About MuckRock

MuckRock is a non-profit collaborative news site that gives you the tools to keep our government transparent and accountable.

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MuckRock (MCKRCK)

Description:

MuckRock is a non-profit, collaborative news site that brings together journalists, researchers, activists, and regular citizens to request, analyze, and share government documents, making politics more transparent and democracies more informed.

Stakeholder(s):

MuckRock Foundation :

The MuckRock Foundation manages the day-to-day operations of numerous services in support of a transparent and participatory democracy. In addition to MuckRock, they also run DocumentCloud, oTranscribe, FOIA Machine, and Quackbot. MuckRock acts as the fiscal sponsor for Outlier Media, The Sigma Awards, and The Center for Collaborative Investigative Journalism.

Bimal Nepal :

Staff photography generously provided by Bimal Nepal of Bimal Photo Studio.

Michael Morisy :

Cofounder Michael Morisy is MuckRock's chief executive. He was previously an editor at the Boston Globe, where he launched the paper's technology vertical BetaBoston. He is currently a 2018-19 nonresidential fellow at Reynolds Journalism Institute at the University of Missouri. He was a 2014-15 John S. Knight Journalism Fellow at Stanford University and a 2012-13 Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics Network Fellow at Harvard University. He graduated in 2007 from Cornell University with a degree in English. He can be reached at michael@muckrock.com.

Mitchell Kotler :

Cofounder Mitchell Kotler is the site's lead developer and site architect. He is a veteran of multiple technology companies and startups, including AMD, Achronix, and eProvenance. He graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelors degree in Electrical and Computer Engineering from Cornell University in 2007, and earned a Masters Degree from Cornell in 2008. You can contact him at mitch@muckrock.com / PGP Key.

Ana Arana :

Editorial News Partnerships Consultant Ana Arana is an award-winning U.S. veteran investigative journalist and media trainer with experience covering international organized crime. A former foreign correspondent, she is the former Acting Director and Director of Operations at the Fund for Investigative Journalism. Prior to that, she was the former director of a Mexico City binational investigative project. Arana has received multiple team awards including an Edward R. Morrow regional award, a Third Coast award, a Peabody Award, two Overseas Press Club Awards—the Lowell Thomas for Radio

and the Joe and Laurie Dine Award for Human Rights Reporting—and a Dart Award for Excellence in Coverage of Trauma from Columbia University's Dart Center, and was a finalist for the Scripps Howard Foundation National Journalism Ernie Pyle Award for human interest storytelling.

Beryl C.D. Lipton :

Projects Editor / Senior Reporter Beryl C.D. Lipton is motivated by the inefficiencies that hinder a progressive democracy. She studied the History and Literature of America at Harvard College and likes to play with patterns and narrative constructions. Any and all may be in touch about any and all at Beryl@MuckRock.com / PGP Key.

Kiera Murray :

Operations Lead Kiera Murray studied journalism at Emerson College and has worked as a community reporter for local publications in Boston. She currently works to make sure public records requests are sent, received, and fulfilled efficiently. She can be reached at kiera@muckrock.com.

Dylan Freedman :

Dylan Freedman leads development of DocumentCloud, a platform for analyzing, annotating, and sharing collections of documents. He received a B.A. in computer science and music at Harvard and a master's in journalism at Stanford. Between academic pursuits, he was a software engineer and researcher in machine perception at Google. As a long-time programmer and recent journalist, Dylan strives to develop computational tools to help people find and tell stories. Reach out to him at dylan@documentcloud.org or @dylfreed.

Kim Coffman :

Office Assistant Kim Coffman graduated with honors from the University of California, Santa Barbara with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Feminist Studies, and is currently finishing her Masters of Science in Critical Ethnic and Community Studies at the University of Boston, Massachusetts. She provides support for Operations and is driven by a passion for ethical, community/issue-centered research. She can be reached at kim@muckrock.com.

Nicole Kanu :

Administrative Researcher Nicole Kanu keeps MuckRock's agency database updated and negotiates with records officers to keep requests flowing smoothly. She is the founder of the Share a Smile Box Initiative, which distributes money, food, clothing, and toys in rural Eastern Nigeria. She has a Masters of Public Service from the University of Arkansas' Clinton School of Public Service and is a graduate of Bates College.

Cassie Morgenstern :

Administrative Researcher Cassie Morgenstern follows up with non-responsive agencies and helps update MuckRock's databases. She graduated with a BA in Communications and Journalism from the University of Maryland. She is committed to nonprofit work and volunteerism because she believes in the power of individuals coming together to create change.

