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Dear Friends, I am deeply saddened to share this message from the family of Malcolm Margolin with you:

Dear friends, Malcolm Margolin passed away peacefully this morning, with family by his side. He kept his zest for life, sense of humor, and expansive sense of beauty till the end. He will be greatly missed by many. A celebration of Malcolm's life and legacy will be announced at a later date.

Malcolm Margolin, Founder and Publisher of Heyday, Dies at 84

By Sam Spratford | Aug 21, 2025