**Año 3 Número 90 octubre 2018**



**Contenidos de este número**

1. Report: Audiobooks Are the New Ebooks, Except They Might Keep Growing

Filed by [Gary Price](https://www.infodocket.com/author/gprice/)

From [Vulture:](http://www.vulture.com/2018/09/audiobooks-are-booming-but-how-long-will-that-last.html)

The rise of audiobooks, a small but rapidly growing piece of book publishing, is by now well documented, but rarely is it framed as a tech story. It’s maybe a little counterintuitive to think of what we once called Books on Tape (so cumbersome they had to be abridged to remain affordable) as a format on the disruptive cutting edge. But this decade’s double-digit annual growth — with total sales doubling to $2.5 billon over the past five years — has a clear analog in the e-book boom that preceded it, and the same company has driven it: Audible.com owner Amazon.

[Clip]

Audible’s Beth Anderson says that Michael Lewis–style exclusives, as well as enhanced releases from the likes of Margaret Atwood, do very well for them — and that subscribers typically buy five books on top of the twelve included with their membership. (Fiction makes up 70 percent of audio sales, with genres predominating.) She says Audible has had double-digit year-on-year subscriber growth, keeping pace with the market.

Read the [Complete Article (888 words)](http://www.vulture.com/2018/09/audiobooks-are-booming-but-how-long-will-that-last.html)

https://www.infodocket.com/2018/09/21/report-audiobooks-are-the-new-ebooks-except-they-might-keep-growing/

1. Amnesty International To Create Human Rights Archive

by [Lisa Peet](https://www.libraryjournal.com/?authorName=Lisa%20Peet)

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| https://www.libraryjournal.com/binaries/content/gallery/Jlibrary/57119.jpg |
| **Amnesty International Activists protest against President Donald Trump's immigration policies**Photo by Amnesty International USA |

Nonprofit human rights organization Amnesty International has chosen digital preservation company Preservica to create a global digital archive that will allow Amnesty to migrate, preserve, and provide access to more than half a century’s worth of records. The cloud-based archive will hold digitized and born-digital materials and will ingest records going forward from the organization’s SharePoint system.

Amnesty has been drawing attention to human rights abuses and advocating for international laws and standards around the world since 1961, and it was awarded the 1977 Nobel Peace Prize for "defense of human dignity against torture." Its International Secretariat in London administers the organization’s daily affairs and holds a significant archive of records collected as evidence in human rights violations cases. These comprise paper-based, digitized, and born-digital records including 1962 documents from anti-apartheid leader Nelson Mandela’s trial in Pretoria, South Africa; materials supporting Amnesty’s “[Stop Violence Against Women](http://www.stopvaw.org/)” campaign, founded in 2004; research; case files; public statements; mission notes; testimonies taken in the field; submissions to the United Nations; audiovisual resources; newsletters; annual reports; crowdsourced materials; and administrative documents.

**PLANNING FOR THE LONG HAUL**

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| https://www.libraryjournal.com/binaries/content/gallery/Jlibrary/57136.jpg |
| **Death Sentences and Executions 2017 - Amnesty International Global Report Launch**Photo by Amnesty International |

While the organization has digitized some material over the past few years, and deposits publicly available content with the [International Institute of Social History](https://socialhistory.org/en) (ISH), a mass digitization program is still on the horizon and will require a secure repository. Newer recordings and testimonies, YouTube videos, correspondence, and satellite imagery used by Amnesty are increasingly produced and accessed in exclusively digital format. Records that often contain highly sensitive material need to be shared efficiently among up to 700 people across 20 international offices. In addition, several of Amnesty’s recent initiatives produce large volumes of crowdsourced data, which need to be preserved for future access.

“We knew how to produce outputs, how to publish things to our website, how to disseminate information,” Amnesty International archivist Bryony Hooper told *LJ*. “But we weren't quite there on how to manage this information, preserve it long-term, and make it permanently accessible.”

Hooper began gathering requirements from Amnesty staff and stakeholders in January, and by April, the organization was comparing quotes. Amnesty uses SharePoint, a web-based document storage system compatible with Microsoft software, to manage its internal records, and maintains an extensive data catalog. Hooper wanted a single storage preservation platform that would integrate with all its asset management systems and seamlessly ingest new material in the future, with an eye toward flexibility when dealing with potential new formats. “Preservica ticked all the boxes,” she told *LJ*.

