2010 Innovations Awards Application

DEADLINE EXTENDED: MARCH 15, 2010

ID # (assigned by CSG): 2010- ___E-20PA___

Please provide the following information, adding space as necessary:

State: ___Pennsylvania________________

Assign Program Category (applicant): ____Public Information_______ (Use list at end of application)

1. Program Name
   The Pennsylvania Policy Database Project

2. Administering Agency
   Institute for Public Affairs, Temple University

3. Contact Person (Name and Title)
   Joseph P. McLaughlin, PhD, Director, Institute for Public Affairs

4. Address
   Institute for Public Affairs, Temple University
   1114 West Berks Street (022-02)
   840 Anderson Hall
   Philadelphia, PA 19122

5. Telephone Number
   215-204-5059

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   215-204-7779

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   jmclau@temple.edu

8. Web site Address
   www.temple.edu/papolicy

9. Please provide a two-sentence description of the program.
   The Pennsylvania Policy Database Project, a joint undertaking of Temple University and the Pennsylvania General Assembly, is the first comprehensive state public policy database modeled on the national database for the federal government created by Frank Baumgartner and Bryan Jones, housed at the University of Texas (www.policyagendas.org), and funded by the National Science Foundation. Similar databases are under construction in a dozen foreign countries under the leadership of Professor Baumgartner's Comparative Agendas Project at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (www.comparativeagendas.org).

10. How long has this program been operational (month and year)? Note: the program must be between 9 months and 5 years old on March 1, 2010 to be considered.
    The program was initiated June, 2005. State and news media records back to 1979 have now been incorporated, and new records will be incorporated on a continual basis going forward.

11. Why was the program created? What problem[s] or issue[s] was it designed to address?
The online database was created for researchers, students, teachers, policy makers, the press, and the general public to track and analyze the history of policy in Pennsylvania through bills, resolutions, state expenditures, hearings, newspaper articles, opinion polls, executive orders, governors’ budget addresses and court decisions. More than 157,000 state, public opinion survey, and news media records have been summarized and assigned to exclusive and exhaustive categories by student researchers using coding standards employed in social science research. The project’s codebook and coding decision rules mirror those employed in the national database and the databases of European and Asian nations building comparable databases.

The Pennsylvania database thus enables users to more easily find and retrieve records and also, with a few mouse clicks, to display graphically and therefore easily recognize shifting patterns of attention between policy areas across all of the venues captured in the database. As an example, the database would allow a researcher to compare in a matter of seconds health and education policy by displaying in a single graph the relative number of bills, laws, legislative committee hearings, Supreme Court decisions, governors’ executive orders, sentences in the governors’ budget messages, and news stories in Capitol news digests back to 1979. The relative number of Governing magazine articles on health versus education would provide an index of national attention to these issues in state governments. The same graph could also display the relative percentages of Pennsylvanians identifying health versus education as the most important problem facing Pennsylvania, health versus education expenditures, and the state’s general fund deficit or surplus. Virtually all records could be downloaded from tables beneath the graph. An example of such research is found in the attached presentation given at the State Politics and Policy Conference in 2008.

Benefits to educators and researchers are obvious, but there also are important benefits to state government:

- State policy-makers and aides can more efficiently research recurring issues and previously-tried solutions, avoiding the need to reinvent the wheel.
- It supplements existing state information-retrieval systems.
- Integration of government records, news accounts, and opinion data facilitates insights into the underlying causes and politics of issues. The project’s comparability with the national database facilitates insights into federal-state policy relationships.
- The project is consistent with public demands for increased transparency in government. It provides staffers and archivists with a new tool to respond to public inquiries.
- The project provides a central index to different kinds of state records that are housed in decentralized institutional archives, and it provides incentives to upgrade record-keeping efforts.
- It outlines a comprehensible, “no-spin” history of an institution – the legislature – whose policy and “PR” outputs frequently -- and rightly -- reflect partisan debate and conflict but leave the larger institutional story untold.

