

## GPO - Past and Future of NOAA Publications – Transcript of audio

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Good afternoon everybody. Welcome. We have a terrific webinar for you today. My name is Joe Paskoski. I have some background noise so I apologize for that. I have Donald Sensabaugh here with tech support today. The webinar is entitled past and future of NOAA publications. Today we have Katie Poser and Jennifer Fagan-Fry, institutional repository manager and scholarly communications library and. Katie has been the outreach librarian for the NOAA central library since 2020. She engages staff in the ever evolving opportunities by newsletter, email, and presentations. She graduated from the University of -- in Glasgow, Scotland. Jennifer has been with the NOAA library since 2015 and she serves as the NOAA institutional repository manager and scholarly communications library and. She manages public access mandates and works closely with other agencies and the White House on science and technology policy. With that, I will hand the microphone over to Katie and Jennifer to take it from here.

Thank you, Joe. We are excited to be here. I am Katie Poser and my colleague Jennifer Fagan-Fry. We are here to talk about NOAA publications. The NOAA central library is one of 17 network libraries in NOAA and we work hard to help patrons publish their work. And includes many areas. We will not talk about dated today because that is handled in a completely different ways. We made mention it that we will mainly talk about publications because that is our field. Talking about publications, we need to first go into the past and I will be referring to historical publications. When I say historical publications I mean those pertaining to our agency history. I will not hop outside of our agency so I don't give any inaccurate information. So, history. The 1800s were a wry at this time in America. These agencies were established including the coast and geodetic survey. Thomas Jefferson signed a bill for a survey of the coast. And that established the coast and geodetic survey. It is the oldest scientific agency in the government. In 1878 it was renamed to the coast and geodetic survey and then it moved to the Department of treasury. It was transferred to the Department of Commerce and labor and then when NOAA became NOAA in 1970, it became an office within NOAA. Next we have the U.S. weather Bureau. They were operating under the Army signal service office. In 1890 the agency was transferred to the department of agriculture and renamed it the weather Bureau. The parent agency has switched a few times but the weather Bureau has never changed its name until it became the National Weather Service as part of NOAA. Next we have the U.S. commission of fish and fisheries or the U.S. Fish commission. This was established in 1871 as an independent agency. In 1903 it became part of the Department of Commerce and labor and then it was changed to the Bureau of fisheries. Then it moved to the Department of the Interior. In 1940 it was Gonzalez is consolidated with the interior biological survey. In 1970 the Bureau of fisheries was moved into NOAA. Each of these agencies, as you can imagine, reduced a lot of publications. So how what did they publish? We will go through these one at a time. Speaking first on the coast and geodetic survey. They likely published many many things lost to history. What happened with our libraries is each of these agencies had a library and all of those moved several times and were consolidated and consolidated again so what the NOAA central library ended up getting is what was left over of three agencies smashed together. I am sure there are plenty of publications that we did not receive and were lost in time. We have two things. We have annual reports of the coast and geodetic surveys. These usually list progress of work, cost of work, what was surveyed, and the challenges faced along the way. This cover image is from special publication number three from the 1800s and it was the Atlas of the Philippines archipelago. That had been recently acquired by U.S. in a 1898 and then they gained their independence in 1946. The technical work was done by native draftsman and it was decided to publish the maps through the agency of the U.S. coast and geodetic survey some of the maps were redrawn at the U.S. Coast and geodetic survey office. Reading through these is really kind of a tree and it is fun to see what was going on and to all of the different

