ABSTRACT

It seems that every passing week reveals new developments in the ways in which information policies are being implemented throughout society. Tragedies like the Boston Marathon bombings of March 2013, along with the VIA Rail train plots in the Toronto-Montreal corridor remind and compel us to examine the decade that has passed since the events of 9/11 and the subsequent legislative and policy impacts on information. The aim is to provide information professionals and scholars with an open forum to critically reflect on post-9/11 legislation, policies, and practices and how they impact access to information and informational activities more generally, including the production, management, and diffusion of public information. With an eye toward the future, we examine the extent to which the discourses and practices of the past decade have contributed to shaping and reshaping our information environment, how the information field has responded in the ten years since this defining event, and why and how information professionals ought to remain engaged in these matters in the future.

Keywords
Information policy; 9/11; information access; national security; democracy; accountability

INTRODUCTION

It has been a decade since the fateful events of 9/11. During that time, legislation, policies, practices, and discursive strategies have emerged, shaped, and reshaped different spheres of society, both nationally and globally. The changes introduced or, in some cases, expanded stringent anti-terrorism legislation, restrictions on access to public information, a broadening of information collection and information sharing, erosions of personal data privacy, the promulgation of a culture of secrecy, a logic of risk management and reduction, and a reliance on technologies to enhance safety (cyber-surveillance, data mining, profiling, etc.). Each of these phenomenon has contributed to the ongoing evolution of the relationship between citizens and the state (Caidi & Ross, 2005; Hosein, 2004; Gorham-Oscilowski & Jaeger, 2008; Jaeger, Bertot, & McClure, 2003, 2004; Jaeger, McClure, Bertot, & Snead, 2004; Monahan, 2011; Roberts, 2006; Ross & Caidi, 2005).

This set of policy and legislative changes to the framing of information has altered the relationship between governments and members of the public, had significant impacts on information behavior in members of society, and made information issues far more political than they had been in the past (Braman, 2006; Jaeger & Burnett, 2005; Jaeger, 2007, 2009). Despite an initial period of objections to and protests against some of these changes by information professionals, these changes are now firmly ensconced in public policy (Monahan & Regan, 2012). Ten years on, many of the consequences for information access, information behavior, information professions, information education, and information organizations are poorly understood and do not receive nearly the consideration that seems warranted given the implications.

Scholars in many disciplines are trying to make sense of these changes, from sociologists Kevin Haggerty and Ericson (2006) who refer to surveillance as “the organizing principle of modernity” and the analysis of how we can

• The USA PATRIOT Act and the rights of government agencies to collect a wide range of physical and electronic library records and to observe a wide range of patron behaviors in libraries;

• Changes to the US Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (FISA) which allow agencies such as the NSA to widely collect the cellphone data of international citizens as well as American citizens.

• The Homeland Security Act, which enables government agencies to limit the availability of government information and to take information out of library collections;

• The Children’s Internet Protection Act (CIPA) and the need to filter Internet access for all library computers – and thereby reduce the information patrons can access – in order to receive certain types of funding;

• The E-government Act, which ultimately encouraged many government agencies to offload the training and support for use of their online services to public libraries.

• The Federal Communication Commission’s 2010 Broadband Plan, which suggests defunding libraries to promote private sector growth of broadband access.

These policies have implications for all information professions and cultural institutions, and the current debate over the Cyber Intelligence Sharing and Protection Act (CISPA) raises numerous additional potential issues that could become major challenges. Often legislation is not fully disclosed or even crafted before a leak or incidence occurs: the court martial of Bradley Manning, Edward Snowden’s release of information related to NSA surveillance and the PRISM project, not to mention Julian Assange’s publication of classified government information on his website, WikiLeaks.

The purpose of this panel is to initiate a critical reflection and open discussion around the post-9/11 impacts on libraries and the information professions broadly speaking.

Specifically, we will reflect on how anti-terrorism legislation and other laws, policies, and practices resulting from 9/11 have affected access to information as well as informational activities more generally, including the production, management and diffusion of public information. Key questions considered will include:

• How have these changes been evidenced in levels of information available to members of the public and to information professionals?

