

USANEWS IN BRIEF



JANUARY 2009

ISSUE 2



The presidential inauguration is the official day that the President of the United States is sworn into office. The purpose of this inauguration is to honor the incoming president with formal ceremonies, including: a Presidential Swearing-in Ceremony, an Inaugural Address, and an Inaugural Parade.

The inauguration will take place on January 20, 2009 in Washington D.C. on the steps of the United States Capitol. President-elect Barack Obama will take the

oath of office, which states the following:

"I do solemnly swear that I will faithfully execute the office of the President of the United States, and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States."

Vice President-elect Joe Biden will have already taken a similar oath.

The Presidential Inaugural Committee is in charge of planning and executing the

inauguration of our 44th president, Barack Obama.

To find more information please visit their website. The Presidential Inaugural Committee is a separate committee from the Obama-Biden Transition Project.



BARACK OBAMA: 44TH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Overview of the Inauguration

2009 Presidential Transition:

George W. Bush to Barack Obama



Inaugural Addresses:

George Washington to George W. Bush



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

I refuse to accept the view that mankind is so tragically bound to the starless midnight of racism and war that the bright daybreak of peace and brotherhood can never become a reality.

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.,

Nobel Prize Acceptance Speech (PDF)

December 10, 1964.

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., twentieth-century America's most compelling and effective civil rights leader, was born on **January 15, 1929**, in Atlanta, Georgia. After entering Morehouse College at age fifteen, King followed his father and grandfather into the Baptist ministry. He received a bachelor of divinity from Crozer Theological Seminary in 1951 and a Ph.D from Boston University in 1955.

King entered the civil rights movement in 1955. A young, newly married pastor of a Montgomery, Alabama church, he was asked to lead a bus boycott aimed at ending segregation of public transport in Montgomery.

The boycott, initiated by **Rosa Parks'** refusal to surrender her bus seat to a white passenger, lasted over a year and resulted in the desegregation of the city's busses.

A founder of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, King advocated non-violent action as a means of lifting racial oppression. **Sit-ins**, marches, and peaceful demonstrations highlighted issues of inequality. The commitment and moral integrity of activists who remained calm in the face of violent opposition inspired national admiration. Jailed during an Alabama campaign to abolish segregated lunch counters, King delineated his philosophy of non-violence in the now famous "Letter From the Birmingham Jail."

On August 28, 1963, King participated in the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. From the steps of the **Lincoln Memorial**, he delivered his famous "**I Have A Dream (PDF)**" speech, to a crowd of 250,000. An eloquent call to

action, the speech emphasized his belief that the movement would create a society in which character, rather than color, prevailed.

In December 1964, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. Labor leader A. Philip Randolph sent a congratulatory telegram praising King's "brilliant and matchless leadership." King responded with a **letter** emphasizing the prize as "an award for the whole civil rights movement and its dedicated leaders" and urging it "inspire all of us to work a little harder and with more determination to make the American Dream a reality."

On April 4, 1968, while in **Memphis, Tennessee** supporting a strike by the city's sanitation workers, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King was assassinated as he stood on the balcony of his hotel. Just thirty-nine years old, he left a wife, Coretta Scott King, and four young children.

(Courtesy of Library of Congress)

From Slavery to Civil Rights:

A timeline of African-American History

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Each branch of the federal government exercises specific powers:

The **legislative branch** is Congress, in which authorities and responsibilities are divided between the Senate, where each state has equal representation, and the House of Representatives, where the size of state delegations is based on population. Only Congress can enact laws; only Congress can levy taxes; and only Congress can authorize spending of federal funds.



The **judicial branch** consists of the Supreme Court, the nation's highest court, and federal district courts and courts of appeal. Courts make findings of fact, set procedures, interpret laws and determine whether laws violate the Constitution -- a power known as judicial review, which restricts the powers of the legislative and executive branches.



The **executive branch** implements laws and coordinates defense. The president is assisted by an elected vice president, the Cabinet and other officials. Laws must be signed by the president to take effect. If the president chooses to reject (veto) a bill, a two-thirds majority vote in Congress can override that veto. Only the executive branch can negotiate treaties.



