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The Rule of Law

1. PRESIDENTIAL TERMS AND TENURE: PERSPECTIVES AND PROPOSALS FOR CHANGE

Neale, Thomas H.

Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress, October 19, 2009

Although the length of the presidential term was decided after spirited debate at the 1787 Constitutional Convention, and the 22nd Amendment provides term limits for the President, proposed constitutional amendments that would alter these provisions are occasionally introduced in Congress. The report discusses various proposed amendments. Currently available online at <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R40864.pdf>

2. THE PROSPECTS FOR NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND

Rothstein, Richard

Economic Policy Institute, October 13, 2009

Secretary of Education Arne Duncan has called for a speedy re-authorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), branded the "No Child Left Behind" law (NCLB) by the Bush administration. After expiring in 2007, NCLB has hung on with annual temporary extensions; its provisions are now so controversial that no Congressional majority has been able to coalesce around a proposal for modification. But "re-authorization can't wait," Duncan said recently, and he has pledged to get Congress to enact a new education law in 2010. Currently available online at <http://www.epi.org/publications/entry/pm149/>

3. REVITALIZING DEMOCRACY ASSISTANCE: THE CHALLENGES OF USAID

Carothers, Thomas

Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, October 2009

Democracy is largely stagnant in the world and a growing number of governments exhibit hostility toward international democracy aid. Tackling longstanding problems with the basic structures of U.S. democracy aid would boost the effort. As the largest source of such assistance, USAID is an obvious starting point for deep-reaching reforms, according to the report. Currently available online at

http://www.carnegieendowment.org/files/revitalizing_democracy_assistance.pdf

4. US-UN TIES STILL STRAINED

Crossette, Barbara

The Nation, October 2, 2009

The Obama administration's efforts to mend ties with the United Nations suffered with the UN's firing of Peter Galbraith, the American diplomat appointed deputy special UN envoy to Afghanistan in March. The UN said he was fired "in the best interests" of the Afghan mission, but Galbraith had been berating Afghan and UN officials over what he saw as an inadequate response to the messy and fraud-plagued August 20 elections. He told BBC his being sacked "sends a terrible signal when the UN removes an official because he was concerned about fraud in an UN-sponsored and funded election." Currently available online at

<http://www.thenation.com/doc/20091019/crossette>

Economics and Trade

5. AN AMERICAN LOST DECADE?

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International Economy, Summer 2009, pp. 6-22

Is America headed for a 1990s Japanese-style “lost decade” of economic stagnation? In this symposium of views, thirty experts, ranging from economists, journalists, academics and businessmen weigh in. The consensus among most of the group is that the U.S. government acted decisively and quickly, whereas the Japanese government dallied for much longer before taking action. The American and European experts interviewed generally express a more positive view of the U.S. prospects than the Japanese, one of whom states that the U.S. is in for “more than one lost decade.” Available online at http://www.international-economy.com/TIE_Su09_LostDecade.pdf

6. ANTICIPATING THE NEXT CRISIS

Ghosh, Atish; Ostry, Jonathan; Tamirisa, Natalia

Finance & Development, Vol. 46, No. 3, September 2009, pp. 35-37

The authors, all IMF officials, write that the global economic upheaval has sparked new interest in the financial version of an “early-warning system” that could anticipate a future crisis-in-the-making. Various proposals have been floated that have in common a means to identify underlying vulnerabilities and specific events likely to trigger a crisis, and policies that can be adopted to address the shortcomings that might lead to a collapse. They note that a more ambitious goal for such an early-warning system would be to spell out worst-case scenarios, and provide policymakers options for how to respond; but they acknowledge that no such system would be able to identify all financial crises, and may produce false alarms. Available online at <https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/fandd/2009/09/pdf/ghosh.pdf>

7. BIG STEP FORWARD LOST IN SHUFFLE

Kornell, Sam

Miller-McCune, September 16, 2009

The author notes that a “momentous bit of news slipped by more or less unnoticed, lost in the general hullabaloo over health care and the apparent deterioration of civil discourse sweeping the country” — the unveiling of the Obama administration’s plan to compel the U.S. automakers to increase the fuel-efficiency of new vehicles to over 35 miles per gallon by the year 2016. The plan, which would be enforced by the Environmental Protection Agency, would raise the efficiency standards by 5 percent a year. In view of the new evidence coming to light about climate change and looming future declines in global oil production, the author notes that “any serious national effort to increase fuel efficiency is a welcome development”, and that the new emissions standards, which will probably go into effect next year, “represent the most impressive step to reduce fossil fuel emissions in the history of American politics.” Currently available online at <http://www.miller-mccune.com/news/big-step-forward-lost-in-shuffle-1476>

8. THE COMING CONSEQUENCES OF BANKING FRAUD

Kim, J.S.