• How have differing levels of access and contextualizations of information influenced the information behavior of members of the public and of information professionals?

• How have the attitudes of information professionals to these laws, policies, and practices changed?

• How have the laws, policies, and practices affected different channels and platforms of access?

• How has education of future information professionals changed? What should students be prepared for in relation to these issues?

• What laws, policies, and practices should the information professions advocate for in these areas?

Invigorating and reflective discussion of these topics is extremely important for the information professions, as they are best positioned to understand the implications of the laws, policies, and practices and to propose alternatives that would better balance the vital goal of national security with the need for information access and freedom of information to support healthy and functional democracy. And, for information professionals, few ideals are higher than the support of democracy.

**PANEL STYLE**

The panel will last 1.5 hours. Our goal is to have a very interactive session. We want to encourage the audience to be part of the discussion. The panel will begin with a short introduction to the panel topic by one of the panelists. Following this, the panelists will provide a brief overview of their perspectives on the issues raised:

• The implications of the information policy changes in relation to border security and the framing by Canada and the U.S. of the evolving transnational threats. (Christian Lepreucht)

• The implications of the 9/11 information policy changes as they affect the public, particularly in regard to the relationship between law enforcement and the public as well as the drift between military security and intelligence
practices and local law enforcement. (Kristene Unsworth)

- The implications of the 9/11 information policy changes on policy literacy and citizen engagement (Nadia Caidi)
- The implications of the 9/11 information policy changes on the role of scholars and public intellectuals, along with associated theoretical and methodological issues (Philip Doty)

We will then engage the audience and each other by brainstorming around a number of set issues of importance to information scientists. It is hoped that the engagement between the panelists and the audience leads to the formulation of a relevant research agenda for our field. The panelists will subsequently post this research agenda on the ASIS&T SIG-IFP website, solicit further input and encourage meaningful dialog and engagement with the critical issues stemming from this research area.

**PANELISTS**

The panelists are uniquely qualified to present upon and discuss these materials, as information policy is central to the work of all of the panelists:

Nadia Caidi is an Associate Professor at the Faculty of Information at the University of Toronto. One of her areas of research is Information Policy, specifically what happens to information in times of crisis. Her research on information control and the public's right to know after 9/11 has been awarded grants from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) in Canada. She has published several articles on this topic, and is on the editorial board of *Government Information Quarterly* and *Library & Information Science Research*.

Philip Doty joined the faculty of the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at U.T. Austin in January 1992, where he is currently an Associate Professor and Associate Dean. His research and teaching interests center on Internet and other computer networks, copyright, privacy, governmental information policy, digital libraries, scientific and technical communication, the social effects of technology, art and museum information, and research methods. He is a founding Associate Director of the Telecommunications and Information Policy Institute, an interdisciplinary research and service organization that serves the people and governments of the state of Texas and the United States.

Christian Leuprecht is Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science and Economics at the Royal Military College of Canada, and cross-appointed to the Department of Political Studies and the School of Policy Studies at Queen’s University where he is also a fellow of the Institute of Intergovernmental Relations, the Queen’s Centre for International and Defence Policy, and the Chair in Defence Management Studies. Christian Leuprecht’s research priorities include national security and defence policy, political violence/terrorism, the political, economic, security, social and cultural implications of demographic change, horizon scanning of emerging security threats, civil-military relations, federalism and intergovernmental relations, dynamics of ethno-national conflict, comparative constitutional politics, and Canadian as well as German politics.

Kristene Unsworth is an Assistant Professor at the College of Information Science and Technology at Drexel University in Philadelphia. The overall goal of her research program is to examine information behavior in relation to civil society. She examines information policy issues related to the normative ethics of society; including citizenship, democracy and public participation. She has published an examination of social media use in Iran in the *International Review of Information Ethics* as well as a comparative examination of relationships between the public and government agencies via social media in the *Selected Papers of Internet Research*. She is currently researching the information behavior in law enforcement agencies both internally and externally with the public they serve. This work looks specifically at the use of social media by law enforcement agencies to increase citizen participation and trust in the police as well as its use a tool for intelligence gathering.

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**REFERENCES**


