

STATEMENT BEFORE THE PUBLIC HEARING ON THE REPORT  
OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS ON THE CURRENT STATE OF  
AMERICAN TELEVISION AND VIDEO PRESERVATION

(Tuesday, March 26, 1996, Washington, D.C.)

Martin Gaston  
Visual Education Information and Research, Inc  
The News Library

**Introduction**

Let me first begin by thanking Southwest Airlines for bringing me here today. As important as these hearings are to our project and to the public at large, the innate financial fragility we currently face placed us into a difficult decision of having to choose between paying for our videotapes for the next month or paying for airfare to be here today. With the gracious assistance of Southwest Airlines, I am able to do both.

Secondly, I wish to thank the Library of Congress for allowing my family the opportunity to speak today and for conducting these proceedings with the goal of preserving that which is truly Americana - the nation's film and video history.

I am here today on behalf of a new non-profit company and subsequent public library system that my family and I have created, known simply as The News Library System. These News Libraries are providing an infinite amount of current and historical information to the benefit of school students, teachers, scholars, researchers, universities, corporations, governmental offices, medical centers, etc., by allowing people to quickly access audiovisual news information relevant to their specific needs.

My family has been recording, indexing and archiving daily audiovisual news programming for nearly twenty years. Our collection of over 70,000 videotapes is estimated to contain over 300,000 hours of news information encompassing well over 3,000,000 different stories covering literally an infinite amount of subject matter.

Our founder and patriarch, Joe Allen Gaston, was an award winning news reporter and cameraman for ABC, NBC and CBS networks and affiliates throughout Texas. After winning multiple Headliner of the Year Awards, as well as UPI and AP Newsfilm Awards, he realized that the news and information being broadcast each night across the nation was not being stored and archived by anyone, often not even by the local broadcaster themselves. Joe Gaston knew that meant losing a unique educational and historical perspective of our culture, so he began accumulating his special collection in 1979 to address this issue. He continued logging, indexing, recording and archiving daily audiovisual news programs until his death in 1990, and my family and I have carried on the enormous task of maintaining this educational and historical collection right up through today.

A recent Roper Poll discovered that over 81% of Americans receive most of their daily news and information, and amazingly, over 51% of Americans receive all of their daily news and information from evening television news broadcasts. Yet, should someone be away from their television set during these broadcasts, there is not a single location in the world today where the public has free access to the very information that they so heavily rely upon for their daily supply of current news and knowledge.

There is a virtual wealth of information being broadcast to the world with literally no one logging, cataloging and archiving this information for access by the general public. In an October 3, 1991, speech on the Senate floor, Senator Orin Hatch stated, "...broadcast

news has unprecedented and nearly limitless influence over public opinion. News programming is, however, as ephemeral as it is powerful - it vanishes once it is aired."<sup>1</sup> More often than not, the broadcasting stations themselves are not archiving their broadcasts due to cost restraints associated with maintaining a reserve of this nature; it is simply not cost effective. It is a shame that what can only be called "Visual History" is currently not being treated as such.

The national commitment to broadcast news and to the access of information therein is permanent. Therefore, the commitment to its archival and preservation for later public research and dissemination must be addressed.

The broadcast news information industry is one of the few, if not only, information providers in the United States that does not have a full service public library system responsible for its indexing, cataloging, archival, preservation and dissemination. Existing libraries are neither equipped nor trained properly to undertake such an enormous daily task. Public requests for research and educational access cannot be met because of limited resources and minimal expertise in this field.

Thus, my family has created and opened the Joe A. Gaston Memorial Broadcast News Library System, with initial branches in Dallas and Houston, Texas.

### **The News Library**

The News Library is a research and educational collection. It is a not-for-profit service available to anyone having need of the information for purposes of reference, research

---

<sup>1</sup>Congressional Record - Senate, October 3, 1991, re: S. 1805

and review. Patrons agree not to rebroadcast material from the News Library and not to duplicate it in any respect. All audiovisual information must be checked out and is on loan only. All visitors are able to check out anything they wish for a period not to exceed ninety days. Not unlike existing libraries, ours is designed to provide true public access to the collections we maintain.

The goals of our News Library System are simple and direct. We seek -

- To provide for the dissemination of broadcasted information to the public;
- To provide an historical and visual archive of local, national and international issues and images;
- To create an environment in which news broadcasting is fully appreciated;
- To enlighten children on the value and importance of news broadcasting as an instructional tool for education; and,
- To provide access to television news broadcasts from around the world so people can remain "in touch" with their homelands, regions, cultures or heritage.

Our mission statement was established to honor the collection we maintain. It reads:

The News Library System strives to be the preeminent repository of news broadcasting while providing for the dissemination and preservation of broadcast information within a responsive, stimulating and enlightening environment conducive to learning and research.

