

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE RECORDS OF CONGRESS
MEETING 50
JUNE 13, 2016
ROOM SVC 209-08
CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER

The meeting began at 10:00 a.m., Hon. Julie Adams [Secretary of the Senate] presiding.

Members of the Committee in attendance: Julie Adams, Chair (Secretary of the Senate); Karen Haas, Co-Chair (Clerk of the House); David Ferriero (Archivist of the United States); Betty Koed (Historian, U.S. Senate); Matthew Wasniewski (Historian, U.S. House of Representatives); John Lawrence (Visiting Professor, University California, Washington DC campus); Sharon Leon (Director of Public Projects, Center for History and New Media, George Mason University); Deborah Skaggs Speth (Archivist, McConnell – Chao Archives, University of Louisville, McConnell Center); Jeff Thomas (Archivist, Ohio Congressional Archives, The Ohio State University); Sheryl Vogt (Director, Richard B. Russell Library for Political Research and Studies); Steven Zink (Vice Chancellor, Information Technology, Nevada System of Higher Education).

Also Present: Karen Paul, Archivist, U.S. Senate; Robin Reeder, Archivist, U.S. House of Representatives; Richard Hunt, Director, Center for Legislative Archives, National Archives and Records Administration.

ADAMS:

Good morning. This meeting on the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress will now come to order. I would like to extend a warm welcome to all of our committee members. If you arrived this weekend, you arrived on a warm weekend in Washington. If you arrived this morning, you arrived on a lovely day. Thank you all so much for being here in person.

Since we last met, I am pleased to report that working with Karen Hass, Richard Hunt, John Hamilton, and our respective Appropriations committee staffs, the necessary funds to renovate space at GPO were secured. *The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2016* provides to the National Archives the following: *for the repair alteration, and improvement of Archives facilities, and to provide adequate storage for holdings, 7.5 million to remain available until expended.* This represents funding for the renovation of space in GPO's Building A, which contains a 24,000 square foot space that NARA is converting into 64,000 cubic feet of secure, climate-controlled record storage for Senate and House records. Thanks so much to everyone who helped us move forward to

find a long-term solution for our critical records storage problem, and I look forward to receiving Richard Hunt's progress report at this meeting.

I'm also looking forward to the reports from our committee members, as they will inform us about the preservation and use of our members' collections.

At our last meeting, Deborah Skaggs Speth expressed interest in receiving information about our NDSR Fellow's project to study digital curation in the Senate. We will be presenting a brief status report at this meeting, and we have asked John Caldwell to present a full report at our December meeting. John's fellowship ended on June 1st, and he's unfortunately unable to be with us today.

I'm also pleased to report that in April, we celebrated *Congress Week*, the week in April 1789 when the Senate and House achieved their first quorum, with an informative presentation by Senate Historian Betty Koed, and education specialist at the Center for Legislative Archives, Christine Blackerby. Christine gave us a preview of *Amending America*, an exhibit at the National Archives that features 17 Senate documents and invites visitors to discover the remarkable American story of how we amended, or attempted to amend, our Constitution.

In addition, on April 7th the President pro tem Senator Orrin Hatch presented a statement for the record in support of Members preserving their personal papers. You all have a copy at your seat and I draw your attention to his final paragraph, which reads, "Serving as a Member of the world's greatest deliberative body is no small honor. It is a tremendous privilege that none of us should take for granted. The American people have placed their confidence in our ability to affect meaningful change for the good of the country. May we honor this sacred trust by keeping detailed archives of the work we do here." I really do appreciate President pro tem Orrin Hatch's statement, and I'm pleased that we're able to give you each a copy.

At this time, I would like to recognize my co-chair, Clerk of the House Karen Haas.

HAAS:

Thank you. Good morning to our Advisory Committee members and welcome back. It's nice to see everyone here today. I'd like to update the Committee on some of the activities that have taken place in the Clerk's Office since we last met in December.

We have been closely involved in the discussions of additional space needed for congressional records storage with the Center for Legislative Archives, which we will hear about later this meeting.

We have also been involved with activities leading up to the end of the 114th Congress. In addition to consultations with Committees to discuss transferring their records, we've been meeting with Members who are leaving. Currently 31 Members are retiring, or have retired, 14 are running for the Senate, and 4 are running for other offices. Thus far, we've meet with 29 of these offices.

As I am sure you are aware, the National Archives provides courtesy storage for textual records to current Members of Congress. Approximately 27 former House members have papers in storage at the National Archives facility in Suitland, Maryland. We have been assisting the Chief Administrative Officer with a plan to manage storage and shipping of Members' papers housed by the National Archives.

Looking forward, I want to mention that in early fall, the Office of Art and Archives plans to launch a records research component to the *History, Art, and Archives* website. This searchable database will feature a selection of House records, accompanied by metadata and description that provides historical and institutional context for each record. We will launch with approximately 100 records, and continually add to the database in the future. This will be an excellent resource for researchers and educators in particular, as well as anyone interested in the unique perspective of the House's history offered by its records. We thank the Center for Legislative Archives for their assistance in this effort, especially with our research efforts and providing us with high-resolution scans of documents.

In closing, Julie, I'd like to thank you for organizing the meeting here today, and David, for all your continued support. Thank you.

ADAMS:

Thank you, Karen. At this time, I would like to recognize David Ferriero for any comments he may have. David?

FERRIERO:

Good morning. I want to add my thanks to the Secretary and the Clerk for their support in getting that GPO space funded. And just a reminder, we have some more work to do. We got the first phase completed, and we have one more phase to go to really address our problems with textual records storage.

So just to bring you up to date on things that are keeping me busy. We are in an all-out campaign on transition of government. We're working very closely with all the executive branch agencies through their senior officials responsible for records and the records managers. We are working through the CIO Council, through the Records Management Council, and we have engaged the Inspector General community also, to ensure that we have an orderly transition through to the new presidential administration. We have created a new set of guidelines for educating new members of the federal government about their records responsibilities, and most importantly, to ensure the departing officials, especially senior officials, are leaving their records behind.

We are at the same time working with the Obama Presidential Library Foundation on plans for that new facility. They are in the final stages of site and architect selection. At least we know the city -- that's a very important piece of information for us, because we have to be prepared on Inaugural Day to grab those records and move them to a temporary site. We have already worked with GSA to get the space. We have started hiring staff who are prepared to do that physical transition of both the artifacts and the records. They will soon be announcing an architect. We have a meeting this afternoon to talk about the details of the plans. It's my hope that this is the transition of a presidential library with many more digital records than all of our previous facilities. So I look forward to that.

You heard about the Amending America exhibit. If you haven't seen it, I encourage you to visit. There have been more than 11,000 attempts over time to amend the Constitution. But most

importantly, it tells the story of how an amendment takes place. A little known story for most of the K through 12 community who visits. I'm proud of that aspect of the exhibit.

And associated with the Amending America exhibit, we have launched a series of national conversations. The first took place in Atlanta with President Carter on human rights. LBGTQ is coming up in July in Chicago. We're doing women's rights in New York. Education in Dallas. And ramping up in DC next year with a final Amending America national conversation.

And, if you watched the Tony's last night, you saw our new *Records of Rights* honorees being honored. We give an annual award for the individual or group of individuals who have made significant use of the records in creation of new scholarship. And in September we will be honoring Ron Chernow for his book *Hamilton*, and author Lin-Manuel Miranda and director Thomas Kail for the musical *Hamilton*.

