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!
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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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
- 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.
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!
Who Will Ask the 1st Question?
Contact information:
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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