



Information Literacy

"Information literacy (IL) is the set of skills and knowledge that allows us to find, evaluate, and use the information we need, as well as to filter out the information we don't need. IL skills are the necessary tools that help us successfully navigate the present and future landscape of information. Information and technology affects every person in every possible setting—work, education, recreation."

- **Information Literacy: Essential Skills for the Information Age**

"Every day, we are inundated with vast amounts of information. A 24-hour news cycle and thousands of global television and radio networks, coupled with an immense array of online resources, have challenged our long-held perceptions of information management. Rather than merely possessing data, we must also learn the skills necessary to acquire, collate, and evaluate information for any situation.

- **National Information Literacy Awareness Month, 2009: Presidential Proclamation**"

IFLA: Information Literacy Section. *International Federal of Library Associations.* **Publications Listing**

Understanding Information Literacy: a Primer *U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.* 2008.

Information Literacy. *Association of College & Research Libraries.*

What Today's College Students Say About Conducting Research in the Digital Age *Project Information Literacy Progress Report.* 2009.

Wikipedia & Information Literacy by Eric Jennings. *University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire.*



Spotlight offers abstracts of current articles from U.S. publications and by U.S. authors, highlighting significant issues in international or U.S. domestic affairs. **Views expressed in the articles cited are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect U.S. government policies.**

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Social Issues

Abortion Worldwide: a Decade of Uneven Progress. *Guttmacher Institute.* October 13, 2009.

Increases in global contraceptive use have contributed to a decrease in unintended pregnancies and, in turn, a decline in the number of abortions. While both the developed and the developing world experienced these positive trends, developed regions saw the greatest progress. Within the developing world, improvement varied widely, with Africa lagging behind other regions, according to the report. **ARTICLE 877**

Breaking the Immigration Stalemate by William Galston. *Brookings Institution.* October 2009.

The Obama administration has committed itself to immigration reform. Yet despite all the shortcomings of current policy, threats to the rule of law, exploitation of vulnerable newcomers, real and perceived competition with Americans for jobs and public resources, reasonable compromise on immigration will be exceedingly difficult. The divide between elite and public opinion on this issue remains deep and wide. It is a critical factor in the lack of trust that pervades today's political culture, says the report. **ARTICLE 878**

Income and Poverty Among Older Americans in 2008 by Patrick Purcell. *Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress.* October 2, 2009.

In 2008, the median income of individuals aged 65+ was \$18,208 but incomes varied widely around this average. 25% of Americans 65+ had incomes of less than \$11,139 in 2008, while another 25% had incomes of \$33,677 or more. Older Americans receive income from a variety of sources; including earnings, pensions, personal savings, and public programs. Although the overall rate of poverty among older Americans is relatively low, it remains high for women, minorities, the less-educated, and people over age 80. **ARTICLE 879**

The States of Marriage and Divorce. *Pew Research Center.* October 15, 2009.

On the national level, the Census Bureau survey showed that a shrinking share of Americans are married with 52% of males ages 15 and older and 48% of females ages 15 and older. The proportion of Americans who are currently married has been diminishing for decades and is lower than it has been in at least half a century. The age range used in standard Census tabulations dates back to the days when more people married as young teenagers. Among Americans 18+, 55% of men and 50% of women were currently married, but not separated. **ARTICLE 880**

Sustaining Workers' Bargaining Power in an Age of Globalization by Mark Barenberg. *Economic Policy Institute.* October 9, 2009.

Time after time, the labor-rights provisions of trade deals like NAFTA and CAFTA fail the workers they were designed to protect. The briefing paper lays out a plan to remedy this problem. [ARTICLE 881](#)

The State of City Leadership for Children and Families by Julie Bosland and Michael Karpman. *National League of Cities and Institute for Youth, Education, & Families*. October 2009.

Even before the current recession began, new solutions were needed to address a host of pressing challenges: deepening financial insecurity; violence-plagued neighborhoods; a childhood obesity epidemic; an enduring educational achievement gap; high dropout rates; and low youth employment rates. Mayors and city leaders throughout the country are making progress, pursuing ideas and developing breakthrough solutions. [ARTICLE 882](#)

Children's Exposure to Violence: a Comprehensive National Survey by David Finkelhor et al. *U.S. Department of Justice*. October 2009.

The report presents findings from the National Survey of Children's Exposure to Violence. The survey was conducted between January and May 2008, and surveyed more than 4,500 children or their parents or adult caregivers regarding their past-year and lifetime exposure to violence. It discusses the survey's findings regarding children's direct and indirect exposure to specific categories of violence, how exposure to violence changes as children grow, and the prevalence and incidence of multiple and cumulative exposures to violence. [ARTICLE 883](#)

Most Still Oppose Gay Marriage, but Support for Civil Unions Continues to Rise. *Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life*. October 9, 2009.

A clear majority of Americans (57%) favor allowing gay and lesbian couples to enter into legal agreements with each other that would give them many of the same rights as married couples, a status commonly known as civil unions. Over the past year, support for civil unions has grown significantly among those who oppose same-sex marriage, while opponents of same-sex marriage continue to outnumber supporters overall. [ARTICLE 884](#)

Trafficking in Organs, Tissues and Cells and Trafficking in Human Beings for the Purpose of the Removal of Organs. *United Nations and Council of Europe*. October 13, 2009.

A new, binding international treaty is needed to prevent trafficking in organs, tissues and cells (OTC), protect victims and prosecute offenders in this exploitation of the deeply impoverished, according to a joint study by the United Nations and the Council of Europe. It calls for the prohibition of financial gain from the human body or its parts as the basis of all legislation on organ transplants, adding that organ donation should be promoted to increase availability, with preference given to OTC donation from the deceased. [ARTICLE 885](#)

Immigration Detention Overview and Recommendations by Dora Schiro. *U.S. Department of Homeland Security*. October 6, 2009.

Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Janet Napolitano and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Assistant Secretary John Morton announce new initiatives as part of the Department's ongoing immigration detention reform efforts, enhancing the security and efficiency of ICE's nationwide detention system while prioritizing the health and safety of detainees. [ARTICLE 886](#)

Measuring Immigrant Assimilation in the U.S. by Jacob L. Vigdor. *Manhattan Institute*. October 2009.

According to the National Bureau of Economic Research, the nation's economic output peaked late in 2007 and then began to contract. This development affected immigration in two ways: immigrants began arriving in fewer numbers than they have since the 1960s; and those immigrants who stayed fell further behind the native-born population economically. Economic assimilation declined even among immigrants who arrived more than a decade ago, indicating that differences between that cohort and the native-born population widened. [ARTICLE 887](#)

CRS – Poverty in the United States: 2008. Congressional Research Service.

Geography of Homelessness. *National Alliance to End Homelessness*. September 29, 2009.

In Parts 1 and 2 of the Geography of Homelessness Series the report examine the scope and prevalence of homelessness within geographic categories ranging from completely rural to completely urban. The part 2 examines the ways in which the distribution of these subpopulations and subgroups across the five geographic types is similar to or different from that of the total homeless population. [Part 1](#) [Part 2](#) [Part 3](#)

America's Families and Living Arrangements: 2007. *U.S. Bureau of Census.* September 2009.

Some highlights of the report are: 68% of households in 2007 were family households, compared with 81% in 1970, the proportion of one-person households increased by 10 percentage points between 1970 and 2007, from 17% to 27%, between 1970 and 2007, the average number of people per household declined from 3.1 to 2.6, and most family groups with children under 18 (67%) were maintained by married couples. **ARTICLE 888**

Peace Corps Announces Eighteen Percent Increase in Applications. *Peace Corps news release.* October 2009.

Peace Corps recruited 15,386 applicants in fiscal year 2009. This represents the largest amount of applications since the agency began electronically recording applications in 1998 and is an 18 percent increase from fiscal year 2008.

Economy, Business, Finance & Trade

Charting the Future of International Technical Assistance at the Federal Trade Commission and U.S. Dept. of Justice. *Federal Trade Commission and U.S. Department of Justice.* October 2009.

On February 6, 2008, the Federal Trade Commission and the Antitrust Division of the Department of Justice held a public workshop on technical assistance programs that help foreign jurisdictions to develop their laws and policies on competition and consumer protection. The workshop brought together an array of panelists, including officials from the competition authorities of Hungary, Italy, and Peru, leading academics in the antitrust field, private practitioners, and international organizations such as the OECD and the World Bank. The report summarizes these and other key findings of the workshop. **ARTICLE 889**

Financial Institutions Outreach Initiatives: Report on Outreach to Large Depository Institutions. *U.S. Department of Treasury.* October 2009.

The report lays out valuable information about Bank Secrecy Act (BSA) practices and procedures among large depository institutions. The report is based on information garnered from Financial Crimes Enforcement Network's (FinCEN) outreach to large depository institutions conducted over the past year. **ARTICLE 890**

The Financial Development Report 2009 . *World Economic Forum.* October 8, 2009.

Consumer Expenditures 2008. *U.S. Department of Labor.* October 6, 2009.

Average annual expenditures per consumer unit rose 1.7% in 2008 following an increase of 2.6% in 2007, according to results from the Consumer Expenditure Survey. The spending increase was less than the 3.8-percent increase in prices from 2007 to 2008 as measured by the average annual change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI-U). The increase in spending in 2008 was the smallest increase since the 0.3% rise in 2003. **ARTICLE 891**

IMF-Supported Macroeconomic Policies and the World Recession: a Look at 41 Borrowing Countries by Mark Weisbrot et al. *Center for Economic and Policy Research.* October 2009.

The paper finds that 31 of 41 of countries with current International Monetary Fund (IMF) agreements have been subjected to pro-cyclical macroeconomic policies that, during the current global recession, would be expected to have exacerbated economic slowdowns. The pro-cyclical conditions noted in the report are either pro-cyclical fiscal or monetary policies. **ARTICLE 892**

Banks Running Wild: the Subversion of Insurance by "Life Settlements" and Credit Default Swaps by Marshall Auerback and L. Randall Wray. *The Levy Economics Institute of Bard College.* September 2009.

Oblivious to any lessons that might have been learned from the global financial mess it has created, Wall Street is looking for the next asset bubble, according to the study. Perhaps in the market for death it has found a replacement for the collapsed markets in subprime mortgage-backed securities and credit default swaps (CDSs). Instead of making bets on the "death" of securities, the new product will allow investors to gamble on the death of human beings by purchasing "life settlements," life insurance policies that the ill and elderly sell for cash. These policies will then be packaged together as bonds, securitized, and resold to investors, who will receive payouts when the people with the insurance die, according to the authors. **ARTICLE 893**

Bernanke – Financial Regulation and Supervision after the Crisis: The Role of the Federal Reserve. *Federal Reserve Board.* October 23, 2009.

The Federal Reserve's Balance Sheet: an Update by Ben S. Bernanke. *Board of Governors of Federal Reserve System.* October 8, 2009.

Chairman Bernanke reviews important elements of the Federal Reserve's balance sheet, as well as some aspects of their evolution over time. He provides a means of explaining the steps the Federal Reserve has taken, beyond conventional interest rate reductions, to mitigate the financial crisis and the recession, as well as how those actions will be reversed as the economy recovers. **ARTICLE 894**

To Close the Deficit, Federal Income Tax Rates Would Have to Nearly Triple. *Tax Foundation.* October 22, 2009.

