ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE RECORDS OF CONGRESS
MEETING # 56
FRIDAY, JUNE 21, 2019
10:00 a.m.
385 RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING

The meeting began at 10:00 a.m., in 385 Russell Senate Office Building, Hon. Julie Adams [Secretary of the Senate] presiding.

Members of the Committee Present: Julie E. Adams, Secretary, U.S. Senate; Cheryl L. Johnson, Clerk, U.S. House of Representatives; David S. Ferriero, Archivist of the United States; Betty K. Koed, Historian, U.S. Senate; Matthew Wasniewski, Historian, U.S. House of Representatives; Denise Hibay, Astor Director for Collections and Research Services at the New York Public Library; Danna Bell, Educational Resource Specialist, Learning and Innovation Office at the Library of Congress; Deborah Skaggs Speth, Former Archivist, U.S. Senator Mitch McConnell and Elaine L. Chao Archives, University of Louisville McConnell Center; Sheryl B. Vogt, Director, Richard B. Russell Library for Political Research and Studies, University of Georgia Libraries; and Lori Schwartz, Hagel Archivist, Dr. C.C. and Mabel L. Criss Library, University of Nebraska-Omaha.

Also Present: Micah Cheatham, Chief of Management and Administration, National Archives and Records Administration; Richard Hunt, Director, Center for Legislative Archives, National Archives and Records Administration; Karen Paul, Archivist, U.S. Senate; Elisabeth Butler, Deputy Archivist, U.S. Senate; Heather Bourk, Archivist, U.S. House of Representatives; and Danielle Emerling, Congressional and Political Papers Archivist at West Virginia University.

<u>Julie Adams</u>:

The 56th meeting of the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress will come to

order. Good morning.   I'll start things off by welcoming Cheryl Johnson, the 36th individual to

serve as Clerk of the House of Representatives, to her first Advisory Committee on the Records

of Congress. I've enjoyed working with Cheryl the last six months on a number of things where

our offices intersect, and while we may not see each other every week, when the House and

Senate are in session I feel like she and I are legislative pen pals. It was also fun for me to learn that we are both alumni of the University of Iowa. (laughter) That may be the first for the Clerk and the Secretary.

It's also great to see David Ferriero, the tenth Archivist of the United States. A warm welcome to newly-appointed members: Denise Hibay, Astor Director for Collections and Research Services at the New York Public Library; and Danna Bell, Educational Resource Specialist, Learning and Innovation Office at the Library of Congress. Welcome, too, to our returning appointees: Deborah Skaggs Speth, former Archivist at the U.S. Senator Mitch McConnell and Elaine L. Chao Archives; Sheryl Vogt, Director of the Richard B. Russell Library for Political Research and Studies; and Lori Schwartz, the Hagel Archivist at the Dr. C.C. and Mabel L. Criss Library at the University of Nebraska, Omaha. Finally, welcome to all who have joined us in the Russell Senate Office Building for today's meeting.

During the past six months we have been busy archiving records of the 115th Congress. Karen Paul will be sharing information about that today and offering records management guidance to new Senators and their staff. Also, we've been monitoring progress on the renovation of Building A space at GPO. I toured Building A just this last Wednesday and am pleased to report that the punch list items that must be resolved before anything can be moved into this space in Building A seem to be narrowing as we speak. I appreciate the commitment I received from both GPO and NARA that they will give these items their utmost focus and attention, and will provide a timeline for utilization of this space that ensures humidity and temperature controls are in place and working appropriately. I look forward to hearing Richard's report for the latest updates.

Since we last met in December, the Senate Historical Office launched its two-year commemoration of the centennial of the Women's Suffrage Amendment with a series of special talks, tours, and website exhibits. Historian Betty Koed kicked off the series in March with a brown bag lunch talk titled "Women of the Senate." She explored the important role women have played throughout Senate history, as observers, reporters, lobbyists, activists, employees,

and Senators, demonstrating how women have influenced the Senate and how Senate women have changed society.

In April, to celebrate Congress week, Congressional archivists and historians from the Senate, the House, and the Library of Congress hosted a special event to discuss how they used the rich trove of primary sources at Congressional archives to research, frame, and enrich the suffrage centennial projects. And during the first week of June, 100 years after the Senate passed the 19th Amendment, Associate Historian Kate Scott offered a brown bag lunch to tell the story of the more than 40 years of proposals and rejections, protests, and intense lobbying and skilled political maneuvering that led up to the Senate's passage of the Susan B. Anthony Amendment on June 4th, 1919. Each of these events offered to staff and visitors highlighted the importance of Congressional archives. I was fortunate enough to be able to attend all of these wonderful events the last four months, and I appreciate all the staff in my office for their very hard work. They have done a tremendous job researching, writing, planning, and presenting for all of these great talks.

Since all of you in attendance may not have been as fortunate as I have been to attend all of these events, the Senate Historians and Archivists put all of this material into a new online feature, "The Senate and Women's Fight for the Vote," which debuted on Senate.gov on June 4th, so please check it out. It is a great online feature, and it includes a collection of short essays, a timeline, historic images, and a wonderful array of primary source material that will prove especially useful to teachers and students.

Particularly valuable in telling the Senate side of the suffrage story were petitions and committee records preserved at the Center for Legislative Archives, and the personal papers of Senators of the era. One example is William Borah of Idaho, whose papers are preserved in the Manuscript Division at the Library of Congress. This collection, one of many delved into by the Senate Historians, included constituent correspondence that helped to fill in the blanks left by official Senate records. Having been someone who at one point opened up constituent correspondence, you realize the importance of it. (laughter) Projects like these help us to fulfill our goals of civic education, and serve as a daily reminder to us, to Senate staff, and to all who attend our events or

view our online features and exhibits of the vital need to preserve, protect, and promote the use of records of Congress and its Members.

Turning to the business at hand for this meeting, I look forward to receiving and discussing your reports, and it is now my pleasure to introduce the Clerk of the House, Cheryl Johnson. Cheryl.

Cheryl Johnson:

Thank you. Thanks so much. I have spent the last six months as Clerk of the House, and prior to that I spent 13 years in Government Relations at the Smithsonian, or as Chief of Staff at the National Museum of African American History and Culture, so I have certainly developed an appreciation for all that you do to preserve our historic records. I'd like to take just a few minutes to brief you on our efforts in the House Archives Department since the last meeting.

The beginning of Congress is traditionally an ideal time for outreach to Members and committees, particularly at the outset of a transitional Congress. What we have begun in the Clerk's Archives Division is to reach out to Members and offer to their committee clerks records management and archiving assistance. Associate Archivist Alison Trulock participated in a new briefing for committee clerks that highlighted archiving requirements for committees and offered advice on records management. The briefing was well-received by staff, and it's anticipated that it will become a regular part of outreach by the Clerk's Office.

Archive staff also contacted new Members to schedule consultation on best practices for managing office records, and preservation of these records to document their Congressional service. The intent is to let Members know that archiving really begins day one in Congress, and not when you're just about to leave Congress. If you can begin records management on your first day it's certainly a lot easier 25 or 35 years later, or when you leave the House and go to the Senate. (laughter)

Archives staff have also actively participated in ArchivesSpace task force, meeting nearly monthly with Senate and Center counterparts to chart a path forward. You'll hear an update about the work of the task force in Richard's report. We've also contributed web content via the

Records Search blog, including recent blog posts on institutional perspective on the women's suffrage movement, a look at completion of the Transcontinental Railroad, 150 years ago last month, and a review of documents related to Speaker Joe Cannon, which were found in the Speaker's long-forgotten trunk which was discovered in the Cannon attic in the 1990s. I encourage you to take a look at the copies included in your meeting materials, and the many other blog posts on the site.

Working in collaboration with Senate and the National Archives staff, we also presented information on the use of petitions to advance women's suffrage at a Congress Week event marking the anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment in the House on May 21st, 2019.

I look forward to today's rich discussion and learning more about the best practices to further our goal of documenting the work of Congress, for the present and for generations to come. Thank you all very much.

Julie Adams:
Thank you, Cheryl. I will now recognize David Ferriero for his comments.

David Ferriero:
Thank you. And thanks, Julie, for hosting today's meeting, and welcome to Cheryl. It's nice to have you with us. And a special welcome to our two newly-appointed members. It's great to have the Library of Congress at the table. And in a spirit of full disclosure, I must tell you that Denise and I worked together for five years at the New York Public Library. (laughter) So it's great to have you at the table, also. Welcome back to those of you who have been with us for a while.

Our annual Congressional Open House, supported by AARP, last week was a great success. More than 400 attendees, many of them in the room today, got to wander the halls and enjoy the exhibits, and catch up with their colleagues after a hectic day on the Hill. It's become a successful event. I think this was the fourth time that we've done it, and look forward to doing it again next year. One of the exhibits that they got to see in a private setting is our newly-

opened "Rightfully Hers: American Women and the Vote Commemoration, the Passage of the 19th Amendment." Through original documents and clever interactives, the exhibit showcases the high points and the low points of the struggle for the right to vote. We were honored to have Speaker Pelosi with us to open the exhibit, and in my introduction of the Speaker I noted that her mother arrived in this country at the age of three, and by the time she reached voting age she actually could vote. If she had stayed in Italy she would have had to wait until 1945 to vote. I also learned in my research that her family emigrated from a little town in southern Italy, about 60 miles from where my own family emigrated, so it was a nice connection.