The collection we maintain grows daily with the airing of each day's news and events. We have only one collection policy - that of recording and archiving all the news we can. We believe that it is impossible to filter or select news information today for the future users of tomorrow. No one can tell what news of today will be important to someone years or decades from now. Thus, we capture and archive all we can.

We record on 1/2 inch VHS videotapes and are very deliberate about the storage and maintenance procedures for the collection. Air temperatures, humidity and purity are all monitored. Tapes are rewound annually and dusted weekly. We strive to do all we can to keep each newscast and its storage medium alive for as long as possible.

Our collection is indexed and cataloged using a specialized system of coding that we have developed over the years. Stories are paraphrased and summarized, not transcribed. Each is coded by subject matter and its length is also noted. We can search by subject, channel, date, time, name, word, etc., providing the ability to truly use the collection as a reference tool for education and research.

### **Patrons and the Public Use**

The ability to learn from the news is overwhelming. I would invite anyone here to recollect a significant news-making event; any event they wish. I propose that unless you were an eyewitness to that event, your recollection, and in fact, your predominant memory of it altogether, was formulated by broadcast news, either radio or television.

As we began to develop the idea of creating this type of a library, the public certainly had a say in our decisions. The testimonials that follow are but a small sample of the multitude of requests and appreciative correspondence which aided in our decision to pursue the creation of The News Library System. I would like to read a couple of these now:

Letter One - Cypress Fairbanks Independent School District

Letter Two - To be Announced

Additional letters are appended to this testimony and all demonstrate the public demand for a library of this nature.

### **Plans and Problems**

Our dedication to the preservation and dissemination of broadcast information is steadfast. We desire to create a library environment with Children Centers and school field trips, artifact exhibits, lecture series programs, a Broadcast News Hall of Fame and a "People's Choice" annual newscasting award banquet. All of which is designed to create an environment in which news broadcasting is fully appreciated and preserved in the public realm.

But a lot stands between us and our goals. Foremost of these is the problem of deteriorating tapes. The reproduction of our earliest master tapes has become a priority for our project and money is the underlying restraint. The systematic reproduction of our

master tapes requires capital that we do not have, yet greatly require. Alongside of the problem of failing tapes is the problem that for every tape we lose, we are adding three additional tapes. Space is as important a concern for us as is the replacement of our earliest master tapes. We estimate that we will outgrow our current facilities within the year and will require substantially larger spaces at that time. These are the two most pressing issues we face today.

Also troublesome is the need to reorganize our research database to provide a unified and complete research collection. The coding system we currently use was developed only a couple of years ago and has only recently been standardized for the daily logging procedures. The early material in our collection was logged differently and must be re-logged using the standardized coding system that we have now adopted. It is estimated that over 50,000 hours of news information must be re-done in order to provide a unified and standardized research collection. This will require much more staff than we currently have.

Speaking of staff, another problem we face currently is that our staff is minimal at best. Having opened our doors in January of this year as a public library, we have not as yet developed the financial resources to hire any staff. The staff is currently my family and myself; four people total. The daily news information is being recorded and archived, but we have been forced to spend our time fund-raising and fulfilling requests instead of logging the news and maintaining our research database. We see this as only a short-term problem, enduring only until the public becomes aware that we exist and begins to financially support our endeavors, but nonetheless a problem.

The above mentioned problems have all been addressed and are accounted for in our Capital Campaign, entitled, "News To Use Into the Next Millennium - Information for

Education Campaign". Our goal is to raise three and one-half million dollars to be used over three years for solving the problems we face currently and to subsidize the costs of operating a library of this nature. We are slowly but surely attracting attention and funding.

### Summation

We have learned much as we continue to develop our unique News Library System. Fund-raising is more difficult than anything we have ever tried before. The ongoing reply we continue to hear is that funding is currently available for specific programs, not projects. Develop a program within your project and it might get funded, but do not submit entire projects for the seed costs will not be covered. This is distressing because we must first secure our project before we can create programs. It is a vicious circle that we are learning to participate within.

It is our hope and desire that these proceedings today will conclude that ours and the programs of our colleagues will warrant substantial funding participation on behalf of the Library of Congress. My family's News Library project requires only the assistance necessary to aid in covering our seed costs for space and equipment, for our project will cover the rest. However, others here and across the nation are in need of much more. I am aware of many small archives that are run by only a small department of a larger institution or even by a single person. All are equally important as we begin to address the issue of the establishment of a comprehensive national television and video preservation program concerned with preserving America's television and video history and heritage.



The task at hand is to understand what exists today across the nation and then decide how best to assure that these endeavors are maintained and preserved for future generations of Americans. Across the nation today, funding is the crucial element to the success of our nation's archives, if only to develop a starting point from which we can then proceed into the communities we serve and solicit additional contributions and sustaining revenues.