Federal income tax rates would have to be nearly tripled across the income spectrum if Congress were to close the deficit in fiscal year 2010, according to a new report from the Tax Foundation. Instead of taxing joint filers with rates ranging from 10 to 35%, tax rates would have to start at 27.2% and reach up to 95.2%. **ARTICLE 895**

Risk Management Lessons from the Global Banking Crisis of 2008. *Senior Supervisors Group.* Oct. 2009.

The Senior Supervisors Group (SSG) that comprises senior financial supervisors from seven countries, United States, Canada, France, Germany, Japan, Switzerland, United Kingdom, issues a report that evaluates how weaknesses in risk management and internal controls contributed to industry distress during the financial crisis.

The Beige Book: Summary of Commentary on Current Economic Conditions by Federal Reserve District. *Federal Reserve Board.* October 21, 2009.

Reports from the 12 Federal Reserve Districts indicated either stabilization or modest improvements in many sectors since the last report. Leading the more positive sector reports among Districts were residential real estate and manufacturing. Reports on consumer spending and nonfinancial services were mixed. Commercial real estate was reported to be one of the weakest sectors. **ARTICLE 896**

Pay off Debt, Spend, or Save? The 2008 Economic Stimulus Payments. *Bureau of Labor Statistics.* October 23, 2009.

In May 2008, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) started mailing Economic Stimulus Payments, also called tax rebates, to an estimated 130 million income tax filers. Nearly half (49 percent) of recipients reported using the rebate mostly to pay off debt. **ARTICLE 897**

Government & International Relations

Promoting Savings as a Tool for International Development by Jamie M. Zimmerman and Shweta S. Banerjee. *New America Foundation.* October 2009.

Scholars, policymakers, and practitioners of microfinance are increasingly turning their focus toward devising and offering effective and accessible savings services for the poor. Not only have experts argued that demand for savings services greatly exceeds that of microcredit, but many also contend that savings-led programs and products, with a focus on building assets, may be more effective than credit in providing a pathway out of poverty, according to the report. **ARTICLE 898**

Why China May Stumble by Steven Dunaway. *Council on Foreign Relations.* October 13, 2009.

China's continued impressive growth is by no means assured, writes the author. Without basic changes to its economic model, including rule of law reforms, it could face considerable struggles, he says. **ARTICLE 899**

Global Crisis: Bangladesh Bucks the Trends by Zafar Sobhan. *YaleGlobal.* October 14, 2009.

A year ago as the world financial system teetered on the edge of collapse after many Wall Street giants failed, there was widespread concern about the impact of its effect on the world's developing countries. But not only have

China, India and other major developing countries survived and prospered, even poorer countries like Bangladesh have come out virtually unscathed. The author discusses the reasons behind it. [**ARTICLE 900**](#)

Guiding Principles for Stabilization and Reconstruction. *U.S. Institute of Peace and U.S. Army Peacekeeping and Stability Operations Institute.* October 2009.

The manual presents the first strategic “doctrine” ever produced for civilians engaged in peace building missions. It is a practical roadmap for helping countries transition from violent conflict to peace. [**ARTICLE 901**](#)

Afghanistan: Politics, Elections, and Government Performance by Kenneth Katzman. *Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress.* October 1, 2009.

The Afghan government's limited writ and widespread official corruption are helping sustain a Taliban insurgency, and have fed pessimism about the Afghanistan stabilization effort. President Hamid Karzai has previously been able to confine ethnic disputes to political competition by engaging in compromises with major faction leaders, combined with occasional moves to weaken them. Despite the measurable loss of confidence in Karzai, many Afghans consider their country's difficulties as beyond his control. The author discusses the efforts of the government to promote stability. [**ARTICLE 902**](#)

Presidential Terms and Tenure: Perspectives and Proposals for Change by Thomas H. Neale. *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. [**ARTICLE 903**](#)

Mapping the Global Muslim Population. *Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life.* October 8, 2009.

A demographic study of more than 200 countries finds that there are 1.57 billion Muslims of all ages living in the world today, representing 23% of an estimated 2009 world population of 6.8 billion. [**ARTICLE 904**](#)

Pakistan's Education System and Links to Extremism by Jayshree Bajoria. *Council on Foreign Relations.* October 7, 2009.

Pakistan's poor public education system has been exploited by extremist groups and slowed the country's development. The report says education reform is an essential element in stabilizing the country. [**ARTICLE 905**](#)

Haiti After the Donors' Conference: a Way Forward by Robert Maguire. *U.S. Institute of Peace.* October 2009.

Despite the hundreds of millions of dollars pledged to stimulate Haiti's economic development and reduce poverty, concerns remain that this funding will not reverse the country's fortunes as Haiti continues to be vulnerable to external shocks. The report examines the obstacles to sustained growth, why stimulative efforts thus far have not succeeded and then recommends a way forward for both Haitians and the international community. [**ARTICLE 906**](#)

China, the U.S., and the Climate Change Challenge by Deborah Seligsohn 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. [**ARTICLE 907**](#)

Afghanistan 2011: Three Scenarios by Andrew M. Exum. *Center for a New American Security.* October 2009.

The brief serves as a guide for strategic Afghanistan policy planning by laying out the worst, most likely, and best-case scenario for what the country might look like in 24 months, and how U.S. policy might make each scenario more or less likely. [**ARTICLE 908**](#)

Pakistan's New Generation of Terrorists by Jayshree Bajoria. *Council on Foreign Relations.* October 26, 2009.