Robert Horton, Minnesota state archivist and director of Preserving the Records of the E-Legislature, a Library of Congress-funded national project to promote preservation of, and public access to, state legislative records, said this of our project:

“Most state online systems replicate what you get in paper. They are notoriously hard to use. It is difficult to get an integrated picture...hard to connect the dots. You cannot justify investment in digitizing records unless you deal with public accessibility. I am very interested in what Pennsylvania is doing for that reason....It is a different approach than I have seen anywhere else...”

12. Describe the specific activities and operations of the program in chronological order.
Temple University submitted a grant proposal to the Pennsylvania General Assembly of Pennsylvania in 2005. The proposal was funded initially in the Fiscal Year 2005-06 General Appropriations act and in subsequent appropriations by the General Assembly. Upon receiving funding, Temple established three
advisory committees: an oversight committee of officers and senior aides of the legislature; an advisory committee of archivists and directors of record-keeping centers across state government; and a university advisory committee of professors from Carnegie Mellon University, the University of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania State University, Pennsylvania State University-Harrisburg, and the University of Pennsylvania, each one supervising student researchers at his or her university. Headquartered at Temple University, the project assigned work to graduate student managers and undergraduate researchers based on the location of records and archives and the expertise and interest of the faculty leaders.

13. Why is the program a new and creative approach or method?
The program is the first of its kind at the state level.

14. What were the program’s start-up costs? (Provide details about specific purchases for this program, staffing needs and other financial expenditures, as well as existing materials, technology and staff already in place.)
The program’s start-up cost was $160,000. Temple hired graduate student managers and undergraduate researchers at schools across the state, as well as the in-kind assistance of participating professors and the overhead support provided by the participating universities. Without the cooperation of all of the schools involved, this project would not have been possible, as we were able to use their offices, computers, and other facilities for the project.

15. What are the program’s annual operational costs?
The program’s annual operating costs are approximately $50,000, not counting faculty time and university overhead costs, which were contributed at no cost to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

16. How is the program funded?
The program is funded through annual appropriations from the Pennsylvania General Assembly, as well as overhead costs and volunteered faculty time from the operating budget of Temple University’s Institute for Public Affairs. Virtually all state funds have been used to pay graduate and undergraduate students working on the project. Faculty members have not been compensated for their time, and the universities have not received state funds for overhead costs.

17. Did this program require the passage of legislation, executive order or regulations? If YES, please indicate the citation number.
Yes, the program required passage of annual appropriations.

18. What equipment, technology and software are used to operate and administer this program?
We use largely Microsoft Office programs to do the work on the project, including database construction through Excel and Access. Communication among the schools was mostly done through email. Toward the end of the project, we enlisted the assistance of more sophisticated computer programs to complete the coding and construction of records.

19. To the best of your knowledge, did this program originate in your state? If YES, please indicate the innovator’s name, present address, telephone number and e-mail address.
While a similar database tracking federal policy back to World War II exists at the University of Texas and while there are similar databases under construction in a dozen foreign countries, ours is the first of its kind at the state level. The innovator’s name and contact information are listed at the beginning of this application.

20. Are you aware of similar programs in other states? If YES, which ones and how does this program differ?
No. We do not believe there are similar programs in other states. University professors in California, Georgia, and Tennessee have expressed interest in pursuing similar projects.

21. Has the program been fully implemented? If NO, what actions remain to be taken?
Yes, the program has been fully implemented, although state and news media records will have to be updated on a continuing basis.

22. Briefly evaluate (pro and con) the program’s effectiveness in addressing the defined problem[s] or issue[s]. Provide tangible examples.
The database provides a one-stop comprehensive history of Pennsylvania public policy going back to 1979 through at least 2006. Many information sources duplicate records, so determining government attention to issues can be troublesome. Our database solves this problem. One drawback is that some of our datasets are more current than others. While there is a lag in getting more recent legislation, hearings and court cases online, we update the database as soon as we are able to create appropriate records.

23. How has the program grown and/or changed since its inception?
At this stage in the program, we have moved all operations to Temple University, where it has always been headquartered. About three-quarters of the way through the process, we implemented greater use of computer programs to both draw down information available from the internet to create records, and to code the existing records for policy topic. This has ended up cutting a lot of potential costs.

24. What limitations or obstacles might other states expect to encounter if they attempt to adopt this program?

Other states might encounter difficulty in locating records to complete such a project. Success is dependent upon the completeness and accessibility of state archives.

