

# OPENTHEGOVERNMENT.ORG

Americans for Less Secrecy, More Democracy



## Steering Committee

Steven Aftergood  
*Federation of  
American Scientists*

Lynne Bradley  
*American Library  
Association*

Gary Bass  
*Bauman Foundation*

Tom Blanton  
*National Security  
Archive*

Danielle Brian\*  
*Project on Government  
Oversight*

Kenneth Bunting  
*National Freedom of  
Information Coalition*

Lucy Dalglish  
*Reporters Committee  
for Freedom of the  
Press*

Kevin Goldberg  
*American Society of  
News Editors*

Robert Leger  
*Society of Professional  
Journalists*

Conrad Martin  
*Fund for Constitutional  
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Katherine McFate/  
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Michael Ostrolenk  
*Liberty Coalition*

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*Electronic Frontier  
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Responsibility and  
Ethics in Washington*

John Wonderlich  
*Sunlight Foundation*

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## 2011 Year in Review

When OpenTheGovernment.org was founded in 2003 few could have imagined the substantive achievements our community achieved in 2011. In just a few short years, our coalition has helped openness advocates turn the corner from pushing back against an out of control rise in government secrecy to exchanging ideas with the President in the Oval Office about how to create an unprecedented level of government openness. During the meeting, members of our steering committee and the coalition's director shared their views with President Obama on a range of issues that are critical to our partners. It was a signal event for the coalition and for our openness community more generally.

2011 also marked a banner year for recognition from the community and others of the coalition's role as a leader. During Sunshine Week, Patrice McDermott, OpenTheGovernment.org's Executive Director, was named the 2011 James Madison Award winner by the American Library Association (ALA). The award is presented annually in recognition of work to champion, protect, and promote public access to government information and the public's right to know. Dr. McDermott and members of our steering committee are frequently asked to present Congressional testimony, speak at conferences, and moderate and sit on panel discussions.

In addition, over the past year OpenTheGovernment.org, has used its strength as the glue that keeps our openness community together and that provides a focus on openness as our partners fight on multiple fronts to make significant advances on our agenda for openness.

Due to the coalition's persistent pressure on and work with the White House, the Administration changed its direction on sensitive but unclassified information (now called Controlled Unclassified Information) from one that emphasized concerns of national security agencies to one that addresses sharing of unclassified (but sensitive) information as a government-wide information management concern. This is an important reversal of direction – from promoting information protection to promoting information sharing.

The coalition worked with our partners and allies on Capitol Hill to defeat an attempt by the Department of Defense to withhold an unnecessarily broad swath of "critical infrastructure information" from the public. The provision, which was tucked into the massive 2011 Defense Authorization Bill, was

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intended to protect information that was withheld from the public under Exemption 2 of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) prior to the Supreme Court decision in *Milner v. Department of the Navy*. The coalition and our partners championed a compromise that significantly narrowed the scope of information that can be withheld and added a requirement that the Secretary of Defense consider whether the public interest in the disclosure of this information outweighs the Government's need to withhold the information, when evaluating FOIA requests.

OpenTheGovernment.org coordinated civil society groups working on transparency and openness in the US to engage the Administration in the development of the US National Action Plan for the Open Government Partnership. Through this work, the coalition promoted priority issues for the coalition and our partners and connected the White House's domestic policy team with transparency organizations that have a more international focus. The resulting plan, released on September 20<sup>th</sup>, is impressive in its breadth and scope. In addition to including commitments to tackle coalition priorities like e-records management and make it easier for citizens to request and receive government information in a timely fashion, it includes items of high-priority to several of our coalition partners.

The coalition raised the awareness of the public, advocates, and policymakers about how the government's initial efforts to improve the security of information in the wake of the WikiLeaks disclosures threatened public access and civil liberties. While far from perfect, the [Executive Order \(EO\) on Structural Reforms to Improve the Security of Classified Networks and the Responsible Sharing and Safeguarding of Classified Information](#) issued in October, reflects many of the concerns the coalition raised with the Administration about its earlier efforts to improve the security of classified systems and acknowledges important principles and guidelines we suggested should be a part of any reforms.