According to the backgrounder, Pakistan has emerged as a terrorist sanctuary for some of the world's most violent groups, including al-Qaeda, the Taliban, and homegrown militants, that threaten the stability of Pakistan as well as the region. [**ARTICLE 909**](#)

Health & Health Care Reform

Aiming Higher: Results from a State Scoreboard on Health System Performance, 2009. *The Commonwealth Fund.* October 8, 2009.

The cost and quality of health care, as well as access to care and health outcomes, continue to vary widely among states, according to the report. Across states, health insurance coverage for adults declined, health care costs rose, and quality improved in areas where outcomes were reported to the public. According to the report, the growing disparities in state performance point to the need for national health system reform. [**ARTICLE 910**](#)

H1N1 Cases on the Rise Nationwide- Emergency Physicians Advise Public When to Seek Emergency Care. *American College of Emergency Physicians.* October 12, 2009.

As the nation begins what could become a widespread H1N1 flu outbreak, a poll by the American College of Emergency Physicians finds nearly 90 percent of more than 1,000 emergency physicians responding to a poll expressed concerns about their emergency department's ability to care for additional patients. [**H1N1 Fact Sheet**](#)

Health Literacy . *Medline Plus, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.* October 2009.

Health literacy is the ability to understand health information and to use that information to make good decisions about your health and medical care. Health information can overwhelm even people with advanced literacy skills. About one third of the adult population in the United States has limited health literacy. [**Health Literacy Basics**](#)

Customer-Driven Medicine: How to Create a New Health Care System by Darrell M. West. *Brookings Institution.* October 8, 2009.

The report outlines a vision for a new health care system based on mobile Health (mHealth), remote monitors, electronic medical records, social networking sites, video conferencing, and Internet-based recordkeeping. It incorporates email reminders to take medicine, a Netflix-style mechanism to rate experiences with doctors and hospitals, and websites that make ratings publicly available to employers and other patients. [**ARTICLE 911**](#)

Free Trade in Health Care: the Gains from Globalized Medicare and Medicaid by Dean Baker and Hye Jin Rho. *Center for Economic and Policy Research.* October 2009.

The gap between the cost of health care in the U.S. and the cost in other countries with comparable health care outcomes suggests the potential for substantial gains from trade. The paper describes one mechanism for taking advantage of these gains through a globalization of the country's Medicare and Medicaid programs. [**ARTICLE 912**](#)

Immigrants and Health Care Reform: What's Really at Stake? By Randy Capps et al. *Migration Policy Institute.* October 5, 2009.

Health care reform proposals under consideration in Congress that would exclude many legal immigrants from core benefits and impose new verification requirements would have important spillover consequences for taxpayers and other health care consumers, according to the analysis in the report. [**ARTICLE 913**](#)

Improving the Impact and Effectiveness of the National Vaccine Advisory Committee by Jeanne S. Ringel et al. *RAND Corporation.* October 7, 2009.

The National Vaccine Advisory Committee (NVAC) was established by the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986 to achieve optimal prevention of human infectious diseases through immunization and to achieve optimal prevention against adverse reactions to vaccines. There is wide consensus, however, that NVAC has not achieved its potential. This report seeks to identify the reasons the committee has not had a greater impact and suggests strategies to improve its effectiveness. [**ARTICLE 914**](#)

Availability of Less Nutritious Snack Foods and Beverages in Secondary Schools – Selected States, 2002-2008. *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.* October 5, 2009.

Foods and beverages offered or sold in schools outside of U.S. Department of Agriculture school meal programs are not subject to federal nutrition standards and generally are of lower nutritional quality than foods and beverages served in the meal programs. To estimate changes in the percentage of schools in which students could not purchase less nutritious foods and beverages, CDC analyzed 2002–2008 survey data from its School Health Profiles for public secondary schools. [**ARTICLE 915**](#)

Towards Universal Access: Scaling Up Priority HIV/AIDS Interventions in the Health Sector. *World Health Organization.* October 2009.

More than 4 million people in low- and middle-income countries were receiving antiretroviral therapy at the end of 2008; a 36% increase in one year and a ten-fold increase over 5 years, according to the report. [**ARTICLE 916**](#)

Responsible Research with Biological Select Agents and Toxins. *National Research Council.* Sept. 2009.

The effort to understand and combat infectious diseases has produced many key advances in science and medicine--including the development of vaccines, drugs, and other treatments. A subset of the research is conducted with agents that, like anthrax, not only pose a severe threat to the health of humans, plants, and animals but can also be used for ill-intended purposes. Such agents have become known as biological select agents and toxins. The 2001 anthrax letter attacks prompted the creation of new regulations aimed at increasing security at laboratories conducting research with dangerous pathogens. [**ARTICLE 917**](#)

A Success Story in American Health Care: Using Health Information Technology to Improve Patient Care in a Community Health Center in Washington. *HealthReform.gov.* October 2009.

The report shows how health information technology can improve health care for Americans living in rural communities. The report examines how the Columbia Basin Health Association in Othello, Wash., uses health information technology to improve health care quality and patient safety as well as promote care coordination and continuity. [**ARTICLE 918**](#)

U.S. Health Care Quality: Stuck in Neutral Slowdown has Implications for Reform. *National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA).* October 22, 2009.

In the report NCQA calls on Congress to: reform payment systems that undermine efforts to improve care; expand quality measurement to the 60% of Americans not currently covered by accountable health plans; invest in measure development, implementation and maintenance to expand what we know about quality; and revitalize the nation's primary care system. Many of these issues are addressed by the health reform bills now being debated in Congress, but the outcome of those debates remains uncertain. [**ARTICLE 919**](#)

Environment & Climate Change

Clean Air Act: Mercury Control Technologies at Coal-Fired Power Plants have Achieved Substantial Emissions Reductions. *U.S. Government Accountability Office.* October 8, 2009.