Seeking Alpha, posted September 9, 2009

The author, an independent financial advisor and analyst, writes that the rally in Western stock markets in recent months has been the result of financial fraud, a “scheme executed by an elite

global financial oligarchy ... to fool the world into believing that global economies are recovering.” Kim contends that the banking and financial establishment have engaged in transactions that have been kept secret from the public and “will have severe and negative consequences in the not-so-distant future,” and the blowback from these activities will exceed the downturn the world experienced in 2008. In view of the worsening economic data, the current stock market rally makes sense only when viewed through the prism of fraud, with the rise of computerized ultra-fast high-frequency proprietary trading programs, and the fact that much of the trading volume in recent weeks has been in only a handful of financial firms. He adds that all government-produced economic statistics “have been massively distorted towards the side of optimism and away from reality” during financial crisis, and this false front of optimism has been abetted by financial journalists. Currently available online at http://seekingalpha.com/article/160619-the-coming-consequences-of-banking-fraud?source=article_sb_popular

9. CUTTHROAT CAPITALISM

Carney, Scott

Wired, vol. 17, no. 7, July 2009, pp. 110-117

In a graphics-heavy layout, the author describes the business model being used by Somali pirates in the Gulf of Aden. The rapidly escalating number of hijackings and ransom demands made of ship owners in this treacherous patch of ocean is based on carefully calculated business inputs, potential profits, and likely risks, according to the author’s research. The pirates who seize the ships, hold the crews, and demand the ransoms are usually Somali fishermen, who stand to make far more money as kidnapers. However, they only take home about 30 percent of the ransom; the largest share goes to the financiers on land, who underwrite the expeditions. The pay-offs are 100 times more than what they were in 2005, according to the author, who says there does not appear to be an end in sight. Running the risk of a ship hijacking and paying the ransoms, so far, seems a better alternative for international shipping companies, who otherwise would route their ships around the Cape of Good Hope, a much longer and expensive route with its own risks. Currently available online at http://www.wired.com/politics/security/magazine/17-07/ff_somali_pirates

10. PARTNERING TO BECKON THEM HOME: PUBLIC-SECTOR INNOVATION FOR DIASPORA FOREIGN INVESTMENT PROMOTION

Riddle, Liesl; Brinkerhoff, Jennifer; Nielsen, Tjai

Public Administration & Development, Vol. 28, No. 1, February 2008, pp. 54-66

The authors examine a little-studied component of public administration existing in most countries around the world and particularly important for developing countries: national investment promotion agencies (IPAs). Diasporas are an increasingly important and relatively untapped resource for development and many homeland governments view diaspora foreign investment as key to their economic development. In addition to being generally under-resourced, many IPAs struggle to identify ways to effectively target, cultivate and facilitate diaspora homeland investment (DHI). To accomplish these goals, these public-sector entities are beginning to identify and leverage key partnerships in the NGO sector. The authors describe the services IPAs offer and enumerate the challenges they face associated with DHI. Drawing on three illustrations of IPA–NGO partnerships, they have developed preliminary tools for identifying and designing partnerships for the purpose of promoting DHI based on their scope, function and degree of formality.

11. WHY A DEFAULT ON U.S. TREASURIES IS LIKELY

Hummel, Jeffrey Rogers

Library of Economics & Liberty, August 3, 2009

The author, Associate Professor of economics at San Jose State University, notes that federal government spending is skyrocketing, and Washington is unlikely to be able to raise taxes or rein in entitlement spending. This leads many to believe that Washington will inflate its way out of the shortfall through monetary expansion. Hummel believes, however, that a Treasury default on interest payments and part of the principal is more likely. In the fractional-reserve banking economies of the developed world, most of the money supply is privately held and created, and very little is in the form of government banknotes. The trend is now toward less and less cash, as bank debit cards and electronic transfers become more common, hence the government printing of money would not have the same effect as in, say, Zimbabwe. Faced with the prospect of both the dollar and the debt becoming worthless, or defaulting on the debt and saving the dollar, Hummel's guess is that Washington will choose the latter; he notes that the markets are starting to take into account this possibility. He cites the case of Russia in 1998 as a recent example of a government choosing partial debt repudiation over collapse of the currency. Available online at <http://www.econlib.org/library/Columns/y2009/Hummeltbills.html#>