challenges that they faced as they tracked across the country and along the coastlines, mapping everything out. Next, let's talk about the fish commission. The U.S. Fish commission began out of a need to investigate why there was a sudden decrease in food fishes along the coast of Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Each of those states had gone out and done some surveying and brought them back to their individual governments and the states came up with two very radically different opinions on what was going on. Massachusetts said nothing is going on and Rhode Island said, actually, I think there is a real problem. Since there was this absolute opposite opinion it was decided that a federal scientist needed to be commissioned to understand and suggest changes. This agency bounce between the Department of Commerce and interior before finding a home in NOAA. The collection holds to ties to annual reports, interviews, and other works. A bonus list is the quarterly bulletin of the United States Fish commission. It is an official publication since 1881. It has changed titles a few times. But, it has been going strong since 1881. Still publishing regular research in all scientific fields that impact marine animal science today. The first article was about cod. It was a pretty quick turnaround from wondering why there were not enough food fishes along the coastline. Moving on, what did the U.S. weather Bureau publish. They started as the U.S. signal Corps. They were responsible for meteorological observations from 1861 until 1891 and then meteorological work was transferred to the U.S. weather Bureau. This kicked off with years of weather maps, reports to Congress, and more. I have two slides to this. The U.S. Army signal Corps weather Bureau annual reports. It was really important in these early years, as part of the military arm of the government to know what the weather was. This moved into having daily weather maps. Then a monthly weather review and that is what started a journal within the weather Bureau and moved on and is now published by the American meteorological Society. You can have everything that was published while it was a government agency through the American Meteorological Society freely. Then we have the report to the Chief of the weather Bureau. This was more of a practical work progress. What is going on? What are they observing? So, the second slide, because there was so much going on, it starts with volunteer observations by George Washington Carver and the Tuskegee weather Institute. Curious whether writeups in the wide weather and hurricane reports. I do have some images here. This first one is going to be the very first annual report of the signal service. The next is a daily weather map. I know it is a little small but this is from 152 years ago today and this is September 21, 1871. It is indicating Fairweather over top of the Washington, D.C. area, where we are located. This is a fun thing to look up on your birth date and say, what was the weather like a couple of hundred years ago. So, how do you access all of these historical publications and how do you use all of these publications. All of the reports I have been talking about are digitized, catalogued, and available freely. You can find them on the libraries catalog. I have the sling tear and you will get the slides afterwards but it is simply found on the homepage and then we have some collection pages as well and that is what this little blurry image is showing about the collection page. The collection pages are divided up by the agency and it is either a digitized PDF or for a few of them, like the daily weather maps, there is a déjà vu file that requires a plug-in that is free to download and then you can look at them in that format as well. Enough of our historical publications. I will hand it over to my colleague, Jennifer Fagan-Fry, to talk about the establishment of NOAA in the 1970s and beyond.

Thank you Katie. We kind of structured this talk this way because we thought it was important to see the lineage of NOAA and understand how things have changed throughout the course of the history of the agency and also how they have stayed the same as far as what is published and the outputs that we have next slide. A little bit about the official establishment of NOAA. NOAA was established by President Nixon officially on October 3, 1970. One of the things that is kind of interesting is that we were sort of the left under the Department of Commerce and a lot of folks always wondered why that was the case. Just a little bit of fun history, it was mostly a beef between President Nixon and his interior secretary. They had differing views on how certain policies were handled so, as punishment, President Nixon opted to push NOAA under the Department of Commerce rather than the interior. The idea behind combining these agencies was to serve the

national need for "Better protection of life and property from natural hazards, a better understanding of the total environment, and for exploration and development leading to intelligent and sustainable usage of marine resources." By combining these agencies into one, they had a more unified look at all of these things. The first administrator of NOAA was the previous administrator of two of those predecessor agencies. There is the ESSA . And the weather Bureau. He was the administrator for a number of years and had been heavily involved with NOAA throughout his tenure as our administrator and up until his passing in 2015. The four agencies that were combined were the Bureau of commercial fisheries, the C&GS and the weather Bureau. ESSA split into two line offices. I kind of mapped out how each of these predecessor agencies are mapped into the current line offices that we currently have so the national Marine fisheries service and ESSA was split into NESDIS and into the OAR. That is like a research and development branch of NOAA. And then the weather Bureau became the National Weather Service. These each have their own identity within the overarching banner of NOAA but despite the reorganization and the combining, the science and the research that was done under all of these remains the same as well as the research outputs. If you can go to the next slide please. From the 1970s onward, publishing within NOAA stayed --. We have administrative orders within NOAA that have been around forever and dictate the types of publications that we put out . A lot of those are based on existing things from previous agencies. From the Bureau of commercial fisheries. As well as the coast and geodetic survey. It does kind of explain how we divide the types of publications that it creates. We have technical reports and memorandum. Technical service preparations and it defines what each of those mean. And how we would categorize them and how the line offices are supposed to use those to push out and communicate the research that we are doing. In addition we have some directives and it an additional administrative order that tells us how we are to distribute and disseminate information in that administrative order. This is everything has to come to the library and the library is responsible for making that available. In previous iterations there were changes to programs or the catalog of government publications. All of these policies were obviously given the timeframe, very focused on physical materials. Even into the 2000 tons and up until maybe a handful of years ago, there was a heavy emphasis on physical materials. NOAA did not at any point have a centralized publishing office so each line office maintains their own policies, procedures. We and called the library core meet with each of them individually. The real problem in this area of publishing is the materials were scattered in multiple places because each line office was maintaining their publishing policies and procedures and they were kind of doing the dissemination themselves as well so all of these different documents were on different websites. Were buried on resource pages or tied to specific news articles. Regularly we would run into broken links. It was very problematic for folks trying to find things. As we move forward into the digital age there are a few things that have happened that have really shifted how we as an agency handle publications. The first was the OSTP memo of 2013 on public access access increasing access to the results of federally funded scientific research. I will not go super Duper into this but that required all agencies that did so much in research and development to make all of those research results publicly available. It called for repositories to be maintained by all of the agencies that fund this research so the public could come to one place and find all of the research that had been funded. This memo called for each agency to develop their own public assess access plan and that led to the NOAA PARR plan. Last August OSTP came out with the Nelson memo. This one expanded on the previous memo, the 2013 memo. It included all agencies, regardless of their level of research and development. Removes embargo periods on journal articles and there are additional requirements for data. There are additional data for identifier outputs. One of the big changes in terms of publications is unlike the previous memo that focused on scholarly. Related articles, this leaves room for agencies to include requirements for gray literature. This is of the agency discretion but, it has specific language in their that addresses literature. Gray literature. We had already, in our original plan in 2015 included this is pieces of our gray literature in the requirements for our PARR plan. Next slide. So, that required us to develop a repository. The NOAA were taught repository went live in 2017. In the repository the main holdings

