

THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE RECORDS OF CONGRESS SUMMARY OF MEETING

December 5, 2022

The Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress convened for its sixty-third meeting at 10:00 A.M. on December 5, 2022. The meeting was held in-person at the Government Publishing Office (GPO).

In accordance with the provisions stated in Public Law 92-463, the meeting was open to the public. The meeting was scheduled from 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 PM

Members of the Committee present:

Cheryl L. Johnson, Clerk of the U.S. House of Representatives and Chair of the Committee
Ann Berry, Secretary of the U.S. Senate and Co-chair of the Committee
Debra Steidel Wall, Acting Archivist of the United States
Betty K. Koed, Historian of the U.S. Senate
Matthew Wasniewski, Historian of the U.S. House of Representatives
Danna Bell, Educational Resource Specialist, Library of Congress
Denise Hibay, Director for Collections and Research, New York Public Library
Tanya Marshall, Vermont State Archivist and Chief Records Officer
Deborah Skaggs, Archivist, U.S. Senator Mitch McConnell and Elaine L. Chao Archives, University of Louisville McConnell Center (Retired)

Others present for all or a portion of the meeting were:

Lisa Grant, Deputy Clerk, U.S. House of Representatives
Robert Paxton, Assistant Secretary, U.S. Senate
Karen Paul, Archivist of the U.S. Senate
Heather Bourk, Archivist of the U.S. House of Representatives
Richard Hunt, Director of the Center for Legislative Archives (NARA)
Jay McCarthy, Congressional Relations Specialist, GPO
Dina Mazina, Deputy Archivist for Archival and Records Management Services and Training, U.S. Senate
Kirsten Gullickson, Director, Systems Analysis and Quality Assurance, Office of the Clerk, U.S. House of Representatives
Andrew Weber, Information Technology Specialist, Office of the Chief Information Officer, Library of Congress

CLERK'S REPORT

Lisa Grant, Deputy Clerk, delivered opening remarks, welcomed members of the committee and noted that House Clerk Cheryl Johnson would join the meeting later. She extended the Clerk's gratitude to GPO Director, Hugh Halpern (who was not present) for hosting the meeting and

thanked him for a successful ongoing partnership securing storage space for congressional records at GPO.

Deputy Clerk Grant introduced Jay McCarthy, Congressional Relations Specialist at GPO, to provide a brief update on phase two of the records storage construction project. McCarthy welcomed the committee and reported that the design contract was in place and that the design for phase two should be completed in May or June of 2023.

McCarthy then introduced Steve LeBlanc, the new Chief of Staff for GPO, noting that Steve had recently been the head of the Security and Intelligence Documents business unit that created a new product called Next Gen Passport that will replace the old system of creating passports for the State Department. LeBlanc welcomed the committee.

Deputy Clerk Grant then introduced Robert Paxton, Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Senate, who was sitting in for Ann Berry, Secretary of the U.S. Senate. Grant acknowledged Berry for her collegiality and cooperation on the shared leadership of the Advisory Committee.

Deputy Clerk Grant then welcomed Deb Wall, Acting Archivist of the United States. Grant reported that the Clerk wanted her to express her thanks and appreciation to Wall for her continued interest and support of the Advisory Committee's work.

Notable achievements:

Deputy Clerk Grant noted that the Office of Art and Archives coordinated with the Center for Legislative Archives on the large-scale transfer of thousands of boxes of newly accessioned records from the 114th and 115th Congresses and loans of almost 50,000 pages of records back to committees to meet their current business needs.

Grant observed that Archives staff continued core work to support the recordkeeping needs of the House by providing committees with consultations on records management and archiving best practices, coordinating and documenting the transfer of new accessions for archiving, and providing access to previously archived records for use in current business. Staff has also ramped up outreach to committee staff and Members' offices in preparation for end-of Congress archiving.

Grant also recognized the work of the House Curatorial staff, including the recent unveiling of a portrait honoring Science, Space, and Technology Committee Chair Eddie Bernice Johnson. The portrait is the first of an African-American woman committee chair added to the House collection.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Assistant Secretary Robert Paxton thanked Clerk Cheryl Johnson for serving as Chair of the Advisory Committee and reported that the Secretary looks forward to following Cheryl's strong leadership in the 117th Congress and becoming Chair of the Committee for the 118th Congress. Paxton welcomed the committee members and Acting Archivist Deb Wall and thanked GPO for hosting the meeting in the Carl Hayden Room. He noted that Carl Hayden of Arizona was the

third longest serving Member of Congress, serving as a Representative, Senator, and Senate President pro tempore. Hayden co-chaired the Joint Committee on Printing and was closely involved with GPO legislation and oversight.

Paxton reported that Senate historians have had a busy and productive 6 months since the last meeting, producing a monthly history blog, providing historical talks and tours to Senators and staff, conducting oral history interviews, and fielding questions from Senators, staff, scholars, media, and the general public. He also noted the addition of two new deputy archivists to the archival team and the expected addition of a third deputy archivist for digital archives coming on board in January.

Notable achievements:

Paxton noted that the Secretary's archival staff has grown to include two new deputy archivists, Deputy Archivist for Senators' Offices Keri Myers and Deputy Archivist for Archival and Records Management Training and Services Dina Mazina. These two new positions will allow the Secretary's office to expand records management and archival support to committees and Senators' offices.

Paxton also recognized George Apodaca, who was present at the meeting, who will join the Historical Office as Deputy Archivist for Digital Archives in January replacing Alison White who retired.

Paxton also noted that the Office of the Secretary of the Senate has established an account with the National Archives Federal Records Centers to pay for the temporary storage of Senators' records of service during their Senate tenure. This replaces the courtesy storage program once available to Senators but discontinued in 2021. Senators now have the option to store textual records at any of the Federal Records Centers.

House Clerk Cheryl Johnson joined the meeting to preside and introduced the Acting Archivist Deb Wall from NARA.

ACTING ARCHIVIST'S REPORT

Acting Archivist Debra Wall thanked the Clerk. She expressed how wonderful it was to be at the meeting again, this time at the GPO building, and how she especially looked forward to seeing the new archival storage space in the GPO building.

Wall reported that President Biden had nominated Dr. Colleen Shogan, who is currently the senior vice president and director of the David Rubenstein Center at the White House Historical Association, to be the next Archivist of the United States. Her hearing was held in September before the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee. Unfortunately, the committee deadlocked on her nomination, which is very unusual for an Archivist of the United States position. It seems likely that the nomination will be resubmitted and acted on early in the next Congress.

Wall also noted that the National Archives has been under intense scrutiny stemming from the Presidential records that were discovered at President Trump's Mar-a-Lago property. She noted

how unusual and unprecedented this attention was since NARA has a long record, starting at its establishment, as a non-political and non-partisan agency.

Notable achievements:

Wall noted that by the end of fiscal year 2022, NARA had added more than 208 million digital images, objects, and pages in its online catalogue, which is by far the largest of any archives or library or cultural institution and is of tremendous value for public access.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Clerk called for a motion to approve the minutes. Motion was made and seconded and minutes were approved.

ARCHIVIST OF THE HOUSE REPORT

House Archivist Heather Bourk wished the committee a good morning.

She reported that while the department remained busy with the essential work of supporting committees and Members by managing accessions of new records, loans of previously archived records, providing records management guidance, and responding to records-related questions, in the past 6 months the Archives Department also pivoted to specific end-of-Congress outreach efforts.

Bourk also noted that new accessions were transferred into the storage space at GPO, and loaned records were returned to Archives I. The transfers of more than 4,500 boxes, which is the equivalent of almost 3.5 million pages, were completed last month.

Bourk added that Archives staff have also been in contact with Member offices to offer guidance on records management and preservation and to encourage them to consider donating their personal papers to a research repository. About 90 Members are leaving the House at the end of the Congress, and Archives staff have met with over half of them.

Notable achievements:

Bourk noted that one of the biggest projects the department tackled this year is the transfer of new and orphaned records, as well as the return of loaned records from onsite storage to National Archives custody. Delayed in part by the pandemic, the transfers, which spanned several months, involved the documentation and movement of a significant number of boxes, survey and removal of special media for separate transfer, and precise coordination with staff at the Center for Legislative Archives.

Bourk added that Archives staff spent much of 2022 implementing changes to the work on the Records Search project. Records Search is an ongoing project that adds document description, metadata, and images of official House records to a searchable database on the History Art and Archives website.

Bourk also noted that staff recently completed a video featuring House records and collections objects as a supplement to a primary source set created to document Prohibition, which was played at the end of her remarks.

ARCHIVIST OF THE SENATE REPORT

Archivist Karen Paul wished everyone a good morning. She reported that the past 6 months had been exciting and challenging as they interviewed to fill three Deputy Archivist positions in the Senate Historical Office, and identify partners for their Preservation Partnership Grants program established under Public Law 117-103, Division I. This, combined with establishing a Secretary of the Senate account with the Federal Records Center's system to provide secure, temporary storage for Senators' official records, has produced rewarding experiences on the archival front.

Paul noted that one of the constant challenges is to keep current with records management and archiving advice for data residing in evolving and new systems. These systems include Quill, which is a task management application for “Dear Colleague” and other letters used by Senators' offices and committees and requires collaboration with the Sergeant at Arms Technology Assessment group to export and archive data.

Paul added that ongoing collaboration with the Sergeant at Arms Technology Assessment Group focused on exporting and archiving Microsoft 365 Teams and OneDrive. In October of this year, the SAA team announced that they had contracted with A-Point, a vendor, to perform the export of the team's OneDrive data. The tool should be available in January. At this time, it is designed to capture complete OneDrive files and very limited persistent chat and conferencing in an appropriate archiving format.

Paul provided an update on a very important ongoing task force, the Congressional Video Preservation and Access Technical Working Group. This group is comprised of members of the House, Senate, Library of Congress, National Archives, and Government Publishing Office. It has been meeting monthly since April of 2022 and systematically working through a number of possible scenarios and best practices related to identifying the best way forward to preserve and provide access to House and Senate floor proceedings and committee hearings, perhaps eventually encompassing digital transfer of archival records to the Center for Legislative Archives.

Paul also introduced Deputy Archivist Dina Mazina to show a slide deck presentation on “Grow Your Archive” for the Senate community.

Notable achievements:

Paul noted that since June, there had been 112 new textual accessions, totaling 234 cubic feet, from 18 different Senate committees. There were 4.22 terabytes of electronic records transferred in 95 accessions from 9 different committees. There were 17 textual and one electronic record loan request. The textual loans totaled 28 boxes and the electronic records loan was comprised of 985 files (and 7 gigabytes).