These successes are fragile, however, and must be built on where possible. The openness initiatives launched by the Obama Administration need constant monitoring. In the coming year the coalition will continue to hold the Administration's feet to the fire to help make sure its promises become reality. We will also continue to fight efforts by federal agencies to keep more information secret. Our success in pushing back the Department of Defense's effort in this regard was an important victory, but it is just the first of many battles we expect as agencies respond to [the Milner decision](#). Additionally, we will continue to push the Administration and Congress to act on areas of our agenda for openness that have been mishandled or unaddressed. This is especially important in the area of national security, where our efforts to promote policies that would reduce secrecy and improve accountability have been less successful.

## **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

In January 2011, the Steering Committee of OpenTheGovernment.org (OTG) reaffirmed the following goals in line with our strategic-operational plan:

- To broaden the base of national, state and local organizations active on right-to-know and anti-secrecy issues
- To advance the right to know what government is doing at the federal and state levels through legislation and other means
- To shine an even brighter spotlight on government secrecy efforts.

With the generous support of our funders and the hard work of our partners, OTG made substantial progress toward achieving its strategic goals during 2011. As 2012 dawns, the coalition continues to play an effective leadership role in government transparency, particularly at the White House and in Congress, where staff members increasingly turn to us for strategic planning and coordination with the openness community.

## SUCCESS IN MEETING STRATEGIC GOALS

***Goal: Advance the right to know at the federal and state levels through legislative and other vehicles.***

***Goal: Strengthen coordination and engagement of organizations currently working on right-to-know and anti-secrecy issues.***

OTG engages in a variety of campaigns initiated by coalition staff and strategic partners, which regularly intersect. Staff initiatives are executed in coordination with partners within and outside of the coalition, and we frequently are asked by other groups to coordinate activities and identify campaign partners.

### **Success: OTG continues to lead in promoting and sustaining transparency and an overall culture of openness in government**

Our leadership is particularly exemplified by our organizing a response to President Obama's Open Government Directive and the Open Government Partnership and assessing the Administration's progress towards making the federal government more transparent, participatory and collaborative. This work includes:

- Patrice McDermott joined other members of OTG's Steering Committee in a meeting with the President in the Oval Office. During the meeting, the President was told that, while the policies his Administration has put in place are all in the right direction, much remains to be done.
- On March 16 – FOI Day and James Madison's birthday – coalition partners were strongly represented on the panels at the Freedom Forum. Lucy Dalglish (Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press) was a lead-off panelist on "What in the FOIA world has Wikileaks wrought?" The 2<sup>nd</sup> panel, an active discussion on the Administration two years out, was moderated by Gary Bass (OMB Watch) and included Steve Croley (Special Assistant to the President for Justice and Regulatory Policy, White House Domestic Policy Council) and Aneesh Chopra from the Administration and Tom Blanton (National Security Archive) and Danielle Brian (POGO) from the coalition. Steve Aftergood (Federation of American Scientists & Secrecy News) engaged with the Public Interest Declassification Board in the last panel of the day. And, at lunch, Dr. McDermott's [acceptance speech](#) highlighted the destruction by the CIA of videotapes showing the "enhanced" interrogation of high-value detainees at CIA black sites and the message of impunity sent by the Department of Justice through its failure to hold the CIA accountable for its violation of law.

