FOI Universe

New galaxies to explore

National Freedom of Information Coalition Summit
April 12, 2019
Dallas, Texas

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FORECASTING FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

Why it faces problems—and how experts say they could be solved

MARCH 2017

By David Cuiller, University of Arizona School of Journalism
A study commissioned by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation
Freedom of Information

SPJ’s Freedom of Information Committee is the watchdog of press freedoms across the nation. It relies upon a network of volunteers in each state organized under Project Sunshine. These SPJ members are on the front lines for assaults to the First Amendment and when lawmakers attempt to restrict the public’s access to documents and the government’s business. The committee often is called upon to intervene in instances where the media is restricted.
Welcome to iFOIA.org!

JOIN THE COMMUNITY AND HARNESS THE POWER OF FOIA NOW

Register

Create a FOIA or Privacy Act Request

Deliver Request to the Relevant Agency

Manage and Share All Communications
Welcome to the FOIA Wiki!

This free and collaborative resource on the U.S. Freedom of Information Act is provided by the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, with contributions from The FOIA Project at TRAC, MuckRock, The National Security Archive, FOIA Mapper, Open the Government, and users like you.

→ Need information about a particular department, agency, or component? Visit the Agencies Landing Page for regulations, statistics, record systems, lawsuits, and tips.

→ Interested in how advocates, journalists, litigators and organizations work together on FOIA? Read and contribute to the FOIA Collaboration Guide.

→ Want to get involved with the FOIA Wiki? See the help wanted category to find pages that need contributions. Read the FOIA Wiki Policies before making changes.

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Our Mission

We will provide essential legal support for journalists, news organizations, and whistleblowers who are targeted by powerful figures because they have tried to bring to light information that is in the public interest and necessary for a functioning democracy.

News

Statement From The Press Freedom Defense Fund On Reality Winner’s Sentencing Today
Aug 23, 2018

Donald Trump Is a Dangerous Demagogue. It’s Time for a Crusading Press to Fight Back.
Aug 16, 2018

From Inside Philanthropy: First Line of Defense - A Fund to Pay Journalists' Legal Bills
BRB Publications, LLC. is the nation’s premier publisher of references and websites used for locating public records. BRB’s books and electronic products point the way to over 28,000 government agencies, and 3,500 public record vendors who maintain, search, or retrieve public records.

Free Public Record Services

BRB Publications, LLC. is the most comprehensive and accurate resource of government and vendor sources and websites used for locating public records in the U.S.

- Searching by City, County or State? Try The New
- Find a Public Record Retriever (PRRN) Member
- Free Public Record Searches
- Other Links to Useful Resources
- Free Articles About Public Record Searching

Enhanced Data For Professionals

BRB’s books and electronic products provide invaluable details that go well beyond a Google search. Our in-depth descriptions of where at, how much, and is it any good all translate to enhanced productivity tools when in-depth due diligence is needed.

- Visit the BRB Bookstore
- BRB’s Online Subscriptions
- FEATURED ITEM
  The Master Guide for creating a legally compliant Safe Hiring Program
  READ MORE
File, track, and share public records requests.

52,923 filed requests
11,650 agencies
15,837 fulfilled requests
2,375,079 released pages

Recently completed requests

Pepsi and Coke (Rhode Island College)
Carolyn Komatsoulis sent this request to the Rhode Island College of Rhode Island

Anti-BDS Divesment Activities - IN
Russel Neiss sent this request to the Indiana Public Retirement System of Indiana

FBI Investigations into DSA
Chris Brooks sent this request to the Federal Bureau of Investigation of the United States of America

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Want the latest investigative and FOIA news?

email address

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Despite Concentration of Donations, California Net Neutrality Bill Awaits Brown’s Signature

Frank Bass | September 18, 2018

The 11 California lawmakers who let amendments that would have gutted a landmark net neutrality measure pass through a key committee received almost $1 of every $6 contributed by internet service providers during the current election cycle.