Paul also noted that three of the designated universities receiving senatorial papers received Preservation Partnership Grants to help preserve those collections. The grants funded staff, services, and facilities costs, ranging from processing stations, renovating space, adding digital archivists, and paying for cloud storage. Grant recipients are required to file progress reports,

proving information on costs, best practices, challenges, and lessons learned for the Senate archival community.

DIRECTOR OF THE CENTER FOR LEGISLATIVE ARCHIVES REPORT

Director Richard Hunt reported that the story of fiscal year 2022 is one of a post-pandemic recovery period marked by change and transition. It demonstrated the extraordinary resiliency and dedication of the Center's staff. Staff returned to onsite work while the Center continued to offer telework flexibility and resumed activities to support the House and the Senate and their records responsibilities to address a pent-up demand from congressional researchers. Center staff expertly answered these unprecedented calls for enhanced services.

Hunt reported that the year's highlights included the outstanding work of the loans and accessioning team mentioned in the House and Senate reports. Staff handled over 900 new accessions, transferring over 6 million pages of House and Senate records into Center custody. The number of accessions was the highest the Center experienced in 15 years, and the volume transferred was the most since 2015.

Notable achievements:

Hunt noted that the Center archival staff assisted over 1,000 researchers this year. Most arrived between May and September, with staff providing a year's worth of records services in less than half a year's time.

Hunt added that Center staff supported the reopening of Exhibition Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center this year with the largest number of original House and Senate documents on display in the opening round of exhibits. A significant set of documents will be displayed in the second round of exhibits as well.

Hunt also noted that Center staff focused on new initiatives working with NARA educators to develop "Civics for All of US," the agency's national civics education initiative, and on the presentation of workshops for teachers new to the profession.

REPORTS

Kirsten Gullickson, who works for the Office of the Clerk in the Legislative Computer Systems Division, discussed recent in-house data projects developed during the current Congress in her capacity as the director of quality assurance analysis and product support in the Clerk's office, as co-chair of the Legislative Branch XML Technical Working Committee, and as coordinator of the Congressional Data Task Force. Topics covered included the Statute Compilations, Comparative Print Suite program, eHopper, and the Legislative Information Management System.

Andrew Weber at the Library of Congress and product owner of Congress.gov provided a report on an ongoing large-scale data modernization program of the content on the site. Topics included a beta API for developers to use to gather data and an ongoing project to convert data from the Century of Lawmaking website into usable data to expand the content on Congress.gov.

House Historian Matt Wasniewski provided a report to update the committee on the work of his office, including the forthcoming production of a new edition of *Black Americans in Congress*,

1870 to 2022, and “A Chair Made Illustrious,” a concise history of the Speakership. He also reported on the House Oral History Program and recent work conducting interviews with departing Members to capture their personal stories and career histories.

Senate Historian Betty Koed provided a report on her office’s work and accomplishments, including the forthcoming publication of *Themes, People, Places, and Events that Shaped the U.S. Senate*, an illustrated collection of 150 stories from Senate history. She also reported about the ongoing work to update entries in the *Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress* and a massive reorganization of all the historical content on Senate.gov. Koed also described ongoing work on Senate Oral History projects, including interviews related to January 6, 2021, interviews with former senators, and interviews with party secretaries, leadership, and staff. She also discussed a major digitization project of the Senate Historical Office’s very large image collection.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business reported,

ADJOURNMENT

Hearing there was no new business, Clerk Johnson asked for a motion to adjourn. A motion to adjourn was made and seconded and the committee was adjourned at 11:58 p.m.

I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the foregoing minutes are accurate and complete.

Richard H. Hunt

DFO Director, Center for Legislative Archives

Cheryl L. Johnson

CHAIR Clerk, U.S. House of Representatives

These minutes will be formally considered by the committee at its next meeting, and any corrections or notations will be incorporated in the minutes of that meeting.

Please see attached full transcript for in-depth information.

RPTS WARREN

EDTR SECKMAN

MEETING OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

ON THE RECORDS OF CONGRESS

Monday, December 5, 2022

U.S. House of Representatives,

Washington, D.C.

The meeting began at 10:00 a.m., in the Carl Hayden Room, 732 N. Capitol Street NW, GPO, Hon. Cheryl L. Johnson [Clerk of the House] presiding.

Members of Committee Present: Cheryl L. Johnson, Clerk, U.S. House of Representatives; Lisa Grant, Deputy Clerk, U.S. House of Representatives; Robert Paxton, Assistant Secretary, U.S. Senate; Debra Steidel Wall, Acting Archivist of the United States; Matthew Wasniewski, Historian, U.S. House of Representatives; Betty K. Koed, Historian, U.S. Senate; Danna Bell, Educational Resource Specialist, Library of Congress; Denise Hibay, Director for Collections and Research, New York Public Library; Deborah Skaggs, Archivist, U.S. Senator Mitch McConnell and Elaine L. Chao Archives, University of Louisville McConnell Center; and Tanya Marshall, Archivist and Chief Records Officer, State of Vermont.

Also Present: Heather Bourk, Archivist, U.S. House of Representatives; Karen Paul, Archivist, U.S. Senate; Richard Hunt, Director, Center for Legislative Archives, National

Archives and Records Administration; Jay McCarthy, Congressional Relations Specialist, GPO; Kirsten Gullickson, Director, Systems Analysis and Quality Assurance, U.S. House of Representatives; Andrew Weber, Office of the Chief Information Officer, Library of Congress; and Dina Mazina, Deputy Archivist for Archival and Records Management Services and Training, U.S. Senate.

Ms. Grant. [Presiding.] Good morning.

This meeting of the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress will now come to order.

Good morning.

I am Lisa Grant, Deputy Clerk of the U.S. House of Representatives. The Clerk of the House, Cheryl Johnson, will be joining us later in this meeting. I am delivering opening remarks on her behalf.

Welcome to the final Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress meeting for the 117th Congress. I would like to extend the Clerk's gratitude to the Government Publishing Office Director, Hugh Halpern, for hosting today's meeting and to also thank him for a successful ongoing partnership to secure storage space for congressional records here at GPO.

Unfortunately, Hugh is unable to join us today I will turn it over to Jay McCarthy with GPO Congressional Relations to formally welcome us and provide a brief update on phase 2 of the records storage construction project.

Jay.

Mr. McCarthy. Hi. Good morning.

On behalf of Director Halpern, Deputy Director Collins, and the 1,600 craftspeople with GPO, welcome. We want to welcome you here today and thank you, extend our thanks to the Clerk and to the Archivist, Debra Wall, for the continued partnership on the Center for Legislative Archives project. GPO is honored to play a part in this project.

I want to update you now. You may remember before -- right before our last meeting in June, we had issued a design contract on the project. We anticipate that design process should be completed by May or June of 2023.

One last thing I wanted to introduce today, I wanted to introduce Steve LeBlanc who is the agency's new Chief of Staff.

Say hello, Steve.

Mr. LeBlanc. Thanks, Jay.

Welcome to everybody.

On behalf of Director Halpern, I want to say it is really a privilege to be able to host this event today. Thank you very much.

Mr. McCarthy. Steve most recently headed up our Security and Intelligence Documents business unit, which produced over 220 million -- 220 million passports for the State Department in the last 15 years; just ushered in a new product called the Next Gen Passport, which will be -- is rolling off production lines now.

Finally, a little bit of housekeeping. In the event of a fire, the exit to use is right through this anteroom through the stairs.

The restrooms are located in the hall. The gentleman's room is the first door on the left. The woman's room is under the exit sign.

And one reminder is that we have a signal microphone feedback issue. So, when you are using a microphone, please turn it on when you are speaking and turn it off after you complete your remarks.

Thank you very much.

Ms. Grant. Thank you, Jay.

Are there questions from the Advisory Committee for Jay?

On behalf of the Clerk, I second Jay's welcome to appointees and members of the Advisory Committee. The Clerk appreciates your dedicated service and thoughtful insight into the collective effort to document the work of Congress and to preserve and promote use of its records.

A warm welcome and good morning to the co-chair of the Advisory Committee, Ann Berry, who -- Assistant Secretary Robert Paxton is sitting in on her behalf.

As the 117th Congress draws to a close, so too do the Clerk's duties as chair of the Advisory Committee.

The Clerk thanks Ann for your collegiality and cooperation on the shared leadership of the Advisory Committee.

On the Clerk's behalf, I would like to welcome the Acting Archivist of the United States, Deb Wall. The Clerk thanks you and your continued interest in and support of the Advisory Committee's work.

I would also like to take a moment to express the Clerk's appreciation for the dedicated staff at the Center for the Legislative Archives and to acknowledge their commitment to meeting the House's varied and frequent records needs. Throughout the year, Center staff coordinated with the Office of Art and Archives on a large-scale transfer of thousands of boxes of newly accessioned records, loan of almost 50,000 pages of records back to the committee to meet current business needs, and provided scans of documents for the records search database, among many other projects. The House Archives staff most certainly couldn't do their work without them.

It has been a busy 6 months for the Office of Art and Archives. I will now spend a few minutes sharing some highlights of what staff in the Archives and Curatorial departments have been working on recently.

Archives staff continue their core work to support the recordkeeping needs of the House by providing committees with consultations on records management and archiving best practices, coordinating and documenting the transfer of new accessions for archiving, and providing access to previously archived records for use in current business. As the Congress draws to a close, staff has ramped up outreach to committee staff with a

focus on providing guidance on end-of-Congress archiving. These additional outreach efforts have included contacting committee chairs and ranking members to remind them of archiving requirements and offering the opportunity to meet with Archives staff to facilitate the archiving process.

Archives staff have continued to support Member office questions about record management and preservation throughout the Congress and, considering the close to 90 Members leaving the House, have enhanced outreach efforts in the final months of the Congress.

Staff have contacted each departing Member office to provide guidance on their papers and have also participated in the Chief Administrative Officer's monthly departing Member briefings.

The Archives department recently completed the transfer of accessioned records from the 114th and 115th Congresses, as well as newly accessioned records from earlier Congresses and records on loan from the Center, totaling over 3 million pages of records. This was a huge undertaking, spread out over several months. The Clerk appreciates the work of the House Archives staff and the staff at the Center for seeing this through to completion.

House Curatorial staff have also been busy over the past several months. They recently launched an open-access portal that offers access to House collection images for use by committees, Members, and staff, as well as the public. The images are accompanied by descriptive information and are fully searchable.

House Curators recently hosted a virtual tour and discussion of the decorative elements and history of one the Capitol's oldest spaces. The room known as the Board of Education features a recently installed mural honoring women's suffrage. The mural includes text from the 19th Amendment and an image depicting a suffrage parade.

Last month the Curatorial staff unveiled a portrait honoring Science, Space, and Technology Committee Chair Eddie Bernice Johnson. The portrait is the first of an African-American woman committee chair added to the House collection.