Preservica provides digital preservation services for archives, libraries, museums, government organizations, and businesses around the world, including the Yale University and Dartmouth College libraries, Texas State Library and Archives, UK National Archives, more than 20 U.S. state archives, and the Legal Information Preservation Alliance, a consortium of over 100 academic, federal, state, and public law libraries.

Because the company has worked closely with its user community to meet a wide range of preservation needs, Preservica has been able to move quickly, providing Amnesty with an essentially out-of-the-box solution hosted on its Enterprise Private Cloud platform. “We're not building a bespoke application,” Preservica marketing director Michael Hope told *LJ*. “They're taking our product, which has been developed and shaped by our user community of archivists and librarians over the last ten, 15 years, so it's well suited to what [Hooper is] trying to achieve.”

Preservica’s private cloud-based storage maintains multiple backups that can communicate with each other, so the loss of data integrity in any one server system can be quickly restored. And the ingestion process, once set up, will be largely automated. "We wanted a solution that had the capability of doing all the things we need it to do,” said Hooper, “ingest, preserve, store, migrate—all those bits rolled into one package, so it was less of a manual process." Among other efficiencies, it will mean that information transfer can be automated within different time zones across the globe without the need to wait on Hooper, in London, as gatekeeper. The new platform will also enable the ongoing transfer of information to ISH.

As much of Amnesty’s data is centered on human rights, security is a major consideration. "Part of what we're looking to do at Amnesty International is to take information off their Sharepoint environment, where it's susceptible to corruption or deletion or alteration, and bring it into a more secure environment,” noted Preservica marketing director Michael Hope.

Access to material in the new archive will also have granular controls, noted Hooper. Content might be restricted, she said, not only “because it contains sensitive information, but [because] it also might contain information that we don't want to have jumping up on your screen—some of the content is quite challenging."

Another major concern, said Hooper, will be ensuring that descriptive and technical metadata in a number of languages—and alphabets—from Amnesty’s existing catalog is preserved.

**THE CROWD IN THE CLOUD**

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| https://www.libraryjournal.com/binaries/content/gallery/Jlibrary/57118.jpg |
| **#BraveEdit in Algeria**Photo by Amnesty International |

In addition to producing its own records, Amnesty relies on a large amount of data from social media for its research. The organization has launched several initiatives in the past years, such as [Amnesty Decoders](https://decoders.amnesty.org/register), a platform that uses crowdsourcing to help researchers sift through datasets and online content. Volunteers can [register](https://decoders.amnesty.org/register) for projects such as Troll Patrol, which analyzed a representative sample of tweets sent to 1,000 women politicians and journalists over a year’s time, to help uncover patterns of sexist and racist abuse.

The results were compiled in Amnesty’s 2018 [#ToxicTwitter](https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/research/2018/03/online-violence-against-women-chapter-1/) report, which called on the platform’s administration to step up and check such abuse. The 2016 [Decode Darfur](https://decoders.amnesty.org/projects/decode-darfur) project invited participants to compare satellite images of villages in Darfur over time to identify the destruction of villages by the Sudanese government. More than 28,000 volunteers from 147 countries helped analyze 326,000 square kilometers of imagery.

Another initiative, Amnesty’s [Digital Verification Corps](https://www.theengineroom.org/digital-verification-corps/), asks a network of student volunteers from human rights centers at the University of California, Berkeley, in the United States; the University of Essex in the UK; the University of Pretoria in South Africa; and the University of Toronto, in Ontario, Canada, to vet online data. Amnesty experts train them in methodologies for evaluating the authenticity, location, and time of photos and videos from social media that are used as evidence in human rights cases—data that also requires storage.

Amnesty has been investigating ways to develop human rights principles for artificial intelligence (AI) systems as well. In his address at the 2017 AI for Good Global Summit at the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in Geneva, Switzerland, Amnesty secretary general Salil Shetty noted that there could be a place for ethical AI innovations in Amnesty’s work toward health care, education, and workplace rights. “In the future,” he said, “we could have artificial intelligence systems that detect and correct bias in data, rather than doubling down on human bias; we have automation that takes people out of dangerous and degrading jobs, but also educational and economic policies that create opportunities for dignified and fulfilling jobs.”

The public face of the digital archive could also provide an opportunity for data mining and big data research in the future, said Hooper. "If we're going to say this has enduring value, I've got to make sure it's going to be permanently preserved.”

