



*November 6 is International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict, November 16 is the International Day for Tolerance, November 20 is Universal Children's Day, November 25 is the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and November 29 is the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People*

### **News of October 2012**

Compiled by Trudy Huskamp Peterson, Chair, HRWG

The following is the third in a series of brief discussions of the Principles of Access to Archives.

**Principle 2. Institutions holding archives make known the existence of the archives, including the existence of closed materials, and disclose the existence of restrictions that affect access to the archives.**

*Users must be able to locate the archival institution that holds material of interest to them. Archivists provide without charge basic information about their institution and the archives it holds. They inform the public of the general rules for use of the holdings in accordance with the institution's legal mandates, policies and regulations. They ensure that descriptions of the holdings of their archives are current, accurate and comply with international descriptive standards in order to facilitate access. Archivists share draft descriptions of archives with users if final versions are lacking, where this will not compromise the security of the archives or any necessary restrictions on access.*

*Institutions that give the public access to any part of their archives publish an access policy. Archivists begin with a presumption of openness; they ensure that any access restrictions are written clearly to enable the public to understand them and to enhance consistency in their application.*

*Users have the right to know whether or not a specific series, file, item or portion of an item exists, even though it is withheld from use, or if it has been destroyed. Archivists reveal the fact that closed records exist through accurate description and insertion of withdrawal sheets or electronic markers. Archivists provide as much information as possible about restricted material, including the reason for the restriction and the date the materials will be reviewed or become available for access, so long as the description does not disclose the information that is the reason for the restriction or violate a binding law or regulation.*

This Principle is the first of seven Principles that focus on the relationship between the archives and the user. Four separate ideas are combined in the Principle: archives provide information about the institution (its hours, its location, its rules), information about the records held by the institution (both open and closed to research use), information about the restrictions that generally apply to the holdings of the archives, and information about specific closures within bodies of records that are available for research use. The reasons for providing this information range from the practical (researchers should not be forced to spend time trying to locate records that are in an archives although closed to public use) to the ethical (users should be aware that the records that have been provided to them have had parts withdrawn and should develop their conclusions and interpretations with the full knowledge that they have not seen everything).

Here are two examples of the problem of lack of information about archives.

Guatemala established a truth commission in 1997 at the end of its civil war. As it began its investigations, the commission asked to see the police records. The police denied that they had any archives, saying they had destroyed all their records in the wake of the 1996 peace accords. So the truth commission wrote its report without access to police records. It was not until 2005, half a dozen years after the report was published, that the staff of Guatemala's human rights ombudsman accidentally stumbled upon the police archives. The records—hundreds of thousands of documents—are now being arranged and described and used to prosecute and convict policemen and other government officials for crimes committed during the long Guatemalan civil war in the last half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The Guatemala case was a blanket denial that records existed, but denial is a problem at the file and item level, too. If a document is removed from a file without inserting a withdrawal marker in its place or if part of an electronic document is deleted without replacing the deletion with an equal amount of space markers, the researcher has the false belief that he has seen everything when he has not. Electronic deletion became an issue in the U.S. when the National Security Council (NSC) redacted a portion of an electronic document, inserted no replacement markings, and released it. A researcher eventually discovered the omission, and the NSC, embarrassed, had to insert space markers where the information was deleted and re-release the item.

In sum, this Principle says that archivists are honest with their researchers about the institution, the records it holds, and the rules by which it operates. Researchers seek no less.

