO as well. In Korea, the majority compiled by government agencies and published appropriate printers. So there GPO does not have the ability to manage decentralized publishing dissemination process.

The government publications in Korea are currently deposited enter institutions. The deposit of government publications is made by publishers and not a GPO .

Russia was a really interesting case for me. They have a heavy reliance on the state media. For any statutory law to go into effect, it must be published before it is entered in. In other words the three newspapers. For something to be enacted, it needs to be published in one of these media sources. The author pointed out the easiest way is on the official web portal. There has been a push for more transparency and they do have this portal but only has 22,008 is so currently there is not initiatives for conservation . It is common for online content publications to become inaccessible for a variety of reasons.

Rain attempts by the government to make state information more open to use, much remains to be done or can particular the Russian Federation must solve the issue at the state level of archiving.

United Kingdom. This is a really fantastic chapter. It was really hard for me to distill listen to a few facts. The UK system is dynamic and complex that they do a great job describing it. There is a lot of similarities to the United States. There is a lot of catching up to do and it is often difficult to track down document because agencies and ministries change names. 36 official legal deposit libraries that can heresy a print copy or a copy in the electric form. For user to access one of these companies they must physically visit the library and only one person can view the document at the time and it goes over some of the activities that they are doing and there is a review that makes sense of official publications in the United Kingdom. I have received a lot of incredible feedback about the United States chapter which is amazing and it distills a complex system into such an easy summary covering the history and the jargon and government libraries and legislative tracking and agency to assist XOR case law. I say this chapter really emphasizes that the only way the government libraries will be able to tackle challenges is through collaborative partnerships practices part of the reason we are all here today. I have heard this chapter is already being used by a lot of professors and instructors in library information science courses because it is a great description of our publishing landscape. I would like to think our authors for the great work on this.

Finally get to the postscript. After the process for publishing is interesting. We submitted our final edited report to our professional committee that they reviewed it and sent it back for peer review comments asking for an additional chapter. They wanted us to talk about cyber security somehow. We research to our colleagues at the United Nations and they both wrote a little or they wrote to the cyber security divisions to ask them to come up with an overview of the policy and procedures to protect the data.

Those are the highlights from this report. A few of the concluding points that I really wanted to push at the end of this. With a few exceptions like the Middle East and Russia, access to government information is seen as a fundamental right. Second conclusion. Most of the barriers to access information as a result of emerging technologies. Many countries are shifting to all online government publication models, like Canada. It is more access and cheap our government to do but it has a lot of drawbacks tragically, it is often used as a way to de-professionalize the profession and it is also clear government documents are no longer fixed items like a PDF. So to go all electronic is not as simple as providing a database. It goes deeper than that. Another way emerging technology leads to barriers to this type of access is some areas have heavily embraced electronic government services for their citizens to promote accountability, but this is only helpful when citizens have access to the training and understanding that they are permitted to use this information. I would argue that in some cases the shift to online happened almost too quickly. Online complications and legislation didn't really have a chance to catch up so a lot of content got lost. Finally, the ultimate goal was to demonstrate how important it is to maintain professional librarians to help users discover and preserve the information and documentation that comes. I think this report does that well. Use this report to advocate for your positions for your staffing and your budget is to demonstrate the government information is not just all online but it really does require expertise to access it.

Final slide. How to get involved. We encourage you to use this report in your own work and use it in your library information science courses, if you teach them. Assaulting is open access and I do have the link in the chat. Use it as you want and really push it. Join us on GIOPS and IFLA. We are a fun group. We are a little small right now and we do a lot of great work and what are conferences start we get to go to really fabulous places like Columbus, Ohio. That is the one everybody makes fun of. A couple years ago we went to Malaysia in the next conferences in Ireland and we will be in Auckland sometime in the future. It was a lot of fun if you like to travel and if you like to learn a lot about government information and library and practices from colleagues throughout the world. Other things to do is submit an article to the journal and keep your eyes peeled for GIOPS often puts out a call for a presentation for our annual conference Willis always have a panel of presenters and we are always looking for folks to work with us on that. Also like to thank all of the authors of the report and I did not name everybody and Jim Church, Kay Cassell and Jim helped us to arrange for the professional editing and Cornelia and Chris the two other officers GIOPS. I would like to thank them as well. With that said, I think we have 13 minutes approximately for questions that I hope I can answer.

We have one question that came in we were talking, Kate. Elisabeth Moss to know if there's any sources on China.

There are not. We tried really hard to get someone from China to do a chapter for this. We did have a presenter from China talk about government information during the most recent conference, which was held online. I am trying to see how that could be made accessible to you and I do not know how much detail they went into, but it is something that all of us are interested in and GIOPS we have new members on our committee that was a tough one. We really wanted someone from China but we cannot get it. Thank you. The report is free online and there is a record for your catalog. Appear a house on Sorensen. GIOPS just posted our first newsletter so be gentle. Is the first time we have done it. It also has an article with they recruited somebody to talk about the emergency temporary access program so we have an article about that and we have an interview with Carol who works for the European documentation sector and Kay Cassell did an interview with her that is interesting with a little bit of information about what is going on in the United Nations right now's.

Thank you . I am so happy to promote this report. It was such a great report to read through and to kind of look through and try to identify the best conclusions and the goal of this report. It is so full of amazing information to take back to use to help your students and in your classroom. It is really incredible and all of the authors were so amazing and patient with us. I hope that in the future when they would want to do is a workshop on publishing a report because that was the whole process in and of itself, how to produce a professional report for IFLA . It took a lot of effort. That is great to know. Thank you . I know it is 10 minutes until the end of the day so I'm not going to have my feelings hurt if there is not extra questions. Don't worry about that.

I will just give a couple more minutes for anybody to type in any questions you might have and then we will call it a day.

We will see if we have any of the authors here that I can think personally. Her to not think so. Too bad.

We had another question coming. Japan and India and Australia. Is there any plans to cover a second edition covering missing areas? But there is no plans that there has been talk. Once we get this report out and people see how useful it is there could be some interest coming in from different regions asking if they could contribute a chapter to a future volume. Another thing we might consider is investigating what standards have come out of GIOPS in the past and if there is something we can do that might pull in more global government information landscape as.

And Jessica is asking how is the cataloging of items done?

It is wide-ranging, depending upon the country that you are looking out. The one that I mostly talked about was the United Nations which has their own classification system . It is kind of a mix but they have their own catalog and then they also have their own digital library. In each of these countries, it is generally a mix like ours. And most I'm trying to think in Greece it would probably be the one example were almost everything is in one centralized place. Otherwise it runs the gamut and I do not have them all memorized but it is definitely a mix. Nobody seems to have figured out the right answer of how to do it, if that makes sense.

Okay. It looks like the questions houston, and so I like to think Kate for a wonderful program on a wonderful report and with that we conclude today's events and we look forward to seeing you tomorrow. Have a nice evening. Thank you .

Thank you .

Thank you.