The 491 U.S. coal-fired power plants are the largest unregulated industrial source of mercury emissions nationwide, annually emitting about 48 tons of mercury. GAO finds that commercial deployments and 50 DOE and industry tests of sorbent injection systems have achieved, on average, 90% reductions in mercury emissions.

Growing U.S. trade in Green Technology by Steven F. Hayward. *American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research.* October 7, 2009.

The two main issues that should be considered when assessing the prospects for increased export potential for American energy technology are the actual dynamics of the present market environment and the cross-cutting factors that will come to bear on how trade flows will unfold in the real world. [**ARTICLE 920**](#)

Report to Congress: Highlights of the Diesel Emissions Reduction Program. *U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.* October 14, 2009.

The report to Congress details the health, environmental and economic benefits of the agency's Diesel Emission Reduction Program. The program, funded at \$50 million last year, allowed EPA to fund the purchase or retrofitting of 14,000 diesel-powered vehicles and pieces of equipment, preventing respiratory illnesses and saving money in communities nationwide. [**ARTICLE 921**](#)

Climate Change: Impact on Agriculture and Costs of Adaptation by Gerald C. Nelson et al. *International Food Policy Research Institute.* October 2009.

The unimpeded growth of greenhouse gas emissions is raising the earth's temperature, according to the study. The consequences include melting glaciers, more precipitation, more and more extreme weather events, and shifting seasons. The accelerating pace of climate change, combined with global population and income growth, threatens food security everywhere. [**ARTICLE 922**](#)

Meeting the Climate Challenge: Core Elements of an Effective Response to Climate Change. *Center for American Progress and United Nations Foundation.* October 6, 2009.

Achievable gains in energy efficiency, renewable energy, forest conservation, and sustainable land use worldwide could achieve up to 75% of needed global emissions reductions in 2020 at a net savings of \$14 billion. These actions, along with additional investments in climate adaptation, would deliver a wide range of economic, security, and environmental benefits in developed and developing countries. According to the report, greater international support for these core elements would make an immediate contribution to solving the climate problem and help to achieve a new international climate agreement. [**ARTICLE 923**](#)

Dramatic Videos Show How Climate Change Threatens Walruses. *World Wildlife Fund.* October 2009.

As arctic sea ice recedes far from the Russian and Alaskan coasts due to warmer temperatures caused by climate change, walruses, including females and their babies, are forced to take refuge on land. The animals congregate in large groups, known as "haul outs." These mass congregations are dangerous and can lead to violent stampedes that are often deadly, specially to young walruses. [**ARTICLE 924**](#)

National Parks in Peril: the Threats of Climate Change by Stephen Saunders et al. *National Resources Defense Council.* October 1, 2009.

Climate change from human activity is the leading threat to wildlife, plants, water and ice in 25 of America's national parks, according to the report. The report outlines climate-related threats in 25 parks spanning 22 states. The top risks include: loss of snow and water, rising seas, more extreme weather, loss of plants and wildlife, and more pollution. [**ARTICLE 925**](#)

State Green Economy Profiles by Mary Jo Waits and Sue Gander. *National Governors Association.* Sept. 2009.

As governors across the country look at ways they can help build a green economy in their state, the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices (NGA Center) has commissioned Collaborative Economics Inc. (CEI) to prepare a profile of each state's "green" economy. State profiles can be found by clicking on the map. The data is designed to provide a detailed, empirical account of each state's existing assets across multiple green sectors and serve as a foundation for identifying future growth areas and related needs. [**ARTICLE 926**](#)

Changing Arctic Affecting Air, Ocean, and Everything in Between. *National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).* October 22, 2009.

Despite the fact that summer 2009 had more sea ice than 2007 or 2008, scientists are seeing drastic changes in the region from just 5 years ago, at rates faster than anticipated. The findings were presented today in the annual update of the Arctic Report Card, a collaborative effort of 71 national and international scientists. [**ARTICLE 927**](#)

Fewer Americans See Solid Evidence of Global Warming. *Pew Research Center for the People & the Press.* October 22, 2009.

There has been a sharp decline over the past year in the percentage of Americans who say there is solid evidence that global temperatures are rising. And fewer also see global warming as a very serious problem – 35% say that today, down from 44% in April 2008. [**ARTICLE 928**](#)

Education

Latinos and Education: Explaining the Attainment Gap by Mark Hugo Lopez. *Pew Hispanic Center.* Oct. 2009.

Nearly nine-in-ten (89%) Latino young adults say that a college education is important for success in life, yet only about half that number (48%) say that they themselves plan to get a college degree, according to the national survey of Latinos. [**ARTICLE 929**](#)

The Nation's Report Card: Mathematics 2009. *National Center for Education Statistics.* October 14, 2009.

Close to 170,000 fourth-graders and over 160,000 eighth-graders participated in the mathematics assessments. These students were assessed in five mathematical content areas: number properties and operations; measurement; geometry; data analysis, statistics, and probability; and algebra. [ARTICLE 930](#)

The Prospects for No child Left Behind by Richard Rothstein. *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, branded the "No Child Left Behind" law 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. [ARTICLE 931](#)

The Consequences of Dropping out of High School: Joblessness and Jailing for High School Drop Outs and the High Cost for Tax Payers by Andrew Sum et al. *Center for Labor Market Studies, Northeastern University.* October 2009.

The paper identifies a series of employment, earnings, income, and social difficulties faced by the nation's young adults lacking regular high school diplomas or their equivalent. These social and incarceration problems of young dropouts are quite severe among all gender and race-ethnic groups but are frequently more severe among men and Blacks, according to the report. [ARTICLE 932](#)

Improving School Leadership: the Promise of Cohesive Systems by Catherine H. Augustine et al. *RAND Corporation.* October 2009.

