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Do.Ne, or What To Do When Your Favorite Service Disappears

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DO.NE, OR WHAT TO DO WHEN YOUR FAVORITE SERVICE DISAPPEARS

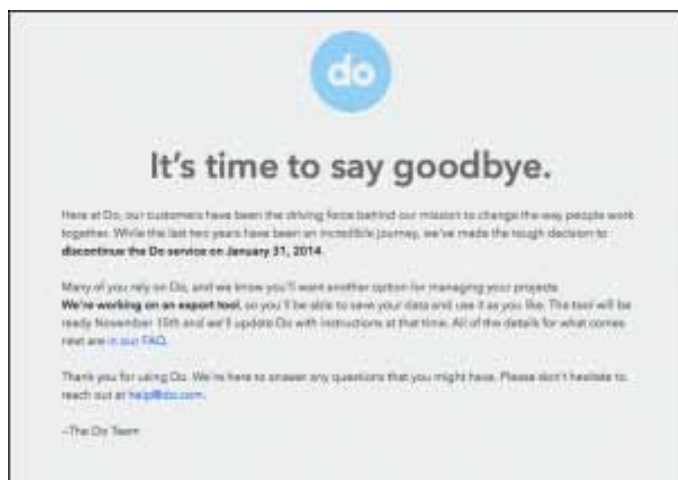
By Debbie Ginsberg, IIT Chicago-Kent College of Law
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The Chicago-Kent Library Technology Group runs many kinds of projects. Keeping track of what's going on in individual projects can be challenging. We needed a cloud-based service for project management, something that could:

- Track projects and tasks
- Let us assign tasks to individual workers
- Comment on tasks when we had questions or more information

We had tried a number of different solutions, everything from spreadsheets to Google Sites, but nothing worked quite the way we wanted. We were very happy when we found Do.com. The interface was intuitive. We could log in from our Google accounts. We could easily add tasks and projects using the web interface or even email. Commenting was a breeze. It was great! Not to mention free.

Until one day we logged in and saw the dreaded “we’re closing” message:



Do.com's closing announcement

Do.com was a Salesforce.com product. A lot of companies used it every day. But for whatever reason, it was no longer viable. Do.com was done.

So we added Do.com to our list of services which have closed this year; services like Xtranormal and Google Reader, just to name a couple.

So, what do you do when your favorite web service shuts down? There are four basic steps that can help:

1. Back up your data – at least, what you can. Note that you may not be able to back up everything (e.g. Google Reader didn't provide an easy way to back up all read articles).
2. Know your import/export options. You may be able to export a lot of data, but that doesn't mean that you will be able import that same data into other services.
3. Read (and heed) all warnings. Most services will give you plenty of notice. Pay attention to the shutdown dates. Note that services can shut down immediately.
4. Delete your account if you can. This can be particularly important if the account has any kind of public presence (e.g. a social networking site). Of course, this assumes you were able to export all of your data.

So how can you protect yourself against the loss of cloud-based services? There are a few factors that you can keep in balance when using the cloud for class or just to manage things on the backend:

- Know who provides the service. It's not a matter of big versus small companies, but keeping track of what companies are doing. Services provided

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A REVIEW OF THE CALL CONTINUING EDUCATION EVENT: LEGAL CITATION WORKSHOP

By Heidi Kuehl, Pritzker Legal Research Center, Northwestern University School of Law

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On Wednesday, February 5th, a sizeable group of law librarians, paralegals, and other CALL members joined the CALL Continuing Education Committee for a “Legal Citation Workshop.” Clare Willis, Research Librarian and resident *Bluebook* expert at the Chicago-Kent Law Library, offered useful tips on navigating the *Bluebook* and locating the most helpful rules on common US citations. She also addressed the Internet citation rules, the white pages, the blue pages, and the index while giving helpful examples. Be sure to consult her helpful guide to *Bluebook* citation, which was used as a resource in the citation workshop, at: <http://uiuc.libguides.com/law-bluebook>.

Next, Heidi Kuehl, Foreign, Comparative, and International Law Librarian and Coordinator of Educational Programming at Northwestern’s Pritzker Legal Research Center, gave an overview of the *Bluebook* rules for treaties, UN documents, international case law, and foreign documents. Heidi pointed toward free websites for re-

search from the United Nations (<http://www.un.org/en/documents/>) and EISIL (from the American Society of International Law - <http://www.eisil.org/>), which guide researchers toward essential elements of *Bluebook* citation. Finally, Philip Johnson, Instructional and Student Services Librarian at John Marshall Law School’s Louis L. Biro Law Library, gave a summary of the new Illinois neutral case citation rules (<http://www.state.il.us/court/SupremeCourt/Rules/Amend/2011/default.asp>, Rules 6 and 23), and fielded questions about formatting from the audience. John Marshall provides a comprehensive tutorial on the new citation rules at <http://library.jmls.edu/reference-tutorials.php>.