**CIVIL RIGHTS
THE OBAMA-BIDEN
PLAN**

BARACK OBAMA HAS SPENT MUCH OF HIS CAREER FIGHTING TO STRENGTHEN CIVIL RIGHTS AS A CIVIL RIGHTS ATTORNEY, COMMUNITY ORGANIZER, ILLINOIS STATE SENATOR AND U.S. SENATOR. WHETHER PROMOTING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY, WORKING TO IMPROVE OUR NATION'S EDUCATION AND HEALTH SYSTEM, OR PROTECTING THE RIGHT TO VOTE, OBAMA HAS BEEN A POWERFUL ADVOCATE FOR OUR CIVIL RIGHTS.

Inauguration Celebrates Continuity of Democracy

When Barack Obama takes the oath of office, it will be the 56th swearing in of a U.S. president since 1789, when George Washington took the same oath.

During that period, eight presidents died in office and one resigned; each time, the vice president took the same oath,

and completed the four-year term.

Many inaugural events have been added during the past 220 years, but the steps that the president-elect follows to take the constitutionally mandated

oath of office, the central event of the inauguration, are essentially unchanged. [Read more...](#)



Quick Facts

Franklin D. Roosevelt, January 20, 1945

First and only time a president was inaugurated for a fourth term (The 22nd Amendment to the Constitution, ratified in 1951, restricts a president to two terms.)

President Truman's inauguration was the first to be televised.-January 20, 1949



President Clinton's second inauguration was the first broadcast on the Internet.-January 20, 1997



Did you Know?



The lag between election and inauguration poses challenges to effective governance but gives the new president time to prepare for his administration. [Read more...](#)



In U.S. politics, the losing political party continues to play an important role in government despite its defeat as the polls. [Read more...](#)

The WIPO Copyright Treaty (WCT) requires member countries to recognize certain exclusive rights designed for activity that takes place over new digital communications networks like the Internet.

[Read more...](#)



eJournal USA

U.S. Presidential Transitions

We often read or hear about turmoil before, during, or after elections around the world. An important characteristic of democracy in the United States, however, is the regularly recurring peaceful transfer of power from one president to the next.



Americans know when the next presidential election will take place – the Tuesday after the first Monday in November every four years. And power will be transferred to the newly elected (or re-elected) president on January 20 of the following year.

[Inside this publication](#)

Choosing a Career

This edition of eJournal USA rambles down the many varied paths that Americans take on their way to find their life's work. Professionals in various fields explain how they got there, and some wrong turns they made along the way. Experts describe how young people can weigh and explore the options before them.



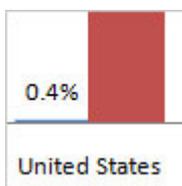
[Inside this publication](#)

2008: The Year the Fed Steamed into Uncharted Waters

U.S. central bank reinvents itself in response to an unparalleled crisis

Extraordinary policies pursued by the Federal Reserve to jump-start credit markets and stimulate economic activity may define the U.S. central bank's role in the economy for years to come, according to analysts.

[Read more...](#)

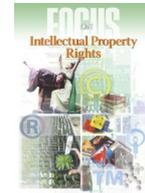
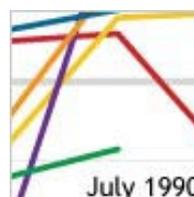


Spending Vs. Saving

In the United States, consumer spending makes up just more than 70 percent of gross domestic product, which measures a nation's economy. The U.S. savings rate is the lowest in the world. Here's a look at how U.S. spending and savings compare with other large economies.

U.S. Recessions End With Consumer Spending

There have been six recessions in the United States since 1970. Every recession ends with renewed growth in consumer spending. The two recessions before the current one were short and shallow. (In 2001, spending never fell.)



ESSAYS BY GOVERNMENT, ACADEMIC, AND INDUSTRY

EXPERTS INTRODUCE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS ISSUES AND KEY CONCEPTS – PATENTS, TRADEMARKS, COPYRIGHTS, TRADE SECRETS, AND NEW FORMS OF IP. ARTICLES ALSO EXPLAIN WHY COUNTRIES NEED EFFECTIVE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY SYSTEMS, AND WHAT GOVERNMENTS IN EACH REGION ARE DOING TO ENFORCE IPR. INCLUDES A GLOSSARY OF IP TERMS, A LIST OF PRINT AND INTERNET IP RESOURCES, AND A SEPARATE RESOURCE LIST FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS.

[VIEW PDF \(4.38 MB\)](#)

English Teaching Corner

Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)



THE TOEFL® TEST IS THE MOST WIDELY ACCEPTED ENGLISH-LANGUAGE TEST IN THE WORLD. NO MATTER WHERE YOU WANT TO STUDY, THE TOEFL TEST CAN HELP GET YOU THERE.