Improving the nation's public schools is one of the highest priorities of federal, state, and local government in America. The study finds that it is possible to build more-cohesive leadership systems and that such efforts appear to be a promising approach to developing school leaders engaged in improving instruction. [ARTICLE 933](#)

Letter Report to the U.S. Department of Education on the Race to the Top Fund. *National Research Council.* October 2009.

The report examines the Race to the Top initiative, a \$4.35 billion grant program included in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to encourage state-level education reforms. The report strongly supports rigorous evaluations of programs funded by the Race to the Top initiative. However, the report also cautions against using the National Assessment of Educational Progress, a federal assessment that helps measure overall U.S. progress in education, to evaluate programs funded by the Race to the Top initiative. [ARTICLE 934](#)

The Early Learning Challenge Fund: Increased Federal Role in Early Education by Lindsey Burke. *Heritage Foundation.* October 6, 2009.

In September, the U.S. House of Representative passed H.R. 3221, the "Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2009" (SAFRA). It includes an \$8 billion Early Learning Challenge Fund (ELCF), which provides grants to states to reform and increase their early education and care programs. If enacted, SAFRA would significantly increase the federal government's role in preschool education. The report discusses the possible results. [ARTICLE 935](#)

Perfecting the Formula: Effective Strategies=Educational Success. *Governors Educational Symposium.* Web posted October 5, 2009.

The report is the summary of the 2009 Governors Education Symposium, which brought together teams of governors, legislators and state education commissioners from around the country. The report centers on how governors can maximize the funds available under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to improve education in their states. [ARTICLE 936](#)

Teaching for a Living: How Teachers See the Profession Today. *Public Agenda.* October 19, 2009.

Everyone agrees that you can't have good education without good teachers, but how do teachers see their profession? The report is designed to learn more about how to support and retain the most promising teachers. It's a follow up on issues explored in earlier surveys, as well as adding new questions to explore the differences between "Gen Y" educators and older teachers. [ARTICLE 937](#)

Energy

OPEC Revenues Fact Sheet. *Energy Information Administration.* October 2009.

The members of OPEC could earn \$558 billion of net oil export revenues in 2009 and \$686 billion in 2010. Last year, OPEC earned \$971 billion in net oil export revenues, a 42% increase from 2007. Saudi Arabia earned the largest share of these earnings, \$288 billion; 30% of total OPEC revenues. On a per-capita basis, OPEC net oil export earning reached \$2,688 in 2008, a 40% increase from 2007. [**ARTICLE 938**](#)

Short-Term Energy and Winter Fuels Outlook. *Energy Information Administration.* October 6, 2009.

Energy Information Administration projects average household expenditures for space-heating fuels to be \$960 this winter; a decrease 8% from last winter. The forecast principally reflects lower fuel prices, although expected milder weather than last winter will also contribute to lower fuel use in many areas. The largest expenditure decreases are in households using natural gas and propane, projected at 12 and 14% respectively. [**ARTICLE 939**](#)

Biofuels: Potential Effects and Challenges of Required Increases in Production and Use. *U.S. Government Accountability Office.* Web posted October 2, 2009.

In December 2007, Congress expanded the renewable fuel standard (RFS), which requires rising use of ethanol and other biofuels, from 9 billion gallons in 2008 to 36 billion gallons in 2022. To meet the RFS, the Departments of Agriculture and Energy are developing advanced biofuels. The report examines, among other things, (1) the effects of increased biofuels production on U.S. agriculture, environment, and greenhouse gas emissions; (2) federal support for domestic biofuels production; and (3) key challenges in meeting the RFS. [**ARTICLE 940**](#)

ACEEE's 2009 State Energy Efficiency Scorecard Ranks States on Best Implementation of Energy Efficiency Policies and Programs. *American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE).* October 2009.

The current economic downturn is not sidetracking state-level efforts to make the most of energy efficiency as the cheapest, cleanest and quickest of all energy resources, according to a 50-state scorecard on energy efficiency policies, programs, and practices from the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy. [**ARTICLE 941**](#)

AGA Analysis Shows That on a Full-Fuel-Cycle Basis, Natural Gas is Most Efficient, Cost Effective Energy Source. *American Gas Association.* October 20, 2009.

The American Gas Association released the results of an analysis showing that the direct use of natural gas in residential applications, when evaluated on a full-fuel-cycle basis against fuel oil, electricity and propane, results in significant reductions in energy production, consumer energy bills and greenhouse gas emissions. [**ARTICLE 942**](#)

Strengthening U.S. International Energy Assistance to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Improve Energy Security by Scott Hassell et al. *RAND Corporation.*

This study provides information on U.S. international energy-assistance programs. International energy assistance may provide a low-cost, effective opportunity to reduce future growth in greenhouse gas emissions and oil consumption before current development patterns become increasingly locked in throughout the developing world. The report reviews U.S. government energy-assistance trends and strategies, along with similar data for Germany, which has a different, highly coordinated approach to planning and implementing energy assistance. [**ARTICLE 943**](#)

Arctic Oil and Natural Gas Potential . *Energy Information Administration.* October 19, 2009.

The Arctic is defined as the Northern hemisphere region located north of the Arctic Circle, the circle of latitude where sunlight is uniquely present or absent for 24 continuous hours on the summer and winter solstices, respectively.

Methane to Markets: the U.S. Government's Methane to Markets Partnership Accomplishments. *Environmental Protection Agency.* October 21, 2009.