Staff have been involved in the process as well, Hooper noted. "It's been quite reassuring to see the interest from internal staff, and their understanding of the need for permanent preservation of content that they're using,” Hooper told *LJ*. “They realize…that there's a lot more involved in information management than just saving it in a drive somewhere. So it's actually been quite heartening to see the interest in the organization."

Amnesty and Preservica are currently conducting functionality testing, and they hope to have the public access side of the organization’s catalog available by late spring 2019.

<https://www.libraryjournal.com/?detailStory=181001-Amnesty-International-Archive>

1. Eric Klinenberg: Libraries and Social Infrastructure

by [Lisa Peet](https://www.libraryjournal.com/?authorName=Lisa%20Peet)

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| https://www.libraryjournal.com/binaries/content/gallery/Jlibrary/57574.jpg |
| **Eric Klinenberg**Photo by Lisa DeNeffe |

Sociologist Eric Klinenberg’s newest book, *Palaces for the People: How Social Infrastructure Can Help Fight Inequality, Polarization, and the Decline of Civic Life* (Crown), suggests that the key to a more equitable society may lie in our shared spaces. Libraries—Andrew Carnegie’s “palaces for the people”—are chief among the building blocks of what Klinenberg terms “social infrastructure”: places where people gather, bonds form, and communities are strengthened. Recent articles in the *New York Times* (“[To Restore Civil Society, Start With the Library](https://www.nytimes.com/2018/09/08/opinion/sunday/civil-society-library.html)”) and the *Atlantic* (“[Worry Less About Crumbling Roads, More About Crumbling Libraries](https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2018/09/worry-less-about-crumbling-roads-more-about-crumbling-libraries/570721/)”), and an excerpt from the book accompanied by a photo essay in *Slate* (“[The Secret Life of Libraries](https://slate.com/human-interest/2018/09/seward-park-library-photos-eric-klinenberg-social-infrastructure.html)”), have contributed to the conversation as well.

Klinenberg, professor of sociology and director of the Institute for Public Knowledge at New York University, is the author of *Going Solo: The Extraordinary Rise and Surprising Appeal of Living Alone* (Penguin Pr.), *Fighting for Air: The Battle to Control America’s Media*(Metropolitan Books), and *Heat Wave: A Social Autopsy of Disaster in Chicago* (University of Chicago Press), as well as editor of *Cultural Production in a Digital Age* and the journal *Public Culture*. *LJ* caught up with him to find out more about his research on libraries.

***LJ*: How did your current focus on social infrastructure, and libraries in particular, evolve from your past work?**

Eric Klinenberg: I’ve had a general interest in what I call the social infrastructure for years, since Heat Wave. After Hurricane Sandy, I was asked by the Obama administration to be the research director for this competition called [Rebuild By Design](http://www.rebuildbydesign.org/) that aimed to generate innovative infrastructure projects in the region affected. My job was to take these design teams, engineers and architects, and to show them and help them understand or identify the different needs and vulnerabilities and possibilities, because a lot of the teams were international and didn’t know the region especially well.

One of the design teams came up to me and said, “We’ve been listening to you talk about social infrastructure and resilience, and we’ve decided that we want to build... what we call a resilience center, and it’s going to be this new building type—it’s going to do all these amazing things…. It’s going to be a place that you have in your neighborhood, and the doors are going to be open as much as possible. It’s going to be open and available to help people during crises, but it’s going to be a place that people know well, because they’re comfortable there all the time. And it’s going to have programs for very young people, for parents, for middle-aged people, for older people. It’s going to be especially welcoming, regardless of your citizenship status. It’s going to have really good infrastructure for the Internet and communications and technology.”

They kept on describing this place, and as I listened it occurred to me that they were essentially describing libraries. And I said, “You know, this is a great idea, this resilience center, but why don’t we go look at some libraries first?”

So we did, and…I realized that libraries were doing things that not everyone understood, that I certainly didn’t understand fully, until I rediscovered them.

Around that time Michael Kimmelman, the architecture critic for the *New York Times*, wrote an article about this idea of mine that the library could be a really vital part of dealing with neighborhood cohesion and even climate adaptation.

