GovInfo Day 2018

SFU Harbour Centre

April 19 - 20, 2018

GovInfo Day celebrates its 20th Anniversary in 2018 and we are delighted to have you join us.

This event began as an informal get together for librarians and information professionals interested in exploring best practices regarding access and preservation of government documents and legal resources. In 2008, the program expanded to become the more formal symposium it is today.

For 2018, we are expanding our program to encompass two days of events including hands-on workshops, panel discussions and a participant driven lighting talk session. GovInfo Day is scheduled for Thursday, April 19 and Friday, April 20th and will be held at SFU Vancouver.

Thanks to ongoing support from Simon Fraser University Library and the British Columbia Library Association, joined this year by the University of British Columbia Library, Stanford University Libraries, and Kwantlen Polytechnic University Library, GovInfo Day remains free of charge. Registration is required, however, and seating is limited.

Presentation abstracts and presenter bios

Thursday, April 19, 2018

Workshop: Web Scraping with Python (laptop required)
Alex Garnett

Abstract

"Scraping" was, until recently, not a very pleasant word. Sometimes a dermatologist had to do it to you; sometimes you had to do it to your car. Regardless, it was abrasive! Now, however, scraping is a fun thing for the whole family to do to the internet! If you've ever wanted to systematically extract data from a series of web pages for later analysis, or just to get a handle on the basic programming needed to do such a thing, this is the workshop for you!Attendees should bring their own laptop; some brief setup instructions will be sent out prior to the workshop itself.

NOTE: you must **bring your own laptop in order to have hands-on practice.

Alex Garnett is Data Curation and Digital Preservation Librarian at SFU. At SFU Library, he works on initiatives relating to the new Research Data Repository. At the Public Knowledge Project, he works on new tools for automatic typesetting and rendering of scholarly articles, and at SFU Archives, he works on implementing digital preservation tools such as Archivematica and BitCurator. A fun party trick is to ask him how he feels about the H264 video codec and then run away before he can respond.

Publishing and Depository Services Directorate Update
Julie Couture

Abstract

Update on the Government of Canada Website

Find out the latest news from the Director of the publications.gc.ca Website: recent changes, current trends and future improvements to better serve our vast clientele.

Biography:

As Director of Publishing and Depository Services at Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC) since 2016, Julie Couture is responsible for the Government of Canada Publications Website (publications.gc.ca). From 2010 to 2016, Julie was Director of Client Engagement and Culture at PSPC, where she was in charge of a Department-wide Client Service Strategy. From 1987 to 2010, Julie held various positions at the Federal Government Translation Bureau, including Translator, Client Account Executive

and Director of Internal Communications. Julie has a BA with Honours in Translation and a BSocSc with Honours in Political Science from Ottawa University.

The Changing Context of Open Data and Information
Kent Aitken

Abstract

One of the foundations for Open Government is the release of data and information, including through open.canada.ca. This is vital for how people understand the workings of government and hold officials and organizations to account, though at the same time the technological environment is changing quickly. This means that data and information governance requires continuous learning and adjustment, and we want to hear your ideas, concerns, and priorities.

This workshop will provide background on the federal government's Open Government work and focus on generating discussion on the changing context of open data and information, how to build on the existing ecosystem, and what the priorities should be for 2018-2020.

Mark Levene is the lead for international and intergovernmental work for Open Government with the federal government. Part of the Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat, the Open Government team coordinates and supports work on accountability, transparency, and participation across the federal government. This is done through two-year action plans on Open Government, based on months of discussion with interested and impacted people. Prior to joining Treasury Board, Mark worked at Library and Archives Canada for a dozen years, where he worked on a variety of collection acquisition and management strategies.

Friday, April 20, 2018

Honouring Leaders in Government Information
Carla Graebner

Abstract

Join us in honouring several leaders in improving access to government information:

- Percilla Groves (SFU Library, retired)
- Nancy Hannum (BC Legal Services Society, retired)
- Gay Lepkey (Depository Services Program Canada, retired)

BC Digital Library Update
Caroline Daniels, Daniel Sifton

Abstract

Caroline and Dan will provide an update on the work of the BC Digital Library and its plans. There will be an opportunity for dialogue about the inclusion of government information.

Caroline Daniels is the Systems, Web and Interlibrary Loan Librarian at Kwantlen Polytechnic University. She is a past president of the BC Library Association. Caroline is the current chair of the BCDL Steering Committee and has been involved with the initiative since its inception. She is also part of the BCDL Admin team that works specifically on infrastructure and communications.

Daniel Sifton is a member of the BCLD Admin team and the lead on the project platform/infrastructure. He is the Coordinator of Library Automation and Technical Services at Vancouver Island University Library in Nanaimo, where he works with technology (and people!).

GALLOP Portal Update
Louise Brittain Boisvert

Abstract

An update on the activity and future plans for the GALLOP Portal.

Louise Brittain Boisvert recently joined the Systems team at the Legislative Library of British Columbia. Prior to this position, she was the Digital Services Coordinator at Olds College in Alberta. Louise received her MLIS from the University of British Columbia.

Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report
Melissa Adams

Abstract

Melissa will speak about library and archives actions in response to the TRC Report.

Melissa Adams is a Librarian and Archivist at the Union of BC Indian Chiefs. She is a member of the Nisga'a Nation from the House of Wisin Xbil'tkw of the Gisk'aast (Killerwhale) tribe. In her current role, she supports UBCIC's work representing and advocating for Indigenous interests, rights and title. This includes managing the library collection, institutional archives, digital resources and gallery space, as well as providing reference services and training. She is also beginning to learn her language.

BC Stats: Past, Present and Future
Martin Monkman

Abstract

Statistics agencies around the world are facing a variety of challenges and opportunities, from technological advances to the increasing sophistication of the users they serve. BC Stats has responded to these opportunities, and will continue to evolve in response.

Martin Monkman, Provincial Statistician and Director, BC Stats, Ministry of Jobs, Trade and Technology

Martin Monkman holds a Bachelor of Science and a Master of Arts in Geography from the University of Victoria. Since first joining BC Stats in 1993, Mr. Monkman has gained a wide range of experience using data science to support evidence-based policy and business management decisions.

Now Provincial Statistician and Director at British Columbia's statistical office, BC Stats, Mr. Monkman leads a dynamic and innovative team of professional researchers in analyzing statistical information on British Columbia's socioeconomic conditions and measuring public sector organizational performance.

State of the Union Address on the US Government Information Ecosystem

James Jacobs

Abstract

Free Government Information and the state of government publication access in the US.

James R. Jacobs (jrjacobs@stanford.edu) is the US Government Information Librarian at Stanford University Libraries where his focus is on research support, traditional collection development as well as digital projects like LOCKSS-USDOCS and Web harvesting. He received his MSLIS in 2002 from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He is a member of ALA's Government Documents Roundtable (GODORT) and served a 3 year term (2009 – 2012) on Depository Library Council to the Public Printer, including serving as DLC Chair from 2011 – 2012. He is a co-founder of Free Government Information (freegovinfo.info) and Radical Reference (radicalreference.info) and is on the board of Question Copyright, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that promotes a better public understanding of the history and effects of copyright, and encourages the development of alternatives to information monopolies. A longer bio including a list of his publications and presentations can be found at Free Government Information (http://freegovinfo.info/node/972)

Cool Tools

Allison Trumble

Abstract

A series of quick (5-minute) introductions to useful resources.

Roundtable

Chris Burns

Abstract

This is your opportunity to talk about what's on your mind relevant to government or legal information.