**New Zealand - Archives funding loss disappoints**

Dunedin archives advocate Stuart Strachan is "annoyed and disappointed" by a report showing National Archives has lost funding and influence since rejoining the Internal Affairs Department.

Former Waikato University professor of accounting and finance Don Gilling said in his recent report that an earlier Cabinet paper had claimed the restructuring would "futureproof" the two organisations and cut costs.

<http://bit.ly/2FrCLLM>

## UD’s Archives Is This Campus’ Hidden Gem

A 16thcentury antiphonary, a 15thcentury prayer book and three different Papal bulls are all pieces of history available to UD students and faculty to see at the University of Dayton Archives.

In the Archive reading room on the second floor of Albert Emanuel Hall, students can request any item of historical importance to view, to just hold or to research.

“I really enjoy connecting people with information,” said Kristina Schulz, the head archivist. “I especially like trying to integrate the special collection into the undergraduate program.”

<http://bit.ly/2FrQuSJ>

## Archives processing nearly 53K death certificates

Residents can look at death certificates of famous Missourians such as author Laura Ingalls Wilder, composer John William "Blind" Boone and American outlaw Jesse James' brother, Frank James, using the Missouri State Archives website.

The website isn't limited to famous individuals, though. Online users can trace their own family heritage back decades using the Missouri State Archives website.

The Missouri State Archives is currently processing nearly 53,000 newly available death certificates so the documents are searchable online.

<http://bit.ly/2FwdvEe>

## India - Data privacy concerns: Government’s move to amend IT Act to trace social media messages faces resistance

The government’s move to amend Section 79 of the Information Technology Act, 2000, to trace and intercept messages on social media platforms, has met with some resistance by advocacy groups related to internet freedom. At a meeting convened by ministry of electronics and information technology with activists on Saturday, the latter voiced their concerns, stating that such moves could endanger freedom of expression.  
  
<http://bit.ly/2RrlNV0>

## Preserving Online News In An Ephemeral Web: A Look At Four Months Of Global Digital Journalism

From the dawn of modern print journalism through the beginning of the web era, newspapers represented an archival medium. Once rendered into print, a news article was immutable and could safely be referenced for perpetuity without fear that a few days later it would say something very different. As libraries and other institutions collected and archived newspapers, their contents were also safely preserved for continued access by future generations. Multiple libraries all held independent copies of an article, ensuring that even if some copies were lost or modified, others survived. In contrast, in the web era, journalism has been largely transformed into live blogging, with articles wholesale rewritten or simply deleted. As online journalism has rapidly risen into a dominant distribution format over the past quarter century, what does its ephemeral nature mean for the archival and preservation of our societal record?  
  
<http://bit.ly/2AKxgEz>

## Some Nevada governments using blockchain for public records

Some northern Nevada counties are using blockchain, the online ledger best known for helping secure virtual currencies such as bitcoin, to store digital versions of government records like birth and marriage certificates.

The Reno Gazette-Journal reports that as of December in Washoe County, about 950 couples had received secure digital marriage certificates to home computers and smartphones since the program debuted in April 2018.

The newspaper found that Elko County is trying similar technology for certified digital birth certificates.

Read more here: <https://www.miamiherald.com/news/business/technology/article224003290.html#storylink=cpy>

<https://hrld.us/2Ha6f3e>

## Bought for a buck, now priceless: Alberta Indigenous media archive being digitized

He bought them for a dollar.

Now, “boxes and boxes and boxes” of old audiotape and film that Bert Crowfoot has safeguarded for decades are turning out to be a priceless trove of Indigenous stories, culture and language.

“This is a continuation of our oral traditions,” said Crowfoot, who’s helping direct a project to turn a roomful of old interviews, talk, music and movies from a defunct Indigenous media organization into a searchable digital archive.

<https://tgam.ca/2FpJIOd>

## Walking the Talk: Preserving ‘mediageek’ at the Internet Archive

More than three years ago I began the process of going through old air check cassettes, CD-Rs and minidiscs to be sure I have a good digital copy on a hard drive that’s decently labeled or named. I started with the minidiscs, because players and recorders are no longer in production, and I still own the one model that lets you upload recordings directly to your computer over USB, rather than having to capture the analog output.