**HRWG News.** A revision of the guideline “Application of ISAD(G) for Human Rights Archives” is available on the ICA website at <http://icarchives.webbler.co.uk/13758/standards/application-of-isadg-for-human-rights-archives.html> and <http://icarchives.webbler.co.uk/3331/resources/archives-and-human-rights-resources.html>

**International news.**

United Nations. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime issued a report titled, “The Use of the Internet for Terrorist Purposes.” It argues that data retention by Internet service providers is necessary to combat online terrorism. It quotes some European Union states as saying “data-retention records are the sole means of investigating certain crimes involving communication over the internet, such as chat-room postings, which are traceable only through internet traffic data.” The report notes that some states also have used data retained by service providers “to clear persons suspected of crimes without having to resort to other, more intrusive, methods of surveillance, such as interception and house searches.” The report is found at [http://www.unodc.org/documents/frontpage/Use\\_of\\_Internet\\_for\\_Terrorist\\_Purposes.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/documents/frontpage/Use_of_Internet_for_Terrorist_Purposes.pdf) For a news story about the report, see <http://www.zdnet.com/un-sides-with-law-enforcement-over-data-retention-7000006274/>

Special Court for Sierra Leone. In an interview with the International Peace Institute, the President of the Court and the Registrar described the role of the residual mechanism (the entity that will continue the work of the court after the last of the current trials are completed), which will have three responsibilities: protecting witnesses, maintaining the archives and overseeing the prisoners that have been convicted by the Court. <http://theglobalobservatory.org/interviews/370-interview-with-justice-shireen-avis-fisher-and-registrar-binta-mansaray-from-the-special-court-for-sierra-leone-.html>

European Union. The European Union is currently discussing a “Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data (General Data Protection Regulation),” which is found at <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:52012PC0011:EN:NOT> National archivists of the EU member countries discussed this draft regulation during two meetings (Copenhagen, May 2012, and Nicosia, October 2012) and agreed that it does not take into account sufficiently the special needs of archives. They developed proposed amendments and asked EURBICA President, Karel Velle, to send the proposal to the EU Commission and explain the archivists’ point of view. [http://ec.europa.eu/transparency/archival\\_policy/eur\\_arch\\_group/meetings\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/transparency/archival_policy/eur_arch_group/meetings_en.htm)) Thanks to Guilia Barrera for this information.

General. Access Info Europe, a civil society organization, is leading a project to develop Open Government Standards. The draft principles, emphasizing transparency, participation and accountability, are available for comment at [http://www.opengovstandards.org/?page\\_id=60](http://www.opengovstandards.org/?page_id=60)

Armenia/Turkey. In a speech at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University about his recent book on the Armenian genocide during World War I, Taner Akcam discussed the evidence in the Turkish archives to which he had access. He noted the importance of the documents of the Cypher Office, which maintained a record of the “telegraphic communication between the central office and the provinces.” <http://www.mirrorspectator.com/2012/10/22/akcam-says-turkish-archives-show-genocide-planning-by-central-government/>

Austria/Israel. Yaacov Lozowick, the State Archivist of Israel, issued a decision rejecting a claim by the Jewish community in Austria to return to it the archives sent from Vienna to Israel in the early 1950s. The matter had been referred to the State Archives by the Jerusalem District Court. The Vienna Jewish community had filed a claim for the return in May 2001 (see May 2011 *HRWG News*). For the report of the decision on the website of the Israel National Archives, see [http://www.archives.gov.il/ArchiveGov\\_Eng/about/Notices2/ViennaJewishcommunity.htm](http://www.archives.gov.il/ArchiveGov_Eng/about/Notices2/ViennaJewishcommunity.htm)  
For a news report from the *Jerusalem Post*, see <http://www.jpost.com/JewishWorld/JewishNews/Article.aspx?id=288111>

Bosnia/Croatia/Serbia. Representatives of the governments of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, and Serbia agreed to create regional database of persons who are still missing from the Balkans wars of the 1990s. An estimated 40,000 persons went missing, of which 70% have now been accounted for. <http://www.ic-mp.org/press-releases/regional-list-of-missing-persons-from-the-conflicts-in-the-former-yugoslavia-to-be-createdregionalna-lista-nestalih-osoba-tokom-sukoba-u-bivsoj-jugoslaviji-biti-ce-uspostavljena/#more-1669>