A wonderful feature of this exhibit is an opportunity at the very end of the exhibit to register to vote. We've made connections with the Secretaries of State around the country, and for those states that allow online registration you actually have an opportunity to vote, so we're doing our bit and getting people registered.

I'd like to say a few words about an important upcoming event. I like to say that we own the Fourth of July. If you're going to be in town, I invite you to join us on the Constitution Avenue steps of the National Archives for a dramatic reading of the Declaration of Independence. George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, John and Abigail Adams, Benjamin Franklin, John Hancock, and Revolutionary War hero Ned Hector will inspire the crowd with the words that launched our independence in 1776. Ten o'clock on the 4th, on the steps of Constitution Avenue, and it wraps up just as the parade starts right in front of you. And for the first 1,000 people who get there, you get a free 2019 commemorative T-shirt. (laughter)

And finally, I'd like to just say a few words and put on our agenda for a future meeting the National Commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The America 250 Commission has been established by Congress. I am representing the National Archives. The Library of Congress is represented, also. It's an opportunity for us to think collaboratively about activities that we might want to propose for this commemoration. So as we get more information, and the workings of the Commission start to develop opportunities for participation, I'd like to get it on our agenda. That's it.

Julie 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? Okay, hearing none, are there any corrections to the minutes from the last meeting? Okay, I would entertain a motion to approve.

F:

So moved.

Julie Adams:

A second?

M:

Second.

Julie Adams:

Okay, all those in favor.

All:

Aye.

Julie Adams:

Opposed? Okay, the minutes are approved. At this time I would like to recognize House Historian Matt Wasniewski.

Matt Wasniewski:

Thanks, Julie. Good morning. At each of your seats we placed copies of our latest publication, "Women Must Be Empowered: The U.S. House of Representatives and the 19th Amendment." My office produced this in collaboration with the Clerk's Office of Art and Archives and Office of Communications. The booklet traces the path of what would become the 19th Amendment through the House of Representatives, beginning shortly after the Civil War, and culminating on May 21st, 1919 with the House passage of the amendment at the opening of

the 66th Congress. A central figure in this is, of course, Jeannette Rankin, the first woman in Congress, who led the floor debate during initial House passage in January of 1918. And the quotation that we used for the title, "Women Must Be Empowered" is taken from Rankin's testimony in 1917 before the Senate Committee on Women's Suffrage. The booklet was incorporated into the Speaker's commemorative event in Statuary Hall on May 21st, 2019, to mark the centennial, and we're proud of it.

That publication on the suffrage booklet marks the end of a particularly busy year for our office. Since May of 2018, we have published a number of books and publications: "Asian and Pacific Islander Americans in Congress, 1900-2018"; a booklet titled "The People's House: A Guide to its History, Spaces, and Traditions," which we distributed at orientation and then at the opening of the 116th Congress; and an updated e-book version of "Black Americans in Congress," that brought it up through the 116th Congress, which we published in February. In addition, we published a 350-page compilation of oral histories that we conducted with Members of Congress who participate in the Congressional Baseball Game, and we captured their recollections of June 14th, 2017, when the Republican team was attacked on its practice field, and also of June 15th, when the annual game was played, the day after.

The publication of that 600-page volume, "Asian Pacific Americans," last May, and the e-book on African Americans, completed a Congressionally-mandated series on women and minorities in Congress that, in sum, took 16 years to produce four print volumes, accompanying web exhibitions, and e-books. In total, that series profiled roughly 650 former and current Members of Congress.

In recognition of that work, this past spring our colleagues in the Society for History in the Federal Government awarded the office its 2019 Group Member Award for production of the entire series. It was truly a group effort, one that would not have been possible without our partners in the Clerk's Office of Art and Archives, and the Communications Office, which did the design work for all the publications. We were pleased with the award as that was a very nice capstone to the end of the project.

In conclusion, I look forward to updating the committee in the future about some new projects that we've initiated, including an oral history series that will be focusing on African American Members of Congress and staff. We've already begun conducting interviews, and the project is going to be debuted to coincide with the commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the first African American to serve in the House, Joseph Rainey of South Carolina. That anniversary is coming in December of 2020. And to complement that project, we'll also be producing another booklet that'll highlight Rainey's career, and that of the other roughly two dozen African American men who joined him in the House in the nineteenth century. It will also touch on ratification of the 15th Amendment, because that sesquicentennial is next year, as well. So, thank you for the time.

<u>Julie Adams</u>:

Thank you, Matt. I would now like to recognize Betty Koed, Senate Historian.

<u>Betty Koed</u>:

Thank you, Julie. To follow up on Julie's remarks about our suffrage efforts, we are continuing with our "Women of the Senate" oral history project, which I've mentioned before, and so far we've interviewed almost every former female Senator. There's only one or two we're missing at this point, as well as a number of top female staff from committees and Members' offices in the past. We now have a scope of interviews that takes us as far back as the 1960s. It's been a really terrific project. People have been very cooperative and forthcoming in their interviews. We are working on now transcribing all those interviews, (laughs) which is the hardest part of the job.

As we continue with interviews, we are looking forward now to 2020, because part of our commemoration of the women's suffrage amendment is that in August of 2020 the anniversary of ratification is our target date to launch our online special feature for women of the Senate, including video excerpts and audio excerpts for many of these interviews that we've been recording.

When I joined the office in 1998, we had a large oral history project that included an interview with only one woman, so we had dozens of men and one woman. Through the years we've made an attempt to include female voices and diversify the project. This was a large effort on our part, to bring the voice of women Senators and staff members into the collection, and it's been a terrific project.

There are two things I want to report on today. One is our ongoing efforts to reorganize the historical content on Senate.gov. Dan Holt mentioned at our last meeting that we had started the process. Over the last 20 years, we've put nearly 10,000 pages of historical material onto Senate.gov, and we've adapted that material to six different designs of the website. Each new design in the last couple of years has been used as an opportunity to enhance the historical content, rethink it, rethink its purpose, rethink its organization, and to bring it forward in a new way that's going to be much more engaging and more user-friendly to our visitors.

We have three main goals for this project. One is to just bring order to the chaos. (laughter) I often get questions from people -- I'm sure Matt gets this question all the time too -- of, "If you could recommend one good book about the Senate, what would it be?" (laughter) Well, of course, that's an impossible question to answer, because there is no one book that covers Senate history. It's a diverse institution. It's been around for 230 years. So I always have to say, "Well, if you're interested in the Civil War, look at this. If you want twentieth century, look at that." But I always encourage them to also go to the Senate website and click on "Art and History." Now, when they get there however, they're met by a conglomeration of information in different sections and categories. As we move forward with the redesign, we're integrating everything together with the mind that we'll be able to present a comprehensive overview of all of the years of Senate history in a way that pulls on all the rich resources that we've put onto the site.

At the heart of it will be a chronology that is going to be interactive. This will allow people to look at a specific issue that they're really interested in, so if for instance, they access the site and want to know about Charles Sumner, they can go to that part of the timeline. Or, if they want to take a journey through time in Senate history, they'll be able to do that as well. That's a big

improvement for us, because we haven't been able to make these links in the past. All will be enhanced by contextual essays that will carry them through different eras of Senate history, bringing in institutional development and the background they need to understand the story that is being presented.

All of the current information we have, our contextual institutional essays, our oral histories, our statistical information, our Senate stories will be included and integrated. It's a very exciting step forward. It's the first chance in the last 20 years that we've had to seriously rethink the way that we present historical information online. Working with the web technology team and others under the Secretary of the Senate's Office, we're thinking creatively and innovatively. I'm delighted at the progress we are making. I look forward to reporting on our progress in the future.

So if our first goal is to reorganize the website, and the second is to present a comprehensive history of the Senate, the third goal is promoting civic education. What we do is with a mind towards bringing information to the public, to students, to teachers, to foreign visitors, to help them better understand the government and how it works. In the Historical Office, we've always been very good at producing content. For instance, I'm extremely proud of our new suffrage site. I think we did a great job. Kate Scott in particular was wonderful in bringing that together. What we're not so good at once it's created is promoting it. How do we make sure teachers find it? How do we bring it to students? I am actively reaching out to educators and to people who work with teachers and students, to try to find ways that we can make sure that the information gets to them. We want them to know about the rich resources that we have available for them. This is a project for us that you'll be hearing about more in the future.

The other one I want to talk about is our in-development archival training program. I have just a few slides. This is a project that Karen Paul, Alison White and Elizabeth Butler have been working very hard on in the last year. We've been working with the Office of Training and Development in the Senate. This is the first of a series of training modules that we have in mind. We have focused a lot of attention on this first one to set the template and set the process in place in order to create more modules in the future. This introductory module is designed

specifically for new Senate staff who come in and know virtually nothing about Senate archiving. It can also be used as a refresher for Senate staff who want a training refresher. When you come to the site, you'll get a definition of what Senate records are. It's an animated program that takes you through a series of scenarios, quizzes and information pages to help Senate staffers to understand what his or her responsibility is, what type of records they are, and where and how they should be preserved. Slide here...

There are three main goals for this project. The first is to inform Senate staff that everybody has archival responsibilities. Secondly it is designed to help staff distinguish the various kinds of Senate records.

This first introductory module is designed to help staff understand the difference between a committee record and a Senator's record. That is the main point that we are teaching so that they understand where those records need to be archived. And finally, we hope to launch staff on a road to proper selection of records, proper identification of records, and to be invested in the archiving preservation process.

