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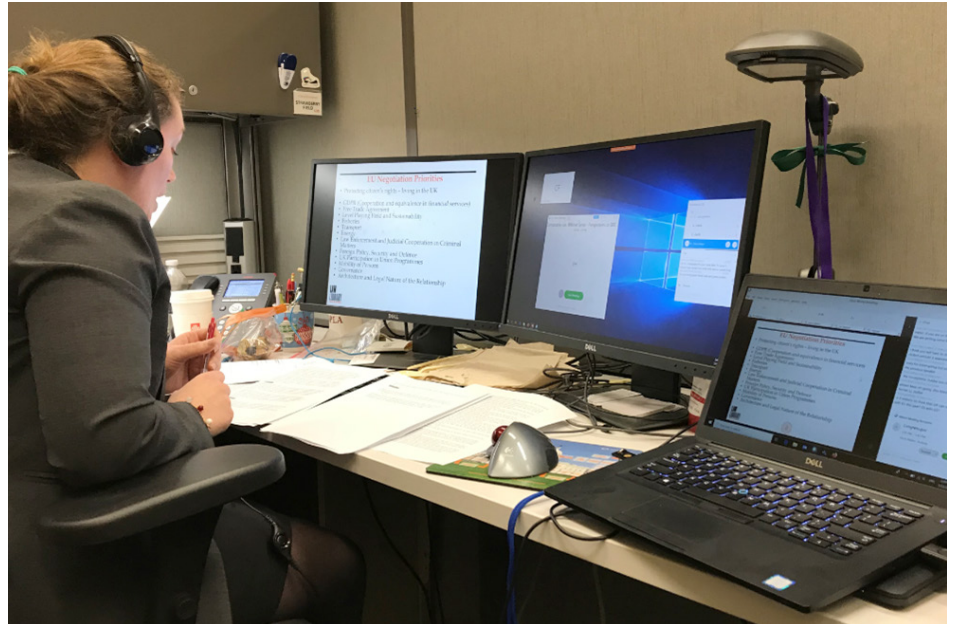
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Law Library

Foreign law specialist Elin Hofverberg of the Global Legal Research Directorate conducts one of many webinars the directorate has presented this year.

Law Library's Research Team Tracks Global COVID-19 Response

By many measures, the team's productivity has increased this spring and summer.

BY LUIS ACOSTA

When the COVID-19 pandemic shut down most of Washington, D.C., and threatened the ability of Congress to get its work done, congressional staffers wanted to learn how other countries were carrying out legislative functions while staying safe from the disease. They turned to the Law Library of Congress' Global Legal Research Directorate (GLRD) to find out.

GLRD responded with a comparative study of how national legislatures in 36 countries were conducting legislative business during a time when restrictions on travel and in-person gatherings were rendering normal legislative practices impossible. This informa-

tion proved valuable as Congress sought to continue legislation and oversight while navigating the pandemic.

Since that first COVID-19 study, GLRD has carried out two additional multinational studies, reported on the pandemic for the Law Library's legal news service and blog, prepared a Coronavirus Resource Guide and presented multiple webinars.

One congressional staffer described GLRD's recent work as "characteristically stellar," and a government attorney who requested its assistance commented that he was "blown away" by the quality of GLRD's research

GLRD, CONTINUED ON 7

NOTICES

DONATED TIME

The following employees have satisfied eligibility requirements to receive leave donations from other staff members. Contact Lisa Davis at (202) 707-0033.

Shayerah Akhtar
Craig Andrews
Sharif Adenan
Lynette Brown
Eric Clark

Laurie Harris
Sharron Jones
Terri Harris-Wandix
Donna Williams

COVID-19 UPDATE

The Library's Health Services Division (HSD) continues to monitor Library staff members with symptoms, clinical diagnoses or positive test results for COVID-19. On Aug. 7, HSD announced that eight employees reported symptoms associated with COVID-19 last week. No contact tracing was necessary for these cases, because the individuals involved had either not been in Library buildings or had adhered strictly to the transmission-control measures implemented by the Library. Some employees reporting symptoms are not diagnosed to have COVID-19, but, out of caution, the Library is monitoring all reports of symptoms.