- Coalition members were also key participants in the Collaboration on Government Secrecy's [Fourth Annual Freedom of Information Day Celebration](#) on March 14<sup>th</sup> to kick off Sunshine Week.
- The coalition wrapped up Sunshine Week with held its 6<sup>th</sup> Sunshine Week webcast on March 18<sup>th</sup> at the Center for American Progress.
- OpenTheGovernment.org released an audit during Sunshine Week, [A Quick Accounting of Accountability Information](#), which shows how far the federal government has to go to meet 21<sup>st</sup> century expectations of transparency.
- The coalition successfully organized civil society organizations' engagement with the Open Government Partnership, an initiative that brings together partners from many countries and sectors to support governments' efforts to become more transparent, accountable, and participatory. The coalition is coordinating domestic civil society organizations and international organizations that have an interest in US openness policy to influence the Obama Administrations' commitments in its National Action Plan. The Plan released in September includes promises to tackle issues that have been long-standing priorities for the coalition and for several of our partners. In response, the coalition compiled a comprehensive [report](#) outlining steps our partners and other allies suggest the Administration take to meet its promises and goals.
- In April OTG arranged a series of meetings with new Chairs and Ranking Members of relevant House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform subcommittees. During these meetings, OTG and representatives of partner organizations introduced Congressional staff to issues, including electronic record keeping, and financial transparency.
- OTG has been an active partner in a campaign to promote free online public access to Congressional Research Service (CRS) reports, including a letter to the [House and Senate Legislative Branch Subcommittee members](#) asking they remove a provision barring CRS from using funds to make CRS reports publicly available from future spending bills, and letters to [Chairman Lieberman and Ranking Member Collins](#) and [Chairman Issa and Ranking Member Cummings](#) urging them to introduce legislation to make CRS reports available online at no additional cost to the public.
- OTG helped bring attention to recommendations in a report by the Administrative Conference of the United States (ACUS) on "Incorporation by Reference" that would, by denying no-fee public access to the full, relevant rulemaking records and to all standards and criteria incorporated in the final rules, affect the ability of the public to effectively participate in rulemaking and understand the rules they must obey. The coalition worked with our partners, the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) and the Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF), to provide ACUS with [detailed comments](#) and helped organize a general [comment](#) signed by several coalition partners on the draft report. ACUS approved the report in December. We will continue to monitor the issue.

**Success: OTG leadership helps ensure the preservation of electronic records, protecting both accountability and history.**

The OTG coalition provides leadership, especially regarding legislative and regulatory reforms, for improving electronic records management. After many years of raising the issue of electronic records, the coalition has cultivated committed allies in the current Administration and at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) who are taking substantial steps to address the problem. Examples include:

- One of the commitments in the National Action Plan is to “Modernize Management of Government Records.” The Plan notes that “The backbone of a transparent and accountable government is strong records management that documents the decisions and actions of the Federal Government. The transition to digital information creates new opportunities for records management, but much of government still relies on outdated systems and policies designed during a paperbased world.” The Plan commits to launch an initiative that will “seek a reformed, digital-era, governmentwide records management framework that promotes accountability and performance.” The proof of the pudding will, of course, be in the eating.

Prior to the release of the Plan, the coalition and several of our partners, [shared ideas](#) with the Administration on steps it should take to begin to effectively manage e-records prior to the release of the plan. The coalition expanded on these recommendations in the [report](#) we produced for the Administration that outlines steps they should take to meet its goals.

- The coalition used its website and newsletter to better explain to our partners and others why the federal government’s record keeping problems hurt open government efforts. One such [post](#) focused on how the federal government cannot be fully responsive to FOIA and Congressional requests for information without good record keeping, while [another](#) focused on the looming problem of an ever-growing volume of federal electronic records with no standards or systems in place to effectively and efficiently handle those records.
- OTG arranged a meeting for the openness community with Elizabeth Warren while she was setting up the new Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB). As follow-up, OTG developed electronic record keeping recommendations for the Bureau which could be used as a model for other government entities.

### **Success: OTG ensures that FOIA reform continues apace across the Administration**

- OTG has been deeply engaged in efforts to limit the number and reduce the scope of agency requests for new authorities to withhold information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). As agencies respond to the *Milner v. Department of Navy* decision, which ended their ability to protect information under a broad interpretation of FOIA Exemption 2 to withhold all “predominantly internal” materials, we expect more requests for new authority to withhold information will begin to show up in legislation. We coordinated a March [letter](#) to the Robert F. Bauer, Counsel to the President, putting forward the idea that the Administration review and coordinate all such proposals and have discussed the concept with several Administration officials. The coalition also

organized an [effort](#) to pressure leadership of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee to stay engaged on all FOIA issues.

The coalition also worked with our partners to successfully improve and significantly narrow the scope of a [secrecy provision](#) in the National Defense Authorization Act that would have allowed the Department of Defense to keep all “critical infrastructure information” secret. We worked with Congressional staff to develop alternative language that became part of an amendment offered by Senator Leahy, and organized [support](#) for the Leahy amendment. The version of the provision ultimately included in the conference report and signed into law specified that DOD can withhold only “critical infrastructure security information” and requires the Secretary to weigh the public benefit of releasing the information with the potential security threat.