At the December meeting, Danna Bell suggested the addition of an update covering advancements in congressional data resources to the agenda for today. Later in the meeting, we will be hearing about new congressional data projects in the House and at the Library of Congress.

The agenda also includes updates from the House and Senate Historians and an overview of the Advisory Committee's forthcoming seventh report slated to be published at the end of 2024.

One housekeeping note: Please be sure to speak into the mike. Staff transcribing the proceedings rely on the audio for the meeting. And, as stated earlier, please turn on the mike when you speak and turn it off when you are completed.

It is now my honor to yield to Robert Paxton, Assistant Secretary, who is here on behalf of the distinguished Secretary of the Senate and co-chair of the Advisory Committee, Ann Berry.

Robert.

Mr. Paxton. Hi. Thank you, Lisa.

And thank you to the Clerk for serving as Advisory Committee chair during this 117th Congress. The Secretary looks forward to following Cheryl's strong leadership and picking up the gavel in the new year.

Welcome to Acting Archivist Debra Steidel Wall.

And thank you to Jay McCarthy for filling in for Hugh Halpern today and for hosting our meeting here in the Carl Hayden Room.

Carl Hayden of Arizona, Representative, Senator, and Senate President pro

tempore, is the third longest serving Member of Congress after Representative John Dingell and Senator Robert C. Byrd. Hayden's record of 56 consecutive years of service in the U.S. Congress, including almost 42 in the Senate, was unsurpassed at the time of his retirement in 1969.

In the Senate, Hayden chaired the Committee on Rules and Administration and was co-chairman of the Joint Committee on Printing and was therefore closely involved with GPO legislation and oversight. As chairman for the Senate Committee on Appropriations from 1955 to 1969, Hayden greatly influenced policy and became known as the third Senator from every State. Hayden's archival collection is at Arizona State University.

For today's meeting, I wish to extend a warm welcome to committee members, those giving reports, and all attendees.

I am delighted that Sheryl Vogt, Director of the Richard B. Russell Library for Political Research and Studies and former member of this committee, is with us today.

Our historians and archivists have had a busy and productive 6 months since our last meeting. The Senate Historians have continued to produce a monthly history blog, provide historical talks and tours to Senators and staff, conduct oral history interviews, and field questions from Senators, staff, scholars, the media, and the general public.

Senate Historian Betty Koed will provide further details in her report. The Secretary's archival staff has grown to include two new deputy archivists, Deputy Archivist for Senators' Offices Keri Myers and Deputy Archivist for Archival and Records Management Training and Services Dina Mazina.

Welcome to Keri and Dina.

I am especially pleased that these two new positions will allow us to expand our records management and archival support to Senators' offices. Our Deputy Archivist for

Digital Archives, Alison White, retired in August after 13 years of service. George Apodaca, who is with us today, will join the Historical Office as Deputy Archivist for Digital Archives in January to build on Alison's legacy.

George, I look forward to welcoming you in the new year.

Senate Archivist Karen Paul and Deputy Archivist Elizabeth Seelinger have been focusing on end-of-Congress activities, including providing guidance to Senators' offices that are closing and meeting with committees to review end-of-Congress archiving plans. They have also been participating in a number of digital archives projects as they eagerly await for the arrival of the new Deputy Archivist for Digital Archives. Karen Paul's report will provide further details.

I am happy to report the Office of the Secretary of the Senate has established an account with the National Archives Federal Records Centers to pay for the temporary storage of Senators' records of service during their Senate tenure. This replaces the courtesy storage program once available to Senators but discontinued in 2021. Senators now have the option to store textual records at any of the Federal Records Centers, with the Senate [inaudible] paying for this service.

The Secretary's Office took this step to help and encourage Members to preserve their records in a safe, secure environment.

At today's meeting I look forward to Richard Hunt's year-end report from the Center for Legislative Archives, as this is always a good opportunity to learn how our senatorial records are being used. Also, Karen, Betty, and I wish to thank Richard's colleague, Assistant Director Jay Wyatt, for mastering his new duties so quickly. Jay has become informed on all aspects of the Center's procedures and has grown into a trusted, thoughtful resource for our historians and archivists.

Finally, the Archivist and I are still hoping to receive some positive news from

NARA about reinstatement of the Center's much missed courier service.

They made me say that.

Mr. Hunt. That is Jay's responsibility.

The Clerk. [Presiding.] Good morning, everyone. Sorry I was late.

And thank you, Robert.

Does anyone have any questions of Robert?

And thank you, Lisa, my Deputy Clerk, for stepping in for me.

Okay. Next I would like to recognize Deb Wall, the Acting Archivist of the United States, for an update on what is happening at the National Archives.

Ms. Wall. Thank you very much. Good morning, everybody.

It is wonderful to be here again, this time at the GPO building. And I am especially looking forward to the tour, as I have not seen the new space in the GPO building.

A few updates from the National Archives. As you are probably aware, President Biden has nominated Dr. Colleen Shogan, who is currently the senior vice president and director of the David Rubenstein Center at the White House Historical Association. He nominated her to be the next Archivist. Her hearing was held in September before the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee. And, unfortunately, the committee deadlocked on her nomination, which, of course, is very, very unusual for an Archivist of the United States position.

It seems likely, from what I understand, that the nomination probably will be acted on early in the next Congress. And, from everything I am hearing, it is a "when" rather than "if." So hopefully we will have a permanent Archivist soon.

Since our last meeting, you may have noticed that NARA has been in the news quite a bit.

Thank you for laughing, yes, laugh or cry.

We have been under some pretty intense scrutiny stemming from the Presidential records that were at President Trump's Mar-a-Lago property. Never thought, as Acting Archivist -- or any archivist -- we would be getting death threats related to our job. Things have calmed down a bit now. And all I can say is we will continue to do our jobs according to the law and without regard for -- you know, no political influence. We are a nonpolitical agency. It is in our legislation. It is an interesting time to see, to be -- something we are normally insulated from. But we will just keep doing our jobs.

And then, in the arena of public access, got some exciting news to report. At the end of fiscal year 2022, we ended with more than 208 million digital images, objects, pages in our online catalogue, which is by far the largest of any archives or library or cultural institution and just of tremendous value for public access, and the Center for Legislative Archives has many images in there as well.

So it is pretty exciting. And we are on track -- our ultimate goal is 500 million digitized pages in the catalogue by September 2026. That is half a billion pages, a lot and astonishing and just wonderful. All right.

Finally, I would like to express my appreciation to the Clerk of the House, Cheryl Johnson, for her service to the committee and her support of NARA and the center for these past 4 years.

And as, a token of our appreciation and in honor of your Louisiana roots, we prepared a facsimile of one of the great House treasures preserved in the Archives, the proclamation issued by William C. C. Claiborne on December 20, 1803, to the people of New Orleans, marking the culmination of the Louisiana Purchase, formal entrance of the territory to the Union, and the extension of constitutional protections for the new citizens of the Republic.

Mr. Hunt. We have a full-size facsimile of this gorgeous proclamation, which was posted in New Orleans on December 20, 1803, announcing the purchase. And what is particularly striking is the message to the new citizens of the United States; it is in English, French, and Spanish. So it is a real milestone document and just a small token of our appreciation for all that you have done for us.

And this is suitable for framing wherever you would like to hang it.

The Clerk. Thank you so much very.

[Applause.]

The Clerk. Thanks very much, and it has been an honor working with you all over the past 4 years. And you just recently --

Ms. Wall. Yes.

The Clerk. But thank you.

Ms. Wall. So I will end by thanking everybody for your ongoing support of the National Archives and the Center for Legislative Archives. And thank you to the Center staff for all that they do to support you as well.

And, of course, happy to answer any questions.

The Clerk. Any questions of Deb?

Next is approval of the minutes of the last meeting.

Is there an objection to dispensing with the reading of the minutes? Okay.

Noting none, are there any corrections to the minutes?

If there are no corrections, is there a motion and a second for approval?

Mr. Paxton. So moved.

Ms. Bourk. Second.

The Clerk. All right. The minutes are approved.

Next we will hear from my colleague, Heather Bourk.

Ms. Bourk. I don't want the big squeak. I am hoping I don't get that.

Thank you, Cheryl.

And good morning, everyone.

And thank you to the Advisory Committee for the opportunity to report on the work of the House Archives staff.

While we remain busy with our essential work of supporting committees and Members by managing accessions of new records and loans of previously archived records, providing records management guidance, and responding to records-related questions, in the past 6 months we have also pivoted to specific end-of-Congress outreach efforts.

One of the biggest projects the department has tackled this year is the transfer of new and orphaned records, as well as the return of loaned records from our onsite storage to National Archives custody. Delayed in part by the pandemic, the transfers, which spanned several months, involved the documentation and movement of a significant number of boxes, survey and removal of special media for separate transfer, and precise coordination with staff at the Center for Legislative Archives.

New accessions were transferred into the storage space here at GPO, and loaned records were returned to Archives I. The transfers of more than 4,500 boxes, which is the equivalent of almost 3.5 million pages, were completed last month. Although this was a group effort, I would specifically like to mention House Archive staffer Alicia Coletti for her preparation and coordination efforts to complete this huge project efficiently and successfully.

As a follow up to the transfer, House Archives staff are working with the Center to coordinate the transfer of descriptive information from the ArchivesSpace database in support of the intellectual control necessary to provide for current and future access to

the records.

Staff also continued to process electronic records from storage media removed from the textual records before they were transferred. The addition of NARA's FileLister tool has streamlined the processing of electronic records, and a transfer of special media is planned for early next year.

Our Electronic Records Archivist, Emily Graves, is the primary staff member surveying, authenticating, and describing electric records. So I want to take a moment to acknowledge the time and effort she has committed to processing and preparing these records for transfer.

Ms. Bourk. Our support to committees, both standing and the several select committees completing their work this Congress during the second half of the year, have included contacting chairs and ranking members to remind them of end-of-Congress archiving requirements and to offer guidance on records management and archiving.

We also followed up with committee clerks offering the same guidance and an opportunity to meet with House Archives staff. This additional outreach has prompted questions and requests for meetings, as well as requests for archival supplies and transfers of records.

Staff presented at a series of briefings for committee staff hosted by the Clerk to provide an overview of official House records and to stress the responsibility for committees to archive for managing and archiving these records.

Staff also presented in a joint Clerk/Chief Administrative Officer end-of-Congress briefing for committee staff in September.

House Archive staff also continued to circulate email tips to committee staff. These often-prompt requests for records management and archives guidance, as well as the recently reinstated tours of the Legislative Treasure Vault at the National Archives.

Yay.

Alison Trulock on our team has taken the lead on outreach initiatives related to committee records management and archiving, both during and at the end of the Congress. I want to acknowledge her key role in the preservation and accession of official House records.