As you go through it, you first get an introduction that talks about the definition of records, and then you go through a series of decision-making scenarios like this one, where we'll say, "Suppose you're presented with this type of record. What would you do? Would it be a Senator's record? Would it be a committee record?" They have to make a choice among those. If they choose the right record -- in this case, a Senator's record -- they get the correct message. If it's not the right message, they'll get the incorrect message, which also reinforces the information they need to make that decision, and they're asked to try again.

It's a pretty standard quiz process. There's also an opportunity as you go through various parts of the training where you can click on a button that says "Ask the Expert." So if you want more information you can go to that, and there you'll get more in-depth information about that kind of record or that kind of decision that's being made.

It also has a process where you can go through and see how the different types of records are part of your daily activities. This slide talks about the examples of Senate records, Senators' records. It also addresses activity records, legislative work, and constituent services. Throughout the training there's a voiceover that helps explain the process, and to explain what they're being taught in this particular slide. At the end, there's an important module about who saves records, and that goes back to our first goal, that everybody has an archival responsibility. By the time they get to the end of the program, they have a good sense of what's a Senator's record and what's a committee record, most importantly, but they also have a good sense of the fact that everybody has a role to play in this. We really emphasize that preserving Senate records of any kind is a team effort, and it happens from the Senators all the way down to the newest employee.

We are in the final stages of this first program, and hoping that it will be ready for preview by the Secretary of the Senate and then the Rules Committee this summer. Once it is approved it will go onto Webster, which is our intranet site, and that's where we can guide staff to take the quiz. It also has a feature that gives us the capability to track how many people have completed the course. We'll have an idea how many people per month take the course which gives us information to know how to promote it to chief clerks and staff directors, for instance. If for example, a lot of people take it during the August recess, that's a good time for us to promote it.

Once we have the introduction module ready, we're going to move on to more advanced modules which will be geared toward specific Senate staff such as staff directors; chief clerks; and systems administrators. Karen has been working very hard on this project over the last year, and with her team and with the Training and Development people we're hoping by the time we get to our next meeting in December this program will be up and running, and we'll be able to show it to you in its full animated stage. Thank you, Julie.

David Ferriero:
Can I respond to your query about what to do with the content? It seems like there's some territory here that we might explore in some kind of a subgroup or something. We're all in the business of creating content, and at NARA have this wonderful online portal called DocsTeach,

where we have lesson plans, etc. The Library of Congress has great content, also a network of teachers. It seems to me we should be able to work together.

Betty Koed:

I agree.

David Ferriero:

-- think about this holistically.

Betty Koed:

I agree. One of the things I've been talking about lately, and, in fact, just yesterday had a meeting with my assistant and Deputy Historian about this, is that the Center for Legislative Archives, for instance, has a wonderful page of educational resources. I had Dan Holt, who is an expert on court history as well as Senate history, looking at some of the pages they have on the Judiciary Act and other lesson plans. We were talking about how we could form a partnership of some kind. Richard and I have had this conversation before. Since we have information on the Judiciary Act and so does NARA, we should make a link to each other's sites. We could also have information that describes what is on the Archives' website. So rather than us trying to reinvent the wheel and do the things the Archives has done already, we could partner and bring our resources together to help promote civic education collectively. It's something we would have to discuss, but it's certainly an idea that's worth pursuing.

Deborah Skaggs Speth:

Betty?

Betty Koed:

Yes.

Deborah Skaggs Speth:

I have a question about the web reorganization. You mentioned that how content is organized on a website is a big question for being able to find information quickly, and to be able to use it. I

am wondering what you've learned from this process that would help others when it's time to reorganize, and how did you decide when it was time to do that?

Betty Koed:

The first lesson I learned a while ago is more is not necessarily better. (laughs) When I was hired in 1998 there were five pages of history material on the Senate website. I mean, it was virtually in its infancy. Dick Baker was Historian at that time, and he asked me to populate the site. I started creating content that I pulled from existing content we had in the office and converted it to a webpage. A lot of that material is still there. We've gone back through the years and revised and updated the material. What we're learning now, as we look back, particularly at things we've done over the last five years, rather than just putting lots of little bits and pieces up we've worked hard to take a major chunk of Senate history, like the Senate of the Civil War era, and we delved into that and created a nice, unified, comprehensive site about what was happening in the Senate during the Civil War years. And by making these larger features part of this process, I think it makes it so much more user-friendly, because it's more obvious when you are trying to find information. You don't get lost in the little details of this page and that page.

I think one of the big lessons that we're learning from this whole process is that you have to stop yourself from thinking, "Oh, we haven't covered this; let's put a page up," which is what we used to do, but rather to think in a much more organized manner, so that you're looking for some sort of overall structure that's going to guide people from place to place to place.

How you do that is a big challenge. We've had many conversations about this over the last couple of years while working with our webmasters team and have experimented with different formats, but we've come back to the fact that for history, one of the most useful tools is a timeline or a chronology of some sort. I was resistant to that in the beginning, but the team kept coming back to me with this, and I looked at it and said that if I'm coming in as a researcher who knows nothing about Senate history and wants to know about a particular era, this is the best way to present the material. A timeline is broad enough that people have some sort of point of recognition. Whereas now, if a researcher comes to the site they see a collection of 350 short stories. They're wonderful stories, but there's nothing there that points to "Go here to learn

about this person or this era." It's just a collection of stories and I think it's overwhelming. It's overwhelming for me, on some days, (laughter) so I can only imagine what it would be for the researchers. It's an ongoing conversation of how to make it work within the resources that we have. People think we have unlimited resources on Capitol Hill, but we don't.

Ask me that question in a year I will have a much more concise answer, because we'll be on the other side of it, (laughter) rather than stuck in the middle of it the way we are now.

Oh, yes, thank you, Julie. We have one other thing we want to report on, and I'm going to call on our Photo Historian, Heather Moore, for this, because we are also in the process of looking into a digital assets management program. So I'll call Heather up and ask her to take it from there. Thank you, Julie.

<u>Heather Moore</u>:

Good morning. I've been asked to tell you a little bit about our project to explore our Digital Asset Management System for the Senate Historical Office. Last year Betty, Alison White and I began looking into Digital Asset Management Systems, or DAMS, for the Historical Office. We had the assistance of the Secretary of the Senate's Office of Web Technology and Information Systems. It was a fascinating process as we searched for a system to meet our digital asset management needs. This was a great opportunity for us to take stock of our digital assets, including digital images and oral history records, and to consider how a DAM could help us catalogue and access these assets for the benefit of our office.

It has been a yearlong process, but, briefly, the steps that we took in this process are: first, we came up with our DAM requirements. This was a preliminary document based on our initial thoughts in the areas of access, fields, search capability, asset management, and technical and storage needs. Then we came up with narrative use cases. These were full-sentence narratives describing how we would use the DAM in certain scenarios. For example, I'm looking for an image of Senator Glenn from 1974 that is in the Senate Historical Office's collection. I need to conduct an advanced search where I can specify which fields are searched. It involved coming

up with different scenarios of searching, storage, or exporting and putting it in a useful narrative format.

We also conducted user interviews with Senate Historical Office staff to inform us how the historians and the archivists thought that they would prefer to use a DAM system.

We then developed an inventory, and descriptive scenarios, so we took full inventory of our digital assets and in some cases, our analog assets, such as prints and film that we intended to digitize. We estimated the volume of the digital files, and included notes on what metadata existed for them.

We then updated our DAM requirements, and came up with decision criteria. So based on the steps above, we updated our requirements for the DAM, and we used these requirements to create decision criteria that we would then use to evaluate potential DAM systems. We created metadata fields and a cataloguing guide. We developed these fields for cataloguing images, and then separate fields for cataloguing other digital assets, such as oral history material, etc., cross-walked them to Dublin Core and VRA Core, and created a cataloguing guide so that we could consistently use these fields to catalog our assets. We then created a list of the possible digital asset management systems that we would consider, and we worked with the vendors to demo several of the products. Based on those demos, we ranked the system using our decision criteria. Finally, we did some system trials, we narrowed down our list of potential DAM systems, and arranged for 30-day trials of the finalists.

Now we're in the system selection and acquisition stage. We're in the process of making our final selection and getting approval to attain and acquire that system, and hopefully we will have a system in place by the end of the year. Thank you.

Julie Adams:
Thank you, Heather. It is now an opportunity to get some member reports from the field, so I don't -- we don't have a particular order for this, so we can go around the table or take it as you please.

Deborah Skaggs Speth:

Mine will be brief, so...

Julie Adams:

Okay, very good.

Deborah Skaggs Speth:

Since I retired in January 2018, I've stayed involved with the McConnell Center at the University of Louisville in several ways. I am working with the 40 students that are on scholarships as part of the McConnell Scholarships. In October I continued my work with professional development for the students, and offered a résumé session, and then reviewed and helped them with their résumés. That was well-attended, and took quite a bit of work to go through their résumés because of the work needed on them. (laughter) In early spring, I participated in interviewing high school seniors. There were 30 student finalists from Kentucky high schools who were competing for ten scholarships. I, along with other professors at the University and other people that are part of the McConnell Center, conducted those interviews. In August, I am going to attend the annual retreat of the students and the staff, which I used to participate in, and they've asked me to come back and go on the three-day retreat. I'm going to offer two sessions, like I used to, on résumés, and also developing curriculum vitae for those students that are headed to professional schools, like law schools. Several of them already go to law school.

They, the students have also asked that I continue to do my dining etiquette (laughter) workshop, where I take a full set of a place setting and go through everything from when you sit down to what do you do at the end of the meal. I then take questions, which are very interesting. But then what happens is that later during the retreat, no one wants to eat with me. (laughter)
So that's what I'm up to, continuing to be involved.