- The coalition maintains a bridge between the nonprofit community and the Office of Government Information Services, OGIS, an office created by the 2007 OPEN Government Act to, among other things, mediate FOIA disputes and make recommendations for improving FOIA processing government-wide. We maintain a listserv that enables easy communication and is used to set up semi-regular brown bag meetings between OGIS and our community.
- OTG released a [report](#) with Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW) using data collected by the government on Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) processing. The analysis reveals challenges the Obama Administration must overcome to create the "unprecedented level of openness" President Obama promised on his first day in office, and a shocking number of problems with the quality of the government's FOIA data, and with the "public dashboard" set up by the Department of Justice, FOIA.gov.
- OTG helped bring public attention by joining in [comments](#) with the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW) on a proposed change in FOIA regulations that would allow agencies to lie about the existence of certain records in response to FOIA requests. These comments created a firestorm of outrage, including in Congress. DOJ informed Congress they would revise the policy to address the concerns before releasing a final rule.
- The coalition continued to coordinate community efforts to [urge](#) Congress to act on legislation that would create a commission to study several on-going issues with FOIA processing and make recommendations to Congress and the President to improve the process.

**Success: OTG helps the Obama Administration chart a course toward openness in new rules on secrecy and ensures other government activity is conducted in the sunlight.**

- OTG coordinated the community response to the Administration’s Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI) effort. We worked with several partners to provide formal feedback on an initial draft of the CUI Directive, and were pleased the final draft changed from a document that largely reflected concerns from some national security

agencies regarding the need to control information to one that stressed information sharing concerns. We continue to work with the program manager to ensure the Directive is implemented properly.

The coalition coordinated efforts to respond to a proposed rulemaking by the Defense Department, under the cover of an acquisition rule (FARS), to circumvent the in-process Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI) Registry of accepted/authorized markings for unclassified information requiring safeguarding. According to E.O. 13556 issued last fall, only designations authorized by statute, regulation, or government-wide policy can be included in the Registry. DOD is attempting to do an end-run around these strictures by incorporating in the proposed FARS regulation categories and markings (such as FOUO) that would otherwise be excluded from the Registry (including them in the proposed regulation means they will be *required* to be included in the Registry). Coalition partners and others met with the Director of the CUI office and with the White House on this issue, and understand DOD has withdrawn the proposal.

- In October the Administration released an EO on cybersecurity that clearly reflects the coalition's earlier work to highlight concerns that the Administration's initial effort to improve the security of classified systems could threaten employee rights and public access to information. The coalition's efforts produced a meeting with senior Administration officials on the issue, during which they asked for a document laying out principles and guidelines the openness community believes must be included in any reforms. The EO addresses some of the concerns we outlined in a [letter](#) to Jacob Lew and echoes some of the guidelines and principles we [shared](#) with the Administration. We will continue to work with the Administration to ensure that the privacy and civil liberties of government employees are protected while the government appropriately takes steps to address information
- The coalition's Director, Patrice McDermott, moderated and participated on several panels discussing issues associated to the WikiLeaks disclosures and recently had an [op-ed](#) authored with our partners at the Project On Government Oversight (POGO) on the topic published in *Government Information Quarterly*.
- Progress on the coalition's efforts to push for reforms to the state secrets privilege stalled ~~out a bit~~ during the last quarter. Groups [continue to be frustrated](#) by the Administration's use of the privilege to cut off access to courts for plaintiffs and the Department of Justice's failure to fully implement its own policy in terms of reporting whether or not credible claims of government wrong-doing are referred to an Inspector General (IG). The coalition joined forces with civil liberties groups to meet with Justice Department officials on the Administration's state secrets privilege policy. We will continue to work with these groups to push for strengthening that policy, and for legislation when there is an opportunity.
- The coalition worked to raise awareness of the harmful impact on whistleblowers of the Obama Administration's "zero tolerance" policy towards people who make unauthorized disclosures of information. In addition to [website entries](#) on the subject,

the coalition created and posted an [interactive slideshow](#) of “leak” prosecutions under the Bush and Obama Administrations.

