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Editorial

Government information: New challenges in the internet age

Merging *Government Information Quarterly (GIQ)* and the *Journal of Government Information (JGI)* provides an opportunity to examine the scope and objectives of a reinvigorated journal. With the merger set for the beginning of 2005, *GIQ* expects to become the premier scholarly journal related to government information policy and management. *GIQ* will remain cross-disciplinary, international in scope, content refereed, and devoted to the spectrum of government information considerations, from practice to policy in all jurisdictions of government throughout the world. The merger also provides an opportunity to revisit, rethink, and redefine the scope and objectives of *GIQ*.

The study of government information is still best considered within the context of a life cycle:

- Government information requires policies, procedures, and management as it moves from creation to disposition.
- Government information is often a public resource and a public commodity, albeit one that has different characteristics from durable goods and other information resources.
- Government information management, at various stages throughout its life cycle, can involve a number of different organizations (agencies, archives, interest groups, libraries, research institutes).
- Government policies and regulations, statutory law, and rational public management practices should govern government information during its life cycle and guide government organizations in achieving their goals and missions, including informing the public about their activities and practices through accessible information.

These principles remain relevant to the study of government information in the digital and networked environment.

Open to research exploring all aspects of the information life cycle in all jurisdictions of government, domestic and international, *GIQ* is especially interested in original scholarship that (1) analyzes current information policies and practices, (2) presents new developments,

(3) provides theoretical and philosophical theses, and (4) discusses current issues and strategies for managing government information-based services and resources. Another area of focus is research on instructional issues and methodologies related to government information and its role in the educational process. Of particular note is how the above aspects affect the availability, distribution, and preservation of government information. In addition, the journal offers editorials; best government information practices; state-of-the-art reviews of books, journals, Web sites, electronic resources, and reports germane to the study of government information; and essays from leading researchers, practitioners, policy analysts, and information scientists. Sample journal topics include:

- Information policy and practices, including information life cycle management processes (e.g., information creation, manipulation, storage, retrieval, preservation) in an increasingly digital operating environment.
- Availability—access and dissemination—and use of government information resources.
- Protection—privacy and security—in an electronic networked and homeland security environment.
- Evaluation studies, performance measurement, and benchmarking of government information practices and services.
- Information technology management, standards, policy, and practice within government organizations.
- Information organization and retrieval in a government context.
- E-government policy, practice, methods, and governance, including Web-based government information services.
- Accessibility and usability of digital and other government information services, resources, and products.
- Universal service and access in the networked environment.
- Management of, and access to, government scientific and technical information (STI).
- Telecommunications policies and frameworks to promote the deployment of telecommunications technologies to benefit consumers, organizations, and nations.
- Rural telecommunications policies and issues.

The enhanced and enlarged *GIQ* strives to provide informed, scholarly, and otherwise high-quality content, with a cross-disciplinary perspective on the above and other related topics.

Contributions to the journal, including individual manuscript submissions, symposia suggestions, and recommendations for reviews, are welcomed. With your help, as readers and contributors, *GIQ* will continue to serve as a unique and valued forum for sharing knowledge regarding many aspects of government information and telecommunications policy, information and technology management, and other related considerations on a global scale. As the government information management and policy landscape becomes more complex, our challenge is to provide *GIQ* readers with insights, knowledge, and understanding of a range of government information topics relevant to navigating our evolving information environment. We look forward to that exchange taking place through the future pages of *GIQ*.

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