12. WHY CAPITALISM FAILS

Mihm, Stephen

Boston Globe, September 13, 2009

The author, professor of history at the University of Georgia, notes that a hitherto obscure economist named Hyman Minsky, who died over a decade ago, has become recognized as the most prescient thinker about the current financial crisis. Minsky, who spent the latter part of his career in isolation and was little-known at the time of his death, argued that modern finance is inherently unstable, creating the conditions for its own downfall. Mihm notes that Minsky believed that the work of renowned economist John Maynard Keynes amounted to an admission that capitalism, far from tending toward equilibrium, was prone to collapse. Minsky was not a fatalist, though — he believed that it was possible to craft solutions that would ameliorate the worst effects of an economic crisis. He advocated for a “bubble-up” approach, in which money would be given to the poor and unskilled, and government would provide minimum-wage guarantees, an approach that Mihm concedes would not be very palatable today. Currently available online at

http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/ideas/articles/2009/09/13/why_capitalism_fails/?page=full

Global Issues / Environment

13. BIOTECH'S PLANS TO SUSTAIN AGRICULTURE

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Scientific American, October 2009

Popular sentiment may call for more organic methods, but the agricultural industry sees biotechnology as a crucial part of farming's future. By 2050 or so, agriculture will need to produce about 50 percent more food than it now does because of the expanding population. Traditional crops and farming methods could not sustain that much productivity. In this panel discussion, representatives from the agricultural industry defend genetically modified crops as one of several tools that should be used to help farmers in developing countries become more productive. Currently available online at

<http://www.scientificamerican.com/article.cfm?id=biotechs-plan-to-sustain-agriculture>

14. CHINA, THE UNITED STATES, AND THE CLIMATE CHANGE CHALLENGE

Seligsohn, Deborah, et al
World Resources Institute, October 2009

The report discusses the successes and challenges to effective regulation in China. It also addresses U.S. competitiveness concerns in relation to the introduction of U.S. cap-and-trade policies, and specific opportunities for enhanced climate change cooperation between the two countries. Currently available online at

http://pdf.wri.org/china_united_states_climate_change_challenge.pdf

15. COUNTDOWN TO COPENHAGEN

Stokes, Bruce
National Journal, October 31, 2009

Stokes says that the negotiations at the climate-change talks in Copenhagen in December promise to be a daunting task. It is estimated that emissions will need to be cut by 50 percent by 2050 in order to hold the temperature rise to 2 degrees Celsius and carbon-dioxide concentrations to 450 parts per million. The industrialized world's goals at the conference will reflect their publics' acknowledgement of the seriousness of the problem -- and in this, the U.S. lags behind the rest of the developed world. The developing nations see binding commitments as not in their national interest, noting that they account for only a fraction of global emissions, and want the developed countries to help pay for clean technology and environmental mitigation. Most countries are reluctant to take action on their own, without seeing that others are doing the same. Stokes says that "the central challenge in Copenhagen may well be finding a way to nurture trust and marry it with ambition . . . Coordinating these activities, striking a balance between accountability and equity, and pursuing the goals with sufficient urgency may prove to be among the most daunting tasks that the global community has ever undertaken." Currently available online at

http://www.nationaljournal.com/njmagazine/cs_20091031_9295.php

16. THE NEW ENERGY BEAT

Brainard, Curtis; Russell, Cristine
Columbia Journalism Review, September/October 2009

Climate change and energy issue reporting behooves journalists to collaborate within the newsroom and with news outlets to deepen expertise and resources to better explain these critical, complex topics. Varied regional concerns and new technologies increase the need for a broad knowledge base that allows for delving beyond the pronouncements of politicians or industry lobbyists. Covering energy well means giving a comprehensive "big picture" that can both inform and influence the public and policy makers. Available online at

http://www.cjr.org/feature/the_new_energy_beat.php

17. TAKE A STAND: HOW JOURNALISM CAN REGAIN ITS RELEVANCE

Cunningham, Brent
Columbia Journalism Review, September/October 2009

Journalism in America has been damaged by its abdication of an adversarial role in public discourse. Instead, it "mostly amplifies the agendas of others—the prominent and powerful," maintains the author. He examines the changing dynamic of the news media and questions whether it has the ability to moderate public conversation and introduce new angles and ideas on national issues. Calling press objectivity "a trap" that lessens journalism's beneficial impact, he

says the press needs to be on the side of the people and become a platform for establishing a public agenda. Available online at http://www.cjr.org/feature/take_a_stand.php