MuckRock Board

Cori Zarek :

Board president Cori Zarek works on technology and policy projects with a goal of helping governments better serve the public. She is the Director of the Digital Service Collaborative at the Georgetown Beeck Center for Social Impact + Innovation and previously served as the Deputy U.S. Chief Technology Officer. Before launching this project, Cori led the principles and practices work for Code for America and was a Mozilla fellow. From 2013-2017 at the White House, Cori advised the U.S. Chief Technology Officer and led the team's work to build a more digital, open, and collaborative government including helping to stand up and support the U.S. Digital Service, 18F and the Presidential Innovation Fellows. Cori also led the U.S. government's development and implementation of commitments to the Open Government Partnership. Previously, Cori was a freedom of information attorney at the U.S. National Archives, and before that, at the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press where she worked on free press, free expression, and freedom of information issues.

Jim Neff :

Board vice president Jim Neff is the deputy managing editor of Philadelphia Media Network. He has written five nonfiction books, including his most recent, Vendetta: Bobby Kennedy vs. Jimmy Hoffa. Previously he was investigations editor at The Seattle Times, where he oversaw the series "Methadone and the Politics of Pain," winner of the 2012 Pulitzer winner for investigative reporting.

Kimberly Springer :

Board member Kimberly Springer is Curator for Oral History for the Oral History Archives at Columbia University's Rare Book & Manuscript Library. She holds a master's of information science, specializing in archives, preservation and social computing from the University of Michigan - Ann Arbor. She obtained her doctorate from the Women's Studies Program at Emory University in Atlanta. Her research and publication areas are born-digital materials, artists' studio archives, social media, social movements, and television studies as they intersect with race, gender and sexuality.

Meredith Broussard :

Board member Meredith Broussard is an associate professor at the Arthur L. Carter Journalism Institute of New York University and the author of Artificial Unintelligence: How Computers Misunderstand the World. Her research focuses on artificial intelligence in investigative reporting, with a particular interest in using data analysis for social good. She is an affiliate faculty member at the Moore Sloan Data Science Environment at the NYU Center for Data Science, a 2019 Reynolds Journalism Institute Fellow, and her work has been supported by the Institute of Museum & Library Services as well as the Tow Center at Columbia Journalism School. A former features editor at the Philadelphia Inquirer, she has also worked as a software developer at AT&T Bell Labs and the MIT Media Lab. Her features and essays have appeared in The Atlantic, Slate, Vox, and other outlets.

Scott Klein :

Board member Scott Klein is deputy managing editor at ProPublica and DocumentCloud co-founder. At ProPublica, Klein directs a team of journalist/programmers building large interactive software projects that tell journalistic stories, and that make complex national statistics relevant to readers and their communities. ProPublica's news application team's awards include three Online Journalism Awards for General Excellence, nine Malofiej International Infographics Award medals, the Data Journalism Award Jurors Choice Award, and 34 Society for News Design Awards of Excellence, including special recognition for "defining the design language of data-driven news apps."

Jenny 8. Lee :

Board member Jenny 8. Lee is co-founder and CEO of Plympton, a San Francisco-based literary studio that innovates in digital publishing. A former New York Times reporter, Jenny is a producer of "The Search for General Tso," a documentary that premiered at the 2014 Tribeca Film Festival, and the author of the New York Times-bestselling book, The Fortune Cookie Chronicles (Twelve, 2008). She is the founder of Emoji-con and MisinfoCon.

Aron Pilhofer :

Board member Aron Pilhofer is the James B. Steele Chair in Journalism Innovation at Temple University and DocumentCloud co-founder. Before joining Temple, Pilhofer was Executive Editor, Digital, and interim Chief Digital Officer at the Guardian in Londo and Associate Managing Editor for Digital Strategy and editor of Interactive News at The New York Times. At the Guardian, he led the news organization's 200-person product and technology teams as well as heading visual journalism — including pictures, graphics, interactive and data journalism.

Nabiha Syed :

Board member Nabiha Syed is president of The Markup, responsible for legal, communications, development, finance, and human resources. Before joining The Markup, Nabiha was vice president and associate general counsel at BuzzFeed, where she counseled on newsgathering, libel, and privacy matters worldwide. Under her leadership, the company successfully defended against libel litigations arising out of the publication of the Steele dossier and initiated numerous notable access litigations. Prior to BuzzFeed, Syed co-founded the nation's first media access law clinic, currently in its tenth year of operation at Yale Law School, and served as a First Amendment Fellow at The New York Times.

Stakeholders (continued)

Sunlight Foundation :
MuckRock's unique form of investigative and accountability journalism has been recognized by the Sunlight Foundation, The Freedom of the Press Foundation, and hundreds of local and national news outlets for its groundbreaking work in areas such as government spending, surveillance, and public safety.

The Freedom of the Press Foundation

News Outlets

Government Agencies :
Government materials on MuckRock are available free of charge and, with some exceptions, without restriction. Filing requests through MuckRock starts at just $20 to file up to four requests, which includes advice, postage, follow up, and hosting of the materials in an easy-to-use format.