CSG reserves the right to use or publish in other CSG products the information provided in this application. If your agency objects to this policy, please advise us in a separate attachment.
The Pennsylvania Policy Database Project: A Model for Comparative Analysis and A New Approach to Funding Research

State Politics and Policy Conference
American Political Science Association
May 30, 2008
Joseph P. McLaughlin, Jr.
Temple University
Frank R. Baumgartner
The Pennsylvania State University
Building A Comprehensive State Policy Database

- Introducing the PA Project
- The PA Project: A New Approach to Funding Research
- The PA Project: A Model for Comparative Analysis
  - Advantages of the US Policy Agendas and PA Projects
  - The PA Policy Database Compared to the PA State Website
  - The PA Budget Database
  - The PA Project as a Model for Other States
- The PA Project: Potential Research Uses
Introducing the PA Policy Database Project

- The PA project is modeled on the Baumgartner-Jones Policy Agendas project, which allows systematic study of US policy development over long periods of time (1947-2005) and across datasets and policy venues.

- Housed at the University of Washington, the Policy Agendas project allows users to integrate with a few mouse clicks a wide range of public records hierarchically organized into 20 major and more than 200 minor policy topics.

- The PA project largely mirrors the Policy Agendas project with respect to policy codes, datasets, and coding decision rules. It is the first state public policy database built on this model.
A New Approach to Research Funding: Making The Case for State Support

• Unlike other university-based databases, the PA project is funded by the legislature rather than a federal research agency or private foundation.* Benefits to the state include:

  − State policy-makers and aides can more efficiently research recurring issues and previously-tried solutions, avoiding the need to reinvent the wheel. It supplements existing state information-retrieval systems.

  − Integration of government records, news accounts, and opinion data facilitates insights into the underlying causes and politics of issues. Comparability with national database facilitates insights into federal-state policy relationships.

*Virtually all state funds have been used to pay student researchers at the six universities participating in this project (Temple, Penn State University Park, Penn State Harrisburg, the University of Pittsburgh, Carnegie-Mellon University, and the University of Pennsylvania). We gratefully acknowledge enormous cooperation from the General Assembly’s advisory committee and from state archivists and record-keeping centers.
Additional Benefits to State Government

- The project is consistent with public demands for increased transparency in government. It provides staffers and archivists with a new tool to respond to public inquiries. It provides teachers, students, journalists, and citizens with direct web access to comprehensive data about state policy.

- The project provides a central index to different kinds of state records that are housed in decentralized institutional archives, and it provides incentives to upgrade record-keeping efforts.

- It outlines a comprehensible, “no-spin” history of an institution – the legislature – whose policy and “PR” outputs frequently -- and rightly -- reflect partisan debate and conflict but leave the larger institutional story untold.
The US Policy Agendas and PA Projects: Models for Comparative Analysis

• Unlike many government archiving systems, the US and PA projects are built both to facilitate public accessibility and to meet social science standards for comparative research.

• Government archives are generally organized to maximize information retrieval, an important function which PA state government performs well. Records are indexed in multiple categories and depend heavily on key-word search.

• But as a result, they are not organized into consistent categories over time, making it difficult to fully understand the reasons for change and to recognize important patterns and trends. Language changes can “fool” key-word search strategies.
US and PA Projects Provide *Pattern Recognition* and Information Retrieval

- **Comparability Over Time.** The US and PA databases are not "fooled" by changes in administering agencies, legislative operations (e.g., the number or names of committees), budgets, or the language of law or policy.

- **Exclusive and Exhaustive Categories.** The databases file each record in a single policy category but also refer users to related categories and original documents. They avoid double-counting policy activity, allowing measurement of relative attention to competing issues.