TOEFL measures the ability of nonnative speakers of English to use and understand North American English as it is spoken, written and heard in college and university settings. TOEFL's site includes a registration center, sample questions, test preparation tips, worldwide locations of test centers and other information about the TOEFL.



Educator's Reference Desk

Offers links to 3,000 resources on a variety of educational issues, lesson plans, a question archive and the ERIC database.



U.S. Network for Education Information. Studying in the United States
(Department of Education)

A national information and referral service to assist American educators, students, and parents with access to reliable information about international education.

Education Statistics / Fast Facts

Do you have any information on family reading to young children?

Children whose parents read to them tend to become better readers and perform better in school (Snow, Burns, and Griffin 1998). Other family activities such as telling stories and singing songs also encourage children's acquisition of literacy skills (Moss and Fawcett 1995).

[Read more...](#)

How does the United States compare in labor force outcomes of education?

In all of the G-8 countries reporting data, adults with a relatively low level of education (i.e., those whose highest educational attainment is at the lower secondary level or below) tended to have lower income levels.

[Read more...](#)

What are the literacy levels of adults, and how does the United States compare to other countries?

Adults age 16 or older were assessed in three types of literacy (prose, document, and quantitative) in 1992 and 2003. Literacy is defined as "using printed and written information to function in society, to achieve one's goals, and to develop one's knowledge and potential." [Read more...](#)

The Quote of the Month

"IF CHILDREN GREW UP ACCORDING TO EARLY INDICATIONS, WE SHOULD HAVE NOTHING BUT GENIUSES."- JOHANN WOLFGANG VON GOETHE

More Resources for Students and Teachers...

USA Study Guide

The Guide's professional staff specializes in matching qualified international students from around the world with US schools. It offers information on admissions, life in the USA, immigration, financing, a school search function, and more.



Frequently Asked Questions About Studying in the U.S.

Transforming Research?

Wikipedia ranks among the 10 most-frequented sites on the Internet and boasts more than 13 million articles in 250 languages. *America.gov* examines the arguments for and against the online encyclopedia.

Library Corner

If you are interested in receiving full-text of the following articles, just send an email to:

reflisbon@state.gov

Managing Libraries for Multilingualism: Using the Web for Non-English Language Retrieval and Translation

Patrick M Valentine. Library Administration & Management. Fall 2008. Vol. 22, Iss. 4; p. 199 (7 pages)

Nowadays, information literacy

requires a commitment to providing computer services by way of the Internet, as well as access to print resources for all library clients, including limited English-speaking patrons...

Best Books 2008

Library Journal. New York: Dec 15, 2008. Vol. 133, Iss. 20; p. 62 (1 page)

Library Journal's Best Books list for 2008 is presented.

Putting the LIBRARY in WIKIPEDIA

Lauren Pressley, Carolyn J McCallum. Online. Medford: Sep/Oct 2008. Vol. 32, Iss. 5; p. 39 (4 pages)

Few online resources provoke as much controversy in the library community as Wikipedia. Some librarians hate it, arguing that since anyone can edit it, it can't be trusted. Others love it, because it is fast, easy to use, and a good starting point for research....

FROM WHAT

SOURCES ARE STATE LIBRARIES FUNDED?

SOURCES OF STATE LIBRARY AGENCY REVENUE ARE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, STATE GOVERNMENTS, AND OTHER SOURCES, SUCH AS LOCAL, REGIONAL, OR MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL SOURCES. STATE LIBRARY AGENCIES MAY ALSO RECEIVE INCOME FROM PRIVATE SOURCES, SUCH AS FOUNDATIONS, CORPORATIONS, FRIENDS OF LIBRARIES GROUPS, AND INDIVIDUALS. STATE LIBRARY AGENCIES MAY ALSO GENERATE REVENUE THROUGH FEES FOR SERVICE OR FINES. REVENUE MAY BE DESIGNATED FOR AID TO LIBRARIES, FOR THE CURRENT AND RECURRENT COSTS NECESSARY FOR THE PROVISION OF SERVICES BY THE STATE LIBRARY AGENCIES, OR OTHER PURPOSES.