ADAMS: Thank you, David. It is now time to review the minutes from the last meeting. Is there any objection to dispensing with the reading of the minutes? Hearing none? Are there any corrections to the minutes from the last meeting? OK. I would entertain a motion to approve?

M:

So moved.

ADAMS:

Second? All those in favor?

GROUP:

Aye.

ADAMS:

Opposed? OK. The minutes are approved. At this time, I would like to recognize Senate Archivist Karen Paul. Karen?

PAUL:

Thank you so much. I'll begin with senators' papers preservation. We are changing that traditional name now to senators' records preservation, because after all, we're working a lot more with digital records than we are with paper at this time. We are working with the six offices closing at the end of this Congress. And at this time, all of our retiring Members have designated archivist records managers or special assistants to manage the office closing. Later this month, in conjunction with the Sergeant-at-Arms, we are launching our final countdown to-do list, with accompanying authorization forms. This year we are emphasizing the importance of setting aside enough time for digital archiving and are recommending that offices begin the final process around December 1st. We also have developed a new form to help closing offices track and describe the content of their digital downloads. We have also incorporated some workflow recommendations to enhance the metadata that is provided to the receiving repositories. You have received a copy of this form to review. We continue meeting with offices individually, introducing them to Archives Toolkit and discussing ways to improve office records management.

In conjunction with our NDSR project, we met with 27 Members' offices over the winter, and offered our annual video training seminar for state office records managers. We completed a revision of our Members' records disposition schedule, incorporating numerous updates regarding electronic records, and I am happy to share this with committee members who are interested.

This committee has been investigating ways to improve the transfer of Members' constituent services data from proprietary systems to archival repositories. I am pleased to announce that working with our CSS staff, we devised the Senate CSS Data Interchange Format (SCDIF) for Data Archiving. Offices will now have the choice of receiving the standard archive format of 32 data fields, or the Senate data information exchange format, which contains over 250 data fields. This will be offered to departing members for the first time this year, and allows them to tailor their download to the wishes and abilities of their receiving repository.

Working with committee records since our December meeting, we accessioned 257 cubic feet of textual records from 15 committees and offices, and 2.86 terabytes of electronic records in 159 accessions from 17 different committees. Again, we applaud the leadership of our committee archivists who are so essential to preserving the records of their committees, and the chief clerks of

committees without archivists, for working closely with our office to preserve their electronic records.

We have prepared a draft revision of our Records Management Handbook for United States Senate Committees, last published in 2006. Needless to say, this edition has considerable updates for electronic records.

Deputy Archivist Elisabeth Butler has now expanded her work on capturing, describing, and transferring electronic records, including staff accounts, emails, and shared drives of committees without archivists, from six committees to eleven committees. Significantly, she has started to use the digital preservation tools, Droid and PST Reporters, recommended by our NDSR fellow to analyze, preserve, and transfer these records. Also of note, she completed a long-term project to upgrade the description of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations on approximately 250 accessions from 1982 to 2009, and has imported these into an Archivist Toolkit database. She has also scanned them into the Senate Historical Offices database that is used as a backup preservation system. Elisabeth has been working with the Senate Security Office to archive dozens of classified textual accessions to the Center.

In December, I directed your attention to the new Congressional Papers Roundtable Electronic Records Committee website. A new blog was begun over the winter creating a series called “Ask a Systems Administrator.” This is a blog where repository archivists can pose a question and receive answers directly from systems administrators. Needless to say, this has been a big hit with the repositories.

Deputy Archivist Alison White and Jacqie Coleman of the Center for Legislative Archives amended our committee accession form to reflect the fact that we are gathering the file fixity and format identification information at the point of transfer to our office rather than waiting until these materials leave the Senate.

For outreach to the Senate community, the Secretary has mentioned our Congress Week event with historian Betty Koed and Christine Blackerby of the Center for Legislative Archives. I think we have begun to use Congress Week as a way to highlight the treasures from the Senate collection, but

also as a subtle way to remind people that they're creating treasures on a daily basis. So that is developing in a nice direction.

For outreach to our archival community we had a briefing led by our NDSR fellow, John Caldwell, summarizing his year-long project to study improving digital curation in the Senate. We held a working roundtable on processing email. We've discovered that we all tend to process emails a little differently, so we're learning from each other on how to best proceed with this as we move forward.

We also sponsored a joint meeting with the Center for Legislative Archives and the Senate archivists to discuss their accessioning procedures, and to improve our processing vis-à-vis what they need to do at the Center.

I wanted to make special mention of the Association of Centers for the Study of Congress 2016 Annual Conference. Following Robin Reeder's wonderful service as program chair at last year's conference, I could hardly refuse the invitation to chair the 2016 conference which was held at the Edward Kennedy Institute for the United States Senate in Boston. The conference theme of "Defining our Audiences" provided a focus for the three-day meeting attended by over 60 people from congressional centers around the country. There were 12 sessions featuring 36 panelists. Panels ranged from civic education and outreach, teachers using congressional records, authors writing about Members of Congress, electronic records preservation, former Members of Congress discussing their service and preserving their records featuring Representatives Peter Torkildsen and Nancy Johnson, and oral history interviews and interviewees featuring Senators Paul Kirk and Ted Kaufman. The Edward M. Kennedy Papers Project, which contains 7,000 cubic feet of textual records, registers as the largest single Senate collection that I know. It also includes the very first Senate websites from 1994, because the Kennedy office had that distinction.

I think the highlight of the conference was the opportunity to participate in the Institute's role-playing experience on the replica of the Senate floor as we acted out roles of various Senators voting on amendments to the Compromise of 1850. And I have to say, compliments to historian Betty Koed for her eloquent portrayal of Senator William Seward.

I would like to say a few words about the NDSR project. To say all of the archivists in the Historical Office have been immersed in this project this past year is an understatement. Since December, staff participated in enrichment sessions including the challenges of preserving digital records of committees and Members' papers, at the Government Publishing Office on preparing for an audit as a trustworthy digital repository, at the American Institute of Architects on web archiving, and at the Martin Luther King Library on personal digital archiving outreach with the public, something that actually flows nicely into what we do. We have a public that we need to reach out to.

We participated at the National Library of Medicine on the importance of preserving scientific research software, and at the grand finale of a symposium held in early May -- *Digital Frenemies: Closing the Gap in Born-Digital and Made-Digital Curation*. This event featured Jason Scott, who is curator of the Internet Archive Software Collection. And his topic was "The Walking Dead." And I can tell you, he was indeed dressed to kill. He described his heroic efforts to rescue and preserve websites, technical manuals, and an ever-growing collection of software, which he believes has persistent historic cultural value and meaning. He went into depth about his approach to preservation through emulation. So we had a chance, some of us, to learn about that for the first time.

Unfortunately, John Caldwell could not be here today to share his final report, but fortunately he's enjoying a well-earned vacation. As the many elements of the projects are in the process of being wrapped up, John has been invited to report to you fully in December. Deputy Archivist White served as John's primary mentor, and unfortunately she could not be here this morning, but she wanted me to share some of her thoughts with you, and these are her thoughts.

"For the past year, the Senate has served as a host institution for the National Digital Stewardship Residency Program. Our resident, John Caldwell, spent considerable time studying the Senate committee and Member office workflows and processes with an eye to improving digital preservation within the Senate. Quite a challenge when one considers the demanding and very busy environment he was tasked with evaluating.

“John could not be here today to talk more specifically about his project, but he is going to stay on in the Senate working for a closing Member’s office on preservation of their electronic records, and he will be further testing some of his own recommendations in that setting.