On behalf of my wife, Virginia, my brother, Darren, my mother, Beverly, and my daughter, Kaya, who is, incidentally, now the third generation of my family to be involved with the daily preservation of audiovisual news programming, I thank you for your time and for the opportunity to present these views. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have now, or later.

# Charles B. Cook Junior High School

9111 Wheatland Street • Houston, Texas 77064-7044 • (713) 897-4400

December 3, 1993

Mr. John Lee  
Electronic News Clipping  
6575 West Loop South, #100  
Bellaire, TX 77401

Dear Mr. Lee:

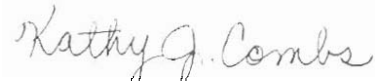
Thank you very much for agreeing to send me news footage on the story of Baby Jessica who fell in the well in South Texas several years ago free of charge. I had contacted all of the television stations in Houston, and none were willing to release footage at all.

I want this footage to use in an E.S.L. classroom. We recently read several old newspaper articles and magazine articles about the incident. My students were fascinated by the story, but they couldn't quite visualize what exactly happened. None of them were living in the United States at the time of the incident. I think it will really help them visualize what they have already read about, and will make reading have more meaning to them.

I spoke with several other teachers in the building who said that they would love to have a non-profit service of this type available to them to aide in classroom instruction from time to time.

Thanks again for being of service.

Sincerely,



Kathy J. Combs

/kjc

- 330 -

Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District

27A4

**Appendix: Public Demand**

A public demand for a service like this has been around for long time. Only currently has the technology allowed the creation of this service to meet the demand. The following letters demonstrate both the demand and the limited availability that currently exists:

- (A.) Non-profit organizations rely heavily upon broadcasted information;
- (B.) " "
- (C.) Corporations need to remain abreast of current-breaking news;
- (D.) Everyone can keep important historical archives;
- (E.) " "
- (F.) " "
- (G.) Often, the media does not maintain their own broadcasts;
- (H.) " " - (Dr. David Winter hosts short medical newscast pieces, yet could not get a copy of one);
- (I.) Family members of crime/accident victims always seek as much information as possible;
- (J.) Demand for the News Library is far-reaching;
- (K.) 1989 Article discussing the archiving of important news and news-related information.

A

 **AMERICAN  
CANCER  
SOCIETY**  
TEXAS DIVISION, INC., AREA V OFFICE  
April 17, 1991

Bob Broxson  
Electronic News Service  
8204 Elmbrook, Suite 234  
Dallas, TX 75247

Dear Bob,

Thank you for agreeing to provide the American Cancer Society with a tape of the Great American Food Fight Against Cancer coverage on the following dates:

Wednesday, April 17, 5:00 p.m., Ch. 8  
Friday, April 19, 8:45 a.m., CNN  
Saturday, April 20, 2:05 p.m., CNN  
5:00 or 6:00 p.m., Ch. 4  
10:00 p.m., Ch. 5

We greatly appreciate your continuing support of our projects. It is nice to have friends like you.

Please call me when the tape is ready, 631-3850.

Sincerely,



Robin G. Daniels  
Communications Director  
Area 5

RGD:if

- 332 -

Volunteers fighting cancer in your community

8900 CARPENTER FRWY.-75247, P. O. BOX 560089, DALLAS, TX 75356-0089  
214/631-3850

2882

(B)



**MADD**

TM

## Mothers Against Drunk Driving

1111 W. Mockingbird Lane, Suite 824 • Dallas, TX 75247 • (214) 637-0372  
DALLAS COUNTY CHAPTER

November 24, 1992

Martin Gaston, President  
Electronic News Service, Inc.  
6575 West Loop South, Suite 100  
Houston, Texas 77401-3405

Dear Mr. Gaston:

I want to take this opportunity to thank your organization for the recent donation of some news footage, featuring a drunk driving crash that killed four teenagers from the Dallas area. A local company has agreed to produce a documentary of this collision and tell the stories of the four students for no charge, and MADD has been trying to keep other costs of this project to a minimum. It was quite reassuring to us to know that your organization would be able to help by obtaining the news coverage on the crash without any cost to MADD's Victim Assistance Program.

Again, thank you for this donation. The support that MADD receives from community businesses like your own help our goal of safe roads for everyone become a reality. If there is ever a need of yours that MADD may fulfill, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

*Susan Bragg*  
Susan Bragg,  
Director of Victim Services

Shell Oil Company



One Shell Plaza  
P.O. Box 2463  
Houston, Texas 77252

August 28, 1990

Mr. Bob Grimes  
Electronic News Services, Inc.  
6575 West Loop South, Suite 100  
Bellaire, Texas 77401-3405

Dear Bob:

We greatly appreciate your help in monitoring the electronic news coverage of Shell's Deer Park Refinery fire on August 23. Your help during this hectic time enabled us to focus on getting the facts and preparing media responses--we can only do so many things at once.