Regional Security

18. CHINA, NUCLEAR SECURITY AND TERRORISM: IMPLICATIONS FOR THE UNITED STATES

Grogan, Steven

Orbis, vol. 53, no. 4, Fall 2009, pp. 685-704

Grogan, with the Defense Intelligence Agency, describes Chinese strategic nuclear forces and the Chinese approach to nuclear security. He then focuses on the domestic conditions in China which could result in vulnerabilities to its nuclear forces. Based on these threats, Grogan outlines several scenarios involving a variety of terrorist or terrorist related events. These notional scenarios include overrun or attack, diversion, cyber terrorism and sabotage. He covers what these scenarios and the possible Chinese reaction to them may mean for the security, military and diplomatic strategies of the U.S. Available online at <http://www.sciencedirect.com>

19. IN AFGHANISTAN, TRAINING UP IS HARD TO DO

Freedberg, Sydney, Jr.

National Journal, October 23, 2009

In an article profiling the commander of the 4th Brigade of the 82nd Airborne Division, the author notes that training Afghan soldiers will require more American advisors and troops, in order to reverse the years of underinvestment in security in Afghanistan after 2003. Freedberg writes that Afghanistan became an afterthought, with most of the attention on Iraq; as a result, the situation in Afghanistan today is probably worse than it was in Iraq several years ago. As U.S. experience in Iraq has shown, it is difficult to separate the advisory role from the fighting; American troops are necessary to serve alongside the Afghans in order to reduce the threat to a level where the Afghans can handle it on their own. Available online at http://www.nationaljournal.com/njmagazine/cs_20091024_5750.php

20. NATO AND RUSSIA: PARTNERSHIP OR PERIL?

Trenin, Dmitri

Current History, vol. 108, no. 720, October 2009, pp. 299-303

Trenin, director of the Carnegie Moscow Center, notes that, twenty years after the fall of the Berlin Wall, the major piece of unfinished post-Cold War business is Russia's absence from a European security framework. This affects not just Russia, but its neighbors, such as Ukraine and Georgia, as seen by the August 2008 conflict in the Caucasus. Trenin says it is unlikely that Russia will join the U.S.-led NATO alliance in the foreseeable future, so the only option is to pursue the long and difficult path toward a security community that would include NATO members and non-members. He emphasizes that "it is important that the Russians do not feel that a common front of Western allies is ganging up on them," and making them feel that they are "equals among equals" would do a lot to promote security in Europe. Trenin notes that the NATO-Russia Council (NRC), founded in 2002, has been underused as a vehicle for Western-Russian security interaction; he advocates expanding the NRC's agenda, turning it into an "all-weather operation" to handle the inevitable disagreements. An expanded NRC mandate could prove beneficial in missile defense, conventional arms control and anti-drug cooperation in Afghanistan. Online link to PDF full text available at <http://www.currenthistory.com/>

21. PAY TO PLAY

Slawter, Bruce

American Interest, September-October 2009

The U.S. commercial nuclear power industry has languished for years, notes the author, a result of huge cost overruns on plants built in the 1970s and 1980s, and of notable accidents such as those at Three Mile Island and Chernobyl. The decline of expertise and research in the U.S. nuclear power industry is now translating into erosion of our ability to influence nonproliferation internationally, notes Slawter, as other countries, notably France, Japan, Russia and now China surpass the U.S. in certain areas of reactor development. Slawter notes that what is emerging is a “pay-to-play” arrangement -- in order to be recognized as a nuclear authority, countries have to invest in their own nuclear technology. He notes that President Obama has become increasingly pragmatic with respect to nuclear power, which will put him at odds with many of his Democratic supporters. In order to maintain the U.S. lead in safety and nonproliferation, Slawter writes that the Obama administration should redouble its efforts in conjunction with France and Japan to develop new-generation reactors, conduct further research into closing the nuclear fuel cycle, and strengthen existing international frameworks, and provide a global fuel repository, so that countries aspiring to nuclear energy do not develop a nuclear fuel cycle on their own. Available online at <http://the-american-interest.com/article-bd.cfm?piece=660>