Archives staff have also been in contact with Member offices to offer guidance on records management and preservation and to encourage them to consider donating their personal papers to a research repository. There are about 90 Members leaving the House at the end of the Congress, and we have met with over half of them. Staff continue to participate in the monthly departing Member briefings that wrapped up last month to answer specific questions and offer one-on-one records consultations.

Following the updates to records management manuals provided to both committees and Member offices completed earlier in the Congress, the department recently finished up a series of remaining companion quick guides. Four quick guides focused on archiving electronic records, email, and social media in Member offices, along with a general how-to-archive Member papers quick guide, were completed and published this summer. A guide to archiving emails for committees was also completed in July, supplementing committee quick guides updated earlier in the year.

In addition to sharing these resources directly with committee and Member office staff, they are featured on the House's intranet and have been incorporated into the House's transition website for the 117th Congress.

Archives staff spent much of 2022 implementing changes to our work on the Records Search project. Records Search is an ongoing project that adds document description, metadata, and images of official House records to a searchable database on the History, Art, and Archives website.

Staff researched and drafted shorter document descriptions that allowed for the addition of almost triple the number of documents added in each past update. Almost 60 new document descriptions were researched and written by Archives staff and posted to the site last month. They document a variety of topics and record categories, including settlement and expansion, war, statehood, legislation, petitions, and maps. A list of the newly added records, along with a few sample records, are included in your meeting materials.

Staff have drafted blog posts to promote the new records descriptions and to encourage their use by researchers, students, and teachers.

Archives staff continue to contribute record-related content to the education portion of our site. A primary source set on Westward Expansion is in the final editing stages and is set to launch on the website early next year.

Staff recently completed a video featuring House records and collections objects as a supplement to a primary source set created to document Prohibition. At the end of my report, we will take a few minutes to cue up the video and play it.

I would like to acknowledge the assistance of Danna Bell, the Clerk's appointee to the Advisory Committee, who provided invaluable assistance to Archives staff as they develop new primary-source-based educational resources. She solicited feedback on the House's resources from her colleagues at the Library of Congress and made introductions that led to fruitful conversations and connections. She also made us aware of training opportunities and groups like the TPS network that have connected us to teachers and others who are using primary sources. With this assistance, we have a solid foundation on which to work toward our goals in this area.

Thanks for your help, Danna.

Archive staff attended the Society of American Archivists' Congressional Papers

Section meeting in July, and Emily presented on best practices for engagement with Member offices on archiving electronic records. Emily also attended the International Conference on Digital Preservation in Scotland this fall. And Alicia recently started coursework for her master's in Archives and Records Administration, another one in the fold.

Although I mentioned them each individually, I would like to take a second to thank the House Archives staff. They each contribute creatively and enthusiastically to the work we do, and I am grateful for their dedication to preserving and promoting House records.

I am happy to answer any questions the Advisory Committee might have or to provide additional background on anything in my report.

Thank you.

[Video shown.]

The Clerk. Well, we know how that turned out.

Thanks so much, Heather.

Next we will hear from Karen Paul, the Archivist of the Senate.

Ms. Paul. Good morning, everyone. The past 6 months have been exciting and challenging for us as we interviewed to fill three Deputy Archivist positions in the Senate Historical Office and identify partners for our Preservation Partnership Grants program established under Public Law 117-103, Division I. This, combined with establishing a Secretary of the Senate account with the Federal Records Center's system to provide secure, temporary storage for Senators' official records, has produced some rewarding experiences.

Needless to say, none of this could have happened without the advice, assistance, and sheer perseverance of a number of individuals, including Secretary of the Senate Ann

Berry, who approved the addition of two new Archivist positions; Assistant Secretary Robert Paxton, whose input and suggestions have been invaluable along the way; Chief of Staff Sydney Butler, who has helped execute our plans; General Counsel Tremayne Bunaugh, who has provided wise advice and counsel throughout our negotiations; Senior Executive Accounts Administrator Zoraida Torres, who manages new sources of invoices coming in; and within our own office, Senate Historian Betty Koed, who has taken significant amounts of time from her Historian duties to strongly support these new archival initiatives.

Thank you all so much, very much.

First, I am pleased to introduce two of our new Deputy Archivists, Deputy Archivist for Senators' Offices Keri Myers and Deputy Archivist for Archival and Records Management Training and Services Dina Mazina. Dina joined our staff in mid-October, having previously served as Senate Finance Committee Archivist. Keri joined in mid-November from Senator Patrick Leahy's office.

Our third new Deputy Archivist, George Apodaca, will be joining us January 3 to fill the position vacated in August when Alison White retired as Deputy Archivist for Digital Archives.

Following my report, Dina will share her first training message, entitled "Growing Your Archives."

The end of Congress is a busy time with all of us working with offices that are closing. We follow a finely tuned procedure using detailed checklists, standard forms to execute specific tasks, and a large team providing archival services and other help, ranging from closing accounts and subscriptions to returning furniture, IT equipment, and phones from D.C. and State offices. Closing an office is a big job.

This Congress we have eight, depending on -- eight Senators retiring. And we

happily report that all Senators have designated an archival repository to receive their records.

Of the offices that are closing, three of the designated universities are receiving Preservation Partnership Grants, which were awarded by seniority, to help preserve the senatorial records that are coming their way. The grant-receiving repositories are informing us that the funding is especially welcome given the costs that are incurred with preserving electronic records.

Congressional collections have always been complex and large and have become more so with the inclusion of an ever-expanding number of systems containing historical record content.

The grants are funding staff, services, and facilities costs, ranging from purchasing processing stations, renovating space, adding digital archivists to the staff, format updating, and paying for cloud storage.

Grant recipients are required to file progress reports on a regular basis. And we are acquiring information on costs, best practices, challenges, and lessons learned that will be shared within the Senate community, with this committee, the Association of Centers for the Study of Congress, and the Society of American Archivists' Congressional Papers Section to better inform and prepare both congressional donors and archivists in their mission to preserve and make available Senators' records of service.

Since June, we have transferred 112 new textual accessions, totaling 234 cubic feet, from 18 different Senate committees. We have transferred -- just a minute here -- 4.22 terabytes in 95 accessions from 9 different committees. We processed 17 textual and one electronic record loan request. The textual loans total 28 boxes. The eRecord loan was 985 files, totaling 7.11 gigabytes.

We are in the process of holding our end-of-Congress meetings with committee

chief clerks, system administrators, and archivists to discuss current archiving issues and to discover any new applications or software being deployed and not yet on our radar screen.

One of our constant challenges is to keep current with records management and archiving advice for data residing in evolving and new systems. One such system is Quill, which is a task management application for Dear Colleague and other letters used by Senators' offices and committees.

Former Deputy Archivist White began discussions with the Sergeant at Arms' Quill development team on archiving the data. These discussions continued throughout the development phase and subsequent to her retirement. Discussions focused on appropriate metadata for extractions and support for ones the Congress downloads for committees in addition to the end-of-service downloads for Senators.

This export feature was finalized in October for Senators' offices and will be activated in the next Congress for committees.

Another ongoing collaboration with the Sergeant at Arms Technology Assessment Group focuses on exporting and archiving Microsoft 365 Teams and OneDrive. In October of this year, the SAA informed us that they had finally contracted with A-Point, a vendor, to perform the export of the team's OneDrive data. We are expecting the tool to be available in January. At this time, it is designed to capture complete OneDrive files and very limited persistent chat and conferencing in an appropriate archiving format.

The SAA believes that A-Point will further develop export capabilities over time. Our team will stay engaged with SAA, as well as our joint Office of Education and Training, throughout deployment so that we can formulate preservation instructions and guidance for staff.

A final collaboration began in May and June when Deputy Archivist White and

Seelinger were invited to participate in an SAA working group to spell out requirements for an eDiscovery platform specifically with regard to exporting data for archiving. Market research and vendor selection is still ongoing with this project, but we are expecting to hear updates soon and will monitor any pilot office projects.

This is an update on another very important task force that is ongoing, the Congressional Video Preservation and Access Technical Working Group. This group is comprised of members of the House, Senate, Library of Congress, National Archives, and Government Publications Office. It has been meeting monthly since April of 2022 and systematically is working through a number of possible scenarios and best practices related to identifying the best way forward to preserve and provide access to House and Senate floor proceedings and committee hearings, perhaps eventually encompassing digital transfer of archival records to the Center for Legislative Archives. We are beginning to get requests for that service from committees.

Originally founded by Karl Jackson, the Senate Recording Studio director, who retired in August, the group is now led by Arin Shapiro, Senate Webmaster. Recent discussions noted that the Center for Legislative Archives, unlike the Library of Congress and GPO, remains outside of cap.net, the Capitol Hill Network hosted by the Architect of the Capitol, or any other means of connectivity outside the public internet.

The most recent meeting investigated potential ways to integrate NARA and the CLA over cap.net via their established physical equipment -- footprint in GPO's North Capitol Street facility, i.e. here. VPN access to Senate and House networks are leveraging LOC's production cloud transfer for electronic submissions. The LOC cloud transfer system is used by publishers to send data to LOC and seems to be offering promise as a model for this project.

The working group will produce a final report with recommendations for a system

that would meet defined preservation and accessibility goals, including identifying workflows, areas of responsibility within these workflows, opportunities to standardize file formats' delivery methods, and best practices across all stakeholders, and opportunities to streamline redundant tasks. Report drafting has not yet been scheduled.

The Congressional Papers Section of the Society of American Archivists met on July 19 for the third time virtually with 55 members, and 55 members participated. This forum focuses on exploring pressing issues facing congressional archivists and on creating community among CPS membership.

The CPS Electronic Records Committee discussed communicating with congressional staff about technology, social media preservation and recovery, and working with congressional IT staff. Speakers Jay Wyatt from the Center for Legislative Archives, Dawn Sueoka from the University of Hawaii at Manoa, Kate Gregory from Mississippi State University Libraries, and Jolene Kennah from the Ted Stevens Foundation discussed their outreach efforts to engage patrons and the public throughout the pandemic.

The final session capitalized on the collective resources of the section membership, as participants were invited to pose questions and others volunteered to provide answers about donor relations, outreach, and copyright.

So, to say that the past 6 months have been exhausting -- they have, but they have also been exciting -- is an understatement. This period has been a major milestone in the development of the Senate's archival and records management program and services.

I have been keeping a chronology of high points in this program's growth over the years. No use remembering the low points. That includes mention of publication firsts, notable conferences, the creation of congressional archivist interest groups, like the

one I just reported on, working toward a common goal, and sponsorship of the National Digital Stewardship archival fellow. The chronology also notes the addition of two professional deputy archivist positions in 2009 and 2010 to help the loan arranger and passage of H.Con.Res. 307 in 2008, but nothing on that chronology compares to the entries of the last 6 months.