“I want to comment briefly on our experience as a host institution for this program, sharing a few of the many positive things that came out of this experience. It was a huge honor to be selected as a host institution by the Library of Congress Office of International Outreach. And with that honor came considerable responsibility far beyond the specific project that our NDSR Fellow worked on. As we participated throughout the year with the other local host organizations in enrichment sessions and other programs within the larger D.C. digital preservation community, we were able to connect with others who were also facing challenges in digital preservation. We were proud to be representing the Senate within the larger community, as an institution that is aware of the challenges of electronic records, and takes digital preservation of those records very seriously. We made tremendous strides within our own Senate community by sharing best management practices, comparing office environments, and generally improving understanding of Senate management of electronic records.

“As our fellow reached out and met with offices, we started a dialogue that people were eager to engage in. His work testing numerous digital tools and applications, and documenting how they might be used in various Senate office scenarios, show great potential and usefulness. At the same time, he created assessments of tool functions and guides for their use that should be of value to other large, dynamic institutions also seeking accessible solutions.

“At the beginning of our project, I shared with our other host institutions a description of our challenges titled, ‘The Year of the Workflows.’ The point of this briefing was to show that every office we work with does things differently, and our solutions need to be adaptable to their ways of doing things, while adding simple steps that are viewed as achievable. I recently read a blog post from LOC’s Digital Preservation Newsletter, ‘The Single,’ by Julia Kim, a former NDSR resident, who was writing about the workflow of the American Folklife Center. In her blog post, Julia states, ‘AFC staff now regularly use a command line to interface and understand how to navigate our digital repository. This is no small feat.’ No small feat, indeed. It’s a huge accomplishment, and it demonstrates what can be done by identifying roles within offices, by ascertaining who will be the

information manager within that setting, by making sure that person partners with the systems administrator and office manager to create thoughtful electronic records policy, and by incorporating some of the available solutions and applications to automate and ease processing and ingest of electronic records. We are working to help our community fulfill its primary mission while incorporating digital preservation best practices into workflows at the same time.”

So that concludes Alison’s report and my report as well.

ADAMS:

Thank you, Karen. I would now like to recognize Robin Reeder to update us on House archives. Robin?

REEDER:

Thank you, Julie. To begin with, here are some statistics since our last Advisory Committee Meeting in December. We’ve had 21 consultations with Members, 3 with committees. We’ve catalogued 463 photos. We’ve had transferred to us 311,250 pages of committee records and loaned 61,500 pages of records.

I’d like to highlight some of the projects our staff members have been working on. We’ve actually started the process of drafting the Advisory Committee’s sixth report, which is due in December 2018. We currently have a draft executive summary and a table of contents, and we’ll be sharing this soon with the Senate and with the Center for Legislative Archives, and we’ll be making assignments for drafting sections of the report.

Michelle Strizever and Alison Trulock have been doing research to find photos and House records to include in the House Historian’s forthcoming book. *Asian and Pacific Islander Americans in Congress*. Heather Bourk is working on updating the locations of research collections for the book as well. In March, Michelle attended the joint conference of the Art Libraries Society of North America -- ARLIS -- and the Visual Resources Association. Michelle moderates the cataloguing section of ARLIS.

Heather recently completed additional training in electronic records and classified records handling at the National Archives. Both Heather and Michelle presented at the Society for History in the Federal Government and National Council on Public History joint meeting that was held in March. Heather participated in a panel about preserving and interpreting history on Capitol Hill, along with Terrence Rucker from the Historian's Office, and Betty Koed. And Michelle spoke at the same conference about the most unusual House collection photos and the stories behind them during a panel at the conference, along with Assistant Curator Felicia Wivchar.

I assisted with planning a session with former House Members for the annual meeting of the Association of Centers for the Study of Congress at the Edward Kennedy Institute in Boston. And as the Clerk mentioned in her remarks, Archives staff have been working over the past year and a half on creating a new feature on the History, Art, and Archives website that showcases a selection of House records, accompanied by metadata and brief description. We know it'll be a great addition to the website.

Looking ahead, we are working on updating and improving the research collection information for former Representatives that are listed in the online Biographical Directory of Congress. As a first step, we updated the reporting form for repositories to provide details of the congressional papers in their collection. You all received a copy of this form, and we'll also be posting a PDF to the History, Art, and Archives website this summer, and circulating it on the listserves, but if you'd like additional copies in the meantime, just let me know.

With the end of the 114th Congress, we will be participating in the Chief Administrative Officer's departing Member briefings for staff whose offices will be closing. They already started this month and will continue once a month through the election.

In January, the curatorial department added a new registrar, McKenzie Good. McKenzie joins the office from the Capitol Visitor's Center, where she served as a visitor guide and acting registrar.

Thank you very much.

ADAMS:

Thank you, Robin. Now I'd like to recognize each of our committee members to provide their reports, so we will just start with Deborah, and we will work our way around the table. Deborah?

SKAGGS SPETH:

Thank you, Julie. As some of you may know, Senator McConnell recently, well just a few days ago, published his memoir, *The Long Game*. I have a copy of it here. And the basis of his memoir was oral histories that he started to work on in 1995. The project began in 1995, and he went back to early childhood days. And he's done oral histories going up to last year, 2014. The book covers 55 oral histories which provided the basis for this memoir.

In addition, his archives really played a big role in his memoir. Nan Mosher, his Senate archivist, and I provided details for the memoir such as on page 31, for example, there's a nice quote from a letter that his father wrote to him in 1964, and I made a copy of the letter from the archives. The Senator, thank heavens, is a pack rat. An archivist's dream. He saved letters from family members, and one letter talks about the Civil Rights Act that was passed in 1964. His father writes, "Dear Son" to Senator Mitch McConnell about the Civil Rights Bill, and how and why he supports it, even though he was from Alabama. It's a meaningful letter to his son. When I found this letter I thought it would be a good letter to put in the memoir, and when it did it made me very proud and just so happy.

You might wonder how he remembered that he was on Face the Nation on such-and-such a date in 2012. Well, we found it in his schedules, which were preserved in the archives. There were other things that we found in legislative files, in his schedules, and other records that provided details for the memoir. And included in the book are various photographs that are credited in the memoir from the archives. So, the value of his archives is shown here in the memoir, and really did add a lot of detail and value to his book.

ADAMS:

Sheryl? We'll just kind of work our way around the table.

VOGT:

Like Deborah, I want to talk a little bit about use of records. At the Russell Library, our primary research audience is our undergraduates. I would say, over 60% of our research users each year are undergraduates. So, we've taken on the task of working with them and their professors as our primary focus to get them into using our archives, and we work on giving them the skills that they need for working in the archives in the first place.

A great place to start is with constituent mail. And especially if you look back at the robos and then the flexies, which came along with memory typewriters. The constituent mail files are usually filed by topic, so it's very easy for a student to choose what they would like to write about such as something like the My Lai Massacre during Vietnam, or gun control, abortion, civil rights, or just a variety of topics.

So the students can learn basic level of skills and experience in looking for patterns and relationships among documents. And our staff is doing more than show and tell. They're going in and working with the faculty to design how they're going to teach these skills. What has happened over time is that because this has become so popular, our archivists have become embedded in the classroom. They are actually spending three, four, or more classes with the students to get them prepared to come and work in our archives.

