



# PROMOTING TRANSPARENCY THROUGH LIBRARY – GOVERNMENT COLLABORATION

Presentation to BCLA

Government and Legal Information Gathering

May 13, 2011



# Agenda

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- GATT Digital Library - project history
- Libraries as agents of government transparency

# Research question

- How does membership in international organizations influence the politics and policies of member nations?
  1. How did membership in GATT/WTO influence the creation and power of free-trade coalitions in its member countries?
  2. How did membership in GATT/WTO influence the trade policy decisions of member countries?



# Library resources

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- What were Stanford's Library holdings in 1995?
  - ▣ GATT Depository (1952) – 2% of documentary output
  - ▣ Basic research collection
- What else could be acquired?
  - ▣ Expanded secondary literature collection
  - ▣ Microfiche subscription program “for libraries” – 10% of documentary output
  - ▣ Comprehensive microfiche documents “for governments” collection

# Overcoming the restriction problem

- ▣ Librarian visits GATT in Geneva and discovers microfiche collection for governments available only to GATT member delegations
- ▣ Professor Goldstein seeks US Congressional approval to obtain delegate status
- ▣ Congress informs U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) in Geneva that Stanford should have access to all GATT and WTO restricted documentation
- ▣ Under aegis of USTR status, Library acquires microfiche collection for governments
- ▣ Library staff divide collection into 'public' and 'restricted' components

# More information gaps

- References to GATT documents “looseleaf schedules” not found on microfiche. Questions about organization, about membership, and legal status of agreement not answerable from material on microfiche
- March 1999 Study Trip findings:
  - *An apparently unique set of Looseleaf Schedules located in Market Access Division*
  - *A unique collection of bound tariff round negotiation documentation in a locked room*
  - *Documentation in the microfiche collection for governments is not comprehensive – 85-90%?*
  - *Archival practices at the organization are uncoordinated*

# Toward collaboration

- **March 1999.** Team (scholar, librarian, technologist) visits WTO. Confirms scope of problem and interest on part of WTO in a role for Stanford in enhancing preservation of and access to historic GATT material.
- **April 1999.** Findings reported to University Librarian.
- **May 1999.** Memorandum of Understanding between SUL/AIR and WTO signed.
- **June 1999.** Agreement with WTO signed.
- **July 1999.** Scanning begins.
  - *30 students, 6 technology staff, 2 archivists, 2 preservationists*
  - *State of the art scanners and computers*

# Agreement key terms

- Preserve material not already preserved on microform
- Maintain confidentiality of records according to WTO requirements
- Shared intellectual property in the records
- Digitization operation:
  - ▣ *No off-site scanning*
  - ▣ *Scanning operations limited in time to summer recess*
  - ▣ *Copy of all records provided to WTO*



# Goals

- Preserving the Historical Record at WTO
  - *Digitize over 2 million pages of GATT/WTO unique archival source material, documents, photographs, and publications.*
- Enhancing Access & Ensuring Preservation
  - *Develop digital repository, metadata, navigational tools, and searchable World Wide Web interface.*
- Creating Conditions for New Knowledge
  - *Record oral histories*
  - *Compile statistical databases*

# Confidentiality

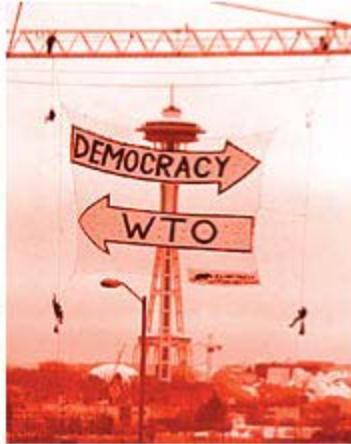
- Three levels of access specified in Agreement
  - *Public (general public)*
  - *Restricted (GATT contracting party/WTO member)*
  - *Confidential (WTO division staff)*
- Stanford Special Collections policies serve as model
- Metadata for all preserved records and documents contains “access” field

# Targeted collections

- Archival Sources (on-site capture)
  - *Central Registry Archives, External Relations Division*
  - *Division Archives (Legal Affairs, Market Access, Accessions, etc.)*
  - *GATT Director-General Files (Peter Sutherland, Arthur Dunkel)*
  - *WTO Director General Files (Renato Ruggiero, Michael Moore)*
- Photographic Archive (on-site capture)
- Documentation
  - *Various series not on microfiche (on-site capture)*
  - *Conversion of microfiche (IMLS-funded)*
- Publications
  - *Certified Protocols (IMLS-funded)*
  - *1964 Tariff Study (on-site capture)*

# Confidence-building

- Culture of extreme discretion – 2 factors
  - ▣ requirements of successful trade negotiations
  - ▣ national perspectives on public's right to know



http://www.twinside.org.sg/title/legit-cn.htm

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## TRANSPARENCY, PARTICIPATION AND LEGITIMACY OF THE WTO

Statement of the Third World Network at the WTO Symposia on Trade and Environment and Trade and Development, Geneva 15-18 March 1999

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The WTO is probably the most non-transparent of international organisations. Most, if not all, its key decisions are worked out in informal meetings. In many cases, only a few countries are invited to these meetings. Where these meetings took place, when, and who attended, as well as the positions taken by the various countries, are not made known. When these small informal groups work out decisions among themselves, they these are taken before the formal meetings, and made into decisions.

