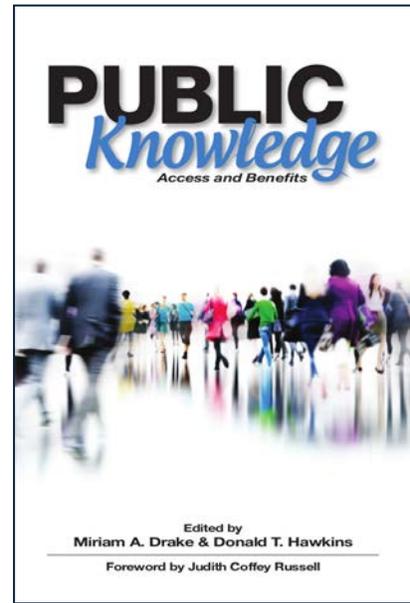


**For Immediate Release**

Contact: Rob Colding  
Information Today, Inc.  
(609) 654-6266, ext. 330  
rcolding@infotoday.com

## Public Knowledge

**Book Describes Vast Information Resources Generated by Federal Agencies and Publicly Funded Organizations ... Details Innovations in Public Access ... Presents Examples of Public Data in Use ... Considers the Future of Open Access.**



**Miriam A. Drake, Donald T. Hawkins, and expert contributors describe the breadth and scope of public information that is managed and provided by the federal government.**

February 23, 2016, Medford, N.J.—Information Today, Inc. (ITI) announced publication of *Public Knowledge: Access and Benefits*, edited by the late Miriam A. Drake along with Donald T. Hawkins. The book features chapters by more than a dozen topic experts, information specialists, and government documents librarians.

*Public Knowledge* is the first book in years to explore trends and issues for researchers and organizations that rely on U.S. public information. The book’s editors and contributors provide an in-depth discussion of the challenges inherent in collecting, preserving, updating, and disseminating the deluge of information that is generated daily by public sources.

The book’s 14 chapters identify agencies at the forefront of managing public information, explore the role of the federal government and its corps of information professionals, and highlight how public data is being consumed by a surprising range of stakeholders in the digital information age. Drake and Hawkins offer a timely reminder of the value and diversity of public information as well as the government’s imperative to make it readily available to all American citizens, without whose tax dollars the information would not exist in the first place.

“Donald Hawkins and Miriam A. Drake, along with various knowledgeable contributors, present a comprehensive view of government information and access to this information through key agencies and libraries,” according to Eileen G. Abels, dean and professor of the School of Library and Information Science, Simmons College. “*Public Knowledge* is a useful resource for librarians, information professionals, and the general public—we *all* need government information.”

– more –

The topic experts that Drake and Hawkins recruited to contribute encompass many whose names are familiar to library and information professionals and other readers interested in the creation, management, archiving, and utilization of public information:

- Judith Coffey Russell
- Forest “Woody” Horton Jr.
- James A. Jacobs
- James R. Jacobs
- Susanne Caro
- Katherine R. Majewski
- Wanda Whitney
- Brian A. Hitson
- Peter M. Lincoln
- Lynn Heimerl
- Gail Hodge
- Mark Anderson
- Marianne Stowell Bracke
- Barbie E. Keiser

In addition to a Foreword by Judith Coffey Russell and 14 topical chapters, *Public Knowledge* features an Introduction by Hawkins, a list of common acronyms, and a comprehensive index. ITI’s editor-in-chief and publisher John B. Bryans described the book as “a must-read for researchers; public reference librarians; research librarians in academic, government, and corporate libraries; government documents librarians; library school students and faculty; and any individual or professional reader interested in understanding, accessing, or using the massive and growing stores of public information available through the federal government and our national libraries.”

**Miriam A. (“Mimi”) Drake** (1936–2014) was dean of libraries at Georgia Institute of Technology. She was the author of more than 100 articles and four books and editor of the *Encyclopedia of Information Science, 2nd Edition*. **Donald T. Hawkins** blogs about conferences organized by Information Today, Inc. and The Charleston Group, LLC. He is the author of more than 350 articles and editor of *Personal Archiving: Preserving Our Digital Heritage* (ITI, 2013).

*Public Knowledge: Access and Benefits* (288pp/softbound/\$59.50/ ISBN 978-1-57387-515-8) is published by Information Today, Inc. in print and digital editions and is available wherever quality professional books are sold, including direct from the publisher. For more information, call (800) 300-9868; fax (609) 654-4309; email [custserv@infotoday.com](mailto:custserv@infotoday.com); or visit the ITI website at [infotoday.com](http://infotoday.com).

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