Then I got a visit from Julie Sandorf, president of the Charles Revson Foundation. She knew my work on *Heat Wave* and other projects. [Revson had] been collecting all of these entries for the New York City branch library competition, and said, “I have all this data, and we’d really like a social scientist to sort through them.” I did look at the data, and then I started spending more time at one particular library on the Lower East Side, not too far from where I live, called Seward Park, and I got so taken with the idea that the library needed to be understood more deeply that I decided that I would spend every day for the next year in the libraries of New York. I didn’t do the data analysis that the Revson Foundation wanted, but I proposed to them that I would do a really deep study of the library and social infrastructure, and they went for it.

I was going to write a book that was just about this one particular library. Then it occurred to me that…the library is a part of the social infrastructure—it’s not the whole thing. And it would really be useful to…explain it for readers who don’t know that concept, and to show how investing in social infrastructure like libraries can help us address a whole range of problems that we’re struggling to solve.

**How did the title come about?**

Originally I was going to call it *The Social Infrastructure*, but nobody seemed to think that that was a very good idea. It seemed too wonky. Then I had this conversation with a librarian I got to know very well in Seward Park named Andrew Fairweather.

Andrew was explaining to me that he loved the idea from Andrew Carnegie that libraries should be palaces for the people; places where people would go and make their lives a little more exalted for as long as they could be there. I just love that phrase. It’s gorgeous and evocative, and I thought not only is that what a library should be, but it’s what all of our best social infrastructure should be.

**What reaction has the book been getting?**

It started with the op-ed that I did for the *New York Times*…. I was totally floored by the response. Hundreds of people wrote comments. Ordinarily when you’re an author, you never look at the comments, because they are full of hatred and invective. But the comments for the most part were people telling their own library stories.

Then I started getting emails from people who…wanted to share their library stories with me. I started getting invited to speak at libraries in cities throughout the country. There’s been lots of activity on Twitter of people telling their own stories. It feels to me like the library enthusiasts of the world have united, and everyone is making a more public case that we should view libraries not as luxuries, but as essential features of our social infrastructure. They are fundamental to our well-being.

**Do you feel that people’s thinking about libraries is evolving in that direction?**

I certainly hope so. I wrote the book because I want people to understand just how valuable and important social infrastructure is. I think that we fail to appreciate its significance, in part, because we don’t really have a concept for it.

Infrastructure isn’t just building a sea wall or a bridge. It’s also building the places that shape our interactions and that make our society work. I think all of us understand these days, regardless of our political preference, that our infrastructure is broken. And frankly, society is broken. We are as polarized as we’ve been since the Civil War.

People love their libraries regardless of their political preference. You go into red states and blue states and rural areas and urban areas, and people feel like libraries are special places. There’s a section of the book on education where I share stories from people who had really vivid memories of the way that the library shaped their development. Almost any time I talk to a group, people tell a library story that brings the significance of the institution to life.

**What don’t people realize about libraries that you wish they did?**

I think a lot of people understand what the contemporary library does…but I think there’s a world of very influential people—affluent people, heads of major philanthropies and political power brokers—who don’t use the library in the way that typical Americans do and who believe that the library is an obsolete institution…. I don’t think that reflects popular opinion.

I also don’t think people realize how woefully underfunded [libraries] are; how much investment they need to live up to the challenges that they face today. We ask libraries to do all of these things, but we treat them like luxuries in the policy world and only fund them when there’s extra money lying around, for the most part. So the bathrooms are broken, and not all libraries are accessible for people with disabilities. And, tragically, they’re not open the number of hours they need to be open.

One of the grand ambitions of this book is to establish the concept of social infrastructure so we can see it as a class of public goods that needs our support. If we don’t demand that our elected representatives support the library, then [libraries] live or die at the whims of the local political officials who are trying to balance tight budgets or philanthropists who may or may not decide a library is worth investing in.

**Do you consider the library a “third space,” such as Robert Putnam defined in *Bowling Alone: America's Declining Social Capital*?**

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| https://www.libraryjournal.com/binaries/content/gallery/Jlibrary/57598.jpg |
| **Library Lanes program at Brooklyn Public Library'sNew Lots Library**Photo by Eric Klinenberg |

A little bit. But the third spaces that [Putnam] writes about are typically commercial places. The significance of places like libraries became even more clear this past year when we watched two African-American men get arrested for waiting too long to order in a Starbucks, because it made it clear that some of our most popular third spaces are actually not open and accessible to everyone, and in fact, can exclude, because there’s a price tag. It’s an extraordinary book, it really shaped a conversation about the state of civil society for a generation, and it’s a touchpoint for me. But I think there’s something else going on. We’re not just bowling alone anymore.

