

IRC NEWSLETTER

U.S. Embassy, Brasilia

June, 2013

MUITO OBRIGADA, BRASIL!!!



“As I prepare to depart from the U.S. Embassy Brasília, I will take with me many wonderful memories of all of the people I have met, as well as the many excellent libraries, schools and universities I have visited here in Brazil. There is clearly an enormous effort on the part of Brazilians to improve education in this country—through the resources and institutions available to children, students, faculty, and the general public today. I have given dozens of presentations about libraries in the U.S. over the past two years, and while I believe that Brazil may be able to learn something from current trends in U.S. libraries, we can also learn much from our

Brazilian colleagues.

The Science Without Borders initiative is definitely a groundbreaking effort, sending thousands of Brazilian college students abroad to study—many to the U.S. And, the 2010 Brazilian law that calls for a school library in every school (and, by interpretation, a school librarian) is definitely revolutionary and one that can serve as a model for many nations around the world.

I hope that you will stay in touch with me as I move to my next post in Washington, D.C. where I will work in the American Spaces Office, coordinating field support and training for our Information Resource Officers around the world. I can be reached by email: Brey-CasianoCA@state.gov or you can find me on Facebook! And, whatever information you should need about the U.S., don't forget to contact one of our Information Resource Centers in Brasília, Rio de Janeiro, or São Paulo.”

Cordialmente, Carol Brey-Casiano. Information Resource Officer

TRENDING TOPICS!

4TH OF JULY

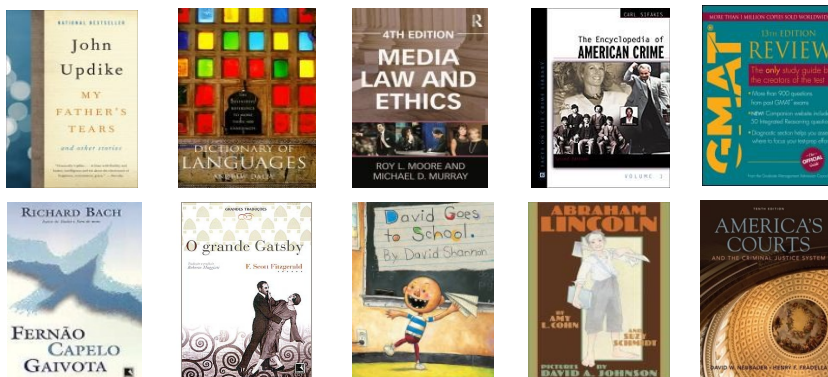
Independence Day, commonly known as the **Fourth of July**, is a federal holiday in the United States commemorating the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, declaring independence from the Britain. More:

- * [Fourth \(of July\) and Main Streets](#)
- * [Destination America](#)
- * [U.S. Holidays: Independence Day](#)
- * [Discover This Land Like Never Before](#)
- * [USA Landscapes: From Sea to Shining Sea](#)
- * [American Landscapes: A Fourth of July Tribute](#)
- * [The Fourth of July: Celebrating U.S. Independence Day](#)
- * [PD Toolkit](#)

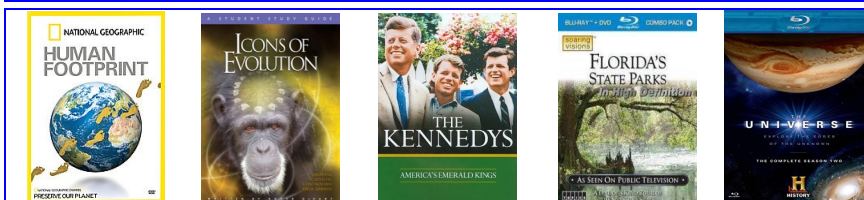
COLLECTION HIGHLIGHTS!

ALL THE MATERIALS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE IRC!!

BOOKS



BLU-RAYS/DVDS



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COLLECTION HIGHLIGHTS!

MAGAZINES



ARTICLE ALERT

Greenblatt, Alan. **Free speech at risk: will it survive government repression?** CQ Researcher, v. 23, Issue 16, Apr. 2013.

Governments around the globe have been weakening free-speech protections because of concerns about security or offending religious believers. After a phone-hacking scandal erupted in the British press and Muslims worldwide violently protested images in the Western media of the Prophet Muhammad, European nations enacted new restrictions on hate speech, and Britain is considering limiting press freedom. Autocratic regimes increasingly are jailing journalists and political dissidents or simply buying media companies to use them for propaganda and to negate criticism. Muslim countries are adopting and rigidly enforcing blasphemy laws, some of which carry the death penalty.

Cukier, Kenneth; Mayer-Schoenberger, Viktor. **The rise of big data: how it's changing the way we think about the world.** Foreign Affairs, v. 92, Number 3, May/June. 2013.

Everyone knows that the Internet has changed how businesses operate, governments function, and people live. But a new, less visible technological trend is just as transformative: big data. Big data starts with the fact that there is a lot more information floating around these days than ever before, and it is being put to extraordinary new uses. Big data is about more than just communication: the idea is that people can learn from a large body of information things that they could not comprehend when they used only smaller amounts. Big data is meant to inform, rather than explain; it points toward understanding, but it can still lead to misunderstanding, depending on how well it is wielded.

Wall Street is back: a special report on international banking. The Economist, v. 407, Number 8835, May 2013.

For a few tense weeks in 2008, as investment-bank executives huddled behind the imposing doors of the New York Federal Reserve, Wall Street seemed to be collapsing around them. Hank Paulson, the treasury secretary at the time, recalled in his memoir that: Lose Stanley and Goldman Sachs would be next in line--if they fell the financial system might vaporise. Across the Atlantic, European politicians saw this as the timely comeuppance of American capitalism. European banks saw the crisis as their chance to get one up on the American banks that had long dominated international finance. Almost five years on it is Europe's banks that are on their knees and Wall Street that is resurgent. One of the reasons that American banks are doing better is that they took the pain, and dealt with it, faster.

TRENDING TOPICS!

CONX - JUNE 27



Tips For Entrepreneurs to Reach Global and Local Markets via Social Media

When: Thursday, June 27, 2013
07:00 EDT (11:00 UTC)

Where: Live Webchat URL: <https://conx.state.gov/entrepreneurship>

Description: How can social media can be used as a marketing tool to help you expand your business? Whether you are a business owner with products sold globally or an entrepreneur looking to secure a customer base locally, you can capitalize on the marketing potential of social media if you know how to use it effectively. Join a live Q&A featuring Emily Wilson, Director of Ad Management for Social-Code, a marketing company which works with clients to find innovative ways to employ social media to target potential and existing customers. Zeenat Rahman, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry's Special Adviser on Global Youth Issues, will moderate the discussion.

Format: This program will be a live video webchat in **English**. Please click on the URL above to participate.

URL: <https://conx.state.gov/>

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