University of Georgia Libraries has developed a Special Collections Libraries Faculty Fellowship. This is a one-year structured fellowship based on the pedagogy that was designed by two young women at the New York Historical Society. It's called *Teach Archives*. We're working with faculty now to develop skills to implement archives-centered learning in the classroom in a variety of disciplines.

Our first cohort met this last year, and this past semester, they spent two hours monthly in workshops, followed by a four-day intensive workshop, or institute, rather. Their goal is to redesign or create new courses that are archive-centered. So what we are expecting is that this coming year, in the classroom, they will actually be using these classes that they have designed. And we'll have a better assessment after we go through this first year, but we're already offering fellowships for the coming year based on the assessment, and we will refine what we're doing. It's a relationship

model. My outreach archivist says we do first what we call a great first date with the documents to get an idea of how to analyze for detail. Then we get a broader view of the relationship the documents have with each other. And by the third date, you're going steady. Then you can see how documents accumulate over time, how they're organized and managed by archivists, and then how they can interpret the documents based on the skills they've learned in the meantime. This has been very successful. Our staff is extremely excited about it.

I also wanted to share one of the projects that one of the teachers has developed. Dr. Amma Kootin, who works in our theater department with film studies, is doing something called "Performing the Archives." Her students are going to create a performance based on material and scripts that we have in our campaign exhibit that will debut this fall called "On the Stump." They're writing a play that they will perform. They're also going to shadow our staff in Special Collections Libraries, considering the work that they do, and they will develop a play and a cast of characters based on that.

And she raised a question that I think is really interesting. She said, "What can you learn by performing something that you can't learn from reading? And what if Archives had a performance room as well as a reading room?" Which is very interesting. Because if you think about performing something, you get involved with emotions, the intellectual aspect of it, and the power of it. That's really a different transfer of knowledge than you would get otherwise.

We're also starting to work with a political science professor who's just developed a certificate program on practical politics. It's designed to expose students to the kinds of jobs they can have in government that are more behind-the-scenes rather than more visible jobs like working on the Hill. And in the course of this conversation, the professor got so excited. She said, "Well, yes, I agree. We should probably include Archivist of Political Papers as a job that one could have in practical politics." So we're very excited about that.

Briefly, I just wanted to share with you our *Food, Power, and Politics* exhibit and programming. Senator Russell, which many of you may or may not know, was the father of the school lunch program. In his earlier days, he was a great "New Dealer" so he was a little more liberal than later in life. But he was the sponsor for that legislation. Using that as the basis for

this program, we had a wonderful exhibit. We started working with the Clark County School District people, and decided to have a school lunch challenge. Local restaurants decided to compete over the school lunch menu. We had student judges who picked a winner. Then, the winner's menu was incorporated into the school lunch program. It was so successful, everyone said, "Oh, we must do it again." Our staff was like, "Really?" Because it was a lot of work.

This past March, we had our second one. Our local celebrity chef, Hugh Acheson, who's been on television, was our MC. We had a lot of community people participate in this event -- like the farm-to-table and seed life programs. Plus we created an exhibit about Senator Russell and the school lunch program. We had parents come with their children. And teachers also participated. We had the parents do the overall judging for the event. It was interesting to see who voted for what. And now the university's Family and Consumer Science Department has talked with one of our outreach archivists about putting this together as a model toolkit that can then be replicated in other counties around the State. We talked with some people in economic development who are really excited about it, because the real push now is branding "Georgia Grown" farm-to-table programs. This takes us to a new audience that we would not have had otherwise. Our staff would be glad to talk with any of you who are in institutions where you could do something like this. It's been very exciting. Thank you.

ADAMS:

Thank you, Sheryl. I'll now turn to John Lawrence.

LAWRENCE:

Thank you. I wanted to thank the Archivist for mentioning Hamilton as a native son of Patterson, New Jersey, the first industrial city founded by Alexander Hamilton. I'm very pleased with how well the play did at the Tonys. And if you can't get a ticket to Hamilton, you can come to Paterson and see the Great Falls National Historic Park. It's free. And very proud of its Hamilton heritage.

I'm working on a book -- I'm actually, hopefully, knock wood, getting towards the latter stages -- that focuses on the class of 1974 in the House, and the impact of congressional reforms on changes in the institution and on American politics and polarization over time. I fortunately just signed a

contract with Johns Hopkins Press, so it's not every day that I get to publicize the fact that this book will be coming out. But hopefully that'll happen relatively soon.

My book, unlike some other efforts to look at this period of time, is focused heavily on the personalities involved. Part of the reason being that I came to Washington to start working in Congress at that time and knew many of these people, and thought that (a) I would have access to them, and (b) I might be the last person to have access to them before they no longer recalled some of these incidents I am writing about.

Utilizing a variety of contacts, including the Former Members of Congress Association, I was able to interview over 40 members of the class, as well as staff people, press people, House officers, and others who served with them. Most of them were very interested in participating in these interviews and its oral history.

I want to share with you a couple of thoughts and observations of what I found. Now, we are going back 40 years. And, of course, many of these people had relatively short careers in Congress. In some cases, shorter than they had hoped. Others lasted decades. There are actually two people here in Congress who still are from that class. Senator Grassley, who began in the House at that point, is the only continuous member. And then Congressman Nolan, who served briefly in the 1970s, retired, and then returned to the House with the longest interval in service in history. There's 32 years between his first service and his re-election.

Many of them discounted the significance of their careers. They thought that they had served very briefly. They thought that they had made relatively minor contributions. They didn't really see the point of my spending time interviewing them. In virtually every case, those interviews extended up to one and a half to two hours, and proved extremely fruitful once they got going. But to me, it was interesting how they had moved on. They did not see either the value of their particular participation, or they couldn't in most cases, even with those who were enthusiastic, contextualize a lot of what they recalled. They remembered what they did. They remembered specific incidents. They remembered particular fights. But when asked in terms of the breadth of congressional history, or U.S. political history at the time, relatively few of them had really thought in terms of how their careers fit into that narrative.

Many of them, as I'm sure will come as no surprise to Robin or Karen, maintained pretty poor records. In some cases, they would tell me, "Yeah, I think I can get up into the attic, or into the garage, and see what I can still find." But in relatively few cases did they recognize, particularly those who had served long ago in pre-electronic era, that these records, while individually may not be highly valuable, might in fact have a lot of value cumulatively if you look at them in a collective sense.

Once they began talking, they were very, very interesting and very insightful. Some of the quotes that will appear in the book were, frankly, priceless. They also pointed out these experiences, the limitations of oral history, and the necessity for other independent research to back them up. They did have a way of mixing up dates, and remembering events that generally benefitted their reputation. But they didn't always occur within the timeframe that I was interviewing them about.

Many of them were interested in discussing their careers for the purpose of establishing what they saw as their achievements and their accomplishments -- such as they were the first person to serve as a subcommittee chair, or the first person to serve in the leadership. They related their particular interests in policies and issues, which emerged as the conversations went on. I did find, interestingly, a pronounced lower degree of interest in participating among people who had moved on to the Senate. Not sure exactly why that is, and I'm not going to spend a lot of time speculating on it in the book. I did have a couple of terrific interviews with senators, but several of them indicated they they just weren't interested in doing an oral history for that time period, both Democratic and Republican senators.

And one person in particular -- I'm not going to get into the name -- viewed this as an opportunity to reset his historical role. In his own mind, and not inaccurately, he felt that certain aspects of his career, which got him in the newspaper a lot, were not really the salient portions of what he did with respect to the historical significance of his career. That actually was very, very insightful, because particularly as you talk to dozens of these former Members, you see pieces of history which simply didn't rise to the level of prior historical scholarship because it was happening a little bit underneath the surface.