- **Comparability Across Venues.** The databases allow researchers to trace policy activity across venues (committee hearings, legislation, executive orders, court decisions, budgets, news accounts, public opinion polling) and across governments.
Extensions of the US Project: The Comparative Agendas Project at Penn State

- Belgium
- England
- Denmark
- European Union
- Germany
- Switzerland
- France
- Canada
- Spain
- Hong Kong
- Italy
- Netherlands

Pennsylvania

Other States?
Comparability Across Data Sets

- **US (1947-2004)**
  - Congressional Hearings
  - Public Laws and Bills
  - Executive Orders
  - State of the Union Addresses
  - US Supreme Court Decisions
  - Federal Budgets
  - *New York Times*
  - *Congressional Quarterly*
  - Gallup Polls

- **PA (1979-2006)**
  - Legislative Hearings
  - Acts, Bills, Resolutions
  - Executive Orders
  - Governors’ Budget Addresses
  - PA Supreme Court Decisions
  - State Budgets
  - Governors’ News Digests
  - *Governing Magazine*
  - State Polls (Keystone)
| Master Topic                                      | Master Us | pa | de | fr | sp | dk | ca | eu | nl | ea | gb |
|--------------------------------------------------|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| General - Education                              | 600       | 600| 600| 600| 600| 600| 600|    |    |    |    |    |
| Higher Education                                 | 601       | 601| 601| 601| 601| 601| 601|    |    |    | 601| 601|
| Elementary and Secondary Education               | 602       | 602| 602| 602| 602| 602| 602|    |    |    | 602| 602|
| Private and religious schools                    | 602       |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    | 608|    |    |
| Relations between public schools and schools with a specific religious "color" | 602       |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    | 605|
| French language education (outside Quebec)       | 602       |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    | 610|
| Education of Underprivileged Students            | 603       | 603| 603| 603| 603| 603| 603|    |    |    | 603| 603|
| Vocational Education                             | 604       | 604| 604| 604| 604| 604| 604| 604|    |    |    | 604|
| Special Education                                | 606       | 606| 606| 606| 606| 606| 606| 606|    |    |    | 606|
| Educational Excellence                           | 607       | 607| 607| 607| 607| 607| 607| 607|    |    |    | 607|
The US Policy Codebook: Major Topics

1  Macroeconomics
2  Civil Rights, Liberties
3  Health
4  Agriculture
5  Labor, Employment, Immigration
6  Education
7  Environment
8  Energy
10 Transportation
12 Law, Crime, Family
13 Social Welfare
14 Community Development
15 Banking, Finance, Commerce
16 Defense
17 Space, Science, Technology, Communications
18 Foreign Trade
19 International Affairs
20 Govt. Operations
21 Public Lands and Water Management
24 State and Local Administration
The Pennsylvania Policy Codebook—Examples of New Minor Topics

- 1212 Probate and Estate Law
- 1213 Property and Real Estate Law
- 1214 State Tort Law and Tort Law Reform
- 1527 Regulation of Services
- Under Major Topic 24, Local Government and Governance
  - 2401 Counties
  - 2402 Municipalities
  - 2403 Governance of Multiple Special Districts, Agencies, or Areas
  - 2404 Local Tax and Revenue Policies
  - 2405 Local Government Debt
Records Are Coded By **Policy Impact**, Not Government Structure...

- HB 1085 of 1999-2000, requiring schools to offer their employees cardiopulmonary training, is in the state database 3 times under “schools” and 3 times under “education.” It was handled by the Education Committees, and the requirement would be administered by the Department of Education. The state database does not file it under health.

- HB 1085 is found once in our database under health (331 health preventive care, including health education in schools).

- In determining a code, students are trained to ask, “Who is this policy trying to help and what kind of problem is it trying to solve,” not what government agency or legislative committee will oversee this policy. HB 1085 aims to help those at risk of heart failure.
The PA Database: Legislative History

- The database will aggregate legislation by policy topic, along with the following information:
  - Party of prime sponsor
  - Primary and secondary committees in each chamber
  - Progress on the floor of each chamber
  - Whether enacted, and if so, act number
  - Whether vetoed, and if so, whether overridden

- In addition to aggregate information, the database will provide researchers with a link to the full text and history of each bill as displayed on the state website.
The General Assembly's website provides access to legislation but not other records (e.g., Governor's budget messages, news reports, Supreme Court decisions, etc.). Users cannot simultaneously compare multiple policy topics (e.g., health and education), nor a single topic over many years. Users interested in education bills might look under E (for education) or S (for schools)…
On the General Assembly’s website, topics are not exclusive and exhaustive; no counts of bills within topics are displayed. Some education bills are found under “EDUCATION;” others are under “SCHOOLS;” some are under both, often listed multiple times. Some education bills are not found under either but have their own topics.
General Assembly
BILL TOPIC INDEX

EDUCATION....

