

# State Databases: Mining the Deep Web

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# Learning Objectives

- By the time we're done, you should:
  - Know what the State Agency Databases project is.
  - Understand several things that this project makes possible or easier.
  - How you can help the project
    - Not with financial donations!

# What is it?

- **State Agency Databases Across the Fifty States is:**
  - A librarian led effort to identify and consolidate all publicly accessible databases produced by state government agencies around the country.
  - Sponsored by ALA GODORT - SLDTF

# Interlude: Why Librarians?

- We don't charge users
- We respect users privacy
- We're into sharing and reuse, not:

## 5. Restrictions and Prohibitions on Use.

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# What is it? Continued

- State Agency Databases Across the Fifty States is:
  - Part of the ALA GODORT Wiki
  - Available at [http://wikis.ala.org/godort/index.php/State\\_Agency\\_Databases](http://wikis.ala.org/godort/index.php/State_Agency_Databases)
  - Curated by documents librarians and other subject experts
  - Has listings of databases by state, then by agency.
  - Has some listings of databases by subject

# Demonstrations

- [North Carolina](#)
  - North Carolina Builders & Architects: A Biographical Dictionary
- [Alaska](#)
  - Daily K-9 Lesson Plan Database
- [Missouri](#)
  - Missouri Fish and Wildlife Information System

# What Does This Project Enable?

- Easy creation of subject based database lists such as [prisoner locators](#).
- Easy cross state searching. Try [landmarks](#).
- Illustration of how different states handle similar data in different ways.
- Provision of examples to state agencies contemplating creating a database.

# What Does This Project Enable?

- Giving library school students a real world project that creates value.



The screenshot shows a Wikipedia page for 'Oklahoma'. At the top right, there are user navigation links: 'Dcornwall', 'my talk', 'preferences', 'my watchlist', 'my contributions', and 'log out'. Below these are action buttons: 'article', 'discussion', 'edit', 'history', 'unprotect', 'delete', 'move', and 'unwatch'. The main heading is 'Oklahoma'. Below the heading is the section 'GODORT: Oklahoma Database Sites'. A note from Daniel Cornwall states: 'This page is the result of a project from a Government Publications class at the University of Oklahoma SLIS. I'm very grateful for their work and encourage other LIS institutions to adopt vacant state pages.' A 'Contents [hide]' box is present, listing various Oklahoma-related topics and resources, such as 'Oklahoma State Government: Executive, Legislative, and Judicial', 'Oklahoma State Departments: Agriculture, Transportation, Commerce, Corrections, and Health', and 'Other Oklahoma Databases' with sub-items like 'Multi-Agency Resources', 'SoonerSearch', 'Oklahoma State Government Online', 'Surf-OK', 'Oklahoma Agency Search', and 'Oklahoma Department of Libraries'. On the left side, there is a 'main' section with links to 'GODORT Wiki Home', 'GODORT on ALA Connect', and 'GODORT Events'. Below that is a 'godort administration' section with links to 'GODORT Chair', 'Committees', 'Taskforces', 'Directory', 'Bylaws', and 'Policies and Procedures'. The GODORT logo is also visible, featuring a book icon and the text 'INTERNATIONAL • U.S. FEDERAL • STATE • LOCAL GODORT'.



# Other Ways Librarians Use Project

- Comments from a survey of project volunteers:
  - “I have used it for reference in finding state agency websites. I teach classes on SC agency databases, websites, publications, etc and several people have said the page was useful to find other state information.”
  - “We used the Michigan Department of Community Health statistical databases to help a patron.”

# How You Can Help!

- Adopt a state.
- Build a subject collection.
- Publicize the project.
- Join our Facebook page.

# Adopt a State or Subject Page!

- States Without Someone to Care For Them:
  - Rhode Island
  - Texas
- Any of our subject pages
- Interested? Read the Volunteer Guide and contact me!

# Build a Subject Collection

- Create your own or use one of these Ideas:
  - Campaign Finance / Lobbyist Information
  - Curriculum Guides and materials - Produced by many state education departments.
  - Environmental Databases - Perhaps broken down by type (spills, tanks, habitat, etc)
  - Healthcare practitioners databases - A number of states maintain online directories of doctors and other health care professionals.

# Build a Subject Collection

- Ideas, Continued:
  - Road Conditions - Many states have databases that track road conditions and construction activities. Some come with webcams.
  - School Directories - Many states produce extensive information on schools.
  - Tourism databases - Some states have databases of tourist activity, top attractions, economic impact, etc.

# Publicize the Project

- Tell your friends.
- Blog about pages or databases from the project.
- Link to the project from your website.
- Use your online social networks to share our pages.

# Join Our Facebook Page!

**facebook** Search Home Profile Account

## State Agency Databases Across the Fifty States

Government · Edit Info Edit Page

Wall State Agency Databases Ac... · Everyone (Most Recent)

Share: Status Photo Link Video Question

Write something...

**State Agency Databases Across the Fifty States**  
Next Wednesday from noon to 1 Eastern. Will link to recording if one available.

**Help! I'm an Accidental Government Information Librarian presents...State Agency Databases | North.**  
www.nclaonline.org

**NORTH CAROLINA LIBRARIES ONLINE**  
The official publication of the North Carolina Library Association

The Government Resources Section of the North Carolina Library Association welcomes you to a series of webinars designed to help us all do better reference work by increasing our familiarity with government information resources, and by discovering the best strategies for navigating them. Stop sea...

Admins (2) [?] See All

- Use Facebook as State Agency Databases Across the Fifty States
- Notifications
- Promote with an Ad
- View Insights
- Invite Friends

**You and State Agency Databases Across the Fifty States**

29 friends like this.

# Who Will Ask the 1<sup>st</sup> Question?







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# Session Evaluation

<http://tinyurl.com/grs-eval8>

Please fill out our survey and let us know what you think!

# Upcoming Accidental Librarian Webinars

## **Coming in November!**

- **November 9: Legislative histories with Rebecca Hyman**
- **November 16: Maps with Marcy Bidney from Penn State**

**December: Women Veterans Historical Project, Creative Commons**

**Spring: International organizations and more!**

Brought to you by the North Carolina Library Association's  
Government Resources Section. Join us!

<http://www.nclaonline.org/government-resources>