Egypt/Israel. In a story that continues to unfold, Egyptian authorities seized some 1.7 million documents in 13 large containers that were being exported to Jordan, apparently for further shipment to Israel. The documents, said various sources, were reportedly stolen during riots on December 16, 2011, from the Institute d’Egypte, a Cairo research institution. The documents are said to provide details of Jewish ownership of assets in Cairo. For the *Times of Israel* view of the events, see of <http://www.timesofisrael.com/jewish-ownership-documents-confiscated-by-cairo-on-national-security-grounds/>; for *PressTV*’s account, see <http://www.presstv.ir/detail/2012/10/29/269278/egypt-prevents-mossad-planned-theft/>

France/Senegal. French president Francois Hollande announced during his visit to Senegal that France will give Senegal France’s “archives on a massacre of African soldiers fighting for France in World War II,” reported *Radio France Internationale*. The records will include information on France’s repression of a mutiny by African soldiers in French regiments at Thiaroye in 1944. The soldiers had been held prisoner by the Germans, and when freed demanded equal treatment with French soldiers. <http://www.english.rfi.fr/africa/20121013-hollande-promises-give-colonial-era-massacre-archives-senegal>

France/U.S. Wartime letters written by a Frenchman in a Nazi labor camp turned up in an antiques shop in the U.S. state of Minnesota. Apparently the Germans confiscated the letters, but how they ended up in the antiques market is not clear. The woman who bought the letters in Minnesota located another batch in California, and she is returning them all to the man’s children, whom she located after “a year’s research with a help of a genealogist,” reported *The Daily Telegraph*.  
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/history/world-war-two/9594356/Wartime-letters-of-French-father-in-Nazi-labour-camp-resurface.html>

Germany/Israel. An Israeli court ruled that thousands of manuscripts written by Franz Kafka and his friend Max Brod which are in the possession of the daughters of Brod’s secretary must be turned over to the National Library of Israel. The German Literature Archive in Marbach wanted to purchase the manuscripts; this decision forecloses that option for the daughters.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/middleeast/israel/9607792/Family-lose-39-year-legal-battle-over-Franz-Kafka-portfolio.html>

Japan/Korea. Japan and Korea both claim ownership of an island in the sea between the two nations. The National Archives of Korea is restoring a map created by the Japanese government in 1936 which marks the islands as part of Korean territory. Korea was a colony of Japan from 1910 to 1945.

[http://www.arirang.co.kr/News/News\\_View.asp?nseq=139194&code=Ne2&category=2](http://www.arirang.co.kr/News/News_View.asp?nseq=139194&code=Ne2&category=2)

### **National news.**

Bosnia. Seven cultural institutions are being closed due to lack of funds, *Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty* reported. These include the National Museum (which holds the famous Sarajevo Haggadah), National Library, Historical Museum, the National Film Archives, the Museum of Literature and Theater Arts, and the National Library for the Blind.

<http://www.rferl.org/content/bosnia-museum-set-to-close-doomed-by-dayton/24728638.html>

Colombia. The first set of properties seized by the FARC guerrillas were returned to the previous owners, according to *colombiareports.com*. Records on computers of the FARC leader El Mono Jojoy, who was killed in September, showed that the FARC had “at least 96 pieces of land under their ownership, reaching to approximately 121,000 total acres, including an additional 66,595 animals and a total cost estimated at over \$36 million.” The Ministry of Agriculture reportedly has 21,000 claims by displaced people for nearly 4 million acres.