The addition of two specialist Archivist positions and the Preservation Partnerships Program have increased our abilities, knowledge, and sheer enthusiasm a hundredfold. Again, many, many thanks to everyone who has made this possible.

I am now going to introduce you to one of our new Deputy Archivists, Dina Mazina, who will share her new archiving methods, entitled "Grow Your Archive," that has marked the celebration of the flowering of the Senate archival program.

Ms. Mazina. Thanks, Karen.

Guess I push this. Does that turn it on?

Ms. Koed. I think we can hear you fine, Dina. I wouldn't worry about it. Just speak up.

Ms. Mazina. So, hello. I am the new Deputy Archivist for Archival and Records Management Training, as Karen mentioned.

And we have these bookmarks to go along with the presentation. So, if you didn't get one, I am just going to pass the stack around.

So my goal in this position is to strengthen the connection between records management and archiving and encourage staff to see both records management and archiving not simply as a legal obligation or, let's face it, more like a chore but as an active process that creates an asset that they grow, maintain, and use.

I can't take credit for the metaphor. That came out of an SAA records management training course that I didn't even take. My colleague Elizabeth took it and

was kind enough to share the materials with me when I started. And there was a line in those training materials that said, "The records management grows, and the Archivist harvests."

So that was used to illustrate the relationship between those two disciplines.

Senate staff have various interpretations for the term "archiving" ranging from a boring chore to a legal liability to something akin to end-of-life planning. And, with this training message, we aim to weaken and minimize this association and promote more of an understanding of the practical and immediate benefits that a rich archive can bring to a Senate office.

This message will be sent out to administrative directors, staff directors, chief clerks, office managers, people like that, and will be available on our internal webster site.

Future versions of the bookmark that you receive will include a QR code probably in the corner where you see the hands, and that QR code will connect Senate users to our internet site via their Senate devices.

So I am going to -- and my commentary is just click-through because that is the way that we anticipate the staff seeing it.

[Slides shown.]

Ms. Koed. Will that be automatic? Do they scroll manually through that, or does it turn automatically? Because it doesn't give them enough time to read the text.

Ms. Mazina. It is -- you scroll through yourself.

Ms. Koed. You go through page by page yourself.

Got it. Yep. Great.

The Clerk. Very good. Thank you very much.

You don't want them to get too good, though, because you find yourself out of a

job.

Thanks very much, Karen.

Next we will hear from Richard Hunt, on the activities of the Center for Legislative Archives.

Mr. Hunt. Thank you, Cheryl.

This committee has the Center's annual report and materials that were distributed to you, which provide a complete and more in-depth view of our programs and activities for the year. I am happy to answer any questions you may have for me at the conclusion of my remarks, but I just wanted to provide some summary remarks and observations for this year.

The story of fiscal year 2022 is one of a post-pandemic recovery period marked by change and transition. It demonstrated the extraordinary resiliency and dedication of the Center's staff. Staff returned to onsite work while we continued to offer telework flexibility, and we resumed activities to support the House and the Senate in their records responsibilities and to address a pent-up demand from congressional researchers. Center staff expertly answered these unprecedented calls for enhanced services.

This year's highlights include the outstanding work of our loans and accessioning team you heard mentioned in the House and Senate reports, which were also supported by the rest of the staff, given the high volume of records that we were transferring and moving. And staff answered that call.

They handled over 900 new accessions, transferring over 6 million pages of House and Senate records into our custody. And you know we include a chart of the history of the accessioning activity. You can see the number of accessions was the highest we have experienced in 15 years, and the volume transferred was the most since 2015.

And much of that was due to the transfer of the entire records of the 114th and

115th House of Representatives. So we are happy to have them in our custody and give you room for the next few Congresses. So mission accomplished on that front.

On the records front, the Center archival staff assisted over 1,000 researchers this year. But most of those arrived between May and September. So that meant that we provided a year's worth of records services in less than half a year's time. So to say they were busy is an understatement.

There's also some major projects going on at the National Archives in support of diversity and equity and inclusion, and there are teams of researchers from around the country that are digging in to records that haven't been identified or turned over for many, many years, -- hearing the voices and telling the stories of some of the underrepresented groups in our collective history.

So they have assisted those teams as well, and it is a challenge to file through records that no one has described or looked at before. We are learning through the process a lot more about our records.

The Center's electronic records staff member -- I should say team, but there is one staff member that represents our electronic records team at the moment -- has been extremely busy with accessioning and processing of House and Senate records, preparing for the impending transition of the Congressional Records Instance of ERA to a NetApp storage system, which should happen in the next 2 or 3 months, and installing the tape backup system to provide deep preservation storage of our holdings.

So our role is changing from not only maintaining the local instance of CRI to provide you access to the records that you need loaned back to committees, but with the tape backup system we are also providing deep preservation that was previously provided by our colleagues at Rocket Center. So those tapes will be stored offsite for safekeeping and to reduce the risk, but we have taken on more of the responsibilities

ourselves.

And Shannon has also been troubleshooting the new server for the Archivist Toolkit ArchivesSpace database of pre-transfer descriptive information. So after a long delay that is becoming operational as well.

Our staff is currently focused on supporting Internet Archives' harvest of web content from the 117th Congress, and they are in the period of doing quality review of the harvests that are being performed on a daily basis. And that will continue throughout December-- right up until the beginning of the 118th Congress and that data will be made available to the public in March of 2023.

So the records from the 117th Congress will be available in March.

[11:02 a.m.]

Mr. Hunt. On the exhibition front, Center staff supported the reopening of Exhibition Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center this year and the largest number of original House and Senate documents on display in the opening round of exhibits and a significant set of documents going over soon for the second round of exhibits.

This required a great deal of work from my staff but also from National Archives conservators and registrars who answered the call to make sure Exhibition Hall opened on time and in a really spectacular fashion.

On the education front, the Center staff has focused on new initiatives as well, working with NARA educators to develop Civics for All of US, the agency's national civics education program, and on the presentation of workshops for teachers new to the profession.

Our staff's expertise in congressional history and congressional records informed both of those programs and activities, as did our long experience in conducting teacher development programs.

In sum, the year has been a unique and challenging one. My staff, working closely with our colleagues in the House and Senate and within NARA, have risen to meet those challenges and made progress on a number of critical fronts. Thank you. And I am happy to answer any questions.

The Clerk. Any questions for Richard?

Ms. Paul. Yes. So what is happening with the Rocket Center content? Is that being moved back or --

Mr. Hunt. That is a good question.

Shannon?

Ms. Niou. So we are going to do a data migration. So once the meta storage gets here at A1, Archives 1, to the Center, we are going to have the support from IBM to help us to set up the network, the tape library, and to have everything in place. And then we are going to do a data migration and then do a full backup after migration and also, you know, the verification piece, which is very critical. It might take months to run through each of the accessions for the Rocket Center records.

Ms. Paul. So the Rocket Center content eventually will be reintegrated with --

Ms. Niou. Yes, yes.

Mr. Hunt. So we will have everything.

Ms. Niou. We still have the local CRI system, but then adding on, we will be expanding the storage.

Ms. Paul. Shannon, me and my team really thank you for all of this work you do. You have been incredible the past couple of years, running solo, a lone ranger.

Ms. Niou. The House and the Senate have been very helpful.

Ms. Paul. You have got a partnership, yes.

The Clerk. And I echo what Karen has said. I thank you.

And thank you, Richard, for your personal support. The Office of the Clerk and just House-wide, it has really been a pleasure over the past 4 years. Thank you.

Mr. Hunt. It is an honor to serve you.

Ms. Skaggs. Madam Chair, Richard, if I understand correctly, the NetApp system is a disaster recovery primarily system.

Mr. Hunt. Well, you are exceeding my technical ability. I will just say that the NetApp storage is a quantum leap from what we currently have the congressional records residing on. Brandon Hirsch -- and all of you know and appreciate him -- that was his dream to move us to NetApp storage.

I feel we are reducing the risk, and we just feel more comfortable in the expansion that we are undertaking and being able to take the records of the House and the Senate in the next 5 years.

I mean, we are waiting to migrate into ERA one day, but we have to be good stewards between now and then. And you have compelling needs that the records need to be transferred and preserved and returned when necessary.

Ms. Skaggs. I think it would be helpful at a future meeting to have more information about the NetApp system, about its architecture and functionality and how all this is going to work. If I could request that for another committee meeting.

Ms. Koed. I second that. I think that is a good idea.

Mr. Hunt. If authorized, I will make a call to the National Archives IT experts to come and do a presentation.

Ms. Skaggs. Thank you.

The Clerk. Okay.

Next we will hear from Kirsten Gullickson. Kirsten is actually a member of my team. She works for the Office of the Clerk in the Legislative Computer Systems Unit. And she will discuss recent in-house data projects developed during this Congress, as well as the House's collaboration with the Library on improving congressional data resources.

Ms. Gullickson. Thank you, Madam Clerk.

Can everyone hear me? The microphone is not working.

As Madam Clerk said, my name is Kirsten Gullickson, and I wear three hats: I am the director of our quality assurance analysis and product support team in the Clerk's Legislative Computer Systems Division; I co-chair the Legislative Branch XML Technical Working Committee with my counterpart John Pollock in the Senate Secretary's Office; and I am the coordinator of the Congressional Data Task Force.

Today, as the Clerk said, I want to provide some updates on the progress we have made adding a digital and electronic layer to our centuries-old paper process. And I always start the Data Task Force meetings and most of my presentations, I offer a reminder, and I expect all of you in this room to know this reminder, so it is not anything new.

Although the U.S. Constitution does not mandate open sessions, the House did open its doors to the public starting in April of 1789. And, since those first meetings, the House has been preparing, managing, distributing, and preserving and archiving our official proceedings and documents.

Like it was in the beginning days of the House, the paper document is still the official document of record. And today's challenge is adding a digital layer to Congress' centuries-old paper process.

And often in the Bulk Data Task Force meetings we have new people, and so they are just learning that information brand new. So I stop at this slide and talk about the size of our documents and just remind them and educate folks that we have people both in the House and the Senate and at NARA and here at GPO that handle incredible large amounts of physical documents.

And GPO provides these presentation cases, and you can see President Biden is signing a single-page document. That is the resolution that made Juneteenth a holiday. Nancy Pelosi has a much larger document. That blue presentation case on the left to her right-hand side is one of the COVID bills. And then, for Mr. Bush and Mr. Obama, you can see that they have different sizes. But we physically, as all you know, have people handling those documents. And we are working to add a digital layer and to digitize these, and I will give you a little update on that work.

As you all know, if we only have a scanned PDF, we scan it, we get it online and we

make it available to the public and to the staff and to the Members of Congress who need to work with it. I am incredibly grateful for our colleagues in the Library and at GPO and others, including some of the reports we heard today, that continue to do that first step of scanning in our older documents and making them available online.