So you can only imagine how delighted I was to learn about the Library Lanes program in the Brooklyn Public Library where once a week groups of older library patrons assemble in common rooms, put on bowling league jerseys, and hook up an Xbox and do virtual bowling matches, one library team against another.

Sociologists have this term called “[collective effervescence](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Collective_effervescence),” which refers to the spirited joy that you find when a group comes together and does something special. I saw this group of people who had every reason to be home and alone and isolated or lonely, cut off from one another, because they lived in a really tough neighborhood in New York City where street level conditions can be pretty intimidating. But because they lived near a branch library that had this program, instead of being home and alone, they were together bowling and having an amazing time. There were these wonderful moments of laughter and joy. It’s hard to calculate the value of an experience like that in the cost-benefit calculations that drive so much of our social policy today, but being there and watching that moment unfold, it felt priceless.

<https://www.libraryjournal.com/?detailStory=181003-Eric-Klinenberg-QA>

1. Remote Information Literacy | Field Reports

by [Derek Malone](https://libraryjournal.com/?authorName=Derek%20Malone)

At the University of North Alabama, we are quite proud of the first-year library instruction sequence that was built through years of hard work, testing various ideas and components, and constant reflection and assessment. We provide three unique experiences in our first-year program: a library orientation, a critical thinking within information session, and two information literacy sessions.

Historically, the sessions are conducted physically in the library classroom. Dissimilarly, a large increase in online course offerings has occurred, and for the foreseeable future, growth will continue. Thus, librarians were presented with the opportunity to fill the gap and simultaneously evolve.

At our university, we use Canvas as our learning management system (LMS). Additionally, we use LibGuides for both course-specific and noncourse-specific assistance. We felt that there was an opportunity to leverage the use of Canvas and LibGuides to create opportunities for equivalent instruction to online learners.

The critical thinking and information literacy sessions were the most natural starting points for a supplement from solely traditional instruction (in-person) to instruction that accommodates online learners.

The critical thinking and information literacy sessions have two primary components:

1. Lecture with interactivity (games and worked-through examples)
2. Hands-on group activities

For our online critical thinking sessions, we have created lecture modules in LibGuides and Canvas in which we use screen recordings (typically via Screencast-o-matic) to cover the material that is introduced through lectures in the physical sessions.

**PICK YOUR PLATFORM**

With LibGuides, we are able to localize content for an abundance of sections with the same course number. Based on faculty preference, a LibGuide with video content can be used with multiple courses with a common need of video content, or activities available for download, without the need for built-in assessment.

In Canvas, we are able to embed interactive questions throughout the video via Kaltura for assessment. Grades can be assigned, or we can stipulate that the correct answer be the response before progressing. The questions can be inserted throughout the lecture videos to break up monotony. The content can be shared via the Canvas Commons and inserted into courses that choose to use it.

In addition to embedded video lectures within Canvas modules, we have the ability to insert stand-alone assessments (such as quizzes). These can be shared in the Canvas Commons and allow faculty to pull pertinent content into their courses for assessment. These are used as either a vital assessment component to the online session or a supplement to the in-class offering. Faculty members can choose what works for their classes. We have learned through offering a variety of assessments, videos, modules, etc., that some work, while others are less effective.

The idea that some content works for a course, while other material does not, correlates with transitioning content to a digital equivalent. Some activities are simply designed to work in the classroom. We have a confirmation bias game that requires in-person interaction. Conversely, some information evaluation exercises that we use pair well with a lecture introduction (independent of in-person or online) and a follow-up assessment (again independent of in-person or online). Those work perfectly online.

There are specific goals for us in our critical thinking and information literacy sessions. We are attempting to aid in information skepticism, understanding information presentation, and evaluating information and information practices. Through some creativity with what is available to us, we are making progress in making the online experience fully comparable to the in-person experience.

New tools with better opportunities for engagement will certainly be presented in the future that can enhance our students’ experience in our digital offerings, and based on our constant reevaluation and reworking of these sessions in-person, we will continuously mold the virtual presentation of our courses, too.