School districts, and county boards of elections, volunteer students, assist district election officers with mandated duties, authorizing (Amend 1949 P.L.430, No.14) HB1758
School districts, buses, operation of, liability for local agencies; "school districts" added to definition of "local agencies," providing for (Amend 42 Pa.C.S.) HB2212
School districts, cardiopulmonary resuscitation instruction, providing for (Amend 1949 P.L.30, No.14) HB1085
School districts, courses of study, social studies curriculum, further providing for (Amend 1949 P.L.30, No.14) HB2102
School districts, police officers, further providing for (Amend 1949 P.L.30, No.14) HB2180 ...

On the General Assembly website, 314 bills are listed under the topic “EDUCATION,” but many are duplicates, including HB 1085, which is listed three times. It is not found under the topic “HEALTH.”
On the General Assembly website, 421 bills are listed under “SCHOOLS,” but once again, many are duplicates. Some overlap with bills listed under “EDUCATION.” Due to a key-word search tool, SB 652, the school code act for 2000, is listed 16 times under “SCHOOLS” and not listed at all under “EDUCATION.”
SCHOOLS...
Buses, safety regulations include medical history of disabled children in case of injury (Amend 75 Pa.C.S.) **SB678**
Buses, seat belts (Amend 75 Pa.C.S.) **SB692**
Buses, seating of students, further providing for (Amend 75 Pa.C.S.) **HB1329**
Cardiopulmonary resuscitation instruction, providing for (Amend 1949 P.L.30, No.14) **HB1085**
Cardiopulmonary resuscitation, prerequisite for teaching certificate (Amend 1949 P.L.30, No.14) **HB1063**
Cardiopulmonary resuscitation training (CPR) class, offered every three years to employees as option (Amend 1949 P.L.30, No.14) **SB332  SB1403** (Act 91, '00)
Charter, establishment and funding, further providing for (Amend 1949 P.L.30, No.14) **HB2617 P.L.30, No.14  SB385**...

HB 1085 is also found three times under the topic “SCHOOLS.” Users cannot readily determine from the PA state website how many education bills there were in 1999 or compare them to, say, health bills.
All records are filed once in exclusive and exhaustive categories. Users can display raw counts of activity across multiple policy topics. By clicking on data in each cell, users can jump to abstracts of all records and, for legislation, to histories and texts of bills in all amended versions.
Percentage measures indicate education generally received more attention than health in 1999. Education accounted for 10% of legislation, 21% of the governor's budget message, 11% of news digest stories, 1% of Supreme Court decisions, and 26% of spending. It was viewed as the most important problem facing PA by 16% of the public.
On the PA Policy Database Website, clicking the cell for 1999 under Health Bills and Resolutions displays the records of all Health bills, including HB 1085.

http://www.legis.state.pa.us/WU01/LI/B1/BH/1999/0/HB1085.htm

Amending the Public School Code of 1949, providing for instruction in cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

Clicking the link above displays HB 1085’s history; it amends the school code and was handled by Education Committees (explaining why the General Assembly lists it under Education):

HB 1085 By Representatives FLICK, STERN, STAIRS, BASTIAN, BROWNE...
An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, providing for instruction in cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

- Referred to EDUCATION, March 24, 1999
- Reported as amended, April 19, 1999
- First consideration, April 19, 1999
- Laid on the table, April 19, 1999
- Removed from table, June 8, 1999
- Re-referred to APPROPRIATIONS, June 8, 1999
- Re-reported as amended, Feb. 14, 2000
- Second consideration, Feb. 14, 2000
- Third consideration and final passage, March 14, 2000 (194-0)
  - In the Senate
- Referred to EDUCATION, March 21, 2000...