HSD is communicating with all staff members who become ill. In cases in which ill individuals were present in Library buildings, HSD is also notifying their close work contacts and cleaning and disinfecting the areas affected. The same process is being followed when contractors in Library buildings become ill.

More information on the Library's pandemic response: <https://go.usa.gov/xdtV5> (intranet) or <https://go.usa.gov/xdtVQ> (public-facing staff web page)

FUTUREBRIDGE SEEKING PARTICIPANTS

FutureBridge is a Library Collections and Services Group (LCSG) mentoring program that provides staff with opportunities to grow and evolve professionally. It does so by pairing LCSG staff members – mentees and mentors – who engage in structured interactions and relationship building. The program is accepting applications for mentees, mentors and coaches from Aug. 6 to 24.

More information: <https://go.usa.gov/xf7a7>

Questions? Contact Luashawna Malachi at smal@loc.gov.

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GAZETTE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

loc.gov/staff/gazette

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MISSION OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
The Library's central mission is to engage, inspire and inform Congress and the American people with a universal and enduring source of knowledge and creativity.

ABOUT THE GAZETTE
An official publication of the Library of Congress, The Gazette encourages Library managers and staff to submit articles and photographs of general interest. Submissions will be edited to convey the most necessary information.

Back issues of The Gazette in print are available in the Communications Office, LM 143. Electronic archived issues and a color PDF file of the current issue are available online at loc.gov/staff/gazette.

GAZETTE WELCOMES LETTERS FROM STAFF
Staff members are invited to use the Gazette for lively and thoughtful debate relevant to Library issues. Letters must be signed by the author, whose place of work and telephone extension should be included so we can verify authorship. If a letter calls for management response, an explanation of a policy or actions or clarification of fact, we will ask for management response.–Ed.

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GAZETTE DEADLINES
The deadline for editorial copy for the Aug. 28 Gazette is Wednesday, Aug. 19.

Email editorial copy and letters to the editor to mhartsell@loc.gov and wmal@loc.gov.

To promote events through the Library's online calendar (www.loc.gov/loc/events) and the Gazette Calendar, email event and contact information to calendar@loc.gov by 9 a.m. Monday of the week of publication.

Boxed announcements should be submitted electronically (text files) by 9 a.m. Monday the week of publication to mhartsell@loc.gov and wmal@loc.gov.

Annenberg Foundation Gives \$1 Million Toward Visitor Experience

The foundation is also donating photographic prints from its photography museum.

A \$1 million gift by Wallis Annenberg and the Annenberg Foundation will support the effort to reimagine the experience of visitors to the Library of Congress (<https://go.usa.gov/xfwWT>). The foundation is also donating 1,000 photographic prints by about 250 contemporary photographers to the Library from the Annenberg Space for Photography in Los Angeles, which announced its closing in June.

“The Library of Congress is really the people’s library – our oldest federal cultural institution and arguably our most important,” said Wallis Annenberg, chair and CEO of the Annenberg Foundation. “That’s why I’m so pleased to help the Library reimagine its visitor experience – to become more open and inclusive and interactive.”

The Annenberg Foundation’s gift follows a collaboration in 2018 between the Library and the foundation to exhibit more than 400 photographs from the Library, spanning three centuries of photography, at the Annenberg Space for Photography. The Library is planning a future photography exhibition based on the Annenberg-curated show, along with a documentary film on the Library and its history produced by the Annenberg Space for Photography.

“The nation’s library is honored to have the strong support of Wallis Annenberg and the Annenberg Foundation as we enhance the experience for our visitors,” said Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden. “We know that visitors



Prints and Photographs Division

A self-portrait of photographer Will Wilson of the Navajo Nation was featured in a 2018 exhibition of Library photographs at the Annenberg Space for Photography.

will find new connections to the Library of Congress through the incredible photography collections and countless other treasures held here to document our nation’s history and creativity.”