<http://colombiareports.com/colombia-news/news/26266-land-stolen-by-farc-to-be-returned-santos.html>

Czech Republic. Twenty-eight people died in the Czech Republic and others were sickened in Poland and Slovakia from drinking alcohol with methanol in it that was produced in the Czech Republic. The Czech government announced that in the future all hard liquor produced in the Czech Republic will have a “detailed certificate of origin and contain production and distribution details. Liquors will also have new stamps and sales will be licensed,” reported

*huffingtonpost.com*. [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/09/24/czech-tainted-alcohol-methanol-poisoning\\_n\\_1909316.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/09/24/czech-tainted-alcohol-methanol-poisoning_n_1909316.html)

Denmark. Two men were arrested for stealing records from the state archives relating to the Nazi occupation of Denmark during World War II. Unidentified sources told a Danish newspaper that the stolen materials included “police reports, court files, and cases about deserters related to the war,” said *The Telegraph*. <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/history/world-war-two/9634459/Irreplaceable-Nazi-era-documents-stolen-from-Danish-archives.html>

Germany. Bernhard Post, the archivist of Thuringia, was interviewed by the *Thüringer Allgemeine* regarding the destruction of records of the police in Thuringia relating to the National Socialist Underground (see report in the September 2012 *HRWG News*). [www.thueringer-allgemeine.de/web/zgt/leben/detail/-/specific/Archivrecht-wurde-bei-Vernichtung-von-NSU-Akten-verletzt-1240932012](http://www.thueringer-allgemeine.de/web/zgt/leben/detail/-/specific/Archivrecht-wurde-bei-Vernichtung-von-NSU-Akten-verletzt-1240932012)

Ireland. *The Irish Times* reported that two women who were “illegally” adopted at birth have called on the Minister for Children to release State records that would enable them to find their biological mothers. <http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/breaking/2012/1004/breaking38.html>

Israel. *United Press International* and other sources reported on a document ordered released by Israel’s Supreme Court that shows that the Israeli military blockading the Gaza Strip in 2008 “calculated the smallest number of calories Gazans needed to avoid malnutrition.” Israel’s Defense Ministry opposed release of the document, which was titled, “Food Consumption in the Gaza Strip – Red Lines.” [http://www.upi.com/Top\\_News/World-News/2012/10/18/Israel-counted-calories-to-limit-Gaza-food/UPI-48451350543600/](http://www.upi.com/Top_News/World-News/2012/10/18/Israel-counted-calories-to-limit-Gaza-food/UPI-48451350543600/)

Italy. In April 2012 a group of journalists, civil servants, scholars and political activists started a campaign for an Italian Freedom of Information law in line with international standards. <http://www.foia.it/> Archivists are playing a significant role in this group. Since 1990, Italy has had a law that provides for access to documents held by the Public Administrations; however, that law specifies that those seeking information must need access for legal reasons and a 2005 amendment made clear that petitions to access “aimed at a general control over the Public Administration’s actions” are inadmissible. The Italian law is thus currently very far from conforming to international standards regarding FOI. Thanks to Giulia Barrera for this information.

Korea. Although this story is only indirectly related to specific human rights, it is an innovative use of archives to study human biology and health. A study published in *Current Biology* used the genealogical records of 81 Korean eunuchs, written in 1805, to determine how long they lived and cross-checked the data by using the Annals of the Chosun Dynasty and the Diary of the Royal Secretariat. They then compared the data to other information showing how long non-castrated men lived at that time. They found that the eunuchs lived 14-19 years longer than “non-castrated men of similar socio-economic status” and “the incidence of centenarians among Koreans eunuchs is at least 130 times higher than that of present-day developed countries.” They concluded that “male sex hormones decrease the lifespan in men.” <http://download.cell.com/current-biology/pdf/PIIS0960982212007129.pdf?intermediate=true>

Nepal. The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights released the *Nepal Conflict Report*. Accompanying the *Report* is a database of “some 30,000 documents—known as the *Transitional Justice Reference Archive*” that documents “up to 9,000 serious violations of human rights law or international humanitarian law” that may have been committed during the 1996-2006 civil war. (See related story in September 2012 *HRWG News*.) For the press release, see: <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=43231&Cr=nepal&Cr1=#>  
For the report, see: [http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/NP/OHCHR\\_Nepal\\_Conflict\\_Report2012.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/NP/OHCHR_Nepal_Conflict_Report2012.pdf)