PA Policy database users can then go directly to the bill text...
SENATE AMENDED
PRIOR PRINTER'S NOS. 1231, 1525, 2981    PRINTER'S NO. 4184

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL  No. 1085 Session of 1999

INTRODUCED BY FLICK, STERN, STAIRS, BASTIAN, BROWNE...
LaGROTTO AND BELFANTI, MARCH 24, 1999

SENATOR RHOADES, EDUCATION, IN SENATE, AS AMENDED,
NOVEMBER 14, 2000

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), entitled "An
2 act relating to the public school system, including certain
3 provisions applicable as well to private and parochial
4 schools; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the
5 laws relating thereto," providing school lunch and school
6 breakfast reimbursement payments from the Commonwealth. FOR
7 INSTRUCTION IN CARDIOPULMONARY RESUSCITATION.

8 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
9 hereby enacts as follows:
10 Section 1. The act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known
11 as the Public School Code of 1949, is amended by adding a
12 section to read:
13 Section 1337.1. School Lunch and Breakfast Reimbursement.--
14 The Commonwealth shall reimburse each school offering a school

1 lunch or school breakfast program, or both, ten cents (10¢) per
2 meal served for the 2000-2001 school year and every year
3 thereafter. For the purposes of this section "school" shall have
4 the same meaning as given to that word in 7 CFR 210.2 (relating
5 to definitions).
6 SECTION 1205.4. CPR INSTRUCTION.--(A) SCHOOL ENTITIES SHALL
7 BE REQUIRED TO OFFER A CARDIOPULMONARY RESUSCITATION TRAINING
8 (CPR) CLASS ON SCHOOL PREMISES AT LEAST ONCE EVERY THREE YEARS.
9 THE COURSE SHALL BE OFFERED AS AN OPTION TO ALL EMPLOYEES OF THE
10 SCHOOL ENTITY....
## Detailed Records for Education

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Governor</th>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Sentence</th>
<th>Code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4811</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1999</td>
<td>Ridge</td>
<td>PA House Legislative Journal</td>
<td>We begin at the very beginning, even before our children go to school, with a new approach to preschool learning called CyberStart.</td>
<td>602</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4812</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1999</td>
<td>Ridge</td>
<td>PA House Legislative Journal</td>
<td>We will partner with parents, day-care centers, and educators to link 4,000 childcare centers to the internet, to harness its educational power for preschoolers.</td>
<td>607</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4814</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1999</td>
<td>Ridge</td>
<td>PA House Legislative Journal</td>
<td>In our effort to make technology education a priority after school, we introduce with this budget our SCITECH Scholars Program.</td>
<td>601</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PA Policy Database users can display other records in the same way. Users will be able to download all datasets.
Legislative history filters will display only bills signed into law, only bills defeated in floor votes, only bills never reported from primary committees, etc., across policy types and over many years.
The PA Budget Project

- The PA project will provide for Pennsylvania and for all 50 states from 1979 to the present:
  - All spending from all funds of the government* in real and current dollars organized into the same codes as other database policy records;
  - As a measure of state fiscal condition, general fund resources, expenditures, and year-end balances as forecast and as realized in real and current dollars;
  - As another measure of fiscal condition, bond ratings of the general fund.

*As reported to the US Bureau of the Census. Our thanks to Henry Wulf and Christopher Pece and their colleagues at Census for extraordinary cooperation in our efforts to reorganize these data.
Project Innovations: Computer-Assisted Coding, News Digest Reports, and Westlaw Abstracts

- The project is experimenting with the computer-assisted coding of records using the approach validated for the US Policy Agendas database. The goal is to achieve similar levels of consistency as achieved by manual coders at half the cost.

- The project codes a random sample (58,000) of articles in governors’ daily news digests to measure government attention to press reporting and opinion.

- Westlaw has generously granted the project a license to use and code its abstracts of PA Supreme Court decisions, providing the only free index of such decisions.
## Processing Records

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Records</th>
<th>Inventory</th>
<th>Completed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Legislation</td>
<td>75,326</td>
<td>34,862</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legislative Hearings</td>
<td>5,880</td>
<td>420</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>News clips</td>
<td>58,000</td>
<td>16,736*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Govern</em>ing* Articles</td>
<td>5,215</td>
<td>5,215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive Orders</td>
<td>212</td>
<td>212</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Budget Addresses</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>26**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polls (Years)</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Budgets (All-Fund Spending)</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Fund Status</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supreme Court cases</td>
<td>3,631</td>
<td>340***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legislative Studies</td>
<td>555</td>
<td>00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* More than 40,000 news clips have been abstracted; 16,736 have been coded.