*Derek Malone is Assistant Professor, Instructional Services & Interlibrary Loan, Scanning & Delivery Librarian for the University of North Alabama, Florence*

<https://libraryjournal.com/?detailStory=ljx181001-Remote-Information-Literacy-Field-Reports>

1. National Library of Medicine Funds Study to Forecast Long-Term Costs of Data

Filed by [Gary Price](https://www.infodocket.com/author/gprice/) on October 3, 2018

From [NLM:](https://www.nlm.nih.gov/news/NLM_Funds_Study_Forecast_Long_Term_Cost_of_Data.html)

The National Library of Medicine (NLM) has teamed up with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) to conduct a study on forecasting the long-term costs for preserving, archiving, and promoting access to biomedical data.

The study is being conducted as part of the NLM’s efforts to develop a sustainable data ecosystem, as outlined in both the [NLM Strategic Plan](https://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/plan/lrp17/NLM_StrategicReport2017_2027.html) and the [NIH Strategic Plan for Data Science](https://datascience.nih.gov/sites/default/files/NIH_Strategic_Plan_for_Data_Science_Final_508.pdf).  Such an ecosystem is possible because the products and processes of research are now digital by default, and increasingly sophisticated and powerful computation can now be brought to data, rendering meaning that had previously been hidden. Across the biomedical sciences, decisions must be made about where in this ecosystem to invest limited resources to maximize the value of the data for scientific progress; strategies are needed to address question such as:  What is the future value of research data?  For how long must a dataset be preserved before it should be reviewed for long-term archiving?  And what are the resources necessary to support long-term data storage?

“The development of innovative models and frameworks to address these fundamental questions could transform how we plan for the management of biomedical information resources.” said Patricia Flatley Brennan, Director of the National Library of Medicine. “It is essential to bring new ideas, such as econometric approaches, and infuse fresh perspectives into how decisions are made about the preservation and archiving of biomedical data.”

For this [study](http://sites.nationalacademies.org/DEPS/BMSA/DEPS_188847), NASEM will appoint an ad hoc committee to develop a framework for forecasting these costs and estimating potential benefits to research. The committee will examine and evaluate:

* Economic factors to be considered when examining the life-cycle cost for data sets (e.g., data acquisition, preservation, and dissemination);
* Cost consequences for various practices in accessioning and de-accessioning data sets;
* Economic factors to be considered in designating data sets as high value;
* Assumptions built in to the data collection and/or modeling processes;
* Anticipated technological disruptors and future developments in data science in a 5- to 10-year horizon; and
* Critical factors for successful adoption of data forecasting approaches by research and program management staff.

The committee will provide a consensus report and two case studies illustrating the framework’s application to different biomedical contexts relevant to NLM’s data resources. Relevant life-cycle costs will be delineated, as will any assumptions underlying the models. To the extent practicable, NASEM will identify strategies to communicate results and gain acceptance of the applicability of these models.

As highlighted in a recent blog [post](https://nlmdirector.nlm.nih.gov/2018/09/04/cost-to-keep-data/), NASEM will host a two-day public workshop in late June 2019 to generate ideas and approaches for the committee to consider.  Further details on the workshop and public participation will be made available in the coming months.

The NLM is supporting NASEM’s efforts to solicit names of committee members, as well as topics for the committee to consider.  Suggestions should be sent to Michelle Schwalbe, Director of NASEM’s Board on Mathematical Sciences and Analytics, or Elizabeth Kittrie, NLM Senior Planning and Evaluation Officer.

See Also: [How Much Does it Cost to Keep Data? (via From the Mezzanine Blog)](https://nlmdirector.nlm.nih.gov/2018/09/04/cost-to-keep-data/)

https://www.infodocket.com/2018/10/03/national-library-of-medicine-funds-study-to-forecast-long-term-costs-of-data/

1. **Internet provider groups sue over California net neutrality rules**

[David Shepardson](https://www.reuters.com/journalists/david-shepardson)

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Four industry groups representing major internet providers and cable companies filed suit on Wednesday seeking to block California’s new law to mandate net neutrality rules, which they say are complex, burdensome and harmful to innovation.

FILE PHOTO: California Governor Jerry Brown delivers his final state of the state address in Sacramento, California, U.S., January 25, 2018. REUTERS/Fred Greaves/File Photo

The groups represent companies including AT&T Inc, Verizon Communications Inc, Comcast Corp and Charter Communications Inc. The lawsuit came after the U.S. Justice Department on Sunday filed its own lawsuit to block the new law.

