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Save the Date
DANJ 2016 Conference: Celebrating the National
Parks Service Centennial
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Rider University

Table of Contents

DANJ Fall Conference Recap.....	pg. 2
New Jersey UELMA Update.....	pg. 3
News and Announcements.....	pg. 4

DANJ Fall Conference Recap

DANJ held its annual conference for 2015, “Getting Down to Business in New Jersey: Government Resources and the Bottom Line” at Rider University on October 30, 2016. Author Jon Gertner delivered the keynote speech, “Making ‘the Idea Factory’: writing and Researching the History of Bell Labs,” which highlighted the role of archives in researching Gertner’s historical account of the history of innovation at Bell Labs.

Following the keynote speech was a full roster of informative and engaging educational speakers. Ronald Cook and Diane Campbell of Rider university spoke about “Using Government Information to Predict a Start-up’s Potential,” which featured both Federal and New Jersey resources available for entrepreneurs putting together a business plan. Andrew Hait of the U.S. Census Bureau presented an in-depth look at the “Census Business Builder: Small Business Edition”, the Census Bureau’s new visual data tool which tailors census data for small business owners. The Census Business Builder: Small Business Edition is available at <https://cbb.census.gov/sbe/>. Capping off the day, Rutgers University’s Ka-Neng Au encouraged conference attendees to “Climb Every Mountain, Search High and Low,” a look at lesser-known government sources available for business research. Mr. Au created a research guide for this presentation which is available at <http://libguides.rutgers.edu/danj2015>.

Materials from the 2015 conference, including the conference program and slides from the presentations are available on the DANJ website at <http://danj.org/conf2015.html>.

New Jersey Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act Update

The Uniform Electronic Legal Materials Act (UELMA) is a uniform law that deals with the publication of state law in electronic formats. The ease with which electronic records can be altered and the technical challenges associated with digital preservation have raised the question of whether electronic documents produced today will continue to be available to the public in the future. As states increasingly publish legal materials in electronic form in lieu of print, UELMA was designed to alleviate some of these uncertainties for this important category of state documents.

The National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws approved and recommended UELMA in 2011 (available at http://www.uniformlaws.org/shared/docs/electronic%20legal%20material/uelma_final_2011.pdf). In 2012, DANJ took the position that UELMA should be adopted in New Jersey and urged New Jersey's Law Revision Commission to take action. Twelve states have already enacted the uniform law, and it is under consideration by the legislatures of an additional five states.

UELMA applies only to legal documents that are available exclusively in electronic format. Records trigger the requirements of UELMA only when published by an "official publisher," a designation that is left to the discretion of each individual state. If UELMA applies to a document, then the official publisher must meet four legal requirements: (1) the electronic record must be designated as official, (2) the document must be authenticated, (3) the document must be preserved, (4) the document must be made available for permanent public access.

New Jersey's version of the Uniform Electronic Legal Materials Act is still under consideration by the Law Revision Commission. The most recent draft, available at <http://www.lawrev.state.nj.us/UELMA/uelmaRDTR030716.pdf> was last discussed at the Commission's March 17, 2016 meeting. The commission continues to invite public comments on this draft. For more information see the Law Revision Commission website at <http://www.lawrev.state.nj.us/tentative.html>.

Awards

Elizabeth Patterson, Government Documents and Social Sciences Reference Librarian at Drew University, was presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award.

The Public Hearing Unit of New Jersey's Office of Legislative Services was the winner of the New Jersey Document of the Year Award for its work preparing transcripts of legislative hearings.

The New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities website (www.njcdd.org) was the winner of the New Jersey Website of the Year Award.

News

Caitlyn Cook, Reference Librarian at Ocean County College delivered an FDLP webinar on "Incorporating Federal Social Media Accounts into Reference and Instruction: Tips, Tricks, and Potential Pitfalls." A recording of the webinar is available at <http://tinyurl.com/zz2qqtu>.

Rebecca Kunkel presented on "Using Linked Data to Organize Born-Digital Government Information" at the October 2015 Federal Depository Library Conference. Slides from the presentation are available at <http://tinyurl.com/zfuj4uy>.

Next Meeting

Please join us for the next DANJ meeting taking place on August 5, 2016 10:00 AM at the Monmouth University Library.