22. THE ROLE OF A “CYBER CZAR”

Sloane, Stanton

Armed Forces Journal International, September 2009

The FBI reports that cybercrime is the third-greatest threat to U.S. national security, following right after nuclear war and weapons of mass destruction. The author, president of SRA International, writes that the magnitude of the cybersecurity problem is vastly misunderstood and underestimated, especially with respect to the theft of intellectual property. Apart from criminals and youthful hackers, foreign intelligence operations pose the greatest threat to critical infrastructure. Sloane predicts that any firm in possession of technology of interest has either been cyberattacked or will be. The new cyberczar, or cybersecurity coordinator, that President Obama has promised to appoint, “has his or her work cut out;” that person’s most important assets will be the president’s ear and money for cyberdefense improvements. Much has been written about the need for public-private cooperation in this field, and Sloane says that government and industry must promote and fund innovation. Available online at <http://www.armedforcesjournal.com/2009/09/4214383>. For more on cybersecurity, see <http://www.america.gov/cybersecurity.html>

23. WHAT DO THEY REALLY WANT? OBAMA’S NORTH KOREA CONUNDRUM

Cha, Victor D.

Washington Quarterly, vol. 32, no. 4, October 2009, pp. 119-138

The author, inaugural holder of the Korea Chair at CSIS and deputy head of the U.S. delegation to the Six-Party Talks, describes negotiations with North Korea as “all about contradictions -- what can be important one day can become unimportant the next.” President Obama’s expressed interest in high-level negotiations, shown by the appointment of Stephen Bosworth as a special envoy, and his commitment to the multilateral negotiating forum mean that North Korea’s provocative actions can no longer be rationalized as attempts to engage the United States. So what do the North Koreans really want? They want three things: 1) Nuclear weapons -- for keeps. If they were seeking nuclear weapons only to obtain a better deal, they have already missed two

chances, in 1994 and 2005. 2) A U.S.-India-type deal, whereby the United States recognizes North Korea as a nuclear power and essentially rewrites the NPT. 3) A special regime-security assurance from the United States, guaranteeing the continuation in power of Kim Jong-il's family. Should the Six-Party Talks resume they "will never achieve what either Washington or Pyongyang wants -- given what they desire and what we can't give -- but they serve as a way to manage the problem, contain the proliferation threat, and run out the clock on the regime." Currently available online at http://www.twq.com/09october/docs/09oct_Cha.pdf

U.S. Society and Values

24. AMERICA FALLING: LONGTIME DOMINANCE IN EDUCATION ERODES

Fischer, Karin

Chronicle of Higher Education, Vol. 56, No. 7, October 9, 2009, pp. A1, A21-A23

The U.S. is still the top choice of international students; but by many measures, U.S. preeminence in education is eroding. As evidence of this erosion, Fischer cites the low percentage of Americans graduating with majors in engineering, the declining percentage of highly-qualified, low-income students who go to college and continuing rounds of budget cuts. Many who start doctoral programs fail to finish, especially women and minorities; more than half of the doctorates awarded by U.S. institutions went to foreign students. "I'm worried we won't realize what's at stake until it's too late," says Charles Vest, former president of MIT. The current economic and fiscal crisis has put U.S. public higher education in a more precarious situation because federal and state requirements have often put such programs as Medicaid and elementary and secondary education off-limits for budget-cutting purposes, leaving higher education to take the brunt of the cuts, as in California. Some experts are calling for a larger federal role and long-term strategic planning; others are leery of an enlarged federal role and call instead for a national discussion of education. The U.S. system was never designed to educate most Americans, says Patrick Callan, president of the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education; "We're still stuck on having the best high-education system of the 20th century, when it's almost a decade into the 21st century."

25. CHUCK BROWN'S LONG DANCE

Parker, Robin Rose

Washington Post Magazine, October 4, 2009, pp. 18-26

At 73, legendary Washington, D.C. musician Chuck Brown still has the energy of someone a third of his age; in the early 1970s, he created go-go music, and has stayed on the scene ever since. The author writes that Brown is one of a small number of musicians that single-handedly created a genre of music; blending Latin beats, African rhythms, jazz and the music of African-American churches, Brown slowed down the tempo of disco, which was popular in the 1970s. Brown called it go-go because it "goes and goes" -- with no breaks between songs. Most of his performances have been in the eastern U.S. -- but he makes an annual trip to Japan, where he has become very popular. Currently available online at <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/09/25/AR2009092502858.html>

26. FULBRIGHT PROGRAM ADAPTS TO OBAMA ADMINISTRATION'S PRIORITIES

Mcmurtrie, Beth

Chronicle of Higher Education, Vol. 56, No. 9, October 23, 2009, pp. A29-A32

The Obama Administration is putting its own stamp on the Fulbright Program, the U.S.