***Goal: Broaden the base of national, state and local organizations that are active on right to know and anti-secrecy issues.***

**Success: OpenTheGovernment.org was extremely active in 2010 in outreach and coordination with new and established partners around the country dedicated to government transparency.**

- *Expanding the coalition:* Seven organizations joined the coalition in 2011, bringing our total to 81. The new partners are: the Center for Fiscal Accountability, Center for Media and Democracy, California Common Sense, the Arab American Institute, National Security Counselors, the National Priorities Project, and Understanding Government.
- *Newsletter Updates:* OpenTheGovernment.org continually supports the work of its coalition members by featuring updates from two or more partners in each edition of the OTG newsletter.
- *Circulating Sign-ons:* OTG regularly circulates letters of our coalition partners and other organizations with which we regularly work, including: Project On Government Oversight; Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW), The Sunlight Foundation; and The Union of Concerned Scientists.
- *New Website:* OTG launched its new website during Sunshine Week. The new site is more user-friendly and better reflects and highlights the organization’s mission and current work. The new site also prominently features our coalition partners and their work, organized by organizational and by mission.
- *Social Media Outreach:* Short clips of the presentations and audience Q&A from the coalition’s Sunshine Week webcast have been uploaded to the organization’s new [YouTube Channel](#). The coalition also has almost 300 “likes” on Facebook and maintains a Twitter feed with almost 400 followers.

We continue to look for ways to expand our base, given the federal focus of the coalition and the resources of the staff.

***Goal: Raise awareness of openness and secrecy efforts.***

**Success: In March, OTG put on its [2011 Sunshine Week Webcast](#) at the Center for American Progress (CAP).**

In addition to the sizable live audience at CAP in Washington, DC, the event was broadcast at local events in California, and watched via livestream across the country. An archived version of

the event is available on [CAP's website](#), and clips have been uploaded to YouTube and embedded on our site (panel 1 [here](#) and panel 2 [here](#)).

- During the first panel, [David S. Ferriero](#), Archivist of the United States, [Steven P. Croley](#), Special Assistant to the President for Justice and Regulatory Policy, White House Domestic Policy Council, and [Gary Bass](#) Executive Director, OMB Watch, discussed policy aspects of open government, including the National Archives and Administration's wide-ranging responsibilities for open government, the Administration's [recently-announced](#) plans to improve openness through FOIA, and what other steps the open government community thinks the Administration should take.

Our guests on the second panel, [Jennifer LaFleur](#), Director of Computer-Assisted Reporting at ProPublica, [Tom Lee](#), Director of Sunlight Labs at the Sunlight Foundation, [Sheila Krumholz](#), Executive Director of the Center for Responsive Politics, and [Todd Park](#), Chief Technology Officer, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, covered the technical aspects of making government data more available and usable by the public.

**Success: In September, the coalition released the [2011 Secrecy Report](#), a quantitative annual report on indicators of government secrecy.**

- The seventh annual [Secrecy Report](#) (formerly Secrecy Report Card) chronicles positive trends in areas where the Executive Office has control. President Obama is the only President for whom we have records who has not asserted Executive Privilege to deny Congressional requests for information. Additionally, the number of times President Obama has used a signing statement to challenge specific aspects of a new law is significantly lower than other modern presidents.

We took advantage of the report's release to also include a special section, a Progress Report on Openness & Secrecy in the Obama Administration, that provides an assessment of Administration policies that are beginning to produce real change, good policies that seem to have stalled out, and policies that make the federal government more secret. This section noted the unprecedented moves by the Obama Administration in the area of national security: declassification and release of information about the U.S. nuclear stockpile, our nuclear posture review, and the full size of the national intelligence budget. At the same time, in the national security area, there are still significant elements of secrecy and challenges for openness advocates. Our special section took on extra significance when the Administration released its own progress report shortly after our release.

**Success: Launched the coalition's new, more user-friendly website.**

- The coalition re-launched its website in March. User statistics indicate that the coalition is using its new website to better inform the public about the organization's mission and current work. The new format allows staff to easily keep the site more up-to-date and to post more analytical material. While the RSS

subscription page is one of the most popular pages on the site, website traffic has not dropped off.

Unfortunately, complete records on user statistics are not available for 2011. Technical changes to the website and the coalition’s move to a new server resulted in the loss of some data.

Unique Visitors to OpenTheGovernment.org, 2011				
Month	Unique Visitors		Month	Unique Visitors
January	#s not available		July	#s not available
February	#s not available		August	#s not available
March	3,326		September	#s not available
April	3,471		October	#s not available
May	4,192		November	#s not available
June	3,240		December	5,1268

- The website also serves as an easily searchable archive of all the coalition’s work, including [letters](#), [reports](#), and bi-weekly [Updates](#).