The Methane to Markets Partnership plays an important role in promoting methane capture and use projects internationally and reducing emissions of methane globally. The report summarizes the contributions of participating U.S. government agencies and highlights the projects and activities since the launch of the Partnership in November 2004. Among accomplishments, U.S. government initiated direct assistance agreements

for methane recovery and use projects in Argentina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Chile, China, Colombia, Ecuador, India, Kyrgyz Republic, Mexico, Nigeria, Philippines, Poland, Russia, Thailand, and Ukraine. [ARTICLE 944](#)

Labor & Employment

Job Sharing: Tax Credits to Prevent Layoffs and Stimulate Employment by Dean Baker. *Center for Economic and Policy Research*. October 2009.

The unemployment rate is expected to average 10.2% for 2010, 9.1% for 2011, and 7.3% for 2012. With this in mind, the Issue Brief describes a job sharing tax credit, designed to provide a quick and substantial boost to the economy. It would use tax dollars to pay firms to shorten the typical workweek, while keeping pay constant. This should cause employers to want to hire additional workers. A rough estimate of the impact of this tax credit is between 1.3 and 2.7 million jobs created. [ARTICLE 945](#)

Are Green Jobs "Good Jobs" for African Americans? By Algernon Austin. *Economic Policy Institute*. Oct. 2009.

Research shows that creating more "green jobs" would have a significant benefit on male African American workers whose unemployment rate is well above the overall nationwide rate. Algernon Austin, director of Economic Policy Institute's Program on Race, Ethnicity and the Economy, presented some of these findings Sept. 25 at the annual legislative conference of the Congressional Black Caucus. [ARTICLE 946](#)

Risk and Recovery: Understanding the Changing Risks to Family Incomes by Gregory Acs et al. *Urban Institute*. Web posted October 12, 2009.

The paper examines the characteristics and circumstances of families vulnerable to sharp income drops and those most likely to recover financially. More than 13% of nonelderly adults in families with children will see their incomes fall by half at some point over the course of a year, and about 40% fully recover within a year. Those who lose jobs or have an adult leave the family are more likely to have a substantial drop in income and are less likely to recover. The paper uses data from the Survey of Income and Program Participation, which collects data every four months and can provide information on short-term income loss. [ARTICLE 947](#)

The Employment Situation – September 2009. *U.S. Department of Labor*. October 2, 2009.

Since the start of the recession in December 2007, the number of unemployed persons has increased by 7.6 million to 15.1 million, and the unemployment rate has doubled to 9.8%. [ARTICLE 948](#)

Women in the Labor Force: a Databook. *U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics*. September 2009.

The past several decades have been marked by notable changes in women's labor force activities. Women's labor force participation is significantly higher today than it was in the 970s, particularly among women with children, and a larger share of women work full time and year round than in past decades. In addition, women have increasingly attained higher levels of education: among women aged 25 to 64 who are in the labor force, the proportion with a college degree roughly tripled from 1970 to 2008. [ARTICLE 949](#)

Vice President Biden Unveils Report Focused on Expanding Green Jobs And Energy Savings For Middle Class Families. *Office of the Vice President*. October 2009.

Labor Market Outlook. *Society for Human Resource Management*. October 2009.

Roughly 20 percent of Human Resource professionals say their companies plan to hire during the fourth quarter of 2009, according to the survey. Only 14 percent report plans to cut jobs while the overwhelming majority surveyed, 59 percent, say their companies will maintain staff levels, keeping payrolls flat. [ARTICLE 950](#)

The Lost Generation by Peter Coy. *Business Week*. 19 October 2009.

Bright, eager—and unwanted. While unemployment is ravaging just about every part of the global workforce, the most enduring harm is being done to young people who can't grab onto the first rung of the career ladder.

Communications, Information, Media & Journalism

Software Piracy on the Internet: a Threat to your Security. *Business Software Alliance.* October 2009.

Individuals are turning to peer-to-peer (P2P) networks and auction sites in staggering numbers to acquire or transfer illegal software and in doing so are harming the economy whilst exposing themselves to malware, identity theft and criminal prosecution, according to the report. [ARTICLE 951](#)

Report Proposes New Steps to Support Quality Public Affairs Reporting. *Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism.* October 20, 2009.

As the news business continues to confront fundamental economic challenges, a report by Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism proposes new steps for maintaining a vibrant, independent press, with special emphasis on local "accountability journalism" that is essential to civic life. [ARTICLE 952](#)

UNESCO: Information and Media Literacy. *U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.* Oct. 2009.

Information and media literacy enables people to interpret and make informed judgments as users of information and media, as well as to become skillful creators and producers of information and media messages in their own right. UNESCO's mission in this area consists of fostering information and media literate societies by encouraging the development of national information and media literacy policies, including in education. [ARTICLE 953](#)

The Limits of Control by Pamela J. Podger. *American Journalism Review.* Aug/Sept. 2009.

With journalists and their employers increasingly active on social media sites like Facebook and Twitter, news organizations are struggling to respond to a host of new ethics challenges.

Policy Statement—Impact of Music, Music Lyrics, and Music Videos on Children and Youth. *Pediatrics Council on Communications and Media.* October 19, 2009

Security, Defense, & Nuclear Issues

Cyberdeterrence and Cyberwar by Martin C. Libick. *RAND Corporation.* October 8, 2009.

The protection of cyberspace, the information medium, has become a vital national interest because of its importance both to the economy and to military power. An attacker may tamper with networks to steal information for the money or to disrupt operations. Future wars are likely to be carried out, in part or perhaps entirely, in cyberspace, says the report. [ARTICLE 954](#)

Most Would Use Force to Stop Iranian Nukes. *Pew Research Center for the People & the Press.* October 2009.