By May 2017 I’d completed transferring about 300 discs and tapes. That’s when work came to a halt due to needing to move. While I still have a few dozen items to deal with, I’ve decided to take the next step.

<http://bit.ly/2VLZGHe>

## Former Councilwoman Schipske Asks City Attorney To Stop Destruction Of Her Former Council Office Records, Withdraw Item And Provide Index Of Items In Boxes

(January 6, 2019, 9:05 a.m.) -- Former 5th district City Councilwoman Gerrie Schipske has emailed City Attorney Charles Parkin urging withdrawal of a Jan. 8 City Council agenda item that seeks Council approval to destroy various categories of City records, all older than 2012 (in some cases extending back to 1989) including those that then-Councilwoman Schipske preserved while representing the 5th district (2006-2014.)   
  
<http://bit.ly/2srFeOh>

## For many hospitals, the fax machine is still the dominant information sharing tech

The fax machine has not gone anywhere in medicine. This so-called “ancient relic” is still operational and is considered a simple, yet powerful tool for those in healthcare, despite the other more modern modalities of exchanging information. According to newly released federal data, almost three-quarters of nonfederal acute care hospitals routinely use faxes to receive summary of care records from providers outside their system, according to the data released by the Office of the National Coordinator (ONC) for Health IT.

<http://bit.ly/2CgCqbu>

## Decades Of City Records Proposed For Destruction Are Priceless Treasure Trove Of Long Beach History

The Council action isn't required by state law; the Jan. 8 agendizing memos provide no reason(s) for the records destruction, simply reciting that "Pursuant to Section 34090 of the California Government Code and Chapter 1.28 of the Long Beach Municipal Code, records destruction for City Manager departments and elected officials must be submitted to the City Council for approval. The records destruction must comply with each department's records retention schedule." In other words, a Council majority could vote "yes" or "no."   
  
<http://bit.ly/2H7KFwd>

## You were told to clean up our systems, not delete 8,000 crucial files TMP is for 'temporary', though. Right?

"My mandate was to start whipping things into shape, getting all their IT stuff – hardware and software – organised, setting up best practices, building server racks, and so on."

That included cleaning up local systems – "defragging, deleting garbage documents and temp files" – and getting data stored correctly on mapped drives to the server.

Sam found one system practically full (noting that this was in the old days of 320MB IDE drives) and made arrangements with the user to clean it out during his lunch break.

<http://bit.ly/2VQ93FV>

## SJC to hear Boston Globe lawsuit seeking trove of Massachusetts birth and marriage records

The case stems from a public records request that the Globe submitted to the department in May 2013. Globe reporter Todd Wallack asked for electronic copies from the Registry of Vital Statistics of birth, death, marriage and divorce records. The Department of Public Health provided divorce and death data, but would not give the birth and marriage data.

The request asked for birth data from 1953 to the present and marriage data from 1983 to the present.

According to DPH, this would cover birth data for around 4.6 million individuals and marriage data for 2.2 million individuals.

<http://bit.ly/2Rr0h2J>

## Why you should be paying more attention to dark data

Dugan says data can become dark for many reasons, but primarily it occurs simply due to the volume of data organisations collect and the inefficiencies of technologies and systems for reading, filing and accessing it.

“It could be because the storage reservoir hasn’t marked the metadata labels appropriately, or because the data is in a format that the integrated tools can’t read and therefore cannot be retrieved by a query,” she says. “This kind of irretrievable data is commonly seen with imaging, audio and video files.

<http://bit.ly/2TKnmKd>

## Launching an Accessible Archive of Environmental Data

Over the past decade, data from Earth and environmental research have dramatically increased in volume, complexity, and diversity, but in many cases, efforts to make these data usable and accessible have not kept pace. This data proliferation has created an urgent need for data preservation, curation, quality checks, and standards for enabling cross-disciplinary use of the data.  
  
