JOUR 311 Karadjov

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May 3, 2010

LIBRARY ASSIGNMENT

**1.** A major earthquake has hit the border town of Mexicali. Write out a list of questions that you would need to get answered to have sufficient background information to report on this earthquake and to write the story.

* Were there any victims and if so, what were their names and ages?
* What was the extent of injuries or causes of death, if any?
* Which hospital(s) were the injured taken to?
* Did any buildings collapse and if so, what type?
* If a commercial building collapsed, what do they make or do there?
* Where was the location of the earthquake’s epicenter in Mexicali?
* What time did the earthquake start and how long did it occur?
* What was the earthquake’s magnitude?
* Were there any aftershocks, and if so, what time did they occur?
* What fault caused the earthquake, according to informed authorities?
* What is the estimated cost of damage?
* What is the extent of insurance coverage?
* Were there any acts of heroism or dramatic rescues? Who? By whom?
* What kind of weather occurred during the earthquake?
* Did the earthquake affect any evacuees-those driven from their homes or forced out of work?
* Are there any plans to relocate victims or rebuild structures?
* Are there any anecdotes and descriptions from public officials, eyewitnesses, victims, building owners or neighbors about the earthquake and its aftermath?
* Are there any other unusual aspects of the earthquake? Did it shut down traffic? Create power outages? Have there been previous earthquakes at this site, or other similar earthquakes lately that reflect a pattern worth investigating?
* Which local agencies are responsible for emergency planning, such as public safety, relief efforts and evacuation? Are these authorities sufficiently prepared for earthquakes?

**2.** Your editor tells you that there was a substantial earthquake nearby in Calexico in 2002. She wants you to pull the clips on the Los Angeles Times story on the 2002 quake. What was the magnitude of the 2002 quake and what other information in that story might help you in writing about the Mexicali earthquake? Also give the date of the article and the name of the reporter who wrote it.

 The magnitude of the 2002 quake was 5.7 and it had 13 aftershocks of magnitude 3.0 or more. Another 7.0 magnitude earthquake occurred near Calexico in 1892. This area is one of the most seismically active in the Southwest. Major quakes have occurred around California’s Imperial Valley in 1940 and 1979. Strong shaking has occurred as far north as Brawley, nearly 30 miles from the border. There have been signs of volcanic activity and geothermal power development in the region near the 2002 quake’s epicenter and across the border in the Imperial Valley.

Kenneth Reich wrote the article, which was published February 23, 2002.

**3.** Locate one expert on earthquakes, from an institution *other than* Caltech or the U.S. Geological Survey, whom you would want to interview for a broader perspective on the follow-up story? Give his/her name, title and contact information. If you found the person on the Web, also copy the URL(s) of the source(s) into your cover memo.

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Appointed California State Geologist 2005

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http://www.consrv.ca.gov/cgs/cgs\_history/geologists/Pages/jgp.aspx

**4.** An arrest in the death of Chelsea King has renewed the discussion on what types of restrictions should be placed on convicted sex offenders. Find two *credible* advocacy organizations--one that argues in favor of more restrictions and one that advocates for offenders’ civil rights--and find a person in each organization whom you want to interview for a story about the issue. Give the names of the two organizations, the names of the person at each organization whom you would want to interview and their titles. Write a sentence or two on why you think the organizations are credible. If you found the advocates on the Web, also copy the URLs of the source(s) into your cover memo.

Sex Offender Restrictions: Sex Offender Restrictions:

The Joyful Child Foundation California Department of Corrections and

Erin Runnion, Founder Rehabilitation Sex Offender Mngmnt Board

P.O. Box 12680 Jack Wallace, Board Coordinator

Westminster, CA 92685 (916) 323-0384

Phone: 1-866-7JOYFUL (1-866-756-9385)

Sex Offender Civil Rights:

American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California

Ramona Ripston, Executive Director

1313 W. 8th Street

Los Angeles, CA 90017

Phone: (213) 977-9500

Legal Department Fax: (213) 977-5297

Web: <http://www.aclu-sc.org>

 I think the organizations are credible, because they all have Web sites that contain “.org” and they all have contact information. The visitor can also read about them and locate their resources.

http://thejoyfulchild.org/contact.html

<http://casomb.org>

http://www.aclu.org/affiliate/california-southern

**5.** You are researching and writing a story for *LBReport.com* on a proposed homeless shelter. What is the percentage of individuals in Long Beach who have incomes below the poverty line? The information must come from a government agency, and it must be within the last three years. If you found the information on the Web, copy the URLs of the source(s) into your cover memo.

19.8 % (2008)

U.S. Census Bureau

http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/ADPTable?\_bm=y&-geo\_id=16000US0643000&-qr\_name=ACS\_2008\_1YR\_G00\_DP3&-context=adp&-ds\_name=&-tree\_id=308&-\_lang=en&-redoLog=false&-format=

**6.** While researching a story on college enrollment, a source tells you that during the years 2000-2008 that enrollment of African American students grew significantly at both CSULB and at the CSU overall. Evaluate the source’s claims. Write a sentence or two backing up the claims or refuting them with specific data. If you used the Web to find the information, copy and paste the URL into the cover memo.

 During the years 2000-2008, enrollment of African American students grew significantly from 21,549 (5.8 %) in 2000 to 26,193 (6 %) in 2008 at the CSU system overall. African American enrollment increased slightly at CSULB from 2,026 (6.6 %) in 2000 to 2,075 (5.5 %) in 2008.

RAND California: California State University Enrollment Statistics

<http://ca.rand.org.mcc1.library.csulb.edu/cgi-bin/annual.cgi>