According to the Pew survey, the public approves of direct negotiations with Iran over its nuclear program, although most Americans are not hopeful the talks will succeed. And a strong majority – 61% – says that it is more important to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons, even if it means taking military action. Far fewer (24%) say it is more important to avoid a military conflict with Iran, if it means that the country may develop nuclear weapons. [ARTICLE 955](#)

Nuclear Challenge from Pakistan and Iran – Part II by Leonard S. Spector. *YaleGlobal.* October 7, 2009.

Iran's surprise revelation of a nuclear facility near the city of Qom was not such a surprise given that Western intelligence agents already knew of the site. The consensus analysis was that Iran revealed the existence of the site precisely because it had been discovered. But Leonard S. Spector, Director of the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies, believes the revelation was motivated by a different concern, which does come as a surprise. [ARTICLE 956](#)

Homeland Defense: Planning, Resourcing, and Training Issues Challenge DOD's Response to Domestic Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and High-Yield Explosive Incidents. *U.S. Government Accountability Office.* October 7, 2009.

DOD plays a support role in managing Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and High-Yield Explosives (CBRNE) incidents, including providing capabilities to save lives, alleviate hardship or suffering, and minimize property damage. GAO reviews DOD's plans for CBRNE consequence management and documents from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and FEMA. [ARTICLE 957](#)

Nuclear Power: A Resurgence We Can't Afford. *Union of Concerned Scientists.* October 21, 2009.

Nuclear power could play a role in reducing global warming emissions because reactors emit almost no carbon while they operate and can have low life-cycle emissions. Partly for that reason, advocates are calling for a nationwide investment in at least 100 new nuclear reactors, backed by greatly expanded federal loan guarantees. However, the industry must resolve major economic, safety, security, and waste disposal challenges before new nuclear reactors could make a significant contribution to reducing carbon emissions. [ARTICLE 958](#)

Managing Electronic Waste: Issues with Exporting E-waste by Linda Luther. *Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress.* October 2009.

Electronic waste is a term that is used loosely to refer to obsolete, broken, or irreparable electronic devices and associated wiring. Although there may be limited data regarding how e-waste is managed, the consequences of export to countries that manage it improperly are becoming increasingly evident. The impacts associated with e-waste exports have led to concerns from environmental organizations, members of the public, and some Members of Congress. [ARTICLE 959](#)

The Clock is Ticking: a Progress Report on America's Preparedness to Prevent Weapons of Mass Destruction Proliferation and Terrorism. *Commission on the Prevention of Weapons of Mass Destruction Proliferation and Terrorism.* October 21, 2009.

The U.S. is failing to address its most urgent threat, biological proliferation and terrorism, concludes the report. The Commission also felt the Obama Administration has given appropriate high-level attention to the nuclear threat but noted the challenges loom large. "The clock is ticking," said Commission Chairman and former Senator Bob Graham. "The U.S. has taken action, but we have not kept pace with those who would do us, or the world community, harm. The terrorists are flexible and increasingly capable. The executive branch, the legislative branch, and even the American people must do more." [ARTICLE 960](#)

Containing a Nuclear Iran by Fareed Zakaria. *Newsweek.* October 12, 2009.

It is time to clarify the debate over Iran and its nuclear program. It's easy to criticize the current course adopted by the United States and its allies, to huff and puff about Iranian mendacity, to point out that Russia and China won't agree to tougher measures against Tehran, and to detail the leaks in the sanctions already in place. But what, then, should the United States do? [ARTICLE 961](#)

Food & Agriculture

Foreign Holdings of U.S. Agricultural Land. *U.S. Department of Agriculture.* October 6, 2009.

The publication contains statistics through Feb. 28, 2008, regarding the 20.9 million acres of U.S. agricultural land in which foreign persons hold an interest. It reports that foreigners have an interest, partial or total ownership, in 1.6% of all privately held U.S. agricultural land and 0.92% of all land in the U.S. This is a 1.4 million acre increase from 2007. [ARTICLE 962](#)

Marketing U.S. Organic Foods: Recent Trends from Farms to Consumers by Carolyn Dimitri and Lydia Oberholtzer. *U.S. Department of Agriculture.* September 29, 2009.

Organic foods now occupy prominent shelf space in the produce and dairy aisles of most mainstream U.S. food retailers. A broader range of consumers has been buying more varieties of organic food. Organic handlers, who purchase products from farmers and often supply them to retailers, sell more organic products to conventional retailers and club stores than ever before. [ARTICLE 963](#)

The Ten Riskiest Foods Regulated by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. *Center for Science in the Public Interest.* October 6, 2009.

Leafy greens, eggs, and tuna are on the top of a list of the 10 riskiest foods regulated by the Food and Drug Administration. That's no reason to forgo the occasional salad says the report, nor need one pass up tomatoes, sprouts, and berries, even though those foods are also on the list. But it also says that the presence of so many healthy foods on such a list is exactly why the Senate should follow the House and pass legislation that reforms our fossilized food safety laws. **ARTICLE 964**

Research, Science & Technology

National Science Foundation Advisory Committee Offers New Vision for the Geosciences. National Science Foundation. October 15, 2009.

Society stands at a crossroads. With growing problems such as resource depletion, energy sustainability, environmental degradation and climate change, can we protect the health of the planet while achieving widespread economic prosperity? So asks a report released today by the National Science Foundation (NSF)'s Advisory Committee for Geosciences (AC-GEO). **ARTICLE 965**

Fact Sheet: Recovery to Discovery: \$5 Billion Recovery Act Investment in Scientific Research and Jobs. The White House. September 30, 2009.

Since September 1st, the National Institutes of Health, a part of the Department of Health and Human Services, has awarded more than 12,000 grants to research institutions in every state. This \$5 billion investment through the Recovery Act is the largest infusion of capital into biomedical research ever and is expected to support tens of thousands of jobs over the next two years. **ARTICLE 966**

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