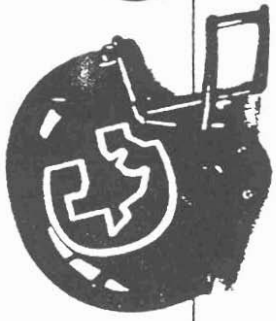
Having efficient, responsive suppliers such as ENS makes our job a lot easier. Thanks.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. R. Hutchins'.

H. R. Hutchins  
Manager, Media Relations

# HOUSTON



# GAMBLERS®

July 5, 1984

Mr. Bob Grimes  
Electronic News Clipping Service  
6715 Stella Link  
Houston, Texas 77005

Dear Bob:

Please find enclosed my selections of recent Gambler stories on television for addition to our running tape.

I appreciate your patience, courtesy and professionalism in continuing to service our account.

Electronic News Clipping Service has allowed up to chronicle our very first season, the most successful ever by any first year team in the history of professional sports. You were right there with us, Bob, step for step

Again, I appreciate your cooperation in providing a very valuable service to the Houston Gamblers.

I'll be in touch regularly.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Steve".

Steve Gerrish  
Coordinator of Media Relations

**Southeast Volunteer Fire Department**

SERVING SOUTHEAST HARRIS COUNTY

P.O. BOX 34070

HOUSTON, TEXAS 77034

481-1110

(E)

ENC

MR. BOB GRIMES  
ELECTRONIC NEWS CLIPPING SERVICES, INC  
6715 STELLA LINK  
HOUSTON, TEXAS. 77005

Ref: Tape of power line rescue, 7/5/83

Dear Mr. Grimes,

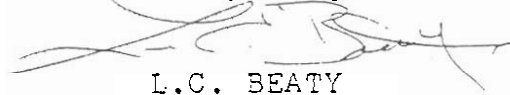
We would like to take this opportunity to thank you and your corporation for the thoughtful donation of your time, research and materials to produce the tape record of the incident in question.

Because of your service, and your donation of the tape by your company, you have given our department a valuable record of the rescue, which we believe to be the first actual use of rappelling to facilitate a rescue in a life threatening situation in the Houston area.

We hope that your company continues to prosper and we wish you the best of luck for continued success in the future.

From the membership of Southeast Volunteer fire Department:

Thank you again



L.C. BEATY

FIRE CHIEF



R.L. KORYCIAK

ASST. MEDICAL OFFICER



F

September 21, 1992

Electronic News Service  
ATTENTION: John Nail  
6575 West Loop South  
Suite 100  
Bellaire, Texas 77401

Gentlemen:

I cannot begin to tell you how wonderful my wife and I consider your news service. During the Dulles vs. Hastings high school football game on Saturday night, my son intercepted a pass and ran for a 44 yard touchdown. As you can imagine, this was an extremely proud moment in our lives. Imagine our disappointment when we learned that this play was televised on the sports segment of the 10:00 news and we did not get home in time to tape our son's famous play. Thank goodness for your news service. They were able to provide us with a copy of the televised play, and we were able to keep this special moment. This is something we will cherish for a lifetime and it would not have been possible without Electronic News Service!! Your service has truly made our son's senior year of high school a memorable one.

Sincerely,



Bob McCurdy  
2314 Maplecrest Dr.  
Missouri City, Texas 77459  
713/499-5207

Ⓞ

MS. ISAACSON,

WE ONLY KEEP OUR AIRCHECKS FROM THE NEWSCASTS A WEEK AFTER THEY AIR...  
I DIDNT GET YOUR TAPE UNTIL JULY 6th, MEANING THE STORY HAS BEEN  
ERASED...

I'M SORRY I COULDNT HELP YOU THIS TIME,...

SINCERELY,

RON BAZE  
KAUZ-TV

(H)

---

**F. DAVID WINTER, JR., M. D.**

Dear Bob -

Thanks for the tape of my  
son on HealthSource. We at Baylor  
have appreciated your work through the  
years. This particular tape was  
especially meaningful.

Sincerely,

David Winter

I

R. C. Hill, D.D.S., Inc.

2216 Southgate • Arlington, Texas 76013 • 277-1971 • 275-4291

September 2, 1992

Electronic News Service  
8204 Elmbrook Drive, Suite 234  
Dallas, TX 75247

Gentlemen:

It was with great interest that I learned of your service when I telephoned Channel 4 News to obtain information in regard to obtaining a copy of a news broadcast.