**Success: OTG’s work was covered by numerous media outlets.**

The staff of OpenTheGovernment.org continues to pursue opportunities to work with new media to educate them on openness and secrecy and to learn how to convey our message to and through them.

**OpenTheGovernment.org in the News –2011**

[FOIA watchdogs: Exemptions up 33 percent under Obama](#)

[Federal Times, December 15, 2011]

[Rulemaking process raises copyright concerns](#)

[Federal Computer Week, December 14, 2011]

[Continuing Conversation on the U.S. National Action Plan on Transparency](#)

[POGO Blog, December 14, 2011]

[POGO and Allies Send Letter Opposing "Grimm" Bill for Whistleblowers](#)

[POGO Blog, December 13, 2011]

[Transparency groups demand more from National Action Plan for open government](#)

[Fierce Government IT, December 12, 2011]

[Obama open government project critiqued by transparency groups](#)

[Government Executive, December 8, 2011]

[Obama orders agencies to improve records management policies](#)

[Federal Times, November 28, 2011]

[Advocacy groups react to Obama's transparency proposals](#)

[Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, September 26, 2011]

[Administration Should Seize Momentum on U.S. Open Government "Action Plan"](#)

[Center for American Progress, September 21, 2011]

[Obama Administration and Open Government: Turning Aspirations into Reality?](#)

[POGO Blog, September 19, 2011]

[White House releases report on government transparency](#)

[Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, September 16, 2011]

[Watchdog Groups Urge Super Committee to Disclose Lobbying Activity](#)

[Blog of the Legal Times, September 16, 2011]

[Watchdogs want more lobbying info from supercommittee members](#)

[Politico, September 15, 2011]

[Vast disparities in agency FOIA processing times](#)

[Fierce Government IT, September 7, 2011]

[2011 Secrecy Report - OpenTheGovernment.org](#)

[beSpacific, September 6, 2011]

[White House: Send us your petitions](#)

[Politico, September 1, 2011]

[Open debt talks are a super idea](#)

[Nashua Telegraph, August 23, 2011]

[Privacy groups challenge proposal expanding access to terrorist watch list](#)

[Government Executive, August 8, 2011]

[Transparency Groups Assail House GOP Maneuver to Send Debt Bill to Senate](#)

[Fox News, July 27, 2011]

[Congress gets involved after Indian Island court ruling](#)

[Spokesman Review, July 25, 2011]

[On 45th anniversary of public right to know law, Leahy asks House to pass Faster FOIA Act](#)  
[VT Digger, July 4, 2011]

[Contractors resist DoD's tougher info rules](#)  
[Federal Times, July 10, 2011; see also [Editorial: Clouding transparency](#)]

[Pentagon Tightens Grip on Unclassified Information](#)  
[Secrecy News, July 11, 2011]

[Following up on Sunshine Week, Looks Pretty Dim](#)  
[POGO Blog, July 12, 2011]

[Agencies update progress on transparency plans](#)  
[Federal Computer Week, April 19, 2011]

[In Search of "Unfettered Access" to CRS Reports](#)  
[Secrecy News, April 7, 2011]

[Obama finally accepts his transparency award... behind closed doors](#)  
[Washington Post: Federal Eye, March 31, 2011]

[Ferriero: Electronic records archiving in crisis](#)  
[Fierce Government IT, March 20, 2011]

[Obama ducks transparency award, but reason isn't clear](#)  
[McClatchy, March 16, 2011]

[Government is clearly still not transparent enough](#)  
[First Amendment Center, March 17, 2011; see also [American Library Association presents 2011 James Madison Award to Patrice McDermott](#)]

[FOIA Eyes Only: How Buried Statutes Are Keeping Information Secret](#)  
[ProPublica, March 14, 2011]

Editorial: [Public has right to see research it has paid for](#)  
[Spokesman Review, March 5, 2011]

[FEATURES: Open Secrets](#)  
[Government Executive, February 1, 2011]

[White House transparency critiqued at D.C. conference](#)  
[Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, January 21, 2011]

Fed rights at risk in WikiLeaks backlash, groups say  
[*Federal Times: FedLine*, January 28, 2011; see also [Don't Let Review of Classified Information Safeguards Infringe on Rights](#) from POGO Blog]