Government's flagship international exchange. In the lead article, Beth McMurtrie describes the new priorities based on her interview with Alina L. Romanowski, the State Department's deputy assistant secretary for academic programs in the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Among the new priorities: studies of such global issues as food security and climate change through the Fulbright Science and Technology award; the increased participation of U.S. community colleges; and the kind of cultural diplomacy represented by the Fulbright Fellowships. Three profiles of Fulbright programs follow. In the first, McMurtrie looks at the role U.S. community colleges may play in Russia if a high-level visit to Moscow by a group of community college administrators in Spring 2010 develops as planned. In the second profile, Shailaja Neelakantan looks at the Fulbright program in India, which has doubled this year. In the third profile, Karin Fischer describes how a university in California has taken advantage of an underutilized Fulbright program that covers scholars' travel costs when they conduct guest lectures. Available online at <http://chronicle.com/article/Fulbright-Program-Adapts-to/48828/>

27. OUR EVANESCENT CULTURE AND THE AWESOME DUTY OF LIBRARIANS

Heinberg, Richard
Energy Bulletin, October 7, 2009

How secure is our civilization's accumulated knowledge? Educator and author Heinberg notes that earlier civilizations over the millennia have disappeared, having given insufficient thought to how their societies' achievements would be preserved. Although the sheer volume of modern cultural materials is unprecedented, in many ways our modern heritage is uniquely vulnerable, and large swaths of it are at risk of being swept away at astonishing speed. The problem, notes Heinberg, is digitization — not just that storage formats become obsolete, but that the entire cultural enterprise depends on electricity: “digitization represents a huge bet on society's ability to keep the lights on forever.” The real threats to modern information are systemic vulnerabilities, such as aging infrastructure and declining supplies of fossil fuels to power the electric grid. He says that the message is clear: don't let books die, and promote skills-based education to keep the practical and performing arts alive. Available online at <http://www.energybulletin.net/node/50315>

28. PARKER PALMER: KNOW YOURSELF, CHANGE YOUR WORLD

Van Gelder, Sarah
Yes! Magazine, Fall 2009

In this interview, educator and author Parker Palmer notes that most of us lack an understanding of our inner lives; reflection, which should be the fourth “R” of education, is not taught in schools. Parker says that “every line of work is deepened by bringing all of our human capacities to bear on whatever we are doing, and that includes our inner sensibilities as well as our externally oriented knowledge and skill.” Schools are often not a place that promotes personal development, a chief reason why fifty percent of teachers are gone within five years, due to burnout. Parker notes that people who become aware of their inner life also become aware of the disparity between their integrity and the manner in which institutions around them operate. He cites Wall Street and the financial crisis as a prime example of an environment in which few insiders were brave enough to speak out about what was happening. While the courage of individual whistle-blowers is important, real institutional change happens when groups of like-minded people come together and lend each other support. Institutions can seem like an unassailable colossus, says Parker, but “we can call them back to some semblance of humanity by reinventing them, because we invented them in the first place.” Currently available online at <http://cms.yesmagazine.org/issues/learn-as-you-go/know-yourself-change-your-world/>

29. THE WORLD AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

Fineberg, Gail

Library of Congress Information Bulletin, vol. 68, no. 5, May 2009, pp. 87-91

On April 21, 2009, Librarian of Congress James Billington launched the cultural-heritage website World Digital Library (WDL) to an international audience at UNESCO's headquarters in Paris. Ahead of the launch, UNESCO members were invited to encourage their cultural institutions to participate in the development of the project since one of UNESCO's mandates is to promote the free flow of all forms of knowledge in education, science, culture and communication. WDL contains cultural treasures that twenty-five institutions in eighteen countries contributed to this new global library, which features some 1200 digital items, including content about all 192 UNESCO member countries. WDL contains works by many noted poets, mathematicians, theologians, philosophers, astronomers, cartographers and historians in addition to rare books, maps, and manuscripts, along with works in more modern formats, such as films, sound recordings, prints and photographs. The WDL interface is in seven languages: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Portuguese Russian and Spanish. <http://www.wdl.org>