I just want to conclude by saying a couple of lessons I've learned as a historian having been away from history for the nearly 40 years I worked on the Hill, and now returning to it. One thing is something that I passed on to them, but I certainly don't need to pass on to you. And that is, all these records have value. The last people who should be determining whether they're valuable are the people who are creating the records, because they're just too close to it. There has to be some greater level of trust -- that put into the proper hands, and catalogued properly -- they can be of invaluable assistance to scholars.

The second is the significance of getting to these Members while they are alive, because of the fact that so few of them maintained sufficient written records or retained the kinds of manuscripts that you would like to have -- such as speech drafts or comments that they made in committees. Obviously you can go back to the official records, but very often only by spending time with Members will we have the opportunity to find out what was in their mind. I talked to them, and I talk now to any Members that I speak to -- current members -- about how vital it is to keep good records. That you really have to start thinking about these issues early in your term, and hopefully be working with the archivists, so that we don't find ourselves down the road without.

The last thing is how vital it is to work with staff as well as with the Members because they have access and sometimes have some marginally greater level of detachment than Members who, understandably look at their own role, and their own significance. It's staff people who are sometimes operating in a wider venue and have kept notes, as did I when I was working with the Speaker, and who can provide vital supplements to congressional records. Thank you.

ADAMS:

Thank you, John. I will now turn to Sharon.

LEON:

I am going to -- did I turn this on? Beg permission to go last, because Steve has the VGA connector, and so, we'll go all the way down the table and then come back?

ADAMS:

Is that alright?

ZINK:

Fine with me.

LEON:

OK. And we'll swap.

ADAMS:

OK. Well, Jeffery, you can speak now.

THOMAS:

OK. Thank you. I'll speak briefly here, this morning, about a few things that are happening at Ohio State. In January, we opened the papers of Mary Jo Kilroy to public research. Congresswoman Kilroy, a Democrat, served in the 111th Congress representing Ohio's 15th district. That's pretty much Columbus and a few counties to the west of Columbus. Although she served only one term in office, from 2009 to 2010, Congresswoman Kilroy left her mark as one of two freshmen who served on the Wall Street Reform Conference Committee. She introduced a number of amendments and provisions that ultimately passed into law and was part of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2009. She was a Member of the House in a progressive caucus, and a very vocal supporter of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

Her collection, while small in volume, is notable in that it marks the first time the Ohio Congressional Archives received as many, if not more, records from a congressional office in electronic format than we did in paper. Processing the collection resulted in more than 50 folders of electronic records in PDF format that are currently available to researchers online through links and a finding aid. So we were very pleased to be able to get these records in a secure format and available to people worldwide. They really do not have to come to Ohio State to look at a majority of her papers.

In April, Ohio State began a new program titled "Congressional Conversations." This was created through a partnership of the John Glenn College of Public Affairs and OSU's College of Law. The program brings prominent Members of the U.S. Congress to campus for informal talks with students.

The focus is primarily on the process of turning policy into legislation in a broad sense. We started it off on April 8th with Senator Rob Portman, and then we followed that on April 22nd with Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi.

For future plans, what we would like to do is bring in a pair of speakers each semester. Hopefully one from each side of the political aisle. And ideally, one from each chamber of Congress. There was initially very strong attendance at these two talks. They were informal, with a lot of back-and-forth between the students and the Members. Hopefully this becomes an even larger program as it becomes established.

And lastly, through a recent initiative by the Ohio General Assembly, the Columbus International Airport will soon become the John Glenn Columbus International Airport. There is a renaming ceremony scheduled for June 28th. And I'm in early, early talks with the people at the Port Authority there to work out some sort of permanent exhibit. It's sort of ironic. They just now refurbished that airport. It opened refurbished just last fall and now we're going to come in and hopefully find a spot to put some materials from the collection so people coming into Columbus can learn all about John Glenn if they don't already know about him.

ADAMS:

Thank you, Jeffrey. Steven?

ZINK:

I suggested three possible topics to talk about today. This one was selected as it relates to Senator Harry Reid's papers, which are voluminous, and are being prepared to be handled at the University of Nevada, Reno. I'm not from the University of Nevada, Reno. I had tenure there and was the Vice President for Information Resources and Technology for about 15 years. I've the Vice Chancellor over the entire system, which, as you can see, includes eight institutions and has about 130,000 students. And the first campus, most people are surprised to learn, was established in 1874, which I highly encourage you to visit, if you're in the Reno-Tahoe area, because it's on Virginia Street and the main quad is an exact duplicate of the University of Virginia campus. Although Thomas Jefferson isn't at the head of it. It's Clarence Mackay, who helped fund a lot of it from the Comstock Lode.

At the University of Nevada Campus, I spent about 10 years of my life and led the design in 2008 of the Mathewson IGT Knowledge Center, which was the physical representation of information technology and information resources and a push toward information and visual literacy. This represents a very big component of what has been integrated into the main curriculum on the campus.

It's unique in several respects, and although I don't consider what I'm going to show you that unique, it apparently is because we have visitors every month from around the world. It also has particular implications for storage of archival records. If you go all the way through the building, you will go into a three-story robotic retrieval system where many senators' papers and House members' papers are stored; it also has the capacity to hold two million bound volumes. It was the largest robotic retrieval system for books in the world at 300,000 square feet until a couple of months ago when the University of Chicago opened up a new facility. There are only about 20 of these facilities in the world. I will run a five-minute video to show how it works.

It is called MARS, the Mathewson Automated Retrieval System. Mathewson was a donor of over \$10 million to this facility. He was the Chief Executive Officer of International Game Technology, which was the first creator of digital games for casinos.

The purpose of this type of storage facility was to save about 100,000 square feet of space. Most of the printed materials from a collection, we believed, would not be used by undergraduates or graduate students. We didn't know how forward-looking that was because now most people would prefer to have materials delivered to them rather than they go get it.

There are 25,000 individual bins in a three-story tall temperature- and humidity-controlled environment. There are six lanes of these robotic systems running at any one time. Each bin is two feet by four feet, and they vary in depth, up to eighteen inches. It's all laid out in a grid pattern, and one of the strangest things for most people is they're not in any order, except by size. When you take something out, it's barcoded, and you can return it wherever it fits. It's based on the movement of the robots.

The one thing that is peculiar, and I must say I insisted on it with the manufacturer, and they were early enough in doing this that they didn't put up too much of a fight, is that we have different points of entry. On the main floor, on the ground floor, on the second floor with services, and directly to Special Collections. On the first two, you cannot retrieve materials from Special Collections unless it is intended for Special Collections. So we have no problem with space and no problem with housing papers of any sort. They'll be there until they're processed and then they'll be put in in an appropriate way. Special Collections does have dedicated space and doesn't rummage around and put things in different spots.

What else can I tell you about it? I believe all of their bins are 12 inches high, which would accommodate a couple of cartons or regular manuscript boxes. This is where Senator Reid's papers and Senator Bryan's papers are. It's where a lot of representatives' papers are already, and it allows tremendous access. Print materials can be found in the online catalogue and within 10 minutes be at a service desk. These run automatically, as soon as they get hit. And Special Collections works a little differently in that you'd be in the Special Collections department, although you can order something in advance, and it'd already be there for you.