To enhance the Library’s holdings, the foundation is also giving the Library photographic prints for long-term preservation from 10 other exhibitions hosted at the photography museum.

“I’m thrilled that we’re able to make so many of the Annenberg Space for Photography’s images a part of the Library’s extraordinary collection,” Annenberg said. “The photo space was founded with a focus on the visitor experience – on engaging our community with astonishing works of art. So even as the photo space closes its doors, I feel like we’re opening a new one with the Library of Congress and letting even more people experience these stunning images.”

The Annenberg gift will build on the significant investments of Congress and private philanthropy in the Library’s infrastructure. Earlier in 2020, philanthropist David Rubenstein announced a lead gift of \$10 million to support the visitor experience plan. Design work is now underway for the project.

The visitor experience project has continued support from Congress, with \$20 million appropriated so far as part of this public-private partnership.

While Congress has invested generously in the Library over its history since 1800, private philanthropy also has played an important role in the development of the Library. Private-sector donors have funded exhibitions and programs, including the creation of the Library’s John W. Kluge Center and the Packard Campus for Audio-Visual Conservation in Culpeper, Virginia. ■

HAVING TECHNICAL ISSUES?

It is important to report any technical issues you experience to the Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO). The OCIO service desk is staffed around the clock with technicians ready to help. Contact ocioservicedesk@loc.gov or (202) 707-7727.

OCIO has developed fact sheets and frequently asked questions to help teleworkers accomplish their work. They are available on the Library’s public-facing web page (<https://go.usa.gov/xdtvQ>) in the technology resources section.

Returning Staff Experience a Quieter Workplace

BY FRANCOIS A. DIFOLCO

A CRS associate director shares his impressions of working on-site this summer.

Many of you may be wondering what is happening at the Library during phase one of reopening. I thought I would share some of my observations as someone who recently returned to the Madison Building to work in my office a few days a week – I serve as associate director for administrative operations in the Congressional Research Service (CRS).

Like many staff members, I find I am more productive in an office than at a dining-room table, so I was glad to return to my usual routine, albeit with some changes. In the Madison Building, there is none of the usual busyness of a regular workday, and the space feels more like a typical prepandemic Saturday or Sunday. The building is surprisingly cold, because of the lack of activity, and the lights are turned off unless a staff member intentionally turns one on. I have to admit that I enjoy the quiet in the building, although I do miss seeing all of the CRS staff who are still working from home.

Those who have returned to the Library may realize how much they relied upon Dunkin Donuts, Subway or the cafeteria for food and drink; all are currently closed.

They will also notice new protocols, such as:

- Temperature-taking stations where staff must certify that they have no COVID-19 symptoms.
- Wristbands given out to designate a staff member has no temperature or symptoms.
- Face coverings – all staff are required to wear face coverings in Library buildings.
- Social-distancing floor signs that mark where to stand while waiting



Congressional Research Service

Francois DiFolco gets his temperature taken before entering the Madison Building.

for an elevator.

- Social-distancing elevator floor signs that mark where to stand while in an elevator – only two people are permitted in a car in the Madison Building at a time.
- Safety-protocol signs on the walls.
- Boxes of sanitation wipes and bottles of hand sanitizer for staff to keep at their workstations.

For the past couple of years, I have commuted to the Madison Building by bicycle, and I am happy to say that I can again enjoy my usual bike rides from Alexandria, Virginia, to the Hill and back.

My commute now includes navigating a much more crowded bike trail in the mornings and afternoons, because many people are using it recreationally during the

pandemic. But one of the pluses is that I don't have to compete for a place to lock my bike at the Library.

Because so few staff are in the Madison, hot water is not regularly pulled into the water pipes; thus, cold showers are the new norm, necessitating an occasional scream. (Luckily, there is no one around to hear me.)

Besides me, others in CRS have returned to work at the Madison Building to complete tasks like mail sorting, research materials acquisitions and addition of materials to CRS collections. This is a challenging time for everyone, and I am impressed by the flexibility and patience of CRS – and Library – staff.