Sheryl Vogt:

All right. That crackling sounded almost like my voice.   I will say that my report may be briefer than Deborah's, or it may be longer, if my voice holds. I wanted to talk with you a little bit about our programming, and some of our new acquisition projects at the Russell Library in Athens, Georgia. We had our fifth annual school lunch challenge this year in March. We started this program five years ago to honor Senator Russell's work as the father of the school lunch program, which he started in 1946, and we are working with the Clark County School District to hold this program each year. There's a lot of collaboration in the community on this, bringing out people who are involved in the latest ways to do gardening and communities, and also projects in schools where this time we had a middle school group that were learning to be chefs so they did demonstrations of cooking.

Our two champions from last year from the community, which is one of our restaurants and also the Clark County School District science teachers, were doing a cookoff. Everyone there gets to judge, but there's a panel of special student judges, and whoever wins, then their menu will be part of the following year's school lunch program. It's very well-attended. This year we had 224 people there. This is on a Saturday morning. A lot of families come out, so it's very exciting. It's really interesting to me that we've been able to sustain the excitement for this program for five years and are still getting such a good turnout, so we're very pleased with that.

Our Congress Week program, as the Association of Centers for the Study of Congress designed Congress Week, was to last only for a week. We've extended that to a month. We bring in a major speaker to talk on some aspect of Congress, and then we also have a series of lunch-and-learns over a four-week period, bringing in our political science colleagues to talk about the responsibilities and functions of Congress.   Two of their topics this year -- usually it's timely topics -- talked about impeachment and about immigration. Our guest speaker this year was Dr. Heather Cox Richardson, and she spoke about the first government shutdown of 1879, a cautionary tale. It was well-attended.

Two major collections were acquisitioned this past year. One was the Moore's Ford Memorial Committee. Moore's Ford was the site of the last lynching in George, which was in the late 1940s. Two African American couples were killed in that area, and there's been a lot of truth

and reconciliation coming out of recognition of that project. The person leading the initial Moore's Ford Memorial Committee was Richard Rusk, who is the youngest son of Secretary of State Dean Rusk. Mr. Rusk, as you may know, is very much a part of our community and university faculty in his retirement. Rich transferred -- when the Committee became defunct -- the papers to us, along with $28,000 that they had raised for student scholarships that Moore's Ford raised.

We have also received the papers of the National Coalition for Burned Churches. This was started in the early 1990s, during the Clinton administration, because there had been a lot of burned churches, I believe mainly in South Carolina, so there was an effort in the community to find out what was going on, what was causing this, and who was behind it. The main states involved -- South Carolina, Georgia, Arkansas, Tennessee, and Missouri -- had a common mission to help congregations recover and rebuild, and also to build a database that could be compared to try to find where these hate crimes were coming from. The entire collection has been turned over to the Russell Library.

We are now taking the money for the scholarships to hire student assistants to help work in these collections, and related collections like this that we have, so we're very excited about that. Also, our oral history program just received a $10,000 seed grant from the Whiting Foundation to work in our local African American community in Athens to do oral history. It's a model program to actually train people in the community to do oral histories onsite in the community. There's an element of trust needed to get people to come out and participate in these oral histories. We have a very active black community in business and other endeavors, and also a large music community. Hip-hop is really big in Athens. Hip-hop is very political, so we're interested to see what we will get in terms of documentation and oral histories.

We've just started working with the Georgia Latino community to start a public policy documentation project. The Georgia Association of Latino Elected Officials will be working with us to partner and to help us identify people in the community, to help us build trust in the community. So we're very excited about that, and I hope to tell you more about that later. Thank you.

Denise Hibay:

Good morning, everyone, and thank you, and it's a pleasure and honor to be here this morning, and I'm very happy to see David again after these few years. It's been very eye-opening to read the committee briefings, and to hear what you've been discussing today. All of it resonates with me as related to the challenges and activities we're facing at the New York Public Library, from processing of archives to storage, both physical and digital, to website redesign, and to civics literacy, which is a long-term goal of mine to do more of at the New York Public Library. This feels like everything's coming together, and hopefully we can learn from each other. Even the DAM report that Heather just gave, I would like to speak to you afterwards about that.

But I'd like to talk very briefly today about a major initiative that has been going on at the New York Public Libraries since 2013, and that is our preservation of audio and moving image collections, which we refer to as AMI. We have been able to advance the preservation of this material, especially the unique AMI materials that we have, and those materials that were at risk because of obsolescence and format fragility.

This initiative couldn't have been done or advanced without the generous support of the Mellon Foundation, and also the Carnegie Corporation. The Mellon Foundation supported taking an inventory of all of our AMI materials -- noncommercial materials -- and we discovered there were over 227,000 rare, unique items that were at risk. So we started digitizing those with an outside vendor.

At the same time, we understood that our digital storage infrastructure was inadequate, so with the funding from the Carnegie Corporation, we have been working on that. Some of you will understand one of the challenges is that we've been doing mass digitization, but are not providing access to those materials because they're not fully catalogued. Our digital team -- because it now takes truly a village to work on this -- real experts in web design, real digital experts in development, are trying to get us connections to this material. The question is how can we release the information, even to staff, more quickly, even though it hasn't been fully

digitized or fully processed? With inventory information, perhaps we can at least provide some form of access.

The Carnegie grant is allowing us to create a new staff interface where staff are able to actually see these items once they've been digitized, but not catalogued in the repository. They can get quick access, and can give a link for people to look at it onsite at one of our libraries. This has been a breakthrough moment for us even though it's not yet complete.

We've also updated our digital storage, so by the end of this calendar year we hope to increase from 3 petabytes to 7.5 petabytes, with plans to grow up to 11 petabytes in the next five years. The cost for growing storage is one of the biggest challenges we're facing. We've also taken this opportunity to improve our digital viewing experience, especially around accessibility issues, so we've made some basic upgrades to be more ADA-compliant.

Some quick lessons we have learned is that projects like these span not just the content specialists, the archivists, and the research staff, but our digital team, our IT team, and that we're stronger for having to work together. It wasn't always easy sometimes. We had a steering group which helped see us through all of this. We're continuing to experiment with access and how we can get these materials in front of our patrons as quickly as possible. Thank you.

David Ferriero:
So that 300,000 that you've identified, is that across the research libraries?

Denise Hibay:
Yes, across the research libraries.

David Ferriero:
And any branch library content?

Denise Hibay:

No branch library content at this point, although we did start an oral history project in the branches, and those tapes were deposited into the research library, so any activity that they're doing comes in to us.   I have to say that the breadth of the content is just staggering. We have one of the largest and most important collections of AMI in the world because we have two very specialized libraries, the Performing Arts Library and the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture. We have everything from rare dance performances, early jazz improv sessions,and hip-hop to interviews with a wide variety of individuals: black writers -- we found in our Maya Angelou archive some interviews that she had given -- all of this unique, not commercially-produced -- to interviews with gay archivists. These will soon be able to be seen, especially in relation to an exhibit we have on our agenda about the fiftieth anniversary of the Stonewall uprising. It's quite exciting.

We continue to acquire new collections that are mixed media. This is one of the biggest challenges. We just acquired the Oliver Sacks archive which has both textual and digital records. This is the new normal.

Lori Schwartz:

Hello. I lead the U.S. Senator Chuck Hagel Archives at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Hagel is an alum. My report will briefly cover what we're doing with processing, exhibits, and a bit of programming.

I am lucky to have a team working on the Hagel Archives. I have a staff assistant, I have a postgrad fellow who's on a six-month term, and I have three undergrad students. We work on different series, according to our experience and capacity. About half of the collection is open at this point; we're opening as we finish processing. Most recently we opened his personal papers and his campaign records, which are the most detailed set of campaign records I've seen. I'm currently processing agricultural legislative material, learning all sorts of things about commodity subsidies in livestock, for example. (laughter) And I'm also prepping an exhibit on climate and environmental concerns in Nebraska, particularly because of the recent and ongoing extensive flooding in Nebraska and Iowa, and also Nebraska's history with drought.

I just took down an exhibit, to give you an idea of the variety that we do, where I asked 30 questions on the current citizenship test and then answered them using Hagel material. I would love to do more of those kind of programs, and hope to in the future.

My students are processing constituent mail arranging it by topic to a very detailed extent. This brings challenges, I've found, especially in the last few years, particularly for my students who are feeling deeply affected by the material that they're reading in the mail, particularly for the more controversial topics. And I've supervised students doing this task for about 15 years. The last couple of years the students seem to be affected more. For example, I have a student working on immigration mail right now, and he has a deeply personal connection to the immigrant experience. I try to stay mindful of that as I prep students to work on the material, lay the groundwork for what they're going to see, and give them choices. And so that's been good so far. We have other challenges, of course, such as making accessible our electronic records, but I wanted to highlight this one.

And finally, we're lucky that Senator Hagel remains a really engaged donor. I can send him questions. He visits the archives. He comes to campus. He's very engaged with the students. He loves talking to the students. He loves history, so we have a great time. And he's also done a few things at UNO that have really broadened the student body and started discussions. He started the Global Leadership Forum a few months ago -- he brought Joe Biden in to talk at that -- and that will be an ongoing activity. It was just for undergraduates, and faculty and staff couldn't get in. There were a few VIPs that got in, (laughs) but otherwise it was just undergraduates, and it was in a more intimate auditorium on campus.