are all NOAA authored and NOAA funded publications. We have 18 publications. We have our primary line office. We have another one called the office of Marine and Navy operations. They are really the folks who manage and maintain NOAA's fleet of ships, unmanned systems, and our airplanes that we use like hurricane hunters and things like that. We don't bring up OAMO often. We do have other programs and in there, what we opted to do for our gray literature was include all of NOAA's publications back to 1970. In there, you will find our technical reports and technical memorandum and data reports. Cruise reports. Administrative reports. Our administrative reports and cruise reports tend to look like --. We include programmatic and handbooks. Reports to Congress. Grant reports. There are other series documents and then we also include journal articles as part of the OSTP memo. And these are all NOAA funded articles. Those that are authored by NOAA staff or were funded in part or in whole by NOAA. I wanted to highlight a couple of collections. These particular ones because we get a lot of questions about these. There has been some discussions about things that have happened. The first and foremost one is the Sea Grant collection. Starting in late 2020 and early 2021 we began working with the national Sea Grant library to transfer their holdings from the Sea Grant library into the institutional repository and the general central library collections. There is a bit of a division on where you find the Sea Grant items but they are either in the IR or the NOAA's library catalog. We do have these dating back to 1970 so most of the things that you will see our the reports and the research articles. You will see some of the educational materials that folks in the Sea Grant put out. You will see white papers. There are dissertations and theses that were sponsored by Sea Grant. We have all of that in the IR and the Sea Grant. You can search the Sea Grant by the specific program. If there are certain materials you are looking for from say, the Michigan Sea Grant program, you can search by Michigan Sea Grant program and it will pull up all of the materials. The other one I wanted to highlight is the ocean exploration program. It is a collection and the ocean exploration program is the only federal program dedicated to exploring our deep oceans. We dedicate a lot of time and effort to this program and we are very cognizant of the need to archive and maintain all of their publications and their outputs. This would include data and cruise reports. Those have a lot of great information in them about what they are doing when they are out at sea. There are cruise instructions, mapping information. A lot of what Ocean Exploration Program does is map the ocean floor. We also include all of the journal publications. It is a very big collection and continues to grow. Something we are very proud of. The other thing we wanted to highlight was impacts the historical publications and that 1970 and forward publications. In the central library we are working on a massive digitization project that we have been working on that over the last three years and will be continuing to work on it in the next fiscal year. To date we have digitized approximately 5000 titles from NOAA offices or predecessor NOAA offices. This includes correspondence, white papers, reports to Congress, atlases, observations and even some weather logs. These are a couple of examples. I did put up one of the Tuskegee weather records and those are always really interesting to look at. Those are available on our website I think Katie mentioned. The second log is from a hurricane watch log from 1967. This was just recently digitized. It is not currently in the catalog but should be in the next few days. This is a handwritten watch log of the weather observers in Florida monitoring tropical storm Arlene as it came through and it's development. It is fascinating to see the development. There are press notices that were sent out including watches and warnings that were issued. It really is a great wealth of information. These are the types of things that we are currently digitizing and making available for folks. We are working on a new project in the future in the next fiscal year. We are looking at digitizing about 1500 rare materials in these all come from the rare book room. Most are from the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey. We are very excited about this project and to get these things that have just been sitting in a locked room available to folks across all of our platforms. The other thing we wanted to highlight is we are currently working with GPO. We have signed an agreement with GPO to highlight our shared goal of providing access to all of the research that NOAA does. We are looking to share information back and forth. All of this with the intention of having multiple access points for folks. To get to all of NOAA's information. By sharing, the agreement says that GPO and

