

American Society of Access Professionals

proudly presents

2007 Annual Symposium and Training Conference: Freedom of Information: State of Flux

September 26-27, 2007

Ronald Reagan Building/International Trade Conference - Washington, DC

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26 – POLARIS ROOM (Concourse Level)

7:30 – 8:15 am **Coffee & Danish and Registration**

8:15 – 8:30 am **Welcome, Announcements and Introductions** – Karen Finnegan, ASAP President

8:30 – 8:50 am **KEYNOTE ADDRESS:** To Be Confirmed

8:55 – 10:30 am **Electronic Records**

The federal government, like anyone else, does a lot of its business by e-mail. That doesn't change a requester's entitlement to records, but where are these e-mail records? Are they ephemeral? Can the agencies find them? Are they private? What's the government's, what is not? And how does an FOI office function with them in place.

Moderator: Patrice McDermott, OpenTheGovernment.org

Panelists: Aliya Sternstein, Senior Writer, *National Journal's Technology Daily*
Anne Weismann, Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW)
Anna Laitin, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
Laurence Brewer, National Archives and Records Administration
Rachel Spector, Department of Interior

10:30 – 10:45 am Coffee Break

10:45 – 12:00 pm **The Role of Commercial Search in Making Government Info More Accessible**

According to recent studies, an overwhelming majority of Internet users find government information through commercial search engines such as Google and Yahoo. What does this mean for access professionals? What can government agencies do to ensure that users are finding the documents they should and that the information is contextualized when a search may reveal a single page in a much larger document? Representatives from Google and public interest groups will answer these questions and delve into the future of this increasingly important issue.

Moderator: Ari Schwartz, Deputy Director, Center for Democracy and Technology

Panelists: J.L. Needham, Manager, Public Sector Content Partnerships, Google
Sean Moulton, Director, Federal Information Policy, OMB Watch

12:00 -1:00 pm Lunch – Rotunda Room

1:00 – 2:30 pm **FOIA and the Executive Branch – What You Need to Know!**

Melanie Ann Pustay, new Director, Policy & Litigation, Office of Information and Privacy, Department of Justice will take us through agency annual reports and how this year compares to last year; the E.O. and what agencies have to report on in the next six months; and what significant new cases have been decided recently and how they impact the agencies. You cannot afford to miss this session!

2:30 – 2:45 pm Coffee Break

2:45 – 4:15 pm **Legislation**

The Senate has passed FOIA legislation. The House has a different version. Now that Congress has reconvened, are they working out the differences? Listen to the various players talk about how this legislation came to be and what it will mean.

Moderator: Kevin Goldberg, Fletcher, Heald and Hildreth, P.L.C.

Panelists: Rick Blum, Coordinator, The Sunshine in Government Initiative
Randall Gerard, Podesta Group
Loren Cochran, FOI Service Director, The Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press

4:15pm **Daily Program Ends**

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27 – POLARIS ROOM (Concourse Level)

7:30 – 8:25 am **Coffee & Danish and Registration**

8:25 – 8:30 am **Announcements** – Karen Finnegan, ASAP President

8:30 - 9:45 am **Data Mining**

Companies and agencies collect volumes and volumes of data. The information on individuals garnered from databases for various purposes created complex profiles on individuals who may or may not have expected them to be public. Lillie Coney will discuss these effects with nonprofit, government privacy office and industry representatives.

Moderator: Lillie Coney, Associate Director, Electronic Privacy Information Center (EPIC)
Tamla Scott, Professional Staff (Majority), House Committee on Homeland Security
Jim Harper, Director of Information Policy Studies, CATO Institute
Michael German, Policy Counsel on National Security, Immigration and Privacy,
American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)

9:45 – 10:00 am Coffee Break

10:00 – 11:30 am **Much Ado About Privacy: Evolving Privacy Policies and the Effective Privacy Program**

In light of recent highly publicized losses of personally identifiable information (PII), OMB has issued a series of guidances intended to help agencies strengthen their privacy programs. From the Privacy Act of 1974, to the appropriate safeguards for PII, to external breach notifications, these privacy professionals will talk about initiatives that have worked at their agencies.

Moderator: Ramona Oliver, FOIA and Privacy Act Officer, National Archives and Records Administration
Panelists: Niels Quist, Department of Justice, Privacy and Civil Liberties Office
Doris Lama, Department of the Navy
Geoff Palmer, Senior Privacy Analyst, IT/Privacy, CIO, Department of Homeland Security

11:30 – 1:00 pm Lunch – Rotunda Room

12:30 pm ASAP General Membership Meeting

1:00 – 2:15 pm Liaisons and Chiefs: How do you Work with Them and . . . do they Work?

The 2005 Executive Order triggered massive agency changes, calling for high level personnel as FOIA chiefs, public FOIA liaisons and new plans for improvement in every federal agency. The dust has settled. The plans are up and running and the new chiefs and liaisons are in place. What do these changes mean and what needs improvement Kristin Adair of the National Security Archive tracks what's done and what still needs doing along with significant players in the new FOIA structures. Now that there is another level of responsibility and accountability – how effective has it been?

Moderator: Kristin Adair, Staff Counsel, National Security Archive
Panelists: Marilyn Falksen, Public Liaison, Department of Justice Office of Information and Privacy
Catherine Papoi, Deputy Chief FOIA Officer and Director, Departmental Disclosure, Dept. of Homeland Security
Doris Lama, Chief DON Public Liaison, Department of the Navy

2:15 – 2:30 pm Coffee Break

2:30 – 3:30 pm **FOIA – It's its Own Beat!**

The Freedom of Information Act has long been used as a tool by citizens who want to understand their government, but just lately the issues of access to information have become so important that FOIA itself is worth writing about for even more reporters. There are newsletters that address FOIA for professionals but interest grows in the mainstream media as well. Rebecca Carr of Cox newspapers is the FOIA reporter. Other news organizations are following suit. And there are new bloggers as well, including former FBI-er Scott Hodes. Hear this panel talk about FOIA as news, not just a way to get it.

Moderator: Rebecca Carr, National Correspondent, Cox Newspapers
Panelists: Scott Hodes, Attorney-at-Law
Michael Sniffen, Associated Press

3:30 – 4:15 pm Wrap Up: Free Form Q&A – don't leave without getting answers to your questions!

4:15 pm Evaluations, Certificates, and Program Ends

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