Since I left, this is now used for a number of other things which I couldn't have imagined. Archeological materials are now sealed and housed in here. I do hope they're charging departments for this, but that's another issue. Because when you do something like this as a historian -- I was ABD in history -- and then I had a PhD in information systems, in MLS. This is the only sort of person, according to the president at the time, that would come up with some idiotic idea to put in a facility like this. There were many rumors -- like there would be no books in the new library. And why are you calling it a knowledge center? I said, "Well, it's not actually for that. We're going to put historians and the ashes of librarians in there. And charge." So you had to keep people off balance. I will try to see what's wrong here with the video. I'll let you go from here.

LEON:

All right. You can see if you can find the video while I show some other things, and then we'll swap it back.

ZINK:

OK. That's fine.

LEON:

I just need the VGA cord.

ZINK:

Yes. You get it?

LEON:

Yeah.

ADAMS:

Thank you, Steven, and Sharon?

LEON:

I have no congressional papers to show you because we don't do those sorts of things. So what I would like to show is a smattering of things that are happening at the Center for History and New Media.

So, I'd like to show you a little bit of work that my colleagues are doing. I can't take any credit for this at all. This is the beginning of a project that was just funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Preservation and Access Division. What you'll see here may be a familiar database to those of you who are political scientists or early American historians. This is a database of early national election results from 1787 to 1825 that is housed at Tufts. It's a collaborative project between Tufts and the American Antiquarian Society. And my colleagues, Sheila Brennan, Lincoln Mullen, and Rosemary Zagarri have just received funding from the NEH to join this flat database with geolocation material. So basically we're going to take the election results and map them to the congressional districts as they stood in that period, and that's the key marker there -- as they stood in that period. That's the problematic piece here, because we've got to take the district shape files and

rummage through them until we can find them at the appropriate point in time, so that we can actually map the results back to the appropriate geographic locations.

What you're looking at here is the percentage of votes by county in the 1799 congressional election. The top one is the Republican returns, and the bottom one is the Federalist returns. We have the complete database from Tufts and the American Antiquarian Society, and over the next two to three years, we'll be remediating that data and joining it to geospatial data so that we can provide a new kind of access point to this material. We can start to learn some things about voting patterns on a larger scale based in geospatial data. We want to thank the National Endowment for the Humanities for thinking that these kinds of new digital access projects are worth paying attention to.

We've got another kind of very differently oriented digital access project that is also funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities. For the last several years at the Center we have been running summer institutes for mid-career historians who don't know anything about doing digital things. So they come and hang out with us for two weeks and get an introduction to digital theories and methods. And our hope here is to raise the baseline in the field so that we can start to talk about using these methods in the classroom and applying them to new work and things like that. So, on July 11th we'll have our cohort for this summer. We're very much looking forward to that. There will be 25 of them. It is a long two weeks, but we saw results with the first cohort of Americanists when a number of really important websites and public history projects came out of that work. Two folks out of that group got new jobs and moved to new institutions based on their digital skills.

We spend an awful lot of time working on software and tools to help folks do digital history, and I wanted to point out the homepage of this site because I was showing it to a group in France at 5 a.m. this morning on a conference call. We run a software project called Omeka, and Omeka is a web publishing tool for people with collections. And it turns out that the presidential libraries have decided that they like Omeka a lot. There are a couple of nice sites that are running in what we are now calling Omeka Classic. This is a featured site from the LBJ Library that presents the courtship letters of Lady Bird Johnson and Lyndon Baines Johnson. And they're wonderful. It's a spectacular site. The other site that is really quite invested in using Omeka as their presentation platform for the digital collections is the Clinton Digital Library.

We built Omeka for small history museums and historical societies who didn't have IT infrastructures. We wanted people to be able to share their collections with the world easily and in a way that was standards-based and extensible. And it turns out that the adoption has been far broader than we ever expected it to be when we launched the software in 2008. So now we're almost nine years in and the software has been downloaded 150,000 times. It's used all over the place, which is great, but we decided we needed something better.

Since 2012, primarily with funding from the Mellon Foundation, we have been working on something called Omeka S, which is the newest generation of Omeka. It shares absolutely no code with Omeka Classic, but it does share principles with Omeka Classic. The idea with Omeka S is it's for larger libraries, museums, repositories, because in the case of Omeka Classic, every time you wanted a new site, or a new look, or a new field, you have to run a new install. They're single installs. What this allows us to do is build up a large repository of materials and run many sites out of it. It's got a FedoraConnector, it's got a D Space connector. It's got an Omeka API connector so you can pull in stuff from existing Omeka sites.

The thing that I think is most special about it is, it's all linked data underneath. We built the API first and built the software from the API. And so while Omeka Classic has Dublin Core metadata as its baked-in description system -- its metadata system -- Omeka S allows you to use any linked open data vocabularies you want as the core description. And so as a user, then, you select the properties that you'd like to use to describe your materials, and you can build resource templates that way.

We've got a base resource template that's built-in that aligns with the DPLA metadata framework, so that should you want to push your content directly to DPLA through the hubs, we've tried to make that as easy as possible. It comes with Dublin Core and it comes with FOAF. I can't remember what else. But you can import any RDF vocabulary that you'd like, and we're in the process of creating a suite of modules for it that will model some of the behavior of Omeka Classic. There's a mapping plug-in coming. There's a collecting plug-in coming. Those sorts of things.

So we're very, very excited about it. It's out in alpha now. People are starting to build with it. I'm hoping to have it at a 1.0 by the end of the calendar year. We've got a lot of people who are very

excited about it. Apparently French people who like me to get up at 5 a.m. and talk about things. So, I think it is really the next generation. I'm very excited about the possibility for linked data because it means that we can use all of the standards, vocabularies, authority files, and descriptions that we've all worked so hard on to build a semantic web that is really joined. And so I'm very happy to have Omeka be a part of that. So, that's what's going on at the Center for History and New Media. Any luck, Steven?

ZINK:

Yes. Here you get an idea, and we had a fear of students trying to ride this -- and one never puts anything out of an undergraduate's mind. Part of this is filmed with a camera built into the facility. This is as the facility is being pushed out and everything's being loaded. It pretty much runs in the dark now. And, for example, this is with books, in particular, it has a grid of those boxes within the framework. It runs automatically once it's being retrieved from a workstation or any place around the world with access to the automated system.

F:

Does it have the capability to read barcodes on every book in that bin, even though they're not in any special order?

ZINK:

That's right. It's based on size for the most efficient use.

F5:

Did you have a riot about serendipitous browsing?

ZINK:

No. And the only reason was that I was on campus a long time and was a published historian. And, we never weed the collection. There was a great concern about getting rid of print journals and universities were doing that all the time. But we don't get rid of print journals. And I often said that historians die and the print will live on forever. So you never have to worry about that -- you just keep the print journals and things. For monographs it's still an issue. Most of the things can come out of there and be put on an open stack if they are used. Print materials go out of the areas and

people would rather have it retrieved. And you also can browse for serendipity, which is a very legitimate search mechanism for historians in the online system, because it even has covers of the books so you can line them up and just look right down the call number like you're standing in the aisle.

F:

The E185s.

ZINK:

Yeah. Absolutely.

F:

So are we contemplating or looking at something like this for our Senate records and House records in the new facility?

M:

We're going to have to increase the budget.

ZINK:

Actually, it's cheaper per square foot, but you'd need to be building the building. I'm sure you probably have the weight bearing. This took 24 hours of concrete pour. You have no tolerance for something three stories tall with six aisles. It was the largest concrete pour outside of Las Vegas in the state's history. The trucks had to come from San Francisco, it was so much concrete.