I had need to obtain a copy of a news story broadcast on August 1, 1992 on the 10:00pm news on Channel 4 in regard to two sisters from Arlington being killed in an auto accident. One of the victims in the accident was the wife of Dr. R.C. Hill. In an effort to obtain all available information for the attorney, I turned to you for assistance.

I was offered much kindness from an employee named Ginger who gratefully searched all news stories broadcast around the above date. I sincerely appreciated her sincerity in this most tragic situation.

It was very interesting to learn that just such a service is available, and I will most certainly inform others of your kindness.

Sincerely,

*Vicki King*  
Vicki King  
Receptionist

(J)

DAVID L. HARRISON  
1480 Ambassador Way  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84108

November 13, 1992

Martin Gaston  
Electronic News Services  
8204 Elmbrook Dr, Suite 234  
Dallas, Texas 75247

Dear Martin:

It was a pleasure talking with you on the phone today. You were very courteous and I appreciated your desire and enthusiasm to be so helpful.

It is unfortunate that you do not have the facilities and ability to accommodate more requests to the extent you would like. It was some effort to find you and I know there must be a lot of other people with the same kind of needs.

That's why I liked the concept you mentioned to me about a **NEWS LIBRARY**. I think it would be an extraordinary idea! It would be fantastic to have a library available where you could go to see a program and/or obtain a copy. I can think of many times I've wanted to get a copy of a particular program to see again or give to someone else to see.

I hope this idea doesn't die because it would be a tremendous service to your community.

Good luck in your efforts

Best Regards,



1987

Houston Post 6/17/87

Electronic News has a Stake in History

Courtesy  
Houston  
Post

# What happens to video history?

"I mean, that's dumb."  
That's ABC *Nightline's* Ted Koppel speaking, and he's never been righter. The quote is from a recent Newsweek article, which says that when *Nightline* staffers were looking for a 1979 videotape of Paul Volcker being sworn in as chairman of the Federal Reserve, they found it was about to be erased.

Koppel was irate, and had a right to be. It was part of a plan to reuse thousands of tapes to save storage costs. He and others raised Cain. The idea, he says, is "being rethought."  
Luckily, with the exception of that lapse, the major networks have a history of doing a pretty respectable job of preserving and indexing films and tapes. So do local stations in most big cities, and Houston is no exception. Our stations with full-blown news operations — 2, 11, 13 and 26 — by and large keep everything that gets on the air, eventually culling the "out-takes." Channel 2 has the largest tape and film library; Channel 13 leads in tape operations expenditures at about \$100,000 annually.

Partly the culling is thrift; partly they're ducking subpoenas for material that didn't get broadcast. That's as it ought to be, just as reporters' notes should be off-limits. They're news organizations, not police agencies.

Still, the problem grows. Boy, does it. Among local TV news operations, a 1985 article in *Columbia Journalism Review* estimated that there are about 9 million hours of film and



tape lying around. It's important stuff. It's where we've been. It also takes up space, costs money to preserve properly, and is a time-consuming pain in the wazoo to index. More and more, news executives at the nation's 860-plus commercial stations are coming to a handy solution. They're telling their staffs to toss it out. George Orwell, are you listening?

We've been through this before, and we're still seeing the results as the world's theatrical motion picture stock starts to vanish faster than we can save it. Partly this is due to age and poor storage, but a lot of it can be laid at the doorstep of some front-office type who wanted to pinch a couple of pennies. A few years ago when restorers tried to piece together a complete print of the 1954 version of *A Star Is Born*, in places they were reduced to running a sound track over shots of publicity stills. The original film had simply vanished.

*Columbia Journalism Review* cites horror

stories: KXTX in Sacramento, two years after Jerry Brown left California's governorship, had reduced the tape on him to a few snippets. At a New York station, shortly after Robert Kennedy was killed, somebody recalled interviewing Sirhan Sirhan at a protest months earlier. Tough luck. The film had been discarded.

It is costly, but doable and important, to preserve films and videotapes. Jim Wheeler, an engineer with Ampex Corp., says a videotape kept dry and cool should last 500 years. Ampex has a promising start — CBS' Douglas Edwards in the first videotape ever aired, from 1956. Wheeler calls the quality "gorgeous." Yet store an unsealed tape in an un-air-conditioned shed in Houston, and 15 years down the road you'll pull out a handful of mush.

It's a dilemma for TV folks. Historical societies and university libraries are reluctant to accept TV footage because of maintenance costs. Even when they do take it, the expense still implies an ongoing culling process. On the other hand, the advent of computer indexing offers a bright spot. The National Endowment for the Humanities has taken some stabs at the problem — but it's chronically short on funds.