NOAA will share back and forth. So, the IR does have an API and you can harvest via them. All of the documents will end up in the government publications. So, DOIs will be used in those places rather than PURLs. Things sometimes get lost as they are consolidated and moved around and bounced from place to place so, on NOAA's side we are looking to go in and see what GPO has so we can add those to our collection as well. We are very excited about this collaboration and we have talked to a number of other federal agencies who are also looking at doing something like this as well. They were very excited to see how easy it was for us to work with GPO. This is something we are excited about and very proud of. That is our last slide. If there are any additional questions, we are happy to answer those.

Yes. Any questions. I have been putting things in the chat so if you want to follow to the repository, there is a link there and a link to the weather records that were from George Washington Carver at the Teske good Tuskegee research link.

[ Pause ]

I know we had a few questions before the presentation and Joe sent them over to us and there were a few about data and we hope to come back to this webinar series and do another webinar and bring in someone from the data side. And we can tell you more about where to access those historic weather reports on rainfall and temperature and etc. We are not quite equipped to answer the data questions today.

Thank you. Let's look into the questions here. Shout out by James saying there is it is great there is a connection between NOAA and GPO. Is GPO responsible for cataloging these various publications?

That is a great question Arthur. The publications that come to the repository, we catalog all of those. We do all of that metadata work in house. We have a technical services team here at NOAA and we handle that work. The cataloging that we do for repository is not -- based but we do have mapping so all of that will be available to GPO. That is part of some of the conversations we have had as far as getting them into a marked format for folks.

Scott asked, "As a preservation steward library, will there be any slash many tangible publications coming from NOAA in the future? "

Great question. To my knowledge, probably not. NOAA has switch to primarily digital publishing. NOAA does not technically have a centralized publishing officer clearinghouse as we say around here. The library serves in that role to some extent that we don't necessarily have enforcement capabilities because it is not official. I cannot tell you 100%. If an office opts to print something physical or talk with GPO and work it out with GPO to do physical printing up some items, that would be on their dime and time. But we have switched primarily to a digital output.

Thank you. Barbara asked, "Can you talk about the difference in terms of accessing content between the library and the collection pages into the IR?"

I will take that one. I feel like I'm hogging the questions.

That's okay. Go for it.

There is not a whole lot of difference. Mostly in terms of the content. Everything on the NOAA central library website is publicly accessible. We do keep everything on a cloud server and that is also publicly accessible to folks. Anyone can go into the NOAA central library and search the catalog. They can access digital items there. Through the collection pages on the website -- those are the same. The things that are on the collection pages are also replicated in our catalog. So if you are trying to see all of it in one space you can go to the catalog and see all of those things there. The repository is its own separate system and entity but we just recently moved over to a new ILS so when you serve Primo it searches the entire raHS repository. If you search the NOAA catalog it will search the physical holdings as well as the digital holdings and the institutional repositories. We like to think of that as a one-stop shop.

Sarah ask, "Does the Sea Grant publications library include the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico?" We have things from the Puerto Rico program and some from the Virgin Islands. We did the transfer with the National Sea Grant library and they did not have a lot from the Virgin Islands. I think a lot of that was physical material. A little bit about that transition because I know that there were a

number of folks that had questions and concerns about the Sea Grant library and what was happening with it . There are two pieces to it. There was the digital collection and all of that came to the central library and then there was the physical collection. The University of Rhode Island, which is where the Sea Grant library was housed for nearly 50 years, opted to keep the vast majority of the physical items. Some things were sent to Internet archives to digitize. But it was determined that the University of Rhode Island would handle physical pieces. So, if they are physical materials, we may or may not have them. That being said we do have a pretty large cache of Sea Grant physical items. We do plan on doing some more digitisation of Sea Grant items as well.