Most times, the "major countries" (the largest developed countries) get the decisions they want. A few big countries are also able to veto the issues or decisions they do not want even if the vast majority of countries agree to them. In fact , often, when the US and the EC do not want an issue to be raised, it does not even come before the formal sessions.

# Results

- Completed digitization
  - *12 sources*
  - *90 diverse, representative collections*
  - *2.2 million page images, 600 photographic images*
- Built public interface
- Conditions for new knowledge
- Built trusting relationship with WTO staff
- Encouraged transparency impulse

# GATT Digital Library: 1947-1994

- Browse
- Search
- About the Library
- Using the Library
- Resources
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## Welcome

Welcome to the website of the GATT Digital Library. This site provides access to documents and information of and about the Tariffs and Trade (GATT), an organization that promoted international commerce and the reduction of trade barriers among 1947-1994.

- Browse** or **Search** Browse, search and view over 59,000 documents and publications of the GATT.
- About the Library** Learn about how the library was created.
- Using the Library** Explore how to use the library.
- Resources** Further your research, teaching, and general education related to the GATT and its successor organization (WTO).

This online library is part of a cooperative effort between the [Stanford University Libraries & Academic Information Resources](#) possible in part through a grant from the [Institute for Museum and Library Services](#), an independent US Federal agency sup



**ANNEX B**

**DERESTRICTION OF OFFICIAL GATT 1947 DOCUMENTS**

Draft Decision

The General Council,

*Having regard* to the agreement of 8 December 1994 between the GATT CONTRACTING PARTIES, the Preparatory Committee for the WTO and the Interim Commission for the International Trade Organization (ICITO), approved by the WTO General Council on 31 January 1995 (WT/L/36), providing *inter alia* for the transfer of assets and records of the GATT to the WTO;

*Considering* that, in the interest of a better access of the general public to the work of the GATT 1947, a general derestriction of official GATT 1947 documents is in order;

*Decides as follows:*

All official restricted GATT 1947 documents shall be derestricted as of 1 June 2006.

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## GATT documents

On 15 May 2006 the General Council [decided](#) to make public all official documents issued under the General. These documents did not exist electronically, and have been scanned to create a digital archive. This is a work in progress. Further refinements to structure and help files will be added at a later date. Of the roughly 88,000 documents issued, the links below.

See also:

- > [Press release: WTO makes public all official GATT documents](#)
- > [General Council Meeting of 15 May 2006 \(part VI\)](#)

**Browse by symbol** [back to top](#)

GATT documents are identified by a "symbol" or code which is based on either the issuing body or subject matter of the document. Unlike WTO document symbols, GATT symbols are not hierarchical.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	
M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	XYZ	1-7

Documents for which no link appears are not available electronically

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### Document formats

Documents exist in varying formats, depending on age and source and method of scanning.

Paper versions of all official GATT documents can be consulted in the WTO archives, which are located on the 4th floor of the WTO Library.

PDF scan – image only

# Import?

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- Libraries can become trusted partners with governmental organizations to capture history and encourage transparency
- The interest of Libraries in broad collecting has significant value for providing context and understanding



Date:05/04/2011 URL: <http://www.thehindu.com/2011/04/05/stories/2011040563751200.htm>

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## **Our policies one-sidedly represented in WikiLeaks cable, says Buddhadeb**

Special Correspondent

*"We oppose neo-liberal globalisation, but we cannot insulate ourselves from its impact"*

KOLKATA: A report head-lined, 'West Bengal's pro-business Chief Minister reaches out,' published in The Hindu, dated April 3, 2011, carried certain [128590: sensitive] of discussions between Chief Minister Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee and the then U.S. Treasury Secretary, Henry Paulson, at a meeting

The cable, sent under the name of the then U.S. Consul-General in Kolkata, Henry V. Jardine, on November 4, 2007, was accessed by The Hindu through

Mr. Bhattacharjee issued a statement here on Monday, referring to the report. It is as follows:

"My attention has been drawn to the reported reference to my discussion with Harry Paulson, the U.S. Treasury Secretary, in October, 2007. This was in the context of the cables from the U.S. embassy.

"It surprises me that my conscious reiteration of the publicly stated policies of our government and our party has been one-sidedly represented by the author of the cable on the account of our discussion.

"It is well-known that while we are opposed to neo-liberal globalisation and liberalisation, we cannot insulate ourselves from its impact. Therefore, we cannot protect our people from its anti-poor consequences. It is apparent that the author of the cable has misrepresented this.

"On the WTO process, our stand has been to fight for a more equitable arrangement and paradigm. This has been partially reflected in the said cable.

"Finally, on the question of investment, it has been our long-stated public position that we have a positive attitude towards private investment, including foreign investment, which will increase productive capacity, technology accrual and, most importantly, employment generation. On Dow Chemicals, I had pointed out that subject to Dow Chemicals' responsibility to the victims of the Bhopal disaster, we want the company to invest in the proposed chemical hub project. Quite clearly, the aspect of the responsibility of Dow