This article is adapted from a message DiFolco sent to CRS staff. ■

NEW BLOG LAUNCHED

The Library launched a new blog on July 29 titled *Minerva's Kaleidoscope: Resources for Kids and Families* (<https://go.usa.gov/xfv4h>), bringing the total number of Library blogs to 18. *Minerva's Kaleidoscope* is designed for parents and caregivers of children and teens ages 7 through 16 who are seeking to find kid-friendly activities based on the Library's collections. Staff from the Center for Learning, Literacy and Engagement are managing it.

Questions? Contact Naomi Coquillon at ncoq@loc.gov.

Reminder About Downloading Software

IT Security would like to remind Library users that downloading software from the internet is a violation of the Library's IT security policies (<https://go.usa.gov/xf7FQ>).

As telework has expanded during the pandemic, there has been an increase in malware, ransomware and other malicious cyber activities. Downloading even minor programs can expose your Library-issued computer and the Library network to attack. Even though IT Security has tools in place to protect Library computers and the network, it is important for users to follow IT security directives and best practices on Library systems:

- Work only with authorized Library technical support for any issues regarding your Library computer or mobile device (iPhones or iPads).
- If you need new software on a Library-issued computer, contact the OCIO service desk at ocioservicedesk@loc.gov or (202) 707-7727. Congressional Research Service (CRS) staff should contact the CRS help desk at helpdesk@crs.loc.gov or (202) 707-6447.
- If you experience a technical issue with your Library-issued computer or mobile device, contact the OCIO service desk. Do not contact any software manufacturer for downloads or technical issues or download anything directly from the internet unless instructed to by an authorized Library IT technician.
- Do not allow anyone from outside the Library to install software on your Library computer or mobile device.
- Do not allow anyone from outside the Library to remotely control your Library computer or mobile device.

Questions? Contact the Security Operations Center at infosec@loc.gov.

Deadline Approaching to Complete Required Training

Sept. 11 is the deadline for all Library staff, contractors and volunteers with access to Library computers to complete two required annual trainings, one on records management and the other on IT security awareness.

Use Internet Explorer or Chrome as your browser to complete the trainings. Do not use Firefox. Each course should take about one hour to complete.

Records Management

Access the course at <https://bit.ly/3eOLx7>

- Review the disclaimer and select "I agree" and "continue" to proceed to the course.
- Click the blue start button to launch the course.

The course is presented using audio narration. Be sure you have headphones or computer speakers to listen. Closed captioning is provided. An accessible version (<https://go.usa.gov/xwtG4>) is available for staff who use screen-reader assistive technology.

For questions about the course's content, contact records@loc.gov. For technical assistance, contact cld@loc.gov.

More information about records management: <https://go.usa.gov/xwCWf>

IT Security Awareness

Access the course at <https://bit.ly/2YMEW5D>

- Complete all modules under the heading "Library Security Training 2020."
- After each module, complete the quiz before proceeding to the next module.

For technical assistance, contact ocioservicedesk@loc.gov or (202) 707-7727. For questions about the course's content, contact securitytraining@loc.gov.

More information about IT security awareness: <https://go.usa.gov/xwt7G>

These trainings can be accessed from non-Library devices by employees (1) who log in using multifactor authentication (Centrify app, phone call or third-party authenticator) or (2) who have activated the Fast ID Online (FIDO) option on their PIV token.

Multifactor authentication resources are available on the Library's coronavirus prevention and response page (<https://go.usa.gov/xwtAq>) under the heading "resources | technology." FIDO instructions (<https://go.usa.gov/xwtAB>) are also available.

OIG WOULD LIKE TO KNOW

Report suspected illegal activities, waste, fraud, abuse and mismanagement in Library of Congress administration and operations to the Office of the Inspector General (OIG). A link to all Library regulations is available on the staff intranet at <http://staff.loc.gov/sites/rules-and-regulations/>.