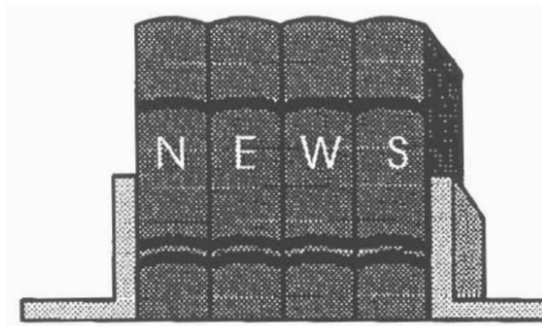
So decisions and solutions are batted back and forth. In the meantime, in closets and storerooms around the country, much of our history is either recycled or rotting.

Lynn Ashby is on assignment

- 342 -

28A2

# News To Use Into the Next Millennium



The Joe A. Gaston Memorial  
Broadcast News Library

## Information for Education Campaign

*An Introspective*

Visual Education Information & Research, Inc

1996  
- 343 -

28 A6



## JAG Memorial Broadcast News Library

# *Executive Summary*

---

### **I. Overview**

The News Library System is a newly created non-profit library system<sup>1</sup>. It provides public access to any and all broadcast information received from daily local, national and international newscasts and news magazines. It is an audiovisual historical archive of local area issues and images. It will provide the foremost utilization of news broadcasting as an instructional and reference tool for Education. The first two News Libraries will be created in Houston and Dallas, Texas.

There is currently not a public library of this nature in existence today, yet a recent Roper Poll discovered that over fifty-one percent (+ 51%) of *all* Americans receive *all* of their daily information from evening television newscasts. Today the technologies of data compression, digital audio/video and optoelectronics allow news and information to be systematically recorded, indexed and catalogued - for retrieval by anyone. The costs for these technologies are relatively inexpensive but must be subsidized by public and private support in order to provide public access at a cost suitable for everyone.

The News Libraries will provide an infinite amount of current and historical information to service all school students, teachers, scholars, researchers, universities, corporations, governmental offices, medical centers, etc., by allowing people to quickly access audiovisual news information relevant to their specific needs. Children Centers and school field trips combined with artifact exhibits, nationally recognized lecture series programs, a Broadcast News Hall of Fame and annual newscasting awards banquets will allow the News Library to create an environment in which news broadcasting is fully appreciated.

### **II. Background**

The founder was Joe Allen Gaston. He was involved with news and broadcasting for over twenty-five years in a career that took him from being a morning talk show host in Amarillo, Texas, to a camera man and news reporter earning Headliner Awards, AP Newsfilm Awards and UPI Newsfilm Awards on multiple occasions. He was a professor of Radio and Television classes at the University of Houston and was a founding member of the Houston Academy of Motion Pictures.

Education was always the top priority for Joe Gaston, as is demonstrated by the establishment of the Joe A Gaston Scholarship Fund by the Public Relations Foundation of Texas. Mr. Gaston

---

<sup>1</sup>specifically, 501(c)(3) public charity, library.



knew that news and news-related programming was vanishing from the public. That meant losing a unique educational and historical perspective of our culture. So, he began accumulating his unique collection in 1979 to address that issue. He continued accumulating audiovisual news programs until his death in 1990, but the concept lived on.

His collection was maintained and today has been recording, logging, indexing and archiving daily audiovisual news programs for over seventeen years. Mrs. Gaston has offered her historical collection, the largest privately held collection of its kind, to create this unique library system. But a collection, alone, does not a library make...

### III. Request For Action

There is a virtual wealth of information being broadcast to the world with literally no one logging, indexing and archiving it for access by the general public. That is - until now.

**The News Library is seeking corporate alliances  
and financial contributions  
to arrive at its mission:**

To be the preeminent repository of news broadcasting while providing  
for the dissemination and preservation of broadcast information within  
a responsive, stimulating and enlightening environment  
conducive to learning and research.

A Capital Campaign is underway toward our goal of \$ 3.5 Million. This is truly a remarkably low goal when one considers the benefits and abilities to be achieved by this project. Staff, facilities, equipment, etc., for the entire two location, three year project start-up period are all included.

Please help us make the News Library a reality. Today's news is tomorrow's history and without a library of this nature, the public at large is losing a most valuable resource. Donations are currently being sought in all categories and at all dollar amounts. Anyone wishing to help us meet our goal is welcome to participate.

Please forward all inquiries, correspondence and contributions to:

Visual Education Information and Research, Inc. ("VEIR")  
c/o Mr. Martin Gaston, Chairman  
8204 Elmbrook Drive  
Suite 234  
Dallas, Texas 75247-4013  
(214) 637-0062  
(800) 265-3131  
(214) 637-0063 (fax)  
jaglib@aol.com (e-mail)

## **Preservation and Disemmination of Audiovisual News Programs**

### *A Case Statement*

Daily news and other broadcast information is vanishing from the public depriving everyone of current and historical intelligence, issues and images. The Association of Moving Image Archivists reports that nationally the problem has reached a "Crisis level". However, recent studies show that over fifty-one percent (+51%) of all Americans continue to receive all of their daily information from broadcast news. The national commitment to broadcast news and to the access of information therein is permanent. Therefore, the commitment to its archival and preservation for later public disemmination must be addressed.

