

Library 2.0 Symposium
Ethics & Politics of Library 2.0
Yale Law School

Government & Web 2.0:
Opportunities and Challenges

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April 4, 2009

Obama & Change.gov

- Effective use of Internet and Web 2.0 during presidential campaign
- Candidate Obama makes Transparency Pledge
- Transition Team's invitation to "Your Seat at the Table"

- Statement to The Obama-Biden Transition Team: Public Policy Positions of The AALL
- Moving Toward a 21st Century Right-to-Know Agenda: Recommendations to President-elect Obama and Congress

New Open Government Directive

- Government should be *transparent*
- Government should be *participatory*
- Government should be *collaborative*

White House Embraces Web 2.0

- Sun shines on President Obama's White House web site
- Pledge to post non-emergency legislation for 5 days before signing *and allow public comment*
- White House blog
- Obama's March 19 online town hall
- New agency tools such as Recovery.gov and FinancialStability.gov to track bailout spending

Challenges for The White House

- Nomination of new Chief Technology Officer
- WhiteHouse.gov
 - information often hard to find
 - most documents not in searchable PDF
 - printing issues
- Some important documents not posted at all
- New “Daily Compilation of Presidential Documents” not yet timely
- Data.gov

Challenge: Government Responsible for E-Life Cycle Management

- Creation of information
- Robust finding tools (metadata)
- Version control
- Official status
- Citation
- Authentication
- Permanent accessibility
- Preservation

Challenge: Government & Web 2.0

- Need to ensure e-life cycle management for Web 2.0
- Concern about third-party bulk downloads and mash-ups ~ need to ensure integrity and authentication of the government information
- Agencies must comply with certain laws and regulations:
 - Privacy
 - National security
 - Sec. 508 of the *Americans With Disabilities Act*
- What about the digital divide?

Agency Case Study: the EPA

- EPA announced plans to close 5 libraries in spring 2006
- EPA's goal: to go "all electronic" but no digitization standards
- Stakeholders spoke out loudly & effectively
- 110th Congress held oversight hearings and ordered EPA to reopen libraries (\$1 million)
- EPA has changed its culture
- EPA now uses Web 2.0: blogs, online chat rooms, stakeholder comment opportunities

Thank you!

And please feel free to contact me at:

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