Rick Scott Invested in the Same Financial Firms As Florida’s Pension System

Andrew Perez and David Sirota | September 14, 2018

Florida Gov. Rick Scott and his wife have invested at least $18 million in three financial firms managing money for the state’s pension system that Scott oversees -- a situation that intertwines the governor’s personal finances with the state’s pension system.
Crime in Baltimore

Crime data for 2012-2017

275 scholarly articles cite this dataset (View in Google Scholar)

Dataset updated  Sep 13, 2017

Authors
Sohier Dane

License
CC0: Public Domain

Available download formats from providers
CSV, ZIP

Description
All BPD data on Open Baltimore is preliminary data and subject to change. The information presented through Open Baltimore is victim based crime data. The data do not represent statistics submitted to the FBI's Uniform Crime Report (UCR); therefore, not all crimes reported to the police are necessarily included. Preliminary crime data is updated on a daily basis. The data may change on a daily basis to the FBI's UCR website. If you have any questions about the data, please visit the F.B.I.'s website. Please note that the data is preliminary and subject to change. Prior month data is likely to show changes when it is refreshed on a monthly basis. All addresses are the approximate latitude/longitude location of the incident and exclude those records for which an address could not be geocoded. Match the approximate location of the incident to an exact address is strictly prohibited.

Acknowledgements
This dataset was kindly made available by the City of Baltimore. You can find the original dataset, which is updated regularly, through Data.BaltimoreCity.gov.
A Citizen's Guide to America's Forever Wars and the Secrecy that Sustains Them

America's Forever Wars and the Secrecy that Sustains Them
A Citizen's Guide
09/19/2018 Read more

Despite Skepticism, Voters Believe Government Accountability is Possible: A New Survey & Messaging Toolkit

A new Open the Government survey, conducted by the Winston Group and Lake Research Partners, makes clear that while advocates for accountability face many challenges, there are opportunities to move voters, who fundamentally believe in the importance of transparency and ethics in government.

Statement of Open the Government’s Executive Director on the Release of “Committee Confidential” Documents by Senator Cory Booker

Kavanaugh confirmation hearings expose a system so broken that Members of Congress are forced to take extraordinary action in an effort to restore fairness to the process
New Copyright Powers, New "Terrorist Content" Regulations: A Grim Day For Digital Rights in Europe

Despite waves of calls and emails from European Internet users, the European Parliament today voted to accept the principle of a universal pre-emptive copyright filter for content-sharing sites, as well as the idea that news publishers should have the right to sue others for quoting news items online – or even using their titles as links to articles. Out of all of the potential amendments offered that would fix or ameliorate the damage caused by these proposals, they voted for...
CREW uses aggressive legal action, in-depth research, and bold communications to reduce the influence of money in politics and help foster a government that is ethical and accountable. We highlight abuses, change behavior, and lay the groundwork for new policies and approaches that encourage public officials to work for the benefit of the people, not powerful interests.
Shadow Prisons

There is a shadow prison system exclusively created for immigrants, operating in secrecy and with no programs to support those inside.

In addition to the mass detention of immigrants by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), there are roughly 25,000 prison beds used daily by the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) to incarcerate immigrants for federal crimes including unauthorized entry, reentry and drug offenses. These prisons, which can also house people who have been convicted of federal offenses, are kept secret and hidden from the public.
Citizen Archivists

Public Record Media (Minnesota)

It's the People's Data (New Mexico)

Public.Resource.org

Government Information Watch

AltGov 2

Government's Attic

Citizens for Sunshine (Ohio)
Recently updated pages

- ICE added to Records Destruction Requests
- Bureau of Prisons added to Presidential Transition Briefings
- NSA, Federal Maritime Commission, Dept of Justice: Criminal Division, TSA added to Records Destruction Requests

Dept of Energy Investigation: Hacking of DOE Labs (plus NASA & Navy)

{Exclusive} The closing memo of the investigation into SirVic and accomplices. [Photo: Hermes III gamma ray machine at Sandia National Laboratories]

ICE SEPTEMBER 17, 2018

ICE’s Detainee Death Notification Letter

{Exclusive} Previously unreleased, this is the standard letter that ICE sends to the next-of-kin of people who die in ICE custody.
The Office of Government Information Services

The Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) is a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) resource for the public and the government. Congress has charged us with reviewing FOIA policies, procedures and compliance of Federal agencies and identifying ways to improve compliance. Our mission also includes resolving FOIA disputes between Federal agencies and requesters.