[READ MORE...](#)

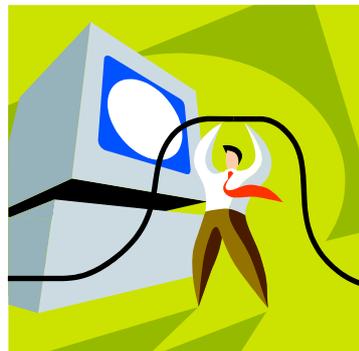
American Library Association News



Pew Study: Internet Creating Information "Hunger"

Can you hear that knocking? It's opportunity, and it's at the library door, according to a [recently released study](#) from the Pew Internet & American Life Project, which found that an increasing percentage of Americans are using public libraries. Although most Americans turn to the Internet first, the executive summary notes, there they often find they

must "negotiate a bewildering bunch of information sources." Notably, the study found that 40 percent of "Generation Y," (age 19-29) the generation that cut their teeth in the web era, said they use libraries for their information needs, double the number of library users from the previous generation.



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EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES
LISBON • PORTUGAL



**LATEST HEADLINES
FROM THE EMBASSY**



U.S. Ambassador Climbs to the Top of 80-Meter Wind Tower

On December 15, U.S. Ambassador to Portugal, Thomas F. Stephenson, along with his Senior Commercial Officer, Dillon Banerjee, and Public Affairs Officer, Wes Carrington, were given an "insiders" tour of an industrial wind turbine by Martifer Energy Systems. Earlier this year, Martifer announced a \$40 million investment to construct a wind tower manufacturing facility in San Angelo, Texas. ([more](#))



Working Together on Climate Change

by Ambassador Thomas F. Stephenson
This month's UN climate change conference in Poznan marks the mid-way point of the Action Plan agreed at Bali in December 2007 by Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. ([full text](#))

The IRC is your information key!

The Resource Center is part of the Office of Public Affairs and assists the Embassy staff as well as Portuguese government institutions, the private sector, NGO's, the media, researchers, scholars, and others with a serious research interest in the United States.

Hours of Operation

- The AERC provides telephone service every day between 8:30 and 17:00 except during: Lunch Hour (12:30 - 13:30), weekends, **Portuguese/American Holidays**
- AERC also responds to queries by fax, telephone, e-mail and regular mail.
- Access to our facility is by appointment only. Please call us in advance to schedule your visit.

Latest Reports - If you are interested in receiving full text of the following reports, just send an email to: reflisbon@state.gov

LIVING AND LEARNING WITH NEW MEDIA: SUMMARY OF FINDINGS FROM THE DIGITAL YOUTH PROJECT. John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. November 2008.

REPORT: READING FIRST IMPACTS INSTRUCTION OF STRUGGLING READERS. U.S. Department of Education. November 2008.

EDUCATIONALLY/INSUFFICIENT? Children Now. November 2008.

GLOBAL TRENDS 2025: A TRANSFORMED WORLD. National Intelligence Council. November 2008.

IMMIGRATION AND THE MACROECONOMY. Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta. Federico S. Mandelman and Andrei Zlate. November 2008.

RECORD HIGH NUMBER OF AMERICAN STUDENTS STUDYING ABROAD, INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

AT U.S. COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES. U.S. Department of State. November 17, 2008.

WINDS OF POLITICAL CHANGE HAVEN'T SHIFTED PUBLIC'S IDEOLOGY BALANCE. Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. Juliana Horowitz. November 25, 2008.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM TIMSS 2007: MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE ACHIEVEMENT OF U.S. FOURTH- AND EIGHTH-GRADE STUDENTS IN AN INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT. National Center for Education Statistics. December 2008.

MEASURING UP 2008: THE NATIONAL REPORT CARD ON HIGHER EDUCATION. National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education. Web posted December 3, 2008.

ECONOMIC GLOBALIZATION: A CHALLENGE FOR OFFICIAL STATISTICS. United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. Web posted December 7, 2008.

WORLD REPORT ON CHILD INJURY PREVENTION. World Health Organization. Web posted December 10, 2008.

NATIONAL DRUG THREAT ASSESSMENT: 2009. National Drug Intelligence Center, U.S. Department of Justice. December 16, 2008.

ANNUAL ENERGY OUTLOOK 2009: EARLY RELEASE. Energy Information Administration. December 17, 2008.

STATISTICAL ABSTRACT OF THE UNITED STATES: 2009. U.S. Census Bureau. December 17, 2008.

ABRUPT CLIMATE CHANGE. U.S. Climate Change Science Program and the Subcommittee on Global Change Research. December 19, 2008.

UNIVERSITY-PRIVATE SECTOR RESEARCH PARTNERSHIPS IN THE INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM. President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology. Web posted January 7, 2009.