We had a popup exhibit at that event and talked with everyone that came through the line to attend. It is good for local outreach. Senator Hagel has also started a forum that we help with by hosting media and while conducting another popup exhibit in the fall that's focused on high school juniors. Approximately 300 juniors come in from around the metro region, they listen to him talk, and then have breakout sessions taught by professors who propose civics-related topics. That's also been well received. This gives you an idea about what's going on at the Hagel Archives.

<u>Danna Bell</u>:

Good morning. First, thank you very much. I am absolutely thrilled and honored to be serving on this committee. Unlike my colleagues, I'm not working with a specific collection. I work with teachers and help teachers use primary sources. I do have an archival background. I am a past president of the Society of American Archivists, and also a past chair of Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives, so I know what my colleagues are going through, and the adventures that they're working with. But my heart has always been in reference, and I'm thrilled to be working with teachers.

One of the things that Dr. Hayden is focusing on during her tenure is making the library a more user-centered and user-focused place. Our unit is directly in the center of that goal. Originally we worked primarily with teachers, and now we've been merged with our young readers center so that we're going to be working not just with teachers but with families, and thinking about ways to bring our resources to this wider audience.

What I want to do in the few minutes that I have is talk about a few of the projects that we're working on, and a little bit about the Learning and Innovation Office. One of the things that we do is work with our *Teaching with Primary Sources* partners. *Teaching with Primary Sources* is a Congressionally-funded project where we're given a certain amount of grant funding, and we select partners around the country and train them to teach using primary sources to teachers, using our activities and our methods. We have 27 partners right now. We've just gone through a funding process to give some people money for the next two years, and they're doing a variety of different topics.

We also work with the National Council of Music Educators, and they're looking at ways not just of teaching music with primary sources, but also teaching music and other subjects together using primary sources. We work with groups that are trying to reach disadvantaged audiences, and groups that are working to reach those that have disabilities. It's a variety. It's an adventure. It's very interesting.

In addition, we have three regional partners who are given additional funding to give smaller regional grants to agencies that are not partners within the Library of Congress Teaching with Primary Sources program, so that they can develop programming for workshops and curriculum for other states. We've been able to reach all 50 states and a couple of the territories. This allows us to bring the idea of primary sources to a wider and larger audience, and that is an amazing experience.

Another thing that we've received Congressional funding for is the creation of civics apps. We have seven partners right now that are creating apps studying civics, bringing primary sources to teachers so that they can better effectively teach civics, or focusing on other topics. For example, we have the papers of Rosa Parks online, and one of the partners found a Mother's Day card that Rosa Parks sent to her mother. That particular civics app's partner works with K-5, and teachers around the United States have to teach holidays, so they're using that Mother's Day card to talk about Mother's Day, about the development of the holiday, and about why we select cards, why there are certain symbols and things on those different cards. It's, again, wonderful, amazing, adventurous.

This week we're hosting our first meeting of our Summer Teacher Institutes. To go along with the fact that ALA is in town this week, we have school librarians, school media specialists, 31 of them, currently in one of our rooms working their hearts out. (laughter) We do four Summer Teacher Institutes a year. This one's only two and a half days; most of them are a week long. It provides teachers the opportunity to use our primary sources to create a lesson that they will bring back to their school district and teach, as well as doing professional development within their school district, again, to expand the idea of primary sources and how you teach and use primary sources. We've had amazing experiences with those teachers. In addition to having the week here, they come back for a webinar in December where they're able to share what they've learned, talk about their activities, what has succeeded and what has failed, and have support. In addition, we have a Teaching with Primary Sources network that brings all the teachers that we work with online and allows us to talk together, share ideas, and look at a variety of different resources. I was thinking as I was listening about the ways to share those materials, getting that

material on the network would be another way of getting those resources out into the educational community.

Finally, I want to talk about our Teacher-in-Residence program. Each year we bring in a teacher-in-residence for a year. It's a teacher in the field, and it allows us to learn about what's happening in the field, what teachers are dealing with, and what they are experiencing in the classroom. For the last few years we've had themed teachers-in-residence, and this year's teacher-in-residence is going to be a civics teacher. We've selected a civics teacher from Washington State who will be joining us in August for the academic year, and we're looking forward to working with her, and I might, if it's okay, sneak her into the December meeting so that she can hear about what's going on and hopefully bring that back and create materials. The teacher-in-residence does travel around the United States, so that's another way of sharing materials.

Last but not least, outside of this, one thing you may want to think about is sharing your materials with National History Day. Next year's theme is "Breaking Barriers," and they're always looking for primary sources and other resources to share with teachers around the country. This year, they worked with over 500,000 students around the world, not just the United States. Their competition was just a couple of weeks ago at the University of Maryland. Over 3,000 engaged, enthusiastic materials -- teachers and students with fascinating, fascinating topics, and I hope that there's a way to engage with that program. If you have questions for me, I look forward to answering them or talking to you further. Thank you.

Julie Adams:

Thank you all. It's always really interesting to hear what you all are working on. I know that it's a highlight of the meeting for me. Next up, we have Danielle Emerling here with the Congressional and Political Papers, Archivist at West Virginia University. She's going to give us a special report on her America Contacts Congress project. Thank you.

Danielle Emerling:

You're welcome. Good morning. Can everyone hear me?   It's a pleasure to be here, and thank you to Betty and Alison for inviting me. Before I start talking about the project, I'll give you a little bit of context. I work in a repository that has, among other things, about 150 years of Congressional collections, from Republicans and Democrats, and even a few unconditional Union Party members, which, (laughter) of course, date back to the founding of West Virginia in 1863 during the Civil War. But among those papers, in particular in the twentieth century collections, are these really rich and special materials that document the vital relationship between Members of Congress and their constituents.

In most of those collections, constituent correspondence is voluminous paper files. But as you know, that kind of correspondence began to change in the 1990s. As communications methods changed and the volume increased, Congressional offices began to adopt electronic correspondence management systems. So collecting repositories then began receiving exported data, and repositories have been really stymied by the size and complexity of the data, as well as the sensitive nature of it. Repositories have been unable, in most cases, to open the data files, much less manage preservation or access to them.

So the project I've been working on over the last year grew out of a 2017 report from the Society of American Archivists Congressional Papers Section that said without a concerted effort by the Congressional archival community these important historical resources are in danger of disappearing. It's a pretty bleak assessment. But beginning in 2018, with an expert advisory board and support from the Lyrasis Catalyst Fund, I led a feasibility study to begin solving this problem. I'm going to focus on three broad takeaways from that study.

First, as many of you have kind of alluded to in your reports, archivists at collecting repositories are time and resource constrained, and don't necessarily have the technical support they need to provide access to datasets like these. At WVU Libraries, though, we have a couple of developers who worked on a tool that successfully opened the data from Senator Jay Rockefeller's office. What we wanted to find out, essentially was is this prototype tool on the right track? And can it be replicated at other repositories?   Through some focus groups with archivists, we found out that the tool that we developed is indeed unique. There's nothing out there like it. It's needed by

archivists and repositories, and it only needs some basic functionality. And what's important is that it integrates well with tools archivists already use to curate, preserve, and provide access to the data.

We also looked at some of the datasets themselves. Specifically, we looked at four datasets in three export formats, from three institutions. We looked at the Senate archive format, which has been around the longest; the House interchange standard; and the Senate CSS data interchange format, which is the newest. We found that datasets are in fact, massive. One set contained more than 5 million correspondence records, and another set we looked at had more than 16 million metadata records. As you might imagine, ingesting those records and searching through them takes considerable computing power and time.

We found that the flat file archive format dataset from the Senate is generally unproblematic, and the two sets that we looked at had little variation in the structure and the ways in which the office used the fields in the format, but for the Senate CSS data interchange format and the House interchange standard datasets, they were a bit more complex. They are relational databases, so with our tool that's going to require a bit more development, because it was built for the Senate archive format.

Finally, we looked at priority user groups, and I already mentioned the archivists, but we also interviewed researchers we grouped by their methods of research. We held individual interviews with those researchers and gave them a chance to talk about their experience with Congressional archives and what their methods are for using Congressional archives. And then we showed them some examples from the Senate archive format using the tool. I'd like to show you an example so you have a sense of what this tool looks like.

If you look at the screen, I know you cannot read this, but this is an example of a metadata file in the tool in the archive format, and what you see here are 32 fields, which I have redacted for this presentation, (laughs) but this is a fairly complete record. If I zoom in, you'll see there's a topic on top, which is health. In the in-document name fields and the out-document name fields, you see a file path and a link. When I click on the in-document, I have this lovely PDF that was scanned into the system by the staff with this very nice handwritten note from the constituent to

the Senator. Researchers were very excited about this. And then if I click on the out-document name, this is the response from the office, and you can see it's rendered in HTML.

Here is another example of a metadata record, but this one is a little bit less complete, and if I were to zoom in you'll see that the in topic says 1P:1P. I don't know what that means. (laughter) It could be a code that the office used, but it could also be an entry error. You'll see that the in-document name field is blank, meaning we don't have the incoming correspondence from that constituent, and the out-document name has a file path but no link, meaning that either it wasn't exported -- perhaps it was deleted, maybe unintentionally, from the system -- or our tool is simply not making the connection to that document for some reason.

After showing this to our researchers and talking through the process with them, we found out a lot of interesting things. Our qualitative researchers were largely political scientists, but also included some historians. They told us that their primary needs are search, access, and read. They use Congressional collections and analog constituent correspondence, and they see that the bulk of that correspondence and the chronological ordering of it often is a real barrier to their research. So the prospect of keyword searching is very transformative to the research they would like to do, and they also said it could very definitely lead to increased use of this kind of resource. They also told us they saw more value in the attached correspondence, like that PDF I showed you, than in the metadata itself.