To make a report, contact OIG via the online form at www.loc.gov/about/office-of-the-inspector-general/contact-us/ or report anonymously by mail to 101 Independence Ave., S.E., LM 630, Washington, D.C., 20540-1060.

Your Employee Personal Page (EPP) is at www.nfc.usda.gov/epps/



Robert G. Waggoner

Derrick Dodson

Derrick Dodson is a program management specialist for the Interpreting Services Program of the Office of Equal Employment Opportunity and Diversity Programs.

Tell us a little about your background.

I grew up in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, a small town that was part of the Manhattan Project. Half the people there had a Ph.D. in something, and when I was growing up Oak Ridge had the most-used public library, per capita, in the world.

I went to Duke University and then Gallaudet University for my degrees in psychology and counseling. I started interpreting after graduating from Gallaudet and have been doing that professionally ever since.

I had originally thought I'd be a mental health counselor, but I realized I couldn't maintain the distance needed. I was working with kids, and I'd spend most nights worrying about them. It wasn't sustainable.

I ended up doing some interpreting during my internship, and I realized that was a better match.

What brought you to the Library, and what do you do?

I came to the Library mostly because I believe in its mission and wanted to help support that. (That the Library was also within walking distance from my house at the time didn't hurt, either.) I started as a staff interpreter working with Deaf employees and patrons and then I began to handle contracts for interpreting and captioning. (Note: "Deaf" with a capital "d" refers to Deaf adults who identify with the Deaf cultural community.)

I recently moved up to the position of program management specialist, which involves coordinating the day-to-day operation of the Interpreting Services Program. That means that in addition to interpreting for staff and patrons, as always, I manage our contracts, oversee scheduling and do consulting and training with staff regarding access issues for Deaf employees and patrons.

How has expanded telework affected interpreting services at the Library?

Our new reality has seriously affected how we do what we do in our program. Our needs haven't changed so much as how we are meeting them. Some 90 percent of our work before was in-person interpreting for meetings, trainings and the like. That is closer to 1 percent of our work now that Library staff are interacting mostly virtually.

For the foreseeable future, we probably won't be having the regular staff meetings with 20 people (in a conference room built for 15) to talk about work issues. Even as we start to phase back into working from our offices, I believe we will continue to see many of our meetings take place through some videoconferencing platform.

That's a challenge for an interpreter and a Deaf client. Our other staff interpreter, Katherine Perchik, and I are still interpreting directly with clients. But most platforms aren't designed to give the "interpreter in a bubble"

experience that some of us are old enough to remember seeing on TV. A lot of that kind of need is now being filled through CART captioning. CART is an acronym standing for a few different versions of basically the same thing – it's real-time captioning provided through a writer listening in (usually remotely), typing into a steno machine like court reporters use and then displaying the English text on a website. The use of that service has expanded tremendously in the last few months.

If you or anyone else at the Library thinks you might need that service or in-person interpreting, contact the Interpreting Services Program at isp@loc.gov. We're happy to go over options with you.

On a more selfish note, I miss having multiple screens for my computer. I won't take being able to spread work out to see several things at once for granted again.

How are you adjusting to the new circumstances?

Getting used to the new ways of connecting to do my work has been an adjustment, but I think I'm over the hump on that learning curve. I'm sure I'll have something unusual pop up now just to prove me wrong, but that keeps it interesting. I'm also enjoying getting to see my husband and dog more now that I'm working from home. Still, I'm eager to get back in the office a bit, even if it's not full time.

What do you enjoy doing outside work?

I love to cook, read and spend time with my husband and dog. I'm looking forward to maybe getting to eat something soon that I didn't make myself, though.

What is something your co-workers may not know about you?

A recent insurance commercial reminded me that while I was growing up, I clogged competitively. I also played the sousaphone in marching band. ■

GLRD, CONTINUED FROM 1

products, which he said were “thoughtful, thorough [and] well written in a short amount of time under difficult circumstances,” given COVID-19 related workplace adjustments.