New Zealand. A blogger reported that he could go to any WINZ (Work and Income New Zealand) office of the national Ministry of Social Development, use a self-service kiosk, and look at files on doctors, adoptions, debt collection, fraud investigation, care and protection

information, and the like. He reported that the Ministry was “taking the kiosks off line until the problem is resolved.” <http://publicaddress.net/onpoint/msds-leaky-servers/>

Philippines. The peace negotiator in the long-running conflict between the government and indigenous people in Mindanao said that persons who “were unjustly disposed of their land will be compensated,” reported the *Philippine Daily Inquirer*. The negotiator said that claimants would have to show evidence; “any property right that was vested by Torrens title or by any contract with government is to be respected,” he said. How claimants can obtain the necessary documentation is not explained. <http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/287374/christians-moros-who-lost-their-lands-to-be-compensated-says-leonen>

Russia. Video evidence from a May 6 riot in Moscow is interpreted differently by the government and the lawyer for Mikhail Kosenko, one of those arrested at the time. Kosenko’s lawyer says the video shows “a group of people assaulting the police while Kosenko stands by,” and the human rights group Memorial says that there are “numerous video recordings showing police officers clearly committing criminal acts,” *Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty* reported. The committee investigating the riot asked the Prosecutor-General’s Office to refer Kosenko to a mental health institution for “compulsory treatment,” an eerie echo of practices during Soviet times. <http://www.rferl.org/content/russia-protesters-putin-psychiatric-treatment/24741458.html>

In another case that turns on controversial video evidence, Leonid Razvozhayev, a Russian opposition figure, was arrested and confessed, he says, under torture. A pro-Kremlin television channel aired footage that it said shows three people, including Razvozhayev, “conspiring to provoke violence in Russia in a plot financed by a Georgian official,” reported *Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty*. <http://www.rferl.org/content/razvozhayev-tortured-and-forced-to-confess/24749659.html>

Tatarstan. And in the Russian republic of Tatarstan, investigators are reviewing a video recorded by surveillance cameras and somehow obtained and released by a local rights group that “purportedly shows how police officers tortured Pavel Drozdov to death at a police station in Kazan, Tatarstan’s capital, in February,” *Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty* wrote. <http://www.rferl.org/content/police-tatarstan-hit-by-new-torture-scandal/24750963.html>

Serbia. Based on “an examination of official record,” a Serbian court declared that Dragoljub Mihailovic, the commander of the royalist Chetnik movement during World War II, died on July 31, 1945. *Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty* reports that the ruling “is a precondition for the possible legal rehabilitation of one of the most divisive figures in modern Serbian history.” For a flavor of the controversy, read comments on article at <http://www.rferl.org/content/draza-mihailovic-rehabilitation-tension-in-society/24730615.html>. A few days after the court decision, a Serbian NGO filed an appeal: [http://www.balkaninsight.com/en/article/ngo-appeals-decision-on-ex-chetnik-leader-death?utm\\_source=Balkan+Transitional+Justice+Daily+Newsletter&utm\\_campaign=5bd36ea4c5-RSS\\_EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN&utm\\_medium=email](http://www.balkaninsight.com/en/article/ngo-appeals-decision-on-ex-chetnik-leader-death?utm_source=Balkan+Transitional+Justice+Daily+Newsletter&utm_campaign=5bd36ea4c5-RSS_EMAIL_CAMPAIGN&utm_medium=email)

Singapore. The Singapore Parliament passed the Personal Data Protection Act 2012. It applies only to data processing by the private sector as data processing by public agencies (or

organizations acting on behalf of public agencies) is already protected by internal government rules. Reportedly, the bill will become law in January 2013, enforceable after 18 months. [http://www.huntonprivacyblog.com/2012/10/articles/singapore-parliament-passes-personal-data-protection-act/?utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=feed&utm\\_campaign=Feed:+PrivacyInformationSecurityLawBlog+\(Privacy+%26+Information+Security+Law+Blog\)](http://www.huntonprivacyblog.com/2012/10/articles/singapore-parliament-passes-personal-data-protection-act/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed:+PrivacyInformationSecurityLawBlog+(Privacy+%26+Information+Security+Law+Blog))