Our quantitative researchers -- these were all political scientists -- their research methods are computational. They do large-scale data analysis to find trends and patterns. They are equally interested in the metadata and the attachments, and they're not really bothered by the incomplete nature of some of the data, or the inconsistencies that they see. They're very used to cleaning up data or hiring someone to do it for them for their analyses. (laughter) They also told us they're really interested in working across datasets from multiple offices to do comparative work.

They also gave us some idea of what the research applications could be for the data. They said it could help with finding out how representatives derive ideas for policy, and how policy becomes national in scope; how lawmakers might change their views over time, and how they frame

issues with their constituents; how constituents perceive representatives. Right now, the only source to determine that is through aggregated opinion polls, so this is a new, exciting way to do that. They also said it could be used for measuring constituent preferences and sentiments.

We also asked them to comment on the value of the data, and they reaffirmed the importance of preservation. They told us that constituent correspondence serves as the lifeblood of democracy and the voice of the people that is often absent from other archival records. They said the data helps to show the evolution of American democracy, and it is irreplaceable. And we, of course, agree with that.

The feasibility study concluded last month, but we have a lot more to do, and I'll give you an update on that. Right now WVU Libraries is the manager of the project, but we're shifting governance toward the Association of Centers for the Study of Congress, which is a nonpartisan membership organization that includes both curators and researchers. This project fits within their mission to preserve the records of Congress, but also to promote the study of Congress.

We're also working toward a partnership with the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research, or ICPSR, at the University of Michigan. As I mentioned, most repositories lack the technical infrastructure to provide access to large datasets, particularly those that contain sensitive information. ICPSR has a lot of experience facilitating mediated and protected access to data that is sensitive. In a pilot project, we have a few institutions that are going to move forward with creating agreements with ICPSR, transferring their data, and we hope provide access to that data. This will create a model for other repositories to follow.

And finally, our tool that was developed at WVU Libraries, it began as an open source project, but to sustain open source projects you require a committed IT community. We don't really have that yet, so while open source will certainly play a role going forward, we're also considering a software as a service model in which a vendor would host and help to maintain the tool for repositories that would like to use it.

So, with that feasibility study and our roadmap, I'm confident that we're going to create a sustainable way of preserving Congressional correspondence data, and thank you again for your attention.

Julie Adams:

Thank you, Danielle. That was really interesting. We are now at the part of the agenda where I will turn it over to Heather Bourk, the House Archivist, for her report.

Heather Bourk:

Thank you, Julie. I'd like to take a few minutes to brief you on what's been happening in the Archives Department since the December meeting. The Department spent 2018 reviewing content in the records search database. That's the section on the History, Art & Archives website that features images of official House records, accompanied by descriptions of each document. We focused on considering enhancement to the functionality of that database, and providing additional content. Twenty additional documents, covering topics such as voting rights and the Civil Rights Movement, have been researched and drafted and will be added to records search in the fall.

Associate Archivist Alison Trulock continues to focus on the Department's outreach efforts, both inside and outside of the House. Her recent internal outreach efforts include creating the email tips that go out monthly to committee clerks, and it's been very successful. People have shown a great response to it. In fact, she got requests to be added to the list. At first she was concerned it was going to be labeled spam initially and people would say "take me off this list," so it's been great to see the response to the tips.

These are emails she's sending each month to remind committee clerks about their obligations to archive, and offering advice about what a committee record is, what you should archive, how you should archive it, and to please call us if you have questions. She's also been arranging for tours for the Legislative Treasure Vault for committee staff with Richard's staff, and providing records management consultations for committees.

On the external outreach front, Alison has provided research assistance to the curatorial and historians' offices by tracking down archival documents for use in the forthcoming exhibition in the basement rotunda of the Cannon Building, and with the suffrage booklet that Matt mentioned earlier. She's also worked with the Clerk's communications department to create a commemorative bookmark, featuring H.J.Res.1, the legislation that led to the passage of the 19th Amendment, and there is one included in your meeting materials.

Since joining the Department in the fall, Archival Assistant Alicia Bates has assumed primary responsibility for coordinating record accessions and loans with committees. For new accessions, this includes physical processing and adding record descriptions into Archivists' Toolkit. Calling on her training and experience in education, she's working with the Historian's Office on lesson plans for the education portion of our website, and is developing classroom materials for use on records search, so very timely to a lot of educational outreach everyone's been talking about. Alicia has also researched and drafted document descriptions for the records search database, as well as a blog post, and she has taken on the responsibility of proofing and fact checking web content, and managing the scheduling of blog posts.

Archive staff attended the annual meeting of the Association of Centers for the Study of Congress held at the National Archives last month, and will attend the Society of American Archivists meeting in August. I'm happy to answer any questions the Advisory Committee has, or provide more detail about the work we've been doing. Thank you.

<u>Deborah Skaggs Speth</u>:
May I ask a question?

<u>Julie Adams</u>:
Yeah, of course.

<u>Deborah Skaggs Speth</u>:

Heather, I was wondering: how many committee current committees' records have been identified and are stored and transferred to the legislative Archives? Do you have that number on hand?

Heather Bourk:

Just the total number of committees?

Deborah Skaggs Speth:

Well, how many are archiving their records?

Heather Bourk:

All of them are.

Deborah Skaggs Speth:

Oh, good. It's probably been said before and I didn't remember.

Heather Bourk:

So you know, we'll get extensive records from some committees; some archive a bit less, but we do get records from everyone. In fact, it was new for the last two Congresses that we've had one committee that has only archived electronically. Previous to that, we were getting a mixture of electronic records and paper.

Deborah Skaggs Speth:

Good.

Sheryl Vogt:

Heather, you still contact new Members about what services you can provide for them? Is that correct?

Heather Bourk:

We do, absolutely. We'll contact them at the beginning of the Congress to engage anybody who's new.

<u>Sheryl Vogt</u>:

I wanted to ask what kind of response you got from doing that, if you get very much.

<u>Heather Bourk</u>:

It's been encouraging. Not so much as when people leave Congress, of course, (laughter) but we usually get a good handful of people coming in, and those conversations tend to be more records management focused. We do get a good response.

<u>Sheryl Vogt</u>:

Terrific.

<u>Julie Adams</u>:

Okay, thank you, Heather. I will now turn it over to the Senate Archivist, Karen Paul.

<u>Karen Paul</u>:

Thank you. We worked with 14 Senators' offices that closed during or at the end of the 115th Congress, focusing on electronic records preservation, social media archiving, and selection of either the archive format or the Senate constituent document interchange format, which now you know all about from Danielle, for preserving office constituent services system data. Thirteen Members donated their records to a research institute, and one is planning to donate at a future time, so that's not quite 100% but almost when that 14th person decides to donate his collection. For new offices, we held a records management seminar, and have been meeting with them to introduce them to our Senators Office Archives Toolkit, and to present them with a sample office file plan. We continue to work closely with committee systems administrators to preserve committee electronic records during the transition from one Congress to the next. Over the past several months I am pleased to report that they are getting more used to our requests for their records and are responding to us more readily, it seems. (laughter)

As those of you who have followed our work in this area since 2009 know, it has been an incremental process, requiring sustained effort and continuous building and rebuilding of goodwill on the part of everyone involved. Our goal is to provide professional assistance, either in the form of committee staff archivists, and, for those small committees, direct assistance from our office to ensure that the electronic records of the Senate are preserved. We are pleased to report that we are successfully working with all committees in this regard with the electronic records, with only one exception at this point, and we are confident that at some point that committee will also see the benefit of preserving its electronic records for the long term.

Prior to the end of the 115th Congress, we reached out to all committees with social media accounts, requesting that the accounts be archived. Ten committees with social media accounts archived them at the end of the Congress. Rather than asking the committees to perform their own downloads, which is a very time-consuming process, we streamlined the process by arranging for a vendor to perform the downloads and provide them to us on a hard drive, and Deputy Archivist Alison White is now working with that downloaded material, which is considerable. During the past year we preserved 3.6 terabytes of committee records in 148 accessions from 24 committees and offices. For textual records we processed 411 accessions, totaling 1,406 cubic feet, from 25 committees and offices. We also borrowed 132 loans of records back from the Center, totaling 260 and a half cubic feet, loans of committee hearing videos, and six loans of archived committee electronic records. So we can now begin to see the process work through the requests committees are borrowing back their own electronic files.

We continue to work with the Center to manage the return of Senate committee records discovered in the former Senators' collections, and currently we're working on the return of records of the Judiciary Committee, the Subcommittee on the Constitution, the Subcommittee on Juvenile Justice, Subcommittee on Terrorism, Subcommittee on Administrative Oversight, and also the Governmental Affairs Committee.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the Secretary for providing us with an archival intern for the summer, and to introduce Kaitlyn Lichtle. Katie? Yes, there she is. An MLIS student from Indiana University. Deputy Archivist Elizabeth Butler is supervising and mentoring her, and she

already is stepping in to assist us with a large collection of committee hearing videos for the 113th Congress. She is updating older committee transfer sheets, is learning to process and describe committee electronic records, and is performing data entry for log sheets on a collection of party conference television broadcasts. We know that her three months will pass very quickly, and we are grateful for her presence.