F:

So if this is retrieving documentary records, does it pull out a Hollinger box, or a folder? File folder?

ZINK:

Absolutely. They know which tray it's in and they know the location within the box. Like I said, I think there are 20-some now, worldwide. And the University of Chicago's is just a little larger. But they don't have the three different ports. The one with Special Collections I thought of immediately

because Senator Reid has 800 objects -- memorabilia. It doesn't matter -- we have a box of rocks in there. And some materials from very important historic sites around the state that have been studied and placed there. And there you can see how it's in a grid, and dropping it into a certain location.

We have this video running outside. There was a big temptation, and big pressure by some -- because the administration thought this would be a cool thing to show. And I said no. Not in this type of facility. Actually, that's created even more interest in it because it's sort of secret. Yeah, I didn't think of it in those terms, but there's several videos on YouTube about it from different countries around the world from which people have visited. It's a very, very efficient use of space. And fortunately, the digital revolution did continue along. Because this will last now for a very, very long time given the volume of print material that is being produced as opposed to the digital.

ADAMS:

Thank you, Steven. And thank you all for your really interesting committee reports. I think we all enjoyed those. I will now recognize Brandon Hirsch, IT specialist at the Center, who will provide us with an update on the Congressional Records Instance of the Electronic Records Archives. Brandon?

HIRSCH:

Thank you, Julie. And thank you, members of the advisory committee, for this opportunity to provide you with a brief update on electronic records at the Center, as well as the work we've been performing upgrading the architecture of the Congressional Records Instance. Since December our holdings of electronic records at the Center grew by only 15 terabytes. In keeping with previous textual analogies, this is approximately five and a quarter miles of books if you'd stack them on a shelf. This growth is largely comprised of a new project we began with NARA's digitization lab to produce digitized copies of 9/11 Commission audiovisual materials for records that came with that commission and have been aging. We worked with the lab to provide digitized versions that we can preserve in CRI.

And certainly 15 terabytes is not an insignificant growth of records, but as we look forward through the rest of this year, we have the close of yet another Congress. We'll again be conducting another

congressional web harvest. So we're looking out to the future and preparing for very significant growth, certainly the rest of this year, but certainly looking to the June meeting of next year. We expect that we'll have another very large increase in growth of electronic records.

On the topic of the web harvest, we're excited that this will be our first harvest where we are working directly with the Internet Archive. Previously, we had somewhat of a middleman in between us, and we've already noticed, just in the few months that we've been working directly with Internet Archive, that the relationship's just much better. We have much cleaner communication with them, and they're working on some really neat ideas for presentation that we think will help improve access on webharvest.gov. But also, we've been working on solving an issue with the presentation of archived video in the current Wayback Machine. We have archived video, but the presentation of video is limited. So we've been working closely with them and hope to have something in place for the presentation of the harvest with the 114th Congress.

As we prepare for this large influx of volume, we've continued diligently working on the tech refresh and storage expansion for the Congressional Records Instance. I literally have been running throughout the building as we've run new cabling for a private network to expand the capability. We now have hardware that is racked. We have connectivity throughout the system. And we're continuing to work with storage vendors to finalize the final storage configurations, as well as working on hardening the systems to comply with GAO and other government security policies.

We are simultaneously working on writing additional system documentation for the Congressional Records Instance to update already on-file documentation in compliance with NARA's updated IT governance procedures. Our new CIO, Swarnali Haldar, has improved those governance procedures, and it's been a pleasure working with her office to improve the documentation of the system and enhance the visibility of the system within the agency, which has really helped us garner more resources for CRI. We're already having conversations about small changes that we can make to the preservation process and the architecture to improve the efficiency of our processing operations.

We also now have full-time contractor support for architecture issues, so I can continue to preserve records as well as work on architecture issues. That additional contract support is very welcome for Shannon and me so we can continue focusing on electronic records preservation.

The last piece of the architecture refresh that will require extensive planning is migrating data from the old system into the new system. We are working with our colleagues and other resources to develop data migration plans, and we expect that to take many months. As we work through those plans we are strategizing where data gets stored. But one item to highlight, especially for the Senate and House Archivists, is that we will be coordinating that work with ongoing preservation work, and as we preserve new incoming records, we may need to pause data migration work, and vice versa. But as those plans come together, we'll certainly communicate them with you and keep you all in the loop very closely.

As we work through the final preparations and governance processes, we don't have a final timeline yet for operational readiness. But we certainly are looking at this influx of incoming volume over the next 12 months, and plan to have the system in place so that we can bring new records into the system as they begin coming in later this year and early next year. But once we have that final deadline, we'll certainly provide an update to the advisory committee.

And in conclusion, I'd just like to say that while I personally have been very excited standing up this new architecture -- it's been very interesting technical work -- we do want to reassure this committee that this is not our final plans for the Congressional Records Instance. Standing up a more robust and extensible architecture is the first step we need in order to build a foundation upon which we can solve the future problems that we anticipate, and those that we don't know about yet. Richard will have a few comments and lessons learned from the larger perspective of our experience with the Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission records. So this really is just the beginning of the first phase for the next stage of CRI and hopefully will give us a foundation upon which we can enhance the system and integrate other data systems that can help alleviate some of those future problems that we'll experience. Thank you.

ADAMS:

Thank you, Brandon. I would now like to recognize Richard Hunt, who will give us the mid-year report on the Center for Legislative Archives. Richard?

HUNT:

I'd like to update you on five topics. But first I'd like to note that this is meeting number 50 of the Advisory Committee, so it's 25 years old now. Or young. It's quite a milestone.

Let me give you the timeline for the conversion of GPO Building A space. That's the 65,000 cubic feet of space, which gives us approximately 18 years of records expansion space. Leo A. Daly is under contract to do the design plans. That's the same firm that did the feasibility study. We had a kickoff meeting in April with NARA and GPO staff. There's an interagency agreement between those two entities that governs this project. In July of this year, the design will be 65% complete. And then it will be fully complete at the end of August. In the meantime, GPO itself is going to begin demoing the space, which should be completely demoed by September 1st. And we're hoping that we'll be able to take the Clerk, the Secretary, and guests in to see some of that demolition this summer.

The construction award will be made after the 60-day bidding period closes. So we expect that will be in place by December of 2016. At that point in time, we will know the precise cost of the project, and the timeline for completion. It's estimated that it will be sometime at the end of 2017. But once we have that contract, we can give you firm dates.

Now, because we won't have that building until the end of 2017, we do have to move additional House and Senate records to the Washington National Records Center. At present, we have 2,000 cubic feet of space available in Archives 1. We have 900 to 1,000 cubic feet of House records that are coming to us this summer, which will take half of that space. And in the fall of 2016, we will plan a second transfer of approximately 2,100 cubic feet of House and Senate records to WNRC -- that will require approval by the Clerk and the Secretary before any records will be moved.

With the end of the 114th Congress later this year, it means we'll have a busy spring, and we expect to receive the 113th Congress's House records and a large volume of Senate transfers in early

2017. So we'll monitor the space situation throughout 2017, and if need be, plan a third and final transfer to WNRC before Building A comes online. When Building A is turned over to us in late 2017 or early 2018, we will move all of the House and Senate records from WNRC at Suitland to the new space, so we will have ended this temporary use of space at WNRC.