Spain. The second draft of the Spanish Law on Transparency and Access to Public Information and Good Governance was published in May, and in July the Spanish Council of Government approved the text and sent it to the Parliament. An Experts Group created by the Government to give advice on this field, which includes Rosana de Andrés as the president of the Spanish Association of Archivists of the Public Services, had not yet finished its report, but the Government decided not to wait for it.

<http://www.leydetransparencia.gob.es/anteproyecto/index.htm>

In September the Pro-Access Coalition of more than 50 NGOs and civilian associations (including 5 archival associations) sent a report and proposals for amending the law to the deputies of the Spanish Parliament. [http://www.proacceso.org/wp-content/uploads/Propuestas\\_Coalicion\\_Pro\\_Acceso.pdf](http://www.proacceso.org/wp-content/uploads/Propuestas_Coalicion_Pro_Acceso.pdf)

Thanks to Antonio Gonzalez-Quintana for these updates.

South Africa. The National Assembly passed the Protection of Personal Information Bill in September. The South African History Archive (SAHA) calls it a “mixed bag,” writing that it makes some positive changes to the current Promotion of Access to Information Act (PAIA) but introduces “requirements in respect of personal information that have enormous implications for the collection, processing and access of archive materials.”

[http://www.saha.org.za/news/2012/September/national\\_assembly\\_passes\\_protection\\_of\\_personal\\_information\\_bill.htm](http://www.saha.org.za/news/2012/September/national_assembly_passes_protection_of_personal_information_bill.htm)

SAHA submitted a PAIA request to the South African Police Service for “any and all records” relating to a South African youth activist who was killed by police on 9 July 1987. In response the Police Service said that no records could be found, including records of the policemen who were stationed in the area when the killing took place or the service record of one policeman. SAHA writes, “The absence of these records, that would have clearly existed at one time, is proof of the systematic destruction of records evidencing human rights abuses by the apartheid government.”

[http://www.saha.org.za/news/2012/October/wiped\\_clean\\_from\\_the\\_saps\\_archives.htm](http://www.saha.org.za/news/2012/October/wiped_clean_from_the_saps_archives.htm)

The National Heritage Council of South Africa hosted the International Conference on Liberation Archives from 31 October to 2 November 2012. An article in *BDlive* highlights the importance of preserving music and especially jazz as a “still-living aspect of our liberation heritage.” <http://www.bdlive.co.za/life/entertainment/2012/10/31/jazz-archives-are-not-neutral>

Syria. In August, Amnesty International USA asked the Geospatial Technologies and Human Rights Project of the American Association for the Advancement of Science to investigate the veracity and details of human rights-related reports stemming from the escalating conflict in Aleppo, Syria. Using satellite imagery analysis, the Project documented a two-week period

(August 9-23) of the conflict in and around the city of Aleppo with stunning images.  
<http://srhrl.aaas.org/geotech/syria/aleppo.htm>

In a strong essay, “Preserving the Syrian Paper Trail,” published in *The National Interest*, Alexander Joffe argues, “When the regime of Bashar al-Assad is destroyed or pushed out of Damascus, it will leave behind a wrecked capital and unparalleled record of supporting terrorist groups and covert deals with Russia, Iran and North Korea. What we understand of that record will be shaped by the documents that are preserved and analyzed. What Syrians will understand about forty years of rule by the fascist Baath party and its crimes against the Syrian people also depends on preserving something vital yet almost out of sight: the regime’s archives and files.”  
<http://nationalinterest.org/commentary/preserving-the-syrian-paper-trail-7590>