 <http://bit.ly/2VSpgur>

## How Do We Define 'Big Data' And Just What Counts As A 'Big Data' Analysis?

In an era where almost everything is touted as being “big data” how do we define just what we mean by “big data” and what precisely counts as a “big data” analysis? Does merely keyword searching a multi-petabyte dataset count? Does using a date filter to extract a few million tweets from the full trillion-tweet archive count as “big data?” Does running a hundred petabyte file server or merely storing a hundred petabyte backup count? What exactly should count as “big data” today?  
  
<http://bit.ly/2Rq6Dzo>

## Blockchain’s Occam problem

Amid intense experimentation, industries from financial services to healthcare and the arts have identified more than 100 blockchain use cases. These range from new land registries, to KYC applications and smart contracts that enable actions from product processing to share trading. The most impressive results have seen blockchains used to store information, cut out intermediaries, and enable greater coordination between companies, for example in relation to data standards.  
  
<https://mck.co/2Fsy3Oy>

## New bill would prevent Wisconsin lawmakers from destroying public records

MILWAUKEE -- A Wisconsin state lawmaker is introducing legislation that would prevent legislators from destroying public records.

Other government agencies are required to keep public records for set periods of time. However, an exception state lawmakers wrote themselves decades ago allows them to avoid such rules. As FOX6 discovered in a recent investigation, state lawmakers regularly delete emails, calendars, and other records that show who is influencing them and how they make decisions.  
  
<http://bit.ly/2AIzHrw>

## Civil Rights Cold-Case Bill Drafted by High Schoolers Becomes Law

(CN) – Conceived by a group of New Jersey high school students, a bill President Donald Trump signed this week mandates the public disclosure of the FBI’s closed case files on murders of black people during the civil rights movement.

The Civil Rights Cold Case Records Collection Act of 2018’s journey to the president’s desk started in 2015 in the classroom of Hightstown High School history teacher Stuart Wexler.

<http://bit.ly/2Cho8Y8>

## Who owns Kafka? The long struggle over the contents of Max Brod’s valise

n 1939 Kafka’s friend Max Brod fled Nazi-occupied Czechoslovakia for Palestine with a suitcase that held most of his idol’s manuscripts. It contained the never-completed novels “The Trial”, “The Castle” and “Amerika”, along with diaries, notebooks and correspondence.

Decades later, the contents of that refugee’s valise prompted a clutch of hotly contested lawsuits. They climbed the judicial ladder until, in 2016, they landed in Israel’s Supreme Court. Benjamin Balint, a critic and translator, traces this saga in his absorbing book. Not only does Mr Balint ask, “Who owns Kafka?” He explores the meaning of a writer’s legacy in an age that, like Kafka’s disorienting stories, puts identity and belonging in doubt.

<https://econ.st/2D8wcMo>

NASA – the National Aeronautics and Space Administration – is examining blockchain technology as a means to ensure the privacy and security of aircraft flight data.

Ronald Reisman, an aero-computer engineer at NASA Ames Research Center, [published](https://ntrs.nasa.gov/archive/nasa/casi.ntrs.nasa.gov/20190000022.pdf) a paper on Monday, suggesting that blockchain networks and smart contracts can help mitigate some security issues.

Starting Jan. 1, 2020, the U.S. has been mandated by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to use a new surveillance system – Automatic Dependent Surveillance Broadcast (ADS-B) – which will publicly broadcast aircrafts’ identity, position and other information.

<http://bit.ly/2TN1kXj>

## Nuisance records request can cost taxpayers a bundle

After a few months in office, Republican Attorney General Jeff Landry received two public records requests. They cast a wide net, involving Republican Landry’s conduct as a public official, his office’s relations with legal services subcontractors and any energy firms, and the approval of contracts let by other government agencies.

The requests related to a number of disputes Landry had at the time with Democratic Gov. John Bel Edwards, including differences over the governor's support of environmentally related suits against the energy industry. An out-of-state resident, Scarlett Martin, filed the records request, and Landry’s office accepted her payment for providing the records.

<http://bit.ly/2Fy7y9A>