After the presentations, the attendees discussed nuances of the *Bluebook*, *ALWD*, and neutral citation rules, and had an open question and answer period that was enjoyed by all. Keep an eye out for other CALL Continuing Education events!

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by smaller companies can shut down if the company isn’t viable. Conversely, services provided by larger companies may lose priority status and be dropped. But if you know who provides the service, you may learn about an issue with the company (such as an acquisition or merger) that alerts you to a potential problem long before the service itself shuts down.

- Keep an eye on development. While it may seem like a lack of new features suggests that a product is stable, it more likely means the product is no longer supported. There was no new development on Do.com, for example, for most of 2013 — a likely sign that Salesforce no longer supported it.

- Have a backup plan. No product lasts forever, so be prepared. Keep an eye on competing products. Consider open source alternatives, or even creating your own if you have the resources and skills. Regularly back up your cloud data if you can.

The Library Technology Group has now moved on to a new online task/project tracker, but we know that some day (hopefully not soon), we’ll have to replace this service, too. We hope we won’t be surprised again, but no matter what happens, we have a plan in place.

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ILLINOIS LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – SENATE BILL 3288

By Joe Mitzenmacher, Loyola University School of Law Library

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In Illinois, a version of the Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act (“UELMA”) is currently working its way through the 98th General Assembly (as Senate Bill 1941), but UELMA isn’t the only pending Illinois legislation that could affect the production and dissemination of government-produced legal information in electronic formats. In February, Illinois Senator Pat McGuire introduced [Senate Bill 3288](#), which, if enacted, would make two key changes to the Illinois General Assembly Operations Act ([25 ILCS 10/10](#), hereinafter “The Act”). These changes could lead to electronic publication and distribution of Illinois session laws, and would do so in a way that would help further UELMA’s goals of providing for authentication, preservation, and permanent accessibility of electronic information.

As it currently reads, Section 10(f) of The Act provides that “the Secretary of State shall prepare a printer’s copy for the ‘Session Laws of Illinois’” that sets out all Acts and Joint Resolutions, plus all Executive Orders of the Governor from the concluded session. The proposed amendment to Section 10(f) would allow this “printer’s copy” to be delivered “in such format as the Secretary of State and the Enrolling and Engrossing Departments [of the House and Senate] may agree.” If enacted, this revised language would open up the possibility that the printer’s copy could be produced and delivered in a non-print (i.e. electronic) format. The language of Section 10(f) also requires a statement on the title page of each volume of

the session laws indicating that they are “[p]rinted by the authority of the General Assembly of the State of Illinois”. Because this requirement would continue in the revised version of Section 10(f), the amended provision would therefore support one of UELMA’s stated goals: ensuring authenticity of officially-designated information produced in an electronic format.

The other proposed change to the language of The Act would affect Section 10(g). Currently, Section 10(g) provides for distribution of bound volumes of Illinois Session Laws to several entities, including various libraries across the state. The revised language would allow for the possibility of electronic distribution of the bound volumes of state Session Laws “upon agreement”. By continuing to require that distribution of these electronic documents be made to multiple libraries, the revised version of Section 10(g) would help meet the preservation requirement of UELMA. In addition, having electronic copies available in multiple locations across the state would make the information more easily accessible to the public, and could help to ensure that it remains permanently accessible, thus accomplishing another of UELMA’s requirements.

Because Senate Bill 3288’s aims are consistent with the requirements and ends of UELMA, CALL’s Government Relations Committee will be keeping an eye on the bill as it proceeds through the General Assembly.

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Learn more:

- [How To Protect Yourself From Online Services Shutting Down](#)
- [How to Protect Your Data in the Event of a Webapp Shutdown \(and Prevent the Problem in the Future\)](#)
- [Moving On When A Service You Love Shuts Down: How to Find A Replacement and Migrate Your Data](#)
- [What to do when your favorite site closes](#)

This post was adapted from an Ignite talk I gave to the Chicago Association of Law Librarians on November 5, 2013.