United Kingdom. In a blog post on the continuing case of Jimmy Savile, the BBC figure now exposed as a sexual predator, the writer says, “For the case to move forward, the police will need evidence to corroborate the allegations. What we need are records that link Savile to the children’s homes outside of official visits at the time when the alleged victims were present.” He worries that the records will not be adequate, as a report on Scottish children’s homes found poor recordkeeping.  
<http://lawrenceserewicz.wordpress.com/2012/10/10/finding-jimmy-savile-the-shaw-report-haunts-englands-archives/>

Official statistics released by the U.K. government show “that at least 1.8 million sensitive papers went missing throughout the health service in just 12 months” in 16 major incidents, reported the *Telegraph*. “Among the breaches included data security records dumped in public bins and electronic records found for sale on an internet auction site.”  
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/health/healthnews/9640168/NHS-lost-1.8-million-patient-records-in-a-year.html>

United States. An essay on the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s new “Next Generation Identification” system, published in *The American Independent*, reports that the NGI database will allow the Bureau “to integrate a vast array of forensic data culled from local and state law enforcement agencies, including fingerprints, palm prints, scar and tattoo records, and facial photos.” Privacy and civil liberties advocates worry that the privacy guideline for using the data “are insufficient and fail to prevent information on innocent civilians from being logged into the system.” [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/10/24/fbi-facial-recognition\\_n\\_2009690.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/10/24/fbi-facial-recognition_n_2009690.html)

Another U.S. database in the news is a “disposition list” that “contains the names of terrorism suspects arrayed against an accounting of the resources being marshaled to track them down,” reported the *Washington Post*. The database is maintained by the National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC), the paper said, and is designed to be kept active “for years.”  
[http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/plan-for-hunting-terrorists-signals-us-intends-to-keep-adding-names-to-kill-lists/2012/10/23/4789b2ae-18b3-11e2-a55c-39408f6e6a4b\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/plan-for-hunting-terrorists-signals-us-intends-to-keep-adding-names-to-kill-lists/2012/10/23/4789b2ae-18b3-11e2-a55c-39408f6e6a4b_story.html)

Breaches of confidential information continue to occur. On October 1, hackers published thousands of personal records from 53 universities, principally from the U.S. but also one in

Switzerland. Included in the publication were some 36,000 e-mail addresses, names, user names, passwords, addresses and phone numbers of students, faculty and staff. In some cases the records included dates of birth for students and payroll information for university employees. <http://bits.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/10/03/hackers-breach-53-universities-dump-thousands-of-personal-records-online/?ref=technology>

The Southern Environmental Law Center was also hit by hackers, who opened to the public lists of donors, credit card statements, personnel evaluations for a pair of interns, and a U.S. passport application, reported *The Daily Progress*. <http://www2.dailyprogress.com/news/2012/oct/17/breached-confidential-selc-files-wide-ranging-ar-2291667/>

The Boy Scout records detailing suspected or confirmed sexual abuse of scouts by scout leaders and other volunteers between 1965 and 1985 were made public by court order in mid-October. The Oregon state court ruled that the names of the victims and those who reported abuse must be redacted before the six cartons of documents were made available to the public, but the names of the victimizers were released. Across the U.S., media immediately began publishing the names of the alleged perpetrators living in the local area. In one case, the government attorney for the North Carolina county where a man named in the files now lives said he would “review” the case because there is no state statute of limitations on prosecuting child sexual abuse. [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/10/26/thomas-j-menghi-jr-molested-boys-scoutmaster\\_n\\_2024181.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/10/26/thomas-j-menghi-jr-molested-boys-scoutmaster_n_2024181.html); <http://www.nytimes.com/2012/10/19/us/boy-scout-documents-reveal-decades-of-sexual-abuse.html?pagewanted=all>