Let me say a few words about the FCIC records. In March of this year, the Center released a 1,400-page finding aid to the collection, and four series of electronic records from the FCIC. The series included the confidentiality agreements signed by the federal agencies that provided records to the Commission, and by the Commission itself. Opened records also included some of the MFRs, or Memorandum for the Record, of interviews conducted by Commission staff with private citizens. We also opened the records of the Commission meetings and meeting minutes. The National Archives issued a press release to announce the opening, and although we did not get many traditional academic researchers' requests, *The Wall Street Journal* and other press found us. In fact, *The Wall Street Journal* tweeted and live-blogged as they were looking at the records, which were available online. One of the funny moments is they got all excited about this Warren Buffet interview, and what he was saying about the crisis. But that interview had been opened on the Stanford web site since 2011.

To date, we've received more than 50 inquiries for FCIC records. Researchers are now asking us to look at the records that are closed, and we review those records in response to researcher demand. I mentioned in our last meeting that I expected these records would provide an overview of what we can expect to face when congressional committee electronic records become open in the future. I can't say the lessons learned have been stellar to this point, and we're still on a learning curve here. But the most significant lesson we learned to date is that it is important to have a viable system for reviewing and redacting born-digital records. And we did not. So it's really rested upon the talents and skill set of Kris Wilhelm, our access specialist, using some rudimentary software and working with multiple versions of documents, to make sure that the redacted version is the one that is released and not the unredacted versions. So far, no fouts.

The agency has come to our rescue and will help us remedy the situation. The Center will have an opportunity to use an existing NARA system that has a proven track record of success searching, reviewing, and redacting records. You've heard about CRI, the Congressional Records Instance of

ERA. Now we're moving some of the FCIC electronic records into EOP ERA, the Executive Office of the President Instance of ERA. It's the system that they have used since George W. Bush's records were transferred, and they'll be using for the Obama records as well. And they review millions of emails and they're moving into reviewing federal agency records as well. In that expansion into federal agencies' records, the agency included funds to allow the Center to have our own neighborhood or segregated space in the system. Only our staff would have access to the FCIC records, and we would not have access to any other records in the system since the President and the White House certainly wouldn't want us to have access to those records. Believe me, the presidential libraries would not let us use the system if there was any chance of us gaining access to their records.

We'll load these potentially open FCIC electronic records into the system, and then we will be able to search, review, redact, and release the ones that qualify as open records. So it's a major step forward, and we may have more lessons learned to convey as we move ahead.

Providing the FCIC records to researchers was something of a challenge. We have descriptions of the series of records available in the National Archives Catalog, and individual requestor's records were provided to them directly through a new system -- NARA's OneHub, which is a web-based electronic delivery system where a researcher requests certain records, pays the associated fees, we move the relevant records digitally to the site, and the researcher has permission and the ability to download from there.

In addition, we took advantage of the Stanford Law School site, which has posted the original FCIC website, and to which they have released additional information from the commissioners. The National Archives has the Commission's original frozen website captured at the time when the Commission went out of business. Stanford took the original site but has since then created new live content. We gave the Stanford site all of the digital FCIC records that we released, and they use Dropbox to share them with researchers as well.

We are having some difficulty from the researcher end in the confusion created when they see an item listed in the finding aid, they assume the records are open. Even though we have a caveat up front that we're going to have to search and review the records before they can be opened,

researchers and the press don't necessarily see or digest that statement. They expect instant gratification and immediate access to records, which are subject to long periods of review.

I would also like to talk about the transition at the Center. As you know, I lost, or will soon lose, five senior staff this year. And I would like to introduce Merrily Harris, who is the new Assistant Director of the Center for Legislative Archives. She now has all the archival responsibilities for House and Senate records. She's aware of that, but took the job anyway. Merrily has a Master's of Art in History. A Master of Library and Information Studies, and a Bachelor of Arts in English and History, all earned at the University of Alabama. She comes to us from NARA working on the presidential material staff since 2008, where she served as an archivist and team lead, managing the archival courtesy storage staff, working directly with the White House, and the Executive Office of the President, on records transfers and loans, and with the White House and the Obama Foundation on presidential transition planning and records moves scheduled for 2017. I think it's pretty evident the skillset I was looking for -- someone who had records experience in a political world. Someone who understands working with very important and powerful institutions, and making sure our job is done well. And I can tell you that we have found a leader in Merrily, assure you that our high-quality services will continue, and you'll be well-served working with her.

I have four more positions to go. An archives technician position, who is the central person on loans back to the House and the Senate, is closing this week. That will be followed by two archivist positions coming later this summer. And then Richard McCulley, the Center historian's position, will be posted later.

On the outreach front, I wanted to announce our new e-book *Representing Congress*, which features 39 of Clifford K. Berryman's political cartoons that illustrate the constitutional powers of Congress, and how those powers have been exercised and implemented in the House and Senate throughout the 20th century. It also shows the roles of political parties in Congress, and members' roles serving their constituents. This e-book has been very well received by our educational partners as a useful visual resource for students that makes fundamental civics concepts more accessible. I want to express my thanks to the Senate Historical Office and the House Historian's Office for reviewing our text so it was readable and accurate.

Charlie Flannigan's services on the educational front remain much in demand. He just returned from a week-long trip to Florida, and Brevard County, which is one of the model counties we're working with on teacher workshops and civics instruction. Next week he's heading off to Connecticut for our first foray into that state, and conducting workshops for middle and high school teachers at the invitation of the state's social studies coordinator. There will be additional trips to Florida this summer. In July, he's going to Orlando. And then later, in August, he's going to the Panhandle where he's working with additional sets of teachers there.

Florida has also created a new program called "Students Investigating Primary Sources," or SIPS, which is being piloted with the idea that it can be expanded to all grade levels and all school districts to help the state's civics teachers meet their curriculum mandates. Charlie will be going to West Virginia this summer and working with the Byrd Center to train West Virginia teachers as well. Charlie is having an extraordinary impact on these schools and districts, and the feedback that we get back is valuable to us as we plan our next set of educational products. Our work is driven by what teachers need in order to meet their own state standards.

The Amending America exhibit David mentioned has been a popular attraction at the National Archives, co-curated by our own Christine Blackerby. She recently participated in an Answer Time session on Tumblr where over a thousand questions were posed by the public. Christine and her colleague answered 40 of those questions which were related to amendments, and she told us privately that other popular inquiries were related to space aliens, Nicholas Cage, and JFK's brain. They did not attempt to answer those questions.

The Center is collaborating with NARA's Office of Innovation and the Law Library of the Library of Congress on two Wikipedia edit-a-thons this summer and fall. The first one is on constitutional amendments. We're especially excited about the second session, and we'll invite our colleagues from the House and Senate historical offices to participate, and that is focused on improving the entries on congressional committees and congressional investigations.

Charlie is thinking about a new Berryman cartoon book, which would be a companion to *Representing America*, and that would be on foreign policy from the Spanish American War through the Cold War. And there's some great cartoons on that front. And we're also contemplating

creating educational materials on Senator Henry Clay, Andrew Jackson, and the election of 1824, which is getting some attention these days. And we found a new partner -- an ideal partner -- on the educational front, which is the Federal Reserve Bank, because they have money, and we don't. So we're very happy to work with them.

We've had a productive and challenging first half of 2016, and I think the second half promises to be equally challenging. Thank you very much.

ADAMS:

Thank you, Richard. At this time, I would like to open it up to any new business. Does anyone have anything? If there are no other comments, then I want to wish everyone a nice summer, and thank you all for attending today's meeting. And I will entertain a motion to adjourn.

F:

So moved.

ADAMS:

Adjourned. Thank you all so much.

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.