Deputy Archivist Alison White continues to serve as our digital archives specialist, researching and advising on matters of digital curation. She organizes meetings for committee archivists and staff. The focus this past year has been on email archiving, archival storage, legacy media conversion, and records management planning that includes electronic records. One aspect of her broad focus is to encourage all Senate offices to develop, adopt, and follow a digital preservation plan that specifically meets their individual needs.

I wanted to mention that in May we had the opportunity to attend a demonstration of the ePAD software, developed by Stanford University Special Collections Libraries, to a Member's office. ePAD is an open source software that supports appraisal, processing, discovery, and delivery of email archives. In this instance, ePAD was suggested as a way for a Member office to appraise and deliver those emails that the Member deemed historical, with the ability to withhold emails of a personal or sensitive nature. We are interested in learning more about how this may be adopted and might provide a way forward for offices with concerns about donating entire email accounts.

At our December meeting of this committee, I mentioned what I thought were the three most challenging recommendations of the eight made in the sixth report, and I singled out as number one preserving electronic communications. We discussed ways to do this, and have used the opportunity to distribute a copy of the report to all Senators, accompanied by a cover letter from the Secretary that summarizes the report's main points, and affirms the Senate's interest in preserving its historic records. An example of that letter is available at your place. It points out how electronic records have become a major component of the Senate's archival collection, and for this reason are especially important to preserve.

It further states that the archiving of authentic electronic communications has become vitally important in an era of ephemeral social media, competing news reports, and high-profile data breaches. Our message of preserving the authentic records, as embodied in the Senate's archives, is now more important than ever, and it's not only in this letter that people hear this message from us, it's also whenever we have an opportunity to meet with people that they hear this message. I can tell you that it resonates. It resonates with staff.

I think someone has already mentioned the task force on migrating the accessioned records out of Archivists' Toolkit, and, Richard, you're probably going to talk a little bit more about that.

Richard Hunt:

I will.

Karen Paul:

I do want to follow up about Heather's mention of the Association of Centers for the Study of Congress meeting. This was hosted by the Center for Legislative Archives, and it was an excellent meeting this year. It was very fulfilling. The theme was representative government and political polarization, and I particularly wanted to mention that the newly elected officers were introduced at this meeting. Hope Bibens is the new President of this organization, and John Caldwell is the new Vice President. Both of these individuals started their Congressional careers as interns in the Senate Historical Office.

I'm not going to continue. I do have a nice summary of that, but in the essence of preserving time, I would like my full statement to be entered into the minutes. (See appendix A.)

David Ferriero:

I'd just like to point out that the Stanford ePAD project was funded by a grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.

Sheryl Vogt:

I'd like to make one comment, and that is how important the work of the House and Senate Archivist is to Congressional papers. I especially want to thank the Secretary and the Clerk for

their support of their work to be pathfinders for the rest of the professional community. So much of what they can discover through their work reflects down to the rest of us in the professional community, and it's really, really important to us, and we thank you for your support.

Deborah Skaggs Speth:

I have one quick thing. I don't know if lessons learned from the legacy media conversion later on might be helpful to know more about that. I know we're short of time, but maybe at the next meeting if worthy lessons learned about the media conversion project would be very interesting.

Karen Paul:

We can provide that for next time.

Julie Adams:

Okay, thank you, Karen. I will now turn it over to Richard Hunt for his mid-year report for the Center for Legislative Archives.

Richard Hunt:

Thank you, Madam Secretary. I thought I would highlight and talk about five areas covered in the midyear report, and just expand upon those briefly. Some of them are the ones you've indicated you'd like me to talk about, and we can address those.

First, regarding the shared project between our office and the House Archivists and Senate Archivists to migrate the metadata from Archivists' Toolkit, this committee recommended the establishment of a working group, and that working group started work the month after its establishment, and has met every month since then. It has focused on identifying the shared goals and institutional priorities and processes of the three partners, and they've conducted high-level assessments of possible open market solutions, including the testing of Archive Space.

The Center on its own has also been exploring opportunities to manage this descriptive information within existing and planned National Archives systems, and the Center formally submitted a request to the Capital Planning and Investment Control Board, which approved the

Center's business needs. That means that the National Archives can commit IT resources and other expertise to assist our efforts, to identify how those systems can be modified, or how other solutions can be applied, and that we can handle and manage the data within the National Archives environment.

Our goal is to delineate our path forward by the December meeting of this committee, and once that path has been identified, NARA will need to identify the costs and resource needs, including staff time and developer resources, to determine a timeline for integration or adoption of a long-term solution. We'll have the path forward by December. Then a timeline for implementation will be shared as we go forward.

Secondly, as you can see from the midyear report, we've had an unusually busy year on the reference front at the Center. The partial government shutdown served only to build up a pent-up demand for our services, (laughter) which underscores the unique and singular research value of the holdings of unpublished House and Senate records. Two notable researcher examples stand out on that front: a Pulitzer Prize-nominated author had to reschedule his trip to Washington to ensure that he would have access to some recently opened records related to healthcare; and an author working on a book for the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 Commission had to reschedule his trip to do research in 9/11 Commission records.

We've also seen a significant number of foreign researchers come to the Center, including an economics professor from Japan researching records related to tax and revenue bills from the 1950s through the 1970s. The primary challenge for staff when answering broad inquiries, such as this one, is identifying the universe of relevant records from a host of committees that had their hand in the creation of these large bills, and then reviewing those records before providing access to protect tax information and other personal privacy information. The same was true to support researcher interest in records related to the 1978 Jonestown Massacre. Our archivists devoted a considerable amount of time, for example, to review committee staff interviews with people on the scene at Jonestown, and identified personal privacy information of living persons that needed to be protected before they could be released. It's a very time-consuming process. But this necessary screening and review of more recent records is one of the most significant

challenges we face, and requires a high level of expertise, diligence, and even personal fortitude to deal with important but sometimes troubling personal accounts of the past within our own lifetimes.

The third point focuses on the Congressional Records Instance of ERA, as you are aware -- well aware on this committee, for more than ten years we've been preserving Congressional and Legislative Branch electronic records, which have expanded from 140 gigabytes in 2008 to over 250 terabytes today, which Brandon Hirsch, if his math is correct, is a 135,000% rate of growth over that period of time. (laughter) That growth requires that we expand our storage capacity accordingly, and our most recent expansion that is just coming online more than doubles our capacity and provides sufficient storage capacity for several years of growth of House and Senate electronic records.

Fourth, on the educational outreach front, you can see the continued good work we do on the Teacher Workshop front, and I'm happy to have so many colleagues and collaborators here on these efforts. With the close of the school year we're now in the busy part of the year, and Charlie Flanagan is on the traveling circuit of partner-sponsored workshops. Last week and this week he's been at Fort Worth and Austin, Texas. Next week, he's spending four days in West Virginia with Danielle and colleagues to do workshops. In July he's off to Florida to conduct multiple workshops there, as well. And last week Charlie received an unusual request from a Panama City teacher who was visiting Washington, D.C. and asked if he could stop by the Center to say thanks for our assistance and the teaching materials we provided last July at one of the workshops that he attended. He then said in his emails, "The materials worked well with my students, but," quote, "unfortunately, the materials and everything else in my classroom were lost when Hurricane Michael destroyed our school building. Could I stop by and get some replacements?" Well, Charlie's heading back to Panama City in a few weeks with new materials, replacement materials, and additional assistance for teachers. So that testimonial just, again, I think shows the importance and the appreciation for the type of work we're doing on that front, and we hope to do more and help out.

And I saved for last, since I expect the most comments and questions, an update on the GPO project in Building A, and both the Clerk and the Secretary have been by to visit the facility recently. And in Building A, the remaining issue is the essential infrastructure required to provide the environment to meet National Archives standards so we can safely and confidently store the records in the environmentally-appropriate spaces. And GPO and their contractors have been doing additional work since March on the air handling units and the dehumidifying units, the AHUs and the DHUs, and by focusing on one unit at a time, they're now taking a holistic approach, and they're seeing the system and what needs to be done from top to bottom. So the Secretary has asked from them for a timeline for completion of all of those planned repairs and system overhaul, and then a timeline from the Center as to when that point in time is reached when it is functioning at the proper capacity, and it's meeting NARA standards. When will we start moving records in? I will be consulting with our engineers and with the leadership to tell you what that period of time where we'll feel confident that we can move them in and they're going to be safely stored in that space.

On Building D, I know that there's continued negotiations on the joint MOU between NARA and GPO, on the design and the construction costs, and it's been ongoing for a while. We hope it's going to be resolved soon. I'm not really privy to that information. Any questions?

Deborah Skaggs Speth:
Richard, in the section about the local storage and how you're expanding the storage --

Richard Hunt:
Yes.

Deborah Skaggs Speth:
-- does that also include a plan to ensure, or can you ensure, then, that those electronic records will be authentic and accessible in 50 years?

Richard Hunt:

The processing that we do when the records come in checks for any viruses and checks for anything that needs to be segregated, but then we also organize and identify the records by their attributes, so the records creator, the type of files they are, the file names that are included. So there's a checklist of processes that we take. And the proof of the value of that is when we get a request from a committee asking for a particular file, we have had no trouble locating that file, duplicating it, and providing it back to the Committee. And I think, as you know, all of these records have been copied in another preservation system offsite that the National Archives maintains.

Deborah Skaggs Speth:

So the older records are still being able to render them like they were? Because the formats could have -- to read them now, can you still read them with the formats?