The lawsuit was filed by the American Cable Association; CTIA - The Wireless Association; NCTA - The Internet & Television Association; and USTelecom - The Broadband Association. It called California’s law a “classic example of unconstitutional state regulation” and urged the court to block it before it is set to take effect Jan. 1.

“We oppose California’s action to regulate internet access because it threatens to negatively affect services for millions of consumers and harm new investment and economic growth,” the four groups said in a statement.

California Attorney General Xavier Becerra said in a statement that the lawsuit was brought “by power brokers who have an obvious financial interest in maintaining their stronghold on the public’s access to online content.” He added his office will do all it can to defend “a free and open Internet” for California’s 40 million consumers.

U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions said on Sunday in a statement that the “the California legislature has enacted an extreme and illegal state law attempting to frustrate federal policy.”

This marked the latest clash between the Trump administration and California, which have sparred over environmental, immigration and other hot-button issues.

In December, the Federal Communications Commission said in repealing the Obama-era rules that it was pre-empting states from setting their own rules governing internet access.

The Trump administration rules were a win for internet providers but opposed by companies like Facebook Inc, Amazon.com Inc and Alphabet Inc.

Under President Donald Trump, the FCC voted 3-2 in December along party lines to reverse rules that barred internet service providers from blocking or throttling traffic or offering paid fast lanes, also known as paid prioritization.

In August, 22 states and a coalition of trade groups representing major tech companies urged a federal appeals court to reinstate the rules. The states argue that the FCC cannot pre-empt state rule because it is not setting any limits on conduct by internet providers.

A federal judge on Monday set a Nov. 14 hearing in Sacramento on the Justice Department lawsuit.

Reporting by David Shepardson in Washington; Editing by Meredith Mazzilli and Matthew Lewis

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-facebook-portal/facebook-debuts-smart-speaker-for-messenger-video-calls-idUSKCN1MI1DX>

1. The Library of Congress Releases a New Strategic Plan (FY2019-2023) and New Digital Strategy

Filed by [Gary Price](https://www.infodocket.com/author/gprice/) on October 1, 2018

From [LC:](https://www.loc.gov/item/prn-18-123)

Following more than a year of exploration, research and input from staff and experts, the Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden today announced a new strategic plan, “[Enriching the Library Experience” (The FY2019-2023 Strategic Plan of the Library of Congress)](https://www.loc.gov/strategic-plan)

In executing this strategic plan over the next five years, the agency will make a decisive shift to be more user-centered, digitally-enabled and data-driven.

As part of the Library’s ongoing efforts to be more open and accessible, the public is encouraged to share their thoughts about the plan at locexperience@loc.gov.

The new plan reflects Hayden’s commitment to establishing a shared strategic vision and structure for the Library, a top priority for her since she assumed her position two years ago.

“Improving our understanding of the numerous ways users interact with the Library’s nearly 170 million items in our collections, experts and services is fundamental to delivering our mission,” Hayden said. “Our goal is to make the world’s largest library a place you can connect with in new and meaningful ways.”

Refined slightly as part of the planning process, the Library’s mission is to engage, inspire and inform Congress and the American people with a universal and enduring source of knowledge and creativity.

[Clip]

Four goals unifying all Library service units have emerged from the Library’s plan:

1. **Expand Access:** Make our unique collections, experts and services available when, where and how users need them.
2. **Enhance Services:** Create valuable experiences for every user to foster lifelong connections to the Library.
3. **Optimize Resources:** Modernize, strengthen and streamline our operational capabilities.
4. **Measure Impact:** Use data to measure on the world around us and share a powerful story.

[Clip]

A new digital strategy complements the Library’s strategic goals by describing the Library’s objectives for digital transformation over the next five years.

The Library’s digital strategy will enhance its ability to connect with more users, make online resources more available and invest in its future. The [digital strategy is now available to the public online.](http://loc.gov/digital-strategy)

The public is invited to share their thoughts about the digital strategy at digitalstrategy@loc.gov.

“We are being bold in our thinking, finding ways to use technology to fulfill our mission to inform and inspire the American public,” said Director of Digital Strategy Kate Zwaard, who led the effort to develop the digital strategy.

“To be successful, collections must be used,” Hayden said. “This same principle applies to all parts of our agency – services and programs too must be accessible and used.”

Direct to [Complete Announcement](https://www.loc.gov/item/prn-18-123)

https://www.infodocket.com/2018/10/01/library-of-congress-releases-a-new-strategic-plan-fy2019-2023-and-new-digital-strategy/