OGIS is a place where anyone can ask for FOIA assistance. In other words we also serve as the FOIA ombudsman -- answering questions, tracking suggestions and providing information. See something we should know about? Have a suggestion to improve FOIA? Let us know.

How Do I?
- File a FOIA request
- File an appeal
- Contact OGIS
- Request OGIS assistance

OGIS Highlights
- FOIA Ombuds Observer
- Multi-Agency Forum on Using FOIA to Access Immigration Records
- Advisory Opinions
- Chief FOIA Officers Council
- Final Report of the 2016 - 2018 FOIA Advisory Committee

Learn about our website update.
We’d like to hear from you!

Most Popular Pages
- Agency FOIA Compliance Reports
- Request FOIA Assistance
- Chief FOIA Officers Council
- OGIS Contacts
- FOIA FAQs
- Ombuds Observer: Immigration Records

Social Media
- Blog
- Eventbrite
- Twitter
The Media Freedom and Information Access Clinic (MFIA) is a law school clinic dedicated to increasing government transparency, defending the essential work of news gatherers, and protecting freedom of expression through impact litigation, direct legal services, and policy work. The clinic is a program of the Abrams Institute for Freedom of Expression and Information Society Project. The clinic is co-taught by Jack Balkin, Knight Professor of Constitutional Law and the First Amendment; David Schulz, Floyd Abrams Clinical Lecturer in Law at Yale Law School and Senior Counsel at Ballard Spahr, LLP; Stanton First Amendment Fellow Hannah Bloch-Wehba, and Abrams Clinical Fellow John Langford.

Visit the MFIA website to learn more.

Ways to Engage
The Nixon-Presley Meeting
21 December 1970

Of all the requests made each year to the National Archives for reproductions of photographs and documents, one item has been requested more than any other. That item, more requested than the Bill of Rights or even the Constitution of the United States, is the photograph of Elvis Presley and Richard M. Nixon shaking hands on the occasion of Presley’s visit to the White House.

The Meeting

On December 21, 1970, Elvis Presley paid a visit to President Richard M. Nixon at the White House in Washington, D.C. The meeting was initiated by Presley, who wrote Nixon a six-page letter requesting a visit with the President and suggesting that he be made a "Federal Agent-at-Large" in the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs. The events leading up to and after the meeting are detailed in the documentation and photographs included here, which include Presley's handwritten letter, memoranda from Nixon staff and aides, and the thank-you note from Nixon for the gifts (including a Colt 45 pistol and family photos) that Presley brought with him to the Oval Office.

These materials chronicling the Presley-Nixon meeting were obtained from the Nixon Presidential Materials Project at the National Archives at College Park (College Park, Maryland).

The Documents

Note: The following documents are in PDF format.
You will need to download and install the free Acrobat Reader to view them.

Document 1: Handwritten Letter from Presley to Nixon, Undated

Document 2: Transcription of Presley letter, Undated

Document 3: Memorandum for H.R. Haldeman from Dwight L. Chapin, 21 December 1970

Document 4: Memorandum for the President, Re: Meeting with Elvis Presley, 21 December 1970
Welcome

NFOIC protects your right to open government. Will you invest in freedom of information and our mission by donating today?

