directly with a cross-section of people in a single project in order to complete their work. They were stunned that I could name more than five, and was able to illustrate the ways in which many different professions and fields of research rely on public participation (although some also refer to it as civic engagement). The students' perspectives differed greatly from the faculty also working on the project — many of whom saw public involvement as a burden that only slowed things down. In fact, I recall the author commenting upon how "exhausting and time-consuming" democracy was.

The process of engagement and its use in the planning process is the focus of this book. It is also an autobiographical journey of how a young planner begins her career to use technology and teaching to shape the planning process and learns the power of bringing diverse communities together. Knowing some of the author's personal history gives me an additional perspective on the work. Dr. Ramasubramanian began her study and training abroad, and during her studies in the United States became a U.S. citizen, encountering realities and practicalities of American democracy anew that many of us who were born here take so much for granted that they are often forgotten. I believe this unspoken background underscores the personal yet scholarly tone of the book. It is very well written and easy to read, yet presents many complex theories head-on and with humor.

The organization in three parts with a detailed table of contents allows the reader to focus on specific related theories and concepts. These parts are, 1, *Participatory Planning: Why Does It Matter?* — 2, *Three Narratives* — and 3, *The Future of PPGIS*. The first two parts are subdivided into four chapters while part three is subdivided into two. There is an index, but it seems to be lacking in detail and in cross-references; and while "see also" references are used, they do not cross-reference back.

Part one is the most scholarly of the three primarily because it establishes the parameters of the book. Dr. Ramasubramanian takes time to outline the history of planning, and of how technologies, especially geographic information systems, have evolved to bridge differences between planners and the public. The author begins by taking the reader through the uneasy history of planning in the United States — a process left primarily to local governments rather than to one federal agency, meaning that the planning process differs from township to village to city. Each process is unique because it is locally defined, and fundamentally tied to the needs of the local government (s) in question. The federal government has agencies that oversee the *regulation* of local planning in areas firmly within its purview — economic development, transportation, public safety, public health, housing, environmental protection, and so forth — yet even here, federal involvement is decentralized and can be haphazard.

Each chapter in part one includes detailed notes which help the reader find additional data about the issues discussed. These detailed notes are not appropriate to the next two parts of the book, as they are reflective of what the author has learned through personal experience, rather than a synthesis of the literature and examination of theory.

Part two includes chapters reviewing three planning projects managed by the author. In each chapter, she reflects on how the project discussed impacts PPGIS (Public Participation + Geographic Information Systems) and how the GIS technologies evolve to manage problems that have stopped previous planning projects from moving forward. This section is the most personal because the author shows her bias but also her capacity to learn. She is not afraid to challenge long-held theories of how to engage the public even when those members of the public do not wish to be bothered. Additionally, these chapters reveal the dynamics of human interaction. Dr. Ramasubramanian deftly allows each project story to unfold with humor and extreme skill. Her analytical eye never loses sight of the real objective: respect for all those unique perspectives. She courageously asks "Why?" and then works together with all stakeholders to find the answer.

The final section of the book offers a glimpse into the future of public participation in planning. The author concludes the book with guidelines for using GIS and public participation in planning projects.

She recognizes that any successful planning project requires acknowledging all points of view, building consensus, and allowing democracy to take its own time. The rewards of allowing citizens to engage directly in shaping the future of their communities, allowing business owners equal say as the citizens who live in the community, and listening to all perspectives equally provides a solid foundation for development. I recommend this book for all readers interested in civic engagement, planning, GIS, and the digital revolution. It is a book that should be on every academic and public library shelf.

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Lobbying and Policy Change: Who Wins, Who Loses, and Why. Frank R. Baumgartner, Jeffrey M. Berry, Marie Hojnacki, David C. Kimball, Beth L. Leech. Chicago and London: University of Chicago Press, 2009. 360 pp. $66.00 (cloth), ISBN: 9780226039442.

Lobbying and Policy Change uses data gathered from a study conducted by the authors to analyze the outcomes of policy change and who typically prevails in the policy battles leading up to change and why. The authors are academics, and *Lobbying and Policy Change* targets an academic audience: political science and public policy students and scholars. The authors provide a brief literature review on previous scholarship in this field which includes examinations of Charles Lindblom's work on the incrementalist model as well as Frank R. Baumgartner's and Bryan Jones' work on punctuated equilibrium. This literature review serves the purposes of establishing a context while simultaneously emphasizing the very thing that makes this study unique: it is different from what has been done before.

In order to explore the driving forces behind the policy process as well as the failures and successes of attempted policy change, the authors interviewed over 300 government officials and lobbyists regarding 98 federal government-related policy issues. The interviews took place between 1999 and 2002, and the study included following news about these issues, sorting through public documents, and follow-up interviews for four years to determine who was and was not successful in their policy change efforts.

The major finding of the study conducted by Baumgartner et al. and the predominant message throughout *Lobbying and Policy Change* is that when there is a policy battle involving a status quo versus a new, unknown approach to an issue, the status quo will come out on top more often than not. There are many obstacles involved with challenging the status quo. One major obstacle for many of the advocates interviewed was simply getting enough attention to continue with policy change efforts, and in some cases advocates had so little attention an opposition did not rise to challenge them. The absence of an opposition could imply that the battle is as good as won when no one notices it is even happening.