Global Investigative Journalism Network :
MuckRock is a member of the Global Investigative Journalism Network

Journalists

Researchers

Activists

Citizens

Vision

More transparent politics, more informed democracies

Mission
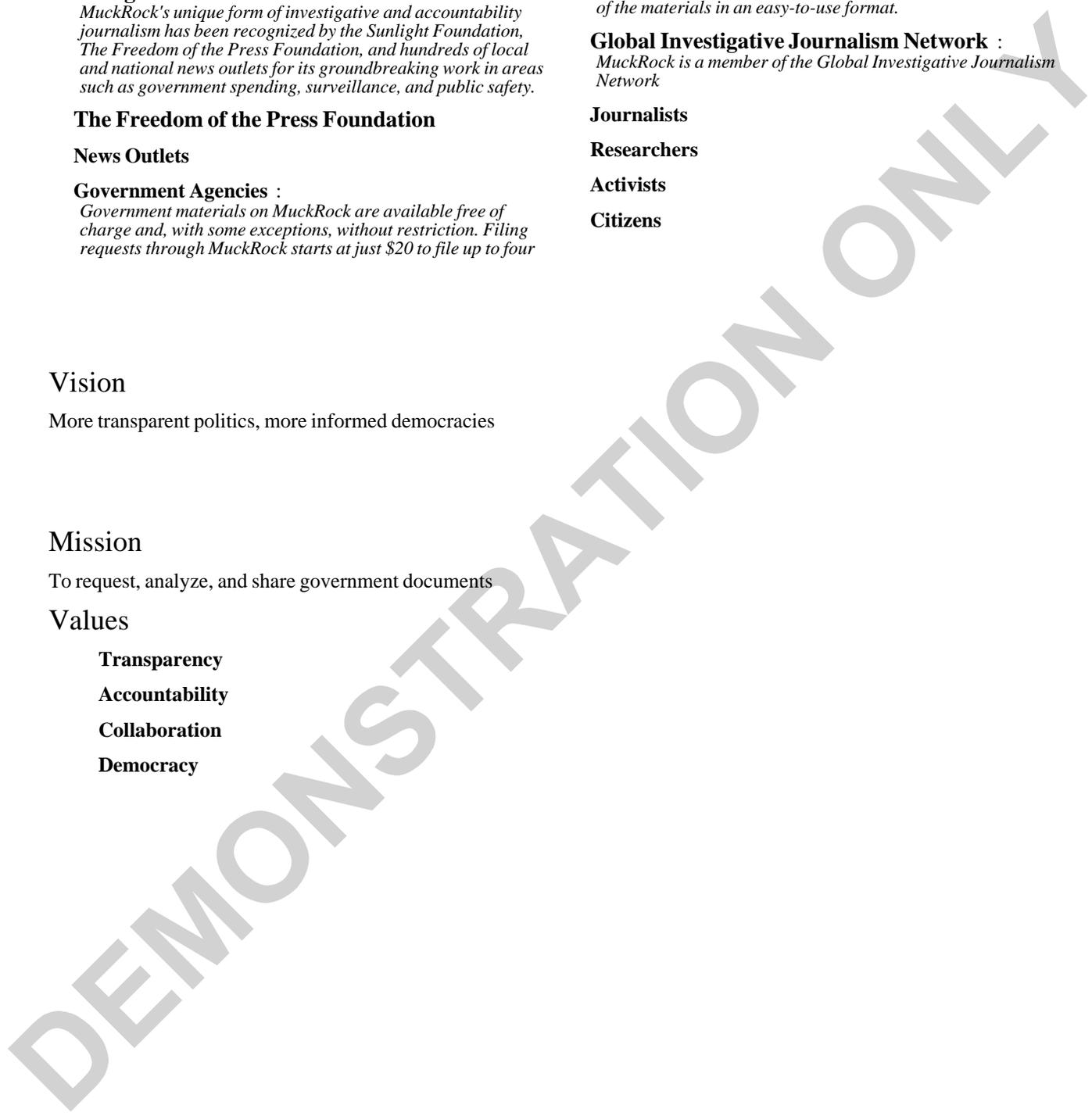
To request, analyze, and share government documents

Values

Transparency

Accountability

Collaboration

Democracy

1. Government Records

Provide a repository of government materials

The site provides a repository of hundreds of thousands of pages of original government materials, information on how to file requests, and tools to make the requesting process easier.

1.1. Requests

Provide information on how to file requests

1.2. Tools

Offer tools to make the requesting process easier

2. Reporting & Analysis

Create original investigative reporting and analysis

In addition, MuckRock staff and outside contributors are using these primary source documents received through the site to create original investigative reporting and analysis.

Administrative Information

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End Date:

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