As the aftermath of the attack on the U.S. diplomatic compound in Benghazi, Libya, continues to be explored, State Department e-mail messages obtained by the press are part of the controversy. [http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/e-mails-show-state-department-named-militant-group-the-night-of-libya-attack/2012/10/24/c8ff8154-1e05-11e2-b647-bb1668e64058\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/e-mails-show-state-department-named-militant-group-the-night-of-libya-attack/2012/10/24/c8ff8154-1e05-11e2-b647-bb1668e64058_story.html)

An outbreak of fungal meningitis which has led to 32 deaths and cases in 19 states is traced to a tainted drug from a pharmacy in Massachusetts. The state department of health released “hundreds of pages of documents” from as early as April 1999 about problems at the pharmacy. [http://www.nytimes.com/2012/10/23/health/documents-in-meningitis-case-show-complaints-in-1999.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2012/10/23/health/documents-in-meningitis-case-show-complaints-in-1999.html?_r=0)

*Arkansas.* The parents of three boys murdered in 1993 sued for access to the evidence in the case. The judge denied their claim, saying the physical evidence (including a bicycle and clothing) were not records in terms of the state’s Freedom of Information Act and therefore cannot be released for viewing by the parents. [http://www.necn.com/10/30/12/Ark-judge-weighs-in-on-West-Memphis-evid/landing\\_nation.html?&apID=f5f4820e2223451eab4c81c2776a7b01](http://www.necn.com/10/30/12/Ark-judge-weighs-in-on-West-Memphis-evid/landing_nation.html?&apID=f5f4820e2223451eab4c81c2776a7b01)

*District of Columbia.* In a demonstration of the use of police and court records to monitor crime, the *Washington Post* “spent 15 months reviewing nearly 2,300 murder cases, including thousands of pages of police and court records, to determine what happened to them—and

if—they made their way through the legal system.”

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/investigations/as-dc-homicides-decline-murder-still-a-stubborn-crime-to-solve-and-prosecute/2012/10/13/e19132a2-fc23-11e1-a31e-804fccb658f9\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/investigations/as-dc-homicides-decline-murder-still-a-stubborn-crime-to-solve-and-prosecute/2012/10/13/e19132a2-fc23-11e1-a31e-804fccb658f9_story.html)

### **Publications and announcements.**

The proceedings of the 2010 international congress “Archives without Borders/Archivos sin Fronteras” in The Hague, The Netherlands, have been published. The volume contains 32 contributions from archivists from many countries, in either English or Spanish (abstracts in both languages are included). The book can be ordered from [http://www.vvbad.be/awb\\_en](http://www.vvbad.be/awb_en) . Ask for H. van Engen, G. Janssens, G. Kwanten, K.M. Pompe (eds.), Archives without Borders/Archivos sin Fronteras. Proceedings of the International Congress in The Hague, August 30-31, 2010/Actas del Congreso Internacional en La Haya, 30-31 de agosto, 2010. Archiefkunde 12 (Antwerp/Amberes 2012).

The University of Toronto calls for proposals for papers for the International Academic Conference on Holocaust Research, to be held October 6-7, 2013. The conference will coincide with the meeting of the Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance, and Research (ITF), an inter-governmental organization established in 1998 and meeting in Toronto under the chairmanship of the Government of Canada. Proposals of no more than 300 words and a short (max. 2-page) curriculum vitae should be sent to Elizabeth McCann ([elizabeth.mccann@cic.gc.ca](mailto:elizabeth.mccann@cic.gc.ca)) before April 30, 2013.

The Institute for Historical Studies at the University of Texas at Austin announced that its 2013-14 theme is “Trauma and Social Transformation.” The Institute seeks proposals to analyze the “historical study of trauma,” drawing from “the fields of human rights, psychoanalysis, memory studies, sociology, anthropology, the cognitive and neurosciences, and semiotics.” The deadline for applications is January 15, 2013. For further information, see <http://www.utexas.edu/cola/insts/historicalstudies/fellowships/resident-fellows.php>

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