Even though the authors assert that the status quo is often maintained in policy battles, they do not assert that policy change never occurs. And when change does occur it usually is a considerable departure from the long standing policy. According to Baumgartner et al., one possible explanation for change could be that failed attempts at policy change in the past actually lay the groundwork for future change by drawing people's attention to issues and eventually leading them to change their minds as they observe the issues over time. However, regardless of the outcome, some of the most influential agents in policy battles tend to be

elected officials. The authors make the case that the election of a Republican president in 2000 dramatically impacted seventeen policy issues in their study.

Policy change is complex, and *Lobbying and Policy Change* explores this complexity with nuanced ideas that are strongly supported by the findings of the authors' study. Even though *Lobbying and Policy Change* appears to be intended for an academic audience, its subject matter is relevant to many audiences. Its conclusions are well documented and explained, and the book will provide an interesting, informative, and thought-provoking read regardless of whether you are a student, scholar, or just someone who has an interest in the political system of the United States.

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FedWorld.Gov. Administered by the National Technical Information Service, U.S. Department of Commerce, Alexandria, VA, 22312. Retrieved September 30, 2010, from http://www.fedworld.gov/index.html.

FedWorld bills itself as "a gateway to government information." It is a "program of the United States Department of Commerce" and a product of the National Technical Information Service (NTIS). A short description on the About Us page of the site states, "In 1992, FedWorld was established… to serve as the online locator service for a comprehensive inventory of information disseminated by the Federal Government." As a "gateway," FedWorld is not a source of government information, per se. It acts as a *portal*, containing links to other government websites, as well as several content-specific search engines including USA.gov, Science.gov, and one for the full-text of Supreme Court Decisions. FedWorld was created as the Internet was being established, and it appears to continue to reflect this period in time.

The homepage is a mix of unrelated images and links. Four images use the space on the page, adding little to its content. An image of the Lincoln Memorial statue links to USAJobs (not the Office of Personnel Management site as stated). A revolving adjacent image provides a link to searching NTIS documents, a key resource for agency supported technical materials. Searching the Supreme Court link by party name offers the full-text of U.S. Supreme Court cases. The sidebar contains two links to Search.USA.gov, a link to the IRS website, and one to Top Government Web Sites. There are also several videos toward the bottom of the page on a variety of topics: tornadoes, floods, and (inexplicably) Yellowstone Park via the National Park Service.

No search tips are provided and search algorithms are fairly unforgiving. Boolean searches are also ineffective: Brown AND education retrieves nothing in the Supreme Court database. Single word searches do retrieve relevant hits.

FedWorld is accessible using both Internet Explorer 7 and Firefox 3.6.10. All pages of the site link back to the homepage, making navigation fairly easy. Navigation within FedWorld can also be accomplished using the sitemap. Clicking on the sitemap from the top of the page brings the user to a number of links. These include those on the home page in addition to Science.gov. Navigation is also possible using links along the website sidebar.

The sitemap contains many redundant links, as well as links that do not provide the indicated information. On the sitemap are no fewer than three links to SearchUSA.gov, three links to the FedWorld / FLITE U.S. Supreme Court Decision Case Name Search page, three links to the Top Government Web Sites page, and five (!) links (with differing titles) to the About FedWorld page. One of these links is entitled *Phone Numbers*—but no phone numbers are provided. There are additional redundant links.

The most potentially useful page on FedWorld is the page with links to Top Government Web Sites. These are grouped by four dropdown menus: Subject-Based U.S. Government Sites, Other Important Government Information, Browse the FedWorld Information Network, and Executive Branch Agency Web Sites. Subject-Based U.S. Government Sites includes such sites as Disabilities.gov, Federal Resources for Education Excellence (http://www.free.ed.gov/), Healthfinder.gov (sponsored by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services), and Nutrition.gov. Other Important Government Information includes links to the websites of the House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate, the White House, and Thomas—the legislative information page sponsored by the Library of Congress. There are several broken links in this section. The Browse the FedWorld Information Network section consists primarily of broken links. Of the nine links in this section, only the U.S. Supreme Court Decision Case Name Search (linked in quite a few other areas in FedWorld), yet another link to the NTIS, Wage Determinations OnLine (which is confusingly labeled as The Service Contract Acts Database), and The World News Connection (a foreign news service), connect. All of the Executive Branch Agency Web Sites work, though the link to the Office of Management and Budget does not go directly to the website—it actually links to the White House site. There is also an extensive list of links to Web Sites of Independent US Federal Agencies and Commissions, including the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, and the United States Office of Government Ethics.

According to the website, FedWorld was last updated September 30, 2010—the date this review was written. One wonders what exactly was accomplished for this "update." The site contains many broken and redundant links, along with information placed on the site for no apparent reason. Why a video about tornadoes, for example, when the website states that "peak tornado season is March through May…"? And why place a random link to the IRS Web Site on the homepage when no other government agencies are represented?

FedWorld reflects the early 1990s and has not been updated to reflect evolving government and user needs. USA.gov does a much better job of making government information easily accessible to a visitor. It is a clean, well-designed site. It is no wonder FedWorld provides so many links to its search engine.

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Change of State: Information, Policy and Power. Sharon Braman. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2006. 545 pp. $20.00 (paperback), ISBN-13 978-0-262-02597-3. Reprint edition (September 2009), ISBN-10 0-262-51324-2.

Braman begins her overview of information policy in a society where information is power by asking three questions: What laws are necessary in this new informational society? What effect do these laws have on daily life? What is the nature of government in the digital world? She posits that we have moved from a bureaucratic welfare state, characterized by information policy that is directed toward management of social programs, to an informational state where governments recognize information's increased role in society and exercise power