The broadcast news information industry is one of the few, if not only, information providers in the United States that does not have a full service public library responsible for its archival, preservation and dissemination. Existing libraries are neither equipped nor trained properly to undertake such an enormous task. Public requests for research and educational access cannot be met because of limited resources and minimal expertise in this field.

A focal point is needed: a library system where local, national and international news broadcasting is indexed, catalogued and preserved for educational, reference and historical purposes; an environment where men, women and children can explore and enhance their appreciation of news broadcasting through expanded programs and services.

To this end, we have embarked upon a major capital fundraising program.

As a first step toward our goal, we have created the non-profit parent company, Visual Education Information and Research, Inc. ("VEIR"), a 501(c)(3) public charity/library corporation, while also securing Mrs. Gaston's donation of her 70,000+ videotape historical news archive - computer indexed and catalogued - containing all local and national newscasts, news magazines or otherwise news-related information broadcast in Houston, Texas, since January, 1980, and in Dallas, Texas, since June, 1991. Plans call for two initial News Libraries to be created and operated concurrently for a three-year alpha and beta testing period in Houston and Dallas, Texas. Both Libraries become self-supportive with sustaining revenues from ongoing operations by the completion of this project period.

Future plans call for opening two additional News Library locations in Austin and Lubbock, Texas, to provide for access to all locally broadcasted news from around the state of Texas. It is believed that growth will be financed nearly entirely with ongoing operations revenue.

# The News Library

## Information Request Form

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Company (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Brief Description of News Information Requested:

---



---



---

### **LOAN AGREEMENT:**

The News Library is a research collection. It is a non-profit service available to anyone having need of the information for purposes of reference, research and review. Users agree not to rebroadcast material from The News Library and not to duplicate it in any respect. All audiovisual news information must be checked out and is on loan only.

All users are able to check out anything they wish for a period not to exceed ninety days. Those with material already outstanding will not be allowed to check out further information until the other is returned. The borrower will pay a raw tape replacement charge for any tape damaged in the course of use outside of The News Library.

### ***PAYMENTS:***

Payment must be received before orders can be filled or research can begin. Payments can be made by check, numbered purchase order from an established entity, or by credit card (MasterCard or Visa). Checks should be made payable to: VEIR, Inc. (Visual Education Information and Research)

### **COPYRIGHT NOTICE:**

*Public Law 94-553 includes provisions effective January 1, 1978, regarding copyright of audiovisual news programs and the archiving of television and radio news broadcasts.*  
*The News Library's material is subject to Copyright Protection under 17 U.S.C. 101 ET SEQ. & may be used only in Analysis, Education, Research and Non-Commercial purposes in accordance with 17 U.S.C. 107.*  
*It may not be broadcast or used in material for re-broadcast without the express written permission from the author of the work.*

**I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE ABOVE.**

- 347 -

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

PRINT NAME \_\_\_\_\_

28E6

## *Fee Schedule*

# The News Library

### Check Out Fees

prices are per segment

<i>Length of Segment</i>	
0 - 10 minutes	\$ 100.00
11 - 20 minutes	\$ 150.00
21 - 30 minutes	\$ 200.00
60 minutes	\$ 250.00
90 minutes	\$ 300.00
120 minutes	\$ 350.00

### Research Fees

Need research on a specific subject?  
 Help with an exact date?  
 The News Library offers research services  
 to aid in locating broadcast information.

\$ 50.00/hour; One Hour Minimum

### Viewing Fees

Viewing material(s) in the News Library must be scheduled  
 in advance and will be billed by the hour.

\$ 25.00/hour; One Hour Minimum.

### Damaged Tape Replacement Fees

All material is provided on loan only and must be returned to your News Library location within  
 ninety days from the date of check-out. Patrons agree to pay for the replacement of any tape  
 damaged in the course of use outside of the News Library.

\$ 10.00 per tape (VHS only)

**Service Fees** A \$ 10.00 service fee is added to each order and includes shipping via US Mail.

This does not include expedited shipping methods. Patrons are requested to provide the News  
 Library with an account number or other method of payment to secure the use of any expedited  
 shipping service(s).

