CODING + METADATA = DATASETS

DIGITIZING AND ANALYZING AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL’S HISTORIC “URGENT ACTION” BULLETINS AT PURDUE UNIVERSITY

IASSIST 2014: ALIGNING DATA AND RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE

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Funded by Purdue University's Enhancing Research in the Humanities and the Arts Grant, 2013-2014
Stakeholders:
• Amnesty International USA (AI-USA)
• Purdue University Political Science Researcher, Clark
• Purdue University Libraries Researchers, Brauke & Barton

Process:
• Through contractual agreement with AI-USA and Purdue University Libraries we were able to obtain from AI-USA…
  • Primary print collection of “Urgent Action” Bulletins and related records (1974-2007)
  • Born digital collection of “Urgent Action” Bulletins and related records (1991-2007)

Contractual work:
• Documents will be digitized and developed as an on-line, public-facing collection and a Political Science research resource.
RESEARCH AREAS ALIGN

POLITICAL SCIENCE, DATA CURATION, METADATA

Research interests:

• Political science
  • How have appeals of justice changed over time?
  • How did Amnesty International’s use of Urgent Action techniques vary across time and cross-nationally?

• Library science
  • How can research libraries collaborate with researchers and practitioners to use technologies to produce research datasets?
  • How can research libraries provide data curation services for developed research datasets, inclusive of…
    • archiving print collections,
    • preservation of digital collections,
    • discoverability and access,
    • data analysis?
Data curation lifecycle models in terms of developing and curating datasets...

Digital Curation Center model:
• This model is designed to aid the planning of curation and preservation activities, and the long-term continuity of access (Higgins 2008).

“While curatorial activities and responsibilities were well represented in the model, the scholarly processes that drive the Creation and use of digital objects are under-represented.”

Paul Bracke
Data curation lifecycle models in terms of developing and curating datasets...

Data Documentation Initiative Combined Life Cycle Model:

• This model focuses on developing a model of data-based research that feeds curatorial processes.

“This view is researcher-, and not curator-, centric and accordingly underrepresents curatorial processes.”

Paul Bracke
"As a record of real-time information about human rights violations and advocacy across the globe, the documents have an unusually strong public interest component."

Ann Clark
We also worked with Purdue University Libraries’ Virginia Kelly Karnes Archives and Special Collections to process the physical collection using archival best practices.
TV. CIVIL & POLITICAL RIGHTS

11. CIVIL & POLITICAL RIGHTS - GENERAL MEASURES OF IMPLEMENTATION

General description of the situation of civil and political rights in a country and general issues related to the implementation of civil and political rights.

12. RIGHT TO PHYSICAL AND MORAL INTEGRITY

12.1. Right to life

See also: 13.1 Liberty & security – general
22.1 Right to an adequate standard of living – general
22.2 Right to food
22.5 Human rights & extreme poverty
22.6 Human rights & drinking water and sanitation
24 Right to health
29.2 Gender-based violence

In principle, topics of life-threatening clandestine abortion, female infanticide, femicides, burning of widows, and dowry killings are included under category 29.2 (Gender-based violence), unless the body examines the issue under a particular legal perspective. This is the case, for instance for the Human Rights Committee, according to which, life-threatening clandestine abortion would figure under this category (Right to life).

Murders;
Death in custody;
Euthanasia and assisted suicide, suicide;
Right of the child to life, survival and development;
“Social cleansing” of street children;
Honour killings.

12.2. Genocide

12.3. Extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions

This category includes excessive use of force resulting in death.

Conclusions and recommendations of the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions are also classified under this category.

12.4. Death penalty

See also: 15.1 Administration of Justice & fair trial
30.4 Juvenile justice

Guarantees required by international law in the imposition of the death penalty (most serious crimes, legality, non-retroactivity, final judgment, competent court);
Protection of children and pregnant women;
Amnesty, pardon or commutation of sentence;
Moratorium;
Call for the abolition of the death penalty.
We are developing our data collaboration process in both a library science and a social science context, which both enables qualitative use of the documents and also embeds theoretically and practically informed coding that can later help the researcher build both numeric and text-based data using the digital collections.
## DATA AND INFRASTRUCTURE

### DATA SOURCES

Access database from Amnesty International – USA Individuals at Risk Unit
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Two additional sources for metadata values:

- Digital Programs “control sheet” – granular date data (MM-DD-YYYY)
- Nvivo “classification sheet” – COW, doc type, doc number
Products:

- Amnesty International controlled vocabulary
- Public-facing Urgent Action digital collection in e-Archives
- Raw data dataset published through the Purdue University Research Repository (PURR)

Future:

- Faceted Solr dataset for political science researcher