Searching for “Spitzer” in the Archives: Using Search Strategies in Conjunction with Social Network Analysis of Troopergate Records

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August 11, 2009
Troopergate Scandal

• Spitzer administration officials and New York State Police acted inappropriately in investigating travel of then-Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno

• Involvement of Eliot Spitzer is unclear
Troopergate Timeline

- July 1, 2007
  - Times Union Article alleges then-Senator and Majority Leader Joseph Bruno misused state aircraft for travel relating to fund-raising
- July 2, 2007
  - Office of Attorney General launches investigation into Bruno’s actions
- July 5, 2007
  - Bruno requests OAG investigate the Governor’s “misuse of State resources in connection with State Police surveillance of Senator Bruno’s activities”
- July 23, 2007
  - OAG issues report
• July 23, 2007
  • State Office of Inspector General issues report with similar findings to Office of Attorney General
• Shortly after July 23, 2007
  • Daren Dopp is suspended without pay
• September 21, 2007
  • Albany County District Attorney’s Office publishes first report absolving Executive Chamber staff of any crimes
• March 28, 2008
  • Albany County District Attorney’s Office published second report called “Investigation D” (called for by Commission on Public Integrity’s request to determine if Darren Dopp perjured himself in a sworn statement)
• July 24, 2008
  • Commission on Public Integrity (Formerly Ethics Commission) Issues report declaring Baum, Dopp, Howard and Felton violated Public Office’s law (only Dopp and Felton knowingly violated the law)
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• October 2008
  • Senate Committee on Investigations and Government Operations investigation dropped
• January 2009
  • Commission On Investigation
• May 2009
  • State Inspector General
• Current
  • Office of Attorney General
Timeline of Investigations
People

• New York Times Graphic from July 27, 2007

Records

Albany County DA
- Second investigation
- Accessioned, B1989
- Scanned documents
- Single scan files
- Access via search
- Duplicates

Commission on Public Integrity
- RDA in process
- Scanned documents
- Arranged files
- Metadata Access
- Unique interviews
Screenshot of B1989 Records
## Interview Exhibits

### Index to Exhibits (PDF)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EX</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Link</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Transportation Assignment for Senator Bruno for May 3–4, 2007</td>
<td>05/3–4/07</td>
<td>Exhibit 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Transportation Assignment for Senator Bruno for May 17, 2007</td>
<td>05/17/07</td>
<td>Exhibit 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Transportation Assignment for Senator Bruno for May 24, 2007</td>
<td>05/24/07</td>
<td>Exhibit 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Ground Transportation — June 27, 2007</td>
<td>06/27/07</td>
<td>Exhibit 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Trip to NYC May 17–18, 2007</td>
<td>05/17–18/07</td>
<td>Exhibit 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Email — Miner to Larrabee &amp; Swoboda</td>
<td>03/14/07</td>
<td>Exhibit 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Email — Miner to Larrabee</td>
<td>07/01/07</td>
<td>Exhibit 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Email — Miner to Howard</td>
<td>07/09/07</td>
<td>Exhibit 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Email — Howard to Miner</td>
<td>07/05/07</td>
<td>Exhibit 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Email — Dicker to Miner</td>
<td>07/11/07</td>
<td>Exhibit 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Email — Cordi to Kopy</td>
<td>04/03/07</td>
<td>Exhibit 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Typed and Handwritten note re: Thurs. April 5, 2007</td>
<td>04/05/07</td>
<td>Exhibit 12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Search Solution

• Lemur Toolkit, Indri Search Engine
  • Faster than Adobe Reader/Acrobat
  • More than posting list, ranked listing
  • Requires more user friendly interface

• Search Issues
  • OCR’d PDF text
  • Text askew
  • Misspellings
  • Header information in email lost when printed and scanned
  • Can not rely on co-occurrence of names
Future Work

• Archives
  • Automatic comparison of duplicate records
  • Intern project to arrange B1989
  • Accession CPI records

• Research
  • Create timeline slices of social network