*☞ The News Library's fees reflect direct costs of fulfilling requests  
 and continuing operations. To secure the permanence of this unique  
 library and guarantee low-cost access to the public at large, a major  
 fundraising campaign is underway. It is our goal to be able to offer this  
 collection to the public at only \$1.00 per minute.*

*To request information on the "News To Use" Capital Campaign,  
 please call or write to the addresses above.*

*Your support helps make today's news tomorrow's history.*

- 348 -

**Over 300,000 newscasts and growing daily...  
 How many History lessons is that?**

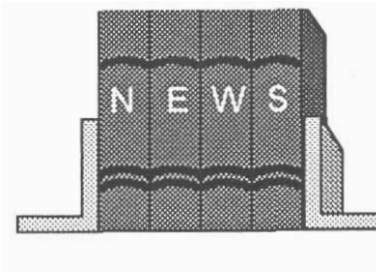
28F7

The JAG  
Memorial  
Broadcast  
News Library  
System

- 349 -

*for the preservation and  
dissemination of broadcast  
information*

V.E.I.R., Inc.  
8204 Elmbrook Drive  
Suite 234  
Dallas, TX 75247-4013  
(800) 265-3131



### Television News is Visual History

The JAG Memorial Broadcast News Library System will provide for public access to any and all broadcasted information received from daily local, national and international newscasts and news magazines.

There is currently not a library of this nature in existence today, yet a recent Roper Poll discovered that over fifty-one percent (+51%) of *all* Americans receive *all* of their daily information from evening television newscasts.

The founder, Joe Allen Gaston, was an award winning news reporter and cameraman for ABC, CBS and NBC networks and local affiliates throughout Texas, and began this unique archive in late 1979.

The indexing and archival of local news broadcasting preserves this unique and thorough information source for researchers now and forevermore.

Radio news will also be kept for research and archived by the News Library. Often a more immediate perspective of local issues and occurrences, radio news broadcasting is as important as television news and will be cared for equally by the News Library.

### Information from Sender to Receiver

Television & Radio news provides information about an infinite amount of subjects in a timely manner and on a daily basis as the information becomes available.

The News Library will index, archive and allow the broadcast information to go directly to anyone requesting to access it.

Potential information receivers are literally limitless:

- ⊕ *Researchers*
- ⊕ *Primary Education*
- ⊕ *Secondary Education*
- ⊕ *Colleges & Universities*
- ⊕ *Foreign language  
Education*
- ⊕ *Corporations*
- ⊕ *Individuals*
- ⊕ *Historians*
- ⊕ *Visitors and Tourists*
- ⊕ *Legislators*
- ⊕ *Medical Research,  
Doctors and Patients*





**Every news broadcast since 1980\*  
is available for searches,  
inquiries, reports, etc.**

Our recorders and technicians have captured, indexed and catalogued local and national newscasts, news magazines or otherwise news-related information since inception in 1979.

The collection is stored on over 70,000 videotapes that each contain from two to six hours of information. The audio/visual news information is logged into a database allowing the stories to be retrieved by subject, date, name, channel, time, etc., similar to the information-retrieval methods available at any local library.

On-line access to the News Library collection allows even the full-motion video to be searched and retrieved digitally!  
Great for schools, universities, corporations, etc.

Specially designed Audio/Video Workstations provide access to all information within moments and allow for quick research and check-out.

International daily newscasts from over 35 different countries are also available for archiving by the News Library and the list is growing daily!

## *News To Use*

Broadcast news brings information to people on an immediate and daily basis. This information industry is one of the few, if not only, information providers in the United States that does not have a full service public library responsible for its archival, preservation and dissemination. Existing libraries are neither equipped nor trained properly to undertake such an enormous task. Public requests for research and educational access cannot be met because of limited resources and minimal expertise in this field.

Daily news and other broadcast information is vanishing from the public depriving everyone of current and historical intelligence, issues and images. Recent studies show that over fifty-one percent (+51%) of all Americans receive all of their daily information from broadcast news. The national commitment to broadcast news and to the access of information therein is permanent.

A focal point is needed: a library system where local, national and international news broadcasting is indexed, catalogued and preserved for educational, reference and historical purposes; an environment where men, women and children can explore and enhance their appreciation of news broadcasting through expanded programs and services.

To this end, we have embarked upon a major capital fundraising program.

## *The JAG Memorial*

- “ News ”
- “ Noticias ”
- “ Xin Wen ”
- “ Notizie ”
- “ Nouvelles ”
- “ Nyheter ”
- “ Khabar ”
- “ naies ”
- “ Vesti ”
- “ Wiadomose ”
- “ Berri ”
- “ Nachrichten ”

### *Library*

*The News Library is organized and operated exclusively for educational purposes within the meaning of IRS Code section 501(c)(3).*

*beginning in*

**Dallas and Houston, Texas**

*res ipsa loquitur*

\* in Houston, TX / Dallas, TX since June 1991

- 350 -

28 E7