** 7,655 sentences and phrases have been coded.

*** All 3,631 cases have been double-coded but coder disagreements are not yet resolved.
The PA Project As A Model for Other States: What PA Will Share

- The PA policy codebook is a model for other states. It and other project information are at www.temple.edu/papolicy.
- The fiscal database includes all 50 states.
- Coded Governing article abstracts are relevant for 50 states.
- Web-tool architecture will be fully documented and when fully constructed will be shared with other states.
- Computerized coding, if successful, should be useful for all 50 states.
- Westlaw may be willing to grant similar licenses for other state Supreme Court cases.
- PA will share lessons learned with other states.
Potential Research Uses

• Case studies: Because of its demographic and institutional complexity, PA may serve as a “hard” or “crucial case” for carefully constructed studies of state politics and policy.*

• Policy change: Does PA track US patterns of policy change? Are specific kinds of policy responses associated with state fiscal surpluses or state fiscal stress? As a unitary government, does PA resemble European governments in common policy areas, such as education and local government powers?

Potential Research Uses

- Institutional dynamics: Which branch prevails in executive-legislative contests in the Supreme Court? Do governors’ budget messages influence the legislature’s policy outputs?

- Federalism: Did federal or state government lead in specific policies (e.g., welfare reform in the 1990s, nuclear power policy after Three Mile Island)? Do state legislative petitions affect Congressional outputs or voting?

- Policy diffusion: Does PA lead or follow other states in policy innovation (10 Issues to Watch in *Governing Magazine*)?
Potential Research Uses

- Public opinion: To what extent do PA policy makers lead or follow public opinion? Lead or follow press agendas?

- Elections: Do PA policy and budget outputs differ in gubernatorial vs. non-gubernatorial election years? Legislative vs. non-legislative election years?

- Legislative theory: How different are policy outputs under PA Democrats versus Republicans? What is the relative influence of “control” committees in the PA legislature vs. the Congress? Are PA conference committees principals or agents? Do PA bill introductions foreshadow policy change?
Project Limitations: Some Examples

- Some datasets are not as thick, complete, or continuous as are available in the US Policy Agendas Project. For example:
  - Polling data are available only from 1992 and not on a quarterly basis.
  - Senate legislative hearings records are not complete.
  - PA project does not include roll calls, lobbying data, other variables.

- US Census spending data are allocated only to major topics; about 11 percent of state spending could not be allocated.*

- Policy is often multi-dimensional; some coding decisions are contestable (but users are guided as to where else to look).

*Census is unable to allocate about 4 percent of state spending to its functional codes.
Potential Project Extensions Through Common or Cross-Walked Coding

• An Example: The Policy Agendas database, which did not include roll data when constructed, has now attached Poole-Rosenthal roll-call values to congressional bills back to 1947.

• The PA project is open to incorporating into our database publicly available work by others (e.g., Gerald Wright on roll calls, Keith Hamm on committees, Gerald Gamm on urban delegations, Paul Brace on state courts, etc.).

• Given exploding interest in state politics and policy data, should we explore common or cross-walked coding systems?
The Pennsylvania Policy Database Project

• "Your project is exactly what I wished had existed in my case study states. There was a paucity of print sources available, and it was very difficult to track down basic information about bill progression. I spent hours in each of these state's archives and came away frustrated... Now that I know what you are developing in Pennsylvania, I will keep that state on my radar screen." --University of Massachusetts professor

• "I have wanted a resource like this for years.”
  -- Senior legislative aide, PA General Assembly
The Pennsylvania Policy Database Project

• “Most state online systems replicate what you get in paper. They are notoriously hard to use. It is difficult to get an integrated picture...hard to connect the dots. You cannot justify investment in digitizing records unless you deal with public accessibility. I am very interested in what Pennsylvania is doing for that reason....It is a different approach than I have seen anywhere else...”

  Robert Horton, Minnesota state archivist and director of *Preserving the Records of the E-Legislature*, a Library of Congress-funded national project to promote preservation of, and public access to, state legislative records.