Richard Hunt:

Yes. The records are typically in pretty standard, ubiquitous systems that we have not had any problems opening and rendering them. There's been a few creative adventures (laughter) that we had to buy old hardware and systems to read media to get to the files, and there's been some adventures in virtual machines to be able to read and render, but nothing that we've thrown up our hands and said we can't do it.

David Ferriero:

But this is part of a larger initiative on the part of the National Archives and our colleagues around the world, actually, in creating systems that translate obsolete formats and coding languages into digits that can be migrated over time, as the technologies change. The example I like to site is Epsadic, which is an IBM software that was used previously by NASA. No one uses Epsadic anymore, so being able to translate those files is high on our list.

Karen Paul:

And also, if we're able to catch instances of data that we're able to migrate forward before it gets sent to the Archives, we do that, as well. For example, in the Senate we had a CC mail system,

and if we run across that as an accession we will bring that forward. So we try to catch those things, yeah.

David Ferriero:

Can I just add to your report on --

Richard Hunt:

Please.

David Ferriero:

-- the shutdown? While researchers were not able to get records, requests from the Hill for records were served.

Richard Hunt:

Good point.

David Ferriero:

That was one of the exemptions. (laughter)

Julie Adams:

At this time I'd like to open it up for any new business, if anybody has anything. Okay, if there are no... Oh, do you...? Yeah, Matt, sure.

Matt Wasniewski:

This is kind of a follow-up question about the Building D. Any sense on when an MOU would be worked out? And, based on that, when work would start on Building D, at GPO?

David Ferriero:

I have in the audience Micah Cheatem who is our Chief of Management and Administration who would be overseeing that process. You want to say something?

Micah Cheatem:

I can't commit to a specific date, but at this point, regarding our spaces in Building A, we have separate office space with the Office of Federal Register, and we had a single agreement, covering both design and construction. That's what we've been pursuing with GPO, and at this point we feel like we need to scale it back to design only, then we'll follow up with an MOU on construction. That's been the holdup on issues over construction, so in the last two weeks we've approached them and said, "No, we need to proceed with design first. I'm optimistic we'll be doing that hopefully in the next couple of weeks, and we're prepared to begin design immediately. We had a task order issued, so it's just a matter of getting the terms straight.

Julie Adams:

Okay. And one of the things I have talked to at least Betty about, and Karen, is perhaps at the December meeting, we'll have records moved into Building A, and perhaps an opportunity for committee members to tour that space. We've talked about it for so many meetings, it would be nice to be able to show you all the work that has been done there to convert that space for Congressional archives, and perhaps we'll have something with Building D underway at that point, as well. So, stay tuned.

Karen Paul:

Just one thing. I'd like to thank Danielle Emerling for attending today, and for all of the work you have done as a leader of the team. And also I wanted to commend your team members, who have delivered a beautiful product and are pointing the way forward. I know it's something this committee has been concerned with for a very long time, and it seems like there's a bit of light now at the end of the tunnel, and it really is thanks to your leadership on this. So, thank you.

Julie Adams:

Thank you, Karen. Danielle, it has certainly been a topic of conversation for some time, and I think you heard today how important we've recognized constituent mail truly is to telling the story that we're all trying to capture. I want to thank everyone for attending today. Want to wish everyone a nice summer, and I will entertain a motion to adjourn.

M:

So moved.

Julie Adams:

Okay, adjourned. Thank you all so much.

<center>Appendix A</center>

Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress
Senate Archivist's Report
June 21, 2019

Senators' Records Preservation

We worked with the fourteen members' offices that closed during or at the end of the Congress, focusing on electronic records preservation, social media archiving, and selection of either the Archive Format or the Senate Constituent Document Interchange Format for preserving office constituent services system data. Thirteen members donated their records to a research institution and one is planning to donate at a future time.

For new offices, we held a records management seminar and have been meeting with them to introduce them to the *Senator's Office Archives Toolkit* and present a sample office file plan.

Committee Records Preservation

We continue to work closely with committee systems administrators to preserve committee electronic records during the transition from one Congress to the next. Over the past several months, I am pleased to report that they are getting more used to and are responding more readily to our requests.

As those of you who have followed our work in this area since 2009 know, it has been an incremental process requiring sustained effort and continuous building of good will on the part of everyone involved.

Our goal is to provide professional assistance either in the form of committee staff archivists, and for those smaller committees, direct assistance from our office to ensure that the electronic records of the Senate are preserved. We are pleased to report that we are successfully working with all committees with only one exception, and we are confident that at some point that committee will also see the benefit of preserving its electronic records for the long term.

Prior to the end of the 115th Congress, we reached out to all committees with social media accounts, requesting that the accounts be archived. Ten committees with social media accounts archived them at the end of the Congress. Rather than asking committees to perform their own downloads, a time-consuming process, we streamlined the process by arranging for the vendor to perform the downloads and provide them to us on a hard drive.

During the past year, we preserved 3,695.72 GB (= 3.60 TB), in 148 accessions, from 24 committees and offices.

For textual records, we processed 411 accessions totaling 1406 cubic feet from 25 committees and offices. We also borrowed 132 loans of records back from the Center totaling 260.5 cubic feet, loans of committee hearings video, and 6 loans of archived committee electronic records. We continue to work with the Center to manage the return of Senate committee records discovered in former Senators' collections. Currently, we are working on the return of records of the Judiciary Committee, the Subcommittee on the Constitution, Subcommittee on Juvenile Justice, Subcommittee on Terrorism, Subcommittee on Administrative Oversight, and the Governmental Affairs Committee.

SHO Archivist Intern

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Secretary for providing us with an archival intern for the summer and to introduce Kaitlyn Lichtle, a MLIS student from Indiana University. Deputy Archivist Elisabeth Butler is supervising and mentoring her and she already is stepping in to assist us with a large collection of committee hearing videos for the 113th Congress. She is updating older committee transfer sheets, is learning to process and describe committee electronic records, and is performing data entry for log sheets on a collection of party conference television broadcasts. We know that her three months will pass quickly and we are grateful for her presence!

Digital Archives Initiatives

Deputy Archivist Alison White continues to serve as digital archives specialist, researching and advising on matters of digital curation. She organizes meetings for committee archivists and staff. The focus this past year has been on email archiving, archival storage and legacy media conversion, and records management planning that includes electronic records. One aspect of her broad focus is to encourage all Senate offices to develop, adopt, and follow a digital preservation plan that specifically meets their individual needs.

In May we had the opportunity to attend a demonstration of the ePADD software, developed by Stanford University Special Collections Libraries, to a member office. ePADD is an open source software that supports appraisal, processing, discovery, and delivery of email archives. In this instance, ePADD was a suggested way for a member office to appraise and deliver those emails that the member deemed historical with the ability to withhold emails of a personal or sensitive nature. We are interested in learning more about how ePADD might provide a way forward for offices with concerns about donating entire email accounts.

The Sixth Report

At the December meeting of this committee, I mentioned what I thought were the three most challenging recommendations of the eight made in the *Sixth Report*. I singled out as number one, preserving electronic communications.

We discussed ways to do this and have used the opportunity to distribute a copy of the report to all Senators accompanied by a cover letter from the Secretary that summarizes the report's main points and affirms the Senate's interest in preserving its historic records. An example of the letter is available at your place. It points out how electronic records have become a major component of the Senate's archival records and for this reason are especially important to preserve. It further states that the archiving of *authentic* electronic communications has become vitally important in an era of ephemeral social media, competing news reports, and high-profile data breaches. Our message is: "Preserving the 'authentic facts' as embodied in the Senate's archives is more important than ever."

Task Force on Migrating the Accessioned Records out of Archivist's Toolkit

Created at the December 2018 meeting, the Task Force on Migrating Accessioned Records out of Archivist's Toolkit has been meeting since December to define our business needs and to explore possible solutions, including consideration of ArchivesSpace and other systems already in place at our respective institutions. We recognize that the early work we did to define and map metadata fields has proven to be very valuable as it allows each institution to determine the best solution internally that will support that work.

Association of Centers for the Study of Congress

The Center for Legislative Archives at the National Archives and Records Administration hosted the 2019 ACSC Annual Meeting with the theme, "Representative Government and Political Polarization." Following a precedent set by the 2018 meeting, a pre-conference workshop was held to provide training on hosting and leading a deliberative forum. Newly elected officers Hope Bibens (President), John Caldwell (Vice President), Danielle Emerling (Treasurer), and Lori Schwartz (Secretary) were introduced.

Joanne Freeman delivered the keynote address on her latest book, *The Field of Blood: Violence in Congress and the Road to the Civil War*. She detailed forgotten physically violent incidents on the floor of Congress during the extremely polarized pre-Civil War years and how new technologies like the telegraph changed national politics.

Panels explored new ways to engage teachers, ideas for successful programming, and how to evaluate one's programming. The Constituent Services Systems Task Force gave an update on the America Contacts Congress Grant Project and sought input about future directions for the project. This year's meeting also included a "founders' panel" where those present at the creation

of ACSC shared their thoughts on the ideas that led to the formation of the organization, how the ideas were realized, and hopes for the future.

Other sessions featured research in congressional collections by historians and political scientists, including a recent publication, *Robert H. Michel: Leading the Republican House Minority* (University Press of Kansas, Spring 2019) edited by Frank H. Mackaman and Sean Q Kelly. Authors of several different chapters of the book as well as the publisher were on hand to talk about the project.

Senate Historian Betty Koed interviewed Senators Tom Harkin and Chuck Grassley and they discussed how two members of Congress from different political parties could work together for over 40 years!