DONATE

NFOIC and the Ohio Coalition of Open Government are pleased to announce the 2018 FOI Summit will convene in Cincinnati, Ohio on September 21st and 22nd at the Westin Cincinnati. Read more about the summit and register to attend.
OUR MISSION

Knight Foundation is a national foundation with strong local roots. We invest in journalism, in the arts, and in the success of cities where brothers John S. and James L. Knight once published newspapers. Our goal is to foster informed and engaged communities, which we believe are essential for a healthy democracy.
Key Takeaways
Google searches, 2004-present
Blue = “Freedom of Information”
Red = “Open Data”
Expanding, Evolving Universe
- Civil society influence growing

Revenue Change 2014-17

- Coalitions
- Journalism
- Civil Society
But remove outliers and journalism up just 9% (with many on the decline)

The Few Big Gains for Journalism

- Freedom of the Press
- RCFP
- National Press Club
Big Kahuna: ProPublica ($43.6 million)
Civil society bonanza since 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>2017 revenue</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>POGO</td>
<td>$7 million</td>
<td>180%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R Street</td>
<td>$6 million</td>
<td>107%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global Witness</td>
<td>$15 million</td>
<td>300%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brennan Center</td>
<td>$24 million</td>
<td>175%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Center for Const. Rights</td>
<td>$23 million</td>
<td>234%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Color of Change</td>
<td>$3 million</td>
<td>206%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judicial Watch</td>
<td>$53 million</td>
<td>72%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total revenues for FOI coalitions, all combined? $2 million.
Crowded lanes

- Training
- Requesting records
- Litigation (federal, in particular)
- Federal advocacy
Gaps

- Strategic research
- Technology
- Public education
- Lobbying/policy change (state level)
New Frontiers
Sunshine Week

It's Your Right to Know

March 10-16, 2019

Join ASNE and the Reporters Committee in the annual nationwide celebration of access to public information and what it means for you and your community. Find all the free resources you need to get started right here.

How to Get Involved

Calendar of Events

Across the country, Sunshine Week is marked by panel discussions, workshops and other events about using and understanding the latest developments in

Reporting Package

Major news organizations work together on a special reporting package free for anyone to publish in print or online during Sunshine Week, made available at the

@SunshineWeek
Welcome to governmentattic.org

governmentattic.org provides electronic copies of thousands of interesting Federal Government documents obtained under the Freedom of Information Act. Fascinating historical documents, reports on items in the news, oddities and fun stuff and government bloopers, they're all here. Think of browsing this site as rummaging through the Government's Attic -- hence our name. Our motto: Vide re licet.

governmentattic.org has two file sections: FOIA Logs and Documents.

To get to the actual documents, click on the above links: "FOIA LOGS" or "DOCUMENTS"

Or use our site search:

Google Custom Search

Like Us on Facebook

NOTE: links to newly added items are live on this page. Permanent storage of links will remain on the main index pages available through either the "FOIA LOGS" or "DOCUMENTS" links above.

NEW Correspondence between the Office of Legal Counsel (OLC) and Brett Kavanaugh, January 20, 2001 to May 30, 2006 - [PDF 14 MB 01-Apr-2019]

NEW Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Research Library Catalog, 2017 - [Excel Workbook 3.8 MB 01-Apr-2019]

NEW List of Items from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Research Library Catalog which are non-public, restricted, classified, or for internal use only, 2017 - [PDF 440 KB 01-Apr-2019]

NEW Inter-American Foundation (IAF) Management Report, July 2017 - [PDF 650 KB 01-Apr-2019]


NEW Defense Nuclear Facility Safety Board (DNFSB) telephone listings for facilities overseen by DNFSB, 2018 - [PDF 6.8 MB 01-Apr-2019]

NEW Memoranda, white papers, reports, and other documents created at the Selective Service System (SSS) concerning potential inclusion of women in the Selective Service draft, 2016-2019 - [PDF 10.6 MB 25-Mar-2019]
Strategic research

The Joseph L. Brechner Center for Freedom of Information is an incubator for ideas and initiatives that give the public timely and affordable access to the information necessary for informed, participatory citizenship. The Brechner Center works to educate journalists,
Sunshine switchboard
States policy center
State endowments
New funders and supporters