James Jacobs asked, he said he just check the U.S. Grant publications for the PARR plan and it was not there.

That is to our PARR plan .

When did the connection between GPO and NOAA occur?

The GPO and NOAA agreement was formalized this year. So, there is a bit of back work that both sites need to do on this. We are aware that there is probably some big gaps on both sides and we will work to get that squared away. It probably took us a little bit longer to get around to the Senate should have but, we did.

Scott S, "How to government shutdowns impact access to the IR / catalog? Are they still available? Or do they go dark?"

That is a tricky one to answer. The repository stays up. The institutional repository stays up. The catalog, on the other hand, would be inaccessible because you have to get to the library website. Because most government websites are shut down if the library shuts down. The repository sits in a different space so we have partnered with the centers for disease control prevention on the repository system. It is a platform between ourselves, the CDC, and the Department of Transportation. They all have their repositories through that. How it is funded and how it works means that even if there is a government shutdown, generally, the repository should stay up and running.

James Jacobs says you continue to report "And reported" NOAA docs to GPO and that's appreciated. And he wishes all agencies would do as NOAA has done. This is really great information.

There is one other thing I would like to throw out there for folks. Not knowing everybody who is attending or listening to recordings of this, for those folks that are using the catalog of government publications and run into issues, this came up recently and we had emails back and forth. If there ever issues or questions about a document or access to a document where a link might be broken or something, please contact us in the library. We are happy to help you track down what you need and figure out what is going on and get you the proper information. Sometimes folks will try to contact folks within a particular line office and because of our structure it can be complicated and convoluted. Come directly to us and we will be able to get you to what you need a lot faster over trying to navigate the NOAA structure .

As John said we are digitizing and moving through the rare book collection and we will be digitizing into the next year so just kind of stay tuned for our catalog and those updates. We do seminars every now and then in the library space and those are freely available to anyone to attend and I'm sure we will be doing a seminar updating our progress on the digitisation in the future. So just a tuned for that.

Thank you. We are pretty good on time so if you have more questions for Jennifer or Katie, please put them in the chat. My colleague, Donald, with a webinar satisfaction survey in the chat so please fill that out. It also has a link to the file repository I think. We will be reporting on related handouts and the slide deck will be available tomorrow or on Monday. So please look out for that. Let me just talk about some upcoming webinars. We have one scheduled for September the 27th promoting federal documents. Don't forget, hopefully there will not be a government shutdown but October 16-18 we have our virtual conference and we have a preconference October 12. That is GPO business. We separated those out so we would have more time for general presentations. All of the

programs will be recorded for later viewing and placed in the repository. Let me see if we have any other questions. A bunch of shout out rolling in. Lots of terrific information. Let's give it's another minute or so and see if we have anyone else. Like I was saying, recordings, we have our last spring conference and all of our conference recordings in the repository. Please come back and give a NOAA update. We would love to have Katie and Jennifer come back any time. Just drop me an email and we will schedule another webinar. If you have new information to put up, we would be happy to do that.

We would be happy to do that on the data aspect. It is a bit different so we may bring a few colleagues with us. We will bring the data experts. We just dabble in data around here.

Any topic you want to talk about we will be open to.

Audrey says, "Off-topic but does NOAA have a procurement office? "

Yes. Entrance of in terms of library materials or in general?

A general comment -- I am originally from Rhode Island and the former governor of Rhode Island is the head of the department of Congress and we are proud as former Rhode Islanders. Let's see if we have any other last-minute comments or questions for Jennifer and Katie. Donald, did you put the file repository up there? You did. We keep that for two or three years. It looks like the questions have run out so I think I can close things out. Thank you once again Katie and Jennifer. Fantastic webinar. We really enjoyed it and I'm sure the audience did. We learned a lot. Thank you to Donald for the tech-support work. Come on back next work to another webinar. If you have an idea for a webinar drop us an email. We would be happy to -- if you have an idea, we do agency people but also people from the repository community. It could be on a number of areas. I'm sure our FDPL community would enjoy that . With that, we will close everything out., Back to the FDPL Academy for future webinars.

Thank you everyone. There [Event Concluded]