The Law Library of Congress is known for housing the largest collection of legal literature in the world. Less well known is that it also provides public access to legal information from around the globe and serves as the primary expert resource for Congress on foreign, comparative and international law.

GLRD, the research and reference arm of the Law Library, includes both law librarians in its Public Services Division as well as a team of multilingual foreign law specialists trained in the legal systems of foreign countries. They are responsible for monitoring legal developments in the jurisdictions assigned to them.

In this respect, the Law Library serves a role similar to that of the Congressional Research Service (CRS). However, unlike CRS, the Law Library not only provides research services to Congress, but it also serves other priority patrons, including the Supreme Court, the broader judiciary and federal agencies. And, like other Library reading rooms, the Law Library’s provides reference services to public researchers, both virtually and in person.

The Law Library has served as an authority on comparative and international law research since Law Librarian of Congress John T. Vance formalized that mission in 1942. But this year’s COVID-19 pandemic has provided a new context and impetus for congressional interest in the experiences of other countries in responding to public health issues and related aspects of policy and regulation.

Although most GLRD personnel have teleworked since March, the directorate has maintained its usual level of productivity; indeed, by many measures – such as the number of requests answered,

new reports published, presentations given and webinars conducted – GLRD’s productivity has increased.

“Continuity of Legislative Activities During Emergency Situations” (<https://go.usa.gov/xfESM>), GLRD’s report on the work of national legislatures during the pandemic, catalogs the means by which parliamentary bodies worldwide were managing this spring to continue operations through use of videoconferencing, special voting procedures to reduce travel and other measures.

A second multinational study, “Virtual Civil Trials” (<https://go.usa.gov/xfVDM>), focuses on courts. GLRD surveyed 25 jurisdictions on whether measures had been adopted to facilitate the use of virtual technologies such as videoconferencing in civil hearings, mediations and trials.

Yet another multinational report relates to a request by Congress. “Regulating Electronic Means to Fight the Spread of COVID-19” (<https://go.usa.gov/xfVDS>) reviews how 23 jurisdictions were using and regulating contact-tracing and similar apps to combat the virus, with a focus on the privacy and data protection implications of their use.

GLRD has also covered new developments relating to the pandemic in the Law Library’s legal news service, the Global Legal Monitor (<https://go.usa.gov/xfVZD>), and its blog, In Custodia Legis (<https://go.usa.gov/xfVZK>). In addition, the Public Services Division prepared a Coronavirus Resource Guide (<https://go.usa.gov/xfVZR>), a portal to legislative- and executive-branch responses to the pandemic, that also includes publicly available reports on domestic law (<https://go.usa.gov/xfVZn>) by CRS.

The Law Library has also featured, as part of its recently launched Foreign and Comparative Law Webinar Series (<https://go.usa.gov/xfVZm>), programs related to the pandemic, including:

- “Between Cooperation and Conflict: Islamic Religious Authority and Governmental Responses to COVID-19 in Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Pakistan.”
- “Fighting Health Emergencies: Foreign and International Legislative Frameworks.”
- “Avoiding the New Wave: Response to the Pandemic in Japan and South Korea.”
- “Regulating the Use of Technology to Combat COVID-19.”

Congressional staff, government librarians and academics from around the world have attended these webinars in which foreign law specialists have experimented with presenting varied datasets using data analytics tools. Presenters have earned praise for the way they have compared different countries and regions, showed how individual countries are approaching COVID-19 and discussed how privacy and public health can be balanced.

Another project undertaken during maximum telework has involved a collaboration with the Law Library’s Digital Products Division to archive and digitize historical Law Library reports to make them more accessible to researchers. These reports will be of interest to legal scholars and researchers on legal and governmental history.

“While the pandemic has challenged the Law Library’s traditional methods of operation, its entire staff – including GLRD – has risen to the challenge,” said Law Librarian of Congress Jane Sánchez. ■

BUILDING ACCESS

The C Street West doors are closed at the request of the U.S. Capitol Police to support its workforce during the pandemic. Staff should enter and exit Library buildings through the Independence Avenue doors or the Madison Building garage.