As we all know, we do need to do more than just scan in the paper. We need to deliver and we are delivering digital renditions of the official documents of record in ways that let people in my office and Legislative Computer Systems Division and in the Sergeant at Arms and the Senate's Office, in the Senate Secretary's Office, to build tools that really use that digital rendition.

We are using structured data. The XML Working Group is partnering with the House and Senate and sometimes Office of Federal Register to put our structured data in XML. It is called sensible markup language. Our version is called United States Legislative Markup, USLM. This is our generation two markup language. And you most often can find a group of us on Monday afternoons talking about data modeling and how do our legislative documents fit into this data model.

We have a roadmap that we are doing to do that data modeling. We have done the U.S. Code, bills, Public Laws, and Statutes at Large. We have done something called the Statute Compilations, which is a set of documents that the Senate Office of Legislative Counsel and the House Office of Legislative Counsel maintain. They are the updated versions of the Public Laws and the Statutes at Large that have been amended, because that is the actual law that they need to amend and write drafts to when we change the current law. But this is our roadmap.

If you want to know more information about how we are marking up our legislative documents, we have our reports available on our Innovation Hub, and the website is down here at the bottom of the slide. The Clerk is responsible for submitting

a quarterly report on our work that we are doing across the legislative branch to put USLM together.

Some of our work also, besides the legislative documents, includes video. And thank you, Karen Paul, for announcing and talking about the work that Aaron is doing. Both Andrew and I have sat in those meetings, and it has been very exciting to get to work on videos because that is a piece of our history, of the Congress' history that we need to caretake as well, even though it is relatively new compared to our older documents.

The other thing I want to talk about regarding USLM in scanning documents is that we know that GPO and the Library of Congress and NARA have taken great projects to scan in those older documents, but I am really, really excited to announce for those of you who may not know, GPO has been able to award a multiyear contract this year to digitize the remaining Statutes at Large volumes, and that contract includes creating XML for those volumes.

So we are going to digitize from 1789 to 1950, and we are going to put into XML markup, using the USOM schema, the Statutes at Large volumes from 1951 to 2002. So we are really looking forward to that because that will help the Senate and House leg counsels supplement where they don't have their Statutes at Large and where we need them for a project I want to talk about next.

So we have been using that XML data for our bills and for our laws to create a Comparative Print Suite program. And, with that Comparative Print, we get to provide a tool for the staff to compare document to document. So, if they have an introduced bill with a House-passed bill, they can compare what the differences are. And, more importantly, my favorite piece of the tool is where we can compare amendments contained in the legislative proposal with the current law. And so that is the module in

our Comparative Print Suite that I want to talk about today, changes to existing law.

In this project, because of the work that we have done to maintain our documents and put them in USLM, we can offer a tool that compares legislation to the two primary datasets that we draft for the law to. That is the U.S. Code, the positive law titles of the U.S. Code, and the Statute Compilations, which are the updated acts.

A lot of staff who come to the House and Senate don't know that. They believe that we draft all the amendments to current law to the U.S. Code, but it is only the positive law titles and the Statute Compilations and then, depending on where we are with the current law, some of these other datasets.

This is a sample of what an amendment looks like to a statute compilation contained in a bill, so you can see that the legislative provision is proposing to amend paragraph 1 of subsection (b) of section 704 of the Homeland Security Act.

That Homeland Security Act would have been a Public Law. So the House or Senate enrolling clerks would have delivered the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to the White House to be signed by the President. And then it goes to the Office of Federal Register for a Public Law number, and a Statutes at Large number is assigned. Then it becomes an electronic document for the House and Senate leg counsel to draft upon. And any amendment contained up to this point would be there.

But this particular amendment in the law is going to strike some words and insert it. And so our tool goes out, finds the Homeland Security Act in our database, and finds section 704, and then executes the amendments.

What we display back to the user is something similar to this. I don't have that section here. This is a different section. This is the Consumer Financial Protection Act. And in the module up on the top, that is section 3 from a bill. It is H.R. 1500 from the 116th Congress. And you can see that we can show back to the user track-like changes,

UI down here on the bottom. And you can show them the current law.

And so, in the past, they would have had that PDF of the Consumer Financial Protection Act up on their screen. They would have had the PDF of the bill from GPO up on their screen, and they would have had to manually try to look at the changes. And so here in this tool, they can just see it on screen. We are doing it using natural language processors. And we have an interactive outline on the left-hand side that they can navigate through.

So it is a huge, huge win that we have gotten this far not only to scan in our documents, but to digitize them in a way using current, modern markup language to do this kind of work. We released this House-wide in October to the House, and so far so good. So we are really excited about it. So thank you all for all your parts that you play.

The other place that we are not necessarily digitizing but we are adding electronic workflow is with our eHopper. And so usually Members use a traditional paper process. They submit their bill proposals or their bill introductions into a wooden box in the House Chamber. And this is what it looks like in the House Chamber.

We have clerks who staff the box and retrieve the paper submissions and then process them. They need to assign a bill number. They need to work with the Speaker's Office and the Parliamentarian's Office on committee referrals. And then we get ready to submit those to GPO for printing.

But, in April of 2020, the Speaker directed our office to create an electronic submission process. And, over the course of 3 days, we did that. We created the procedures and processes for the submission, and we stood up a secure email box so Members could email their bills to our office. It was a very simple solution.

And we always knew we wanted to do something different. So, in April of this

year, in 2022, we released the second rendition or second edition of the eHopper. Instead of having Members and staff simply email us their submission, we created a guided process. And so this is what the landing page looks like. And Members and their staff can log in. And the eHopper is either open or closed. So, by House tradition, our hopper is open 15 minutes before the House begins, and it is closed 15 minutes after the House adjourns. And so we have equipped them to open and close the eHopper, similar to as when they carry the wooden box and put it on the House floor.

We also have a back-end component that allows the clerks to process the submissions as they come in. This is what it looks like when the eHopper is closed. And then what we did, we worked with the UI designer. We used human-centered design principles and just did a guided step-by-step submission process.

And so they upload PDFs that they create or they receive from the House leg counsel of their drafted bill and meet all the practices and regulations that we have guiding the submission process. And this is what it looks like when they get to step five and they approve their submission.

And this is now -- our eHopper is now the primary way in which staff submit bills. And so we are really excited about this because we can leverage not only the XML file that accompanies the PDF that we work with and leg counsel drafts natively in our XML markup, but we are really excited about other innovations and forward-thinking solutions that we can give to Members and our bill clerks, who process hundreds and hundreds of submissions, particularly cosponsors. Many, many Members are on bills, and they process, you know, 50,000, 75,000 cosponsors in a six-month period. So that is our eHopper.

And then the other system I want to just briefly talk about is our LIMS, Legislative Information Management System. LIMS is a mission-critical application that started out

a mainframe and has been ported to a second technology, and we are now in a project to rewrite it in its entirety and modernize it. And we released our first module called Executive Action Reporting System in here in November.

The LIMS system is incredibly important because it transfers data to the Senate. And so there is House data that gets in the Senate calendar that comes from the LIMS system. It is incredibly important because it generates our House calendar. It also helps us number all the bills that are submitted in the eHopper. And all of the actions on House bills that are recorded in the LIMS system also get transferred to congress.gov.

And so Andrew is going to talk about some of the innovations and some of the work that they have done with data around congress.gov. And our House data comes from the LIMS system. And we are excited to partner with the Library and with our users in the Clerk's Office to build an innovative system to record the actions on legislative activity.

So, with that, thank you for letting me come and present some updates.

And thank you, Madam Clerk, for inviting me.

And I am happy to entertain any questions.

The Clerk. Any questions for Kirsten?

Thank you, Kirsten.

I cannot overstate how much these three changes will do for the efficiency and effectiveness of legislative operations. As someone who started on the Hill with a committee 32 years ago, the fact that Comparative Print Suite exists that allow you to compare the proposed changes to legislation is just tremendous. It saves so much time.

And, with Members of Congress getting younger and younger -- we have a 25-year-old this year who is a Member-elect -- some of the older processes that we have in place I think just would not work for these newer Members.

So I just thank Kirsten and her team constantly, and all of the support. It really was a team effort because it was also Wade Ballou with legislative drafting also helped. The advancement is going to make a huge difference going forward with legislative operations.

So next I will introduce Andrew Weber of the Library of Congress to give us an update.

Mr. Weber. Thank you so much for inviting me today. I am Andrew Weber, the product owner of congress.gov. And one of the great things about my job is I get to work across the Hill with people like Kirsten in the House. I work with Aaron Shapiro, who was mentioned, in the Senate. I work with all the people from GPO. And we all gather feedback and things that then go into our congress.gov releases.

And internally to the Library, I work with OCIO, the Chief Information Officer Office. I work with the Law Library and CRS and other parts of the Library who are some of the subject-matter experts for congress.gov. And we gather feedback from both congressional offices, from constituents, to try and make congress.gov the best website possible for a variety of users.

And one of the ways we do that is we do sprints. Every 3 weeks, we are working on development features and enhancements for congress.gov to make the website even better. Then, after the 3 weeks go by, we do a blog post about it to let everybody know what new changes or enhancements have been added to the website.

And one of the things Kirsten mentioned, we have been working on this huge data modernization project that is very much behind the scenes. So we are going to finish this after a couple years, and then no one is going to notice, and that is kind of a -- sometimes we do a lot of work that people can see, and sometimes we do a lot of work that is more behind the scenes.

But I am going to talk a little today about a couple projects that we have worked on over the last couple years that I think you might be interested in. And I talked about releasing things every 3 weeks with the sprints. These projects, they are longer than the 3 weeks to get it all done, so we did it over a multiple time period. But we do increments that then build up to releasing the final package.

So the first thing I want to talk about is our congress.gov API that we launched earlier this year in September. It was on September 6. This is, I'll call it a beta API, because it doesn't have all of the endpoints yet, but we are working our way through to make sure it has all of the endpoints.

And then, in 2023, we will have, call it the full API. We won't call it the beta anymore. And one of the reasons we introduced it is a lot of places come and screen scrape from congress.gov. And, if they scrape a little too vigorously, that can bring the site down. And our site is one that cannot be down. We need to be up, especially when Congress is in session.

And so one of the reasons we wanted to have an API, which stands for application programming interface, it is a way for machines to talk to our site, get the data, and then leverage them on their side.

So it is something that developers use. There are some for-profit companies that come and take the data and put the data on their websites. So there are other places that scrape it. So we wanted to have an authenticated source to let people come and get the congress.gov data.

So you go to api.congress.gov, and then you click "sign-up," and you will get a screen, the screen off to the right. It doesn't take a lot of information. You just need to add your name, first name, last name, and an email address. You will get the API key that you can use. And that is it. It is a very quick form to fill out to get started.

And, once you do that, there is also a lot of information that we have posted in various parts. So, on `api.Congress.gov`, you can see the different endpoints. You can kind of see what we have. And so all of this is what is there now, and we have been starting to work to add even more from this. So there is like the bill, the amendment, Member, Congress, nomination, treaties, bill summaries, committee reports, congressional record, House communications. So we are kind of building our way up through the main corpus of the site.

We also have a new GitHub space that we launched for the public when we launched the beta. And the GitHub space is a great place for developers to leave us comments that deal with issues. But also one of the things that has been fun for me to watch is developers will sometimes put in an issue, and then another developer will come back and say, "Oh, here is how I handled that," and you can see them going back and forth to help themselves as well so.

And then sometimes the issues we then turn into to get the bug fixes into the website to make the API even better. They are little things; like, whenever we first started the API, it was internal to make sure things were going well, but we might not have noticed things on the same scale as having this now open to the public. So we are noticing little things. We are fixing those.

There are also bigger feature requests that maybe we will need to work with our House and Senate data partners to get some extra information to go onto `congress.gov` later, but it has been great to kind of see that initial feedback so far.

One of the other things on GitHub we have, we have the documentation of all the endpoints. So you can go in and actually see a lot more about it, especially if you are newer to an API or our API. And we also have sample client codes, both Python and Java.

And another thing, as we give the releases every 3 weeks, we update the API Center in that time. You want to know what have we changed, so there is also a place on there for a change log. So you can see not only what we have changed since the launch in September, but you can also see the next release or two, kind of what we are going to change.

So, if you are someone who is using the data, that is helpful for you to know, oh, we are about to add Senate communications. If you were interested in ingesting those, you could have a heads-up.

And so here is the view of the change log. A couple of the endpoints we still want to add, like the House requirements, Senate communications, things that we are working our way through.

And the screenshot also shows upcoming, what is coming next, as well as, if you scroll further down, it has what else we have changed. So it really tries to help you out and provide all the information you need if you are coming at this fresh.

One of the things -- so here is the issue page. This is where we can get the feedback. We also ask for feedback across all of congress.gov. There is a feedback icon on almost every page of congress.gov. So, if someone wants to talk to developers, they can add it here. We try and review and respond to these within a day or two of it getting posted. Like I said, we sometimes see the developers responding to each other. And, if it is more of a substantive legislative process or legislation question, there is the [ask,loc.gov/law](http://ask.loc.gov/law) to Ask a Librarian, where we also have the law librarians in the reference room who are answering those questions and sending things back as well. So that is the API.

And then, last year, we started our very initial part of converting some of the old Century of Lawmaking website into congress.gov. And what we are trying to do is we

reviewed Century of Lawmaking, and it is the first hundred years of a lot of historical legislative material. Not all of it is necessarily appropriate for congress.gov, but the parts that are appropriate we are trying to ingest, pull in, and make it look somewhat similar to modern legislation.

If you have looked at Century of Lawmaking before, it was done a little while ago and is a slightly dated website. And you have to know exactly how to do it. It is not as searchable. So we are trying to work to incorporate it into congress.gov.

And so it debuted back in 1998, and it doesn't really look like it has been updated very much since then. I will just give you a sneak peek. This isn't the standard you are familiar with. But it does have a lot of information, and it has a lot of good information. And, at the time, it was a modern, up-to-date website, but it hasn't had the development resources. So we are trying to pull in the data. One of the issues with our pulling it into congress.gov is modern data has so much robust metadata, and it is wonderful. It is so great to find. We have filters on congress.gov because of all the metadata.

But we are really working kind of step by step for this project. The first step is taking the TIFF images, converting them to PDFs, and we are making it in a bill detail. So what we have so far are the bills and resolutions. We have pulled over 33,000 bills that have migrated to congress.gov, and they are from the range of the Sixth Congress through the 42nd Congress.

And, as I said before, here is the page. So, really, the only thing we have pulled in so far is the bills and resolutions where the big red arrow is. We have been working on some of the debates of Congress as our next part to pull in, so the Annals of Congress. Hopefully, early 2023 we will have the Annals pulled in. And we have also been ingesting from GPO the bound Congressional Record. So now we go back to -- we have more modern. We have the daily edition for report earlier. We have the bound

Congressional Record, and that goes back to before the late 1800s at this point.

So we are trying to close the gap. Sometimes we refer to that missing data as kind of the doughnut hole of data we are trying to fill in on congress.gov. And so, if you go to congress.gov, here is the section. You can kind of see. And it is not going to look completely different like Century of Lawmaking is. And it is not going to be something completely brand new. We are working to incorporate it into the same look and feel.

So, right now, if you do a search on congress.gov on that big bar for legislation, you are going to get some of the Century material if it hits what you search. The problem is a lot of it doesn't have text yet, and a lot of it has very nominal metadata. But we are working to try and make both of those a little more robust.

And I will show you a little bit more. So, if you click on one of those records, if you are familiar with modern legislation this is going to look very similar. One thing that is very different is all the tabs have zeros across most, because there isn't the data. There isn't the summaries that the CRS staff has made for this early material.

There will be a text. So everything will have a text, and as long as it is small enough file size we embed it in a PDF that you can just view on the page. If it is a little bit larger, you might need to click to download the PDF first. There is almost always one action, at least, with all of the items that we have.

And then one other thing I just want to point out. It does say related bills is zero, and that is because related bills we think of still as the modern sense of related bills, and that is where it is identified by CRS, the House, or the Senate. But for this, this early century thing, we kind of tested a little pilot where, if you click on the related bills, it might still say zero, but we have this feature called More Like This, where it is scanning across just Century of Lawmaking metadata, and in that time period, one Congress before and one Congress after and during that Congress, if there is anything that relates to that

specific piece of legislation. So this one might be France and the Treaty of Paris. Then, if there is anything else that has that metadata in the search, it will show that on the page. So you can then get from this to some other similar related items.

And here is what we took. We took the TIFF images in Century. We have converted it into PDFs to make it easier to view. And so the search, the searching you can do from the Sixth to the 42nd Congress for all that we have.

It is mainly metadata, but one of the fun things that we recently added was we have a group of Law Library of Congress intern volunteers we affectionately refer to as an intern army, because they do so much work for us. But what they did was they took all of the transcripts and transcribed everything for the first -- the Sixth, Seventh, Eighth, Ninth and Tenth. So the first five Congresses that we have, now you can search the text of the legislation. And you will get back one of those pages, and you will be able to read the text.

So that was kind of a proof of concept. It worked out well. It is in the system now. You can search on any of those. And, since that worked out, we are going to work with the interns to continue to go from the 11th to the 42nd Congress and hopefully transcribe the entire corpus of the Century of Lawmaking content.

Mr. Weber. And then, later on, we have from the 82nd Congress forward. For some of those, the 82nd Congress, we have Statutes at Large where we have ingested. And then, from about the 103rd, 104th is where everything is more modern, and we have all the metadata; we have all the different versions of the bill text as well.

And one thing that is nice with the Century content, that bar that I showed across the top, you can search what we affectionately refer to as the global search bar, but if you expand it, you can see the quick search form. And the quick search form has check boxes to either include or exclude the Century content.

So, if you just want to go to this earlier material and just search things from this 100-year time period, you can. Or, if you want to exclude it, you can do that as well.

And this is just a little bit more about kind of what is in there. It is an interesting collection as it was kind of developed, but if you saw it in Century, you should now see it in congress.gov for the bills and resolutions as we continue to work on these other parts.

One other thing I want to mention, with the every 3-week releases, we do blog post all of the releases on the Law Library's blog "In Custodia Legis." We also post release notes on congress.gov/help/enhancements, and that shows you what were the public-facing improvements for that release. You are not going to see that we spent 2 years working with the House and Senate colleagues to update the underlying data structure, but anything that changes via the web interface you will see notes it there.

And congress.gov also has a variety of alerts that you can get on, say, searches. You can get bill alerts. You can get appropriations alerts. So there is a variety of things added to get alerts. And also there is the contact us, the congress.gov/contactus, which has the Ask a Law Library section as well as the Twitter account for congress.gov.

Thank you. Any questions?

The Clerk. Thank you, Andrew.

Next, we will hear from Matt Wasniewski and Betty Koed, the House Historian and Senate Historian.

Mr. Wasniewski. Thank you, Cheryl.

It has been a while since I have had the opportunity to update the committee on my office's activities. Since we are drawing to the end of the 117th Congress, I thought it might be appropriate to hit some of the highlights for the past 2 years.

On the publications front, we are producing a new edition of "Black Americans in Congress, 1870 to 2022." And it uses primary sources and scholarship that have come

open in the 15 years since the last edition of the book back in 2008. So we are very excited about this.

It profiles the 175 individuals, both House Members and Senators, who have served since 1870, Hiram Revels in the Senate and Joseph Rainey in the House. And it tells in contextual essays the remarkable stories of 19th century Black American Members, many formerly enslaved people.

They advocated for civil rights and political rights during Reconstruction. And it highlights the long struggle for representation by Black Americans even in the Jim Crow South, when voting rights were severely limited.

It follows, via the Great Migration, a small but effective contingent of Black Members who represented northern cities, Chicago, Detroit, Philadelphia, New York among them, Members such as William Dawson and Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., of New York, who chaired committees and began to represent African-American interests in Congress again.

We also in this revised volume tell the story of the origins of the Congressional Black Caucus, highlighting the caucus' significant role in promoting the careers of African-American Members in the late 20th century. And the book also emphasizes the important contributions of Black women Members as legislators, committee leaders, and congressional leaders.

And we are looking for this volume to be published in the first quarter of 2023, by the Government Publishing Office. Our other major publication that we have in work now in galleys is a booklet on the history of the Speakership entitled "A Chair Made Illustrious," a concise history of the Speakership. And we are very excited to have this we hope by the end of the month. It is about a 30,000-word essay. So it is fairly brief compared to our other books.

And it focuses on the people who have held the gavel but also the procedural changes that have occurred over time. It makes original contributions to the historiography by, among other things, including a discussion about the proposed plan for a Speaker in the Albany Plan of Union in 1754, and tying that to the office that was created in the Constitutional Convention. The story is told in five main parts, which correspond to major eras in American history, to show how the office has changed to meet the needs of the country.

And I should mention also as well that the booklet, again, to be published at the end of the month, is being produced, as is the much larger "Black Americans in Congress" volume, 950 pages there, and it is being produced by the Clerk's very capable Office of Communications, which did the copy editing work, the design, and the production to hand off to GPO. So we are excited about both those publications.

On the oral history front, the Oral History Program, the House Oral History Program has had a remarkable run in the 117th Congress. Our team of six interviewers has conducted roughly 140 video and audio interviews with Members and staff since January 2021. These range from eyewitness accounts of January 6th and its aftermath to the impact of COVID on House operations and procedures to interviews with long-serving women Members and African-American Members.

Most recently, as we come to the end of the Congress, we are focused on capturing the stories and career histories of recently departed or departing Members. And these include Chairwomen Carolyn Maloney, Eddie Bernice Johnson, Nita Lowey, longtime CBC Leader G.K. Butterfield, and the current co-chair of the Women's Caucus, Brenda Lawrence, and other long-serving Members, such as Mike Doyle, Lucille Roybal-Allard, and Fred Upton.

In 2021, on the 20th anniversary of the September 11th attacks, we published

previously unavailable full transcripts from 20 interviewees whom we had spoken to about their memories of that day in a project that we had originally conducted for the 10th anniversary of 9/11. And we continue to interview long-serving House staff.

And all of our public interviews, including full transcripts, biographies, and selected video and audio clips can be found on the [history.house.gov](https://www.history.house.gov) website under the Oral History tab.

Also, we have done a lot to update our web page over the past 2 years. We are on pace to have more than 12 million visitors on the page, which for our little, tiny slice of the world is a lot. And that is collectively on this website, which is, of course, the full heritage of the House, curatorial, archival, and history.

The traffic has been driven on the history side primarily by our institutional history pages. So things like lists of speakers, our party government and party divisions over time, the origins and the powers of the House, as well as its role in such constitutional processes as the electoral college.

Though users largely find us via search engines, we have had a notable uptick in traffic referrals from education websites, such as Google Classroom. And these trends kind of track along -- and Betty is nodding because we have talked about this -- with what my office has observed over the past several Congresses, which is greater and continuing public interest in what we call Civics 101 information.

And, as that relates to the House, it includes topics such as, what does the Speaker do, what are the war-making powers, why is the power of the purse vested in Congress? These types of things.

Our blog, which is titled "Whereas: Stories From the People's House," has also seen a spike in traffic over the course of the 117th Congress. And, again, this is a blog that we publish cooperatively with the curators and the archivists, and we update it

usually on a weekly basis. And the History Office's blog topics have ranged from apportionment to a bloody floor fight in 1844 to the origins and the House's role in the origins of daylight savings, and a blog recently that suggested congressionally focused topics for National History Day projects.

And one other staff item I wanted to mention before turning it over to Betty was, earlier this year, my colleague Ben Francis-Fallon joined our office as the new Associate Historian, succeeding our long-serving former associate Ken Kato. Ben cannot be with us today. I am hoping you will get to meet him at future meetings.

As some at this table know, Ken Kato, who previously worked at the Center -- and full disclosure, I poached him from Richard, and I think Richard forgives me. Ken played a leading role in reconstituting the House History function, and he left us in 2021 for a well-deserved retirement.

Ben comes to our office after having taught at Western Carolina University since 2014. And his first book, which was published by Harvard University Press in 2020, is called "The Rise of the Latino Vote," which won the Huntington Library's inaugural Shapiro Book Prize for putting out an outstanding first scholarly monograph in American political, social, intellectual, or cultural history.

Ben also has about 10 years teaching high school in Brooklyn, New York. And it has been a joy to have him as a colleague. So I look forward to being able to introduce him to the committee.

And I too am happy to take questions if anyone has any at the end of Betty's remarks.

The Clerk. Betty.

Ms. Koed. Thank you. As Matt was giving his summary there, I was thinking about the first time I met Ken Kato was I think 1991 at the Center for Legislative Archives

when I came on to do dissertation research.

And I think our microphone is not the best. I am going to push it away a little bit there.

Mr. Hunt. I would just add that we hired Ken Kato as a GS-3.

The Clerk. Oh, wow.

Mr. Hunt. He really liked congressional history.

Ms. Koed. Like Matt, I am just going to also take this opportunity to give you a little update on some of our many projects we have going in the Senate Historical Office. On our publications list, our new book, which is called "Themes, People, Places, and Events that Shaped the U.S. Senate," which is a 300-page illustrated collection of 150 stories from Senate history, is in final proof stages, and we hope to send it to print in the next couple of weeks. Hopefully, in early 2023, we will be seeing that volume come out.

We are very busy with lots of end-of-Congress duties. As Karen noted, on the historical part of that story, staff are updating the Biographical Directory for the U.S. Congress, to update all the entries for current Senators and as well as creating new entries for incoming Senators, newly elected Senators.

That ties in with our efforts to keep our institutional data up to speed as well. As Matt mentioned, we have a lot of institutional lists and other information on our websites. And this is a busy time of the year for my staff as they update our list of chairmen and longest serving and, you know, first-ers, all the hundreds of lists that we keep on a daily basis.

That will go on into January, obviously, as we approach the beginning of the new Congress on January 3rd. And timing is always very important, and we work closely with our colleagues on the House side on the Biographical Directory to make sure that everything is ready to go and ready to post on January 3rd. So that is ongoing.

Also, like Matt's office, our office is doing a lot of work on our Senate website. We are in the process of doing a massive reorganization of all the historical content on senate.gov, and we are making good progress on that. It is a huge project. It is a years-long project.

The good part of this is that it is allowing us to bring historical content to all parts of the Senate website. So, rather than just having a discrete history section like we have had just history for many years, instead, we will have a section called "Learn about the Senate," which is predominantly historical material.

But also, if you click on Senators, you will get historical material there. If you click on committees, you will find historical material there. So it is really integrating the history into the full site, which is something we have been working towards for a long time. So we are really happy to take those steps forward.

Also, a principal part of the reorganization is we are creating a new feature, which is a chronology feature. And it is going to be a timeline from 1789 to the present -- well, 1787 to the present. And it will allow visitors to go to the site and look at any particular item or event or personality associated with a moment in time on that timeline. They can go in and explore it that way and find historical content that really helps them to understand that event or the role of the individual person. And that project is also well underway. We think that will probably be completed by mid-2023. So those are some major steps forward for us on the Senate website.

Like the House office, we have our history blog. We have a monthly history blog. We are just about to post our 34th monthly blog coming in December. And that is going to be about Senator James McMillan and the McMillan Commission that was so influential in the development of Washington, D.C., and the National Mall. These blog posts are also an important element of our reorganization plan as we are carefully

integrating them into the institutional history. That is part of the reorganization.

Our Oral History Projects continue. We have several underway, large projects. And I will mention just a few. Our January 6th project is still ongoing. We are coming up to 2 years past January 6th.

We have pretty much completed phase 1 of that project, which was to interview the really core group, people like officers and floor staff and doorkeepers, security, that type of personnel that were in the Chamber on January 6th. We sort of started in the Chamber and moved out. We have a few on that list we still are hoping to catch, but, for the most part, that phase has been completed.

And we are moving into phase 2 now, which is more the periphery process. And that includes people like food workers and janitorial staff, people who were also onsite that day and dealt with January 6th but whose stories have had very little attention from the public or the press. Our goal for that project, of course, is to capture the day's events and the aftermath of that day from as broad a perspective as we possibly can.

Our Women of the Senate project continues. We have completed our centennial commemoration of the Women's Suffrage Amendment, which, of course, hit its highlight in 2020.

And we have just marked the centennial of the first woman Senator, which came in 1922. That commemoration was capped with last month's history blog, which was "Rebecca Felton and One Hundred Years of Women Senators." If you haven't had a chance to look at that, I recommend it. It is a really interesting and difficult story because Rebecca Felton was a southerner at the time of Jim Crow segregation.

And part of what we have to do is to balance the difficult history with the commemorative aspect of it. And I think the team did a good job on that. So I recommend that to you if you haven't seen it yet. Even though those two

commemorations have hit their climax, this is not the end of our efforts to explore the role of women in Senate history, and our research into that topic will continue. Our oral histories with former women Senators and top women staff will also continue in the years ahead. That is a project that will continue to grow.

Our general Oral History Project also is ongoing. As Matt mentioned with theirs, we have done dozens and dozens and dozens of interviews in recent years to keep up with all these projects. We have now completed interviews with former Senators John Warner and Carl Levin. The Warner interview is now online in full transcript. The Levin interview is heading in that direction.

We are currently interviewing former party Secretaries, outgoing leadership, staff, and other support staff. So we are very proud of our Oral History Project. It is something that we -- Kate, Scott, Dan Holt and I, all three of us do interviews and work very hard to keep that project going. Kate is the main director of the project, but all three of us do interviews. And so, since 1975, it has been one of the highlights of our office, and it continues to be that.

I mentioned before that we have a major image digitization project going on. We have a very large image collection in our office, which includes old negatives, slides, and print photos and illustrations. It is hard to know exactly how many because we have inherited a lot of these from the photo studio and outside photographers, but there are tens of thousands of images in our collection.

Our goal is to digitize the entire collection so that we can archive it for long-term preservation and use the digital for reference and that type of stuff. Our Photo Historian, Heather Moore, is working with the Senate Photo Services Office as well as outside vendors to keep this digitization process going. To date, we have digitized about 40,000 images, including negatives, a lot of them old, odd size negatives that are

completely obsolete at this point, print images and other illustrations with thousands to go, of course.

And I need to add that Heather, our Photo Historian, is also diligently and single-handedly cataloging each image, adding the metadata that is necessary to keep that digital image in proper preservation form. It is a huge project that will continue for years to come.

Finally, as Karen noted in her report today, the Historical Office has gone through many changes lately, hiring three new Deputy Archivists, with George to join us in January, finding working space for them, which on the Hill is not an easy process. And thank you to Robert and the Secretary's Office, we now have another auxiliary office in the basement of the Hart Building.

Dina and Keri have settled in very quickly, and we are looking forward to having George there in January. So we now have five professional archivists on our staff. So this is a really exciting time for us, and especially for Karen, who has led the way in Senate archiving for more than 40 years.

So let me also take this chance to thank the Secretary Ann Barry, Assistant Secretary Robert Paxton, and all of the Executive Office for their support as we have gone through this transition and this expansion, so that we can continue to ensure the preservation of Senate records for the year years to come.

So thank you.

The Clerk. Thank you. Any questions for Betty or Matt?

Thank you.

The Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress report will be produced in its seventh edition in 2024, and the Senate side will take the lead. Karen Paul will take the lead. Because of time, we won't have time for Karen to go into the timeline, but I am

certain it will be done in a very, very timely manner. So thank you.

Next, I would like to ask if there is any new business for the Advisory Committee?

If there are no additional issues to discuss, I would like to ask if someone would provide a motion to adjourn.

Mr. Wasniewski. So moved.

Ms. Hibay. Second.

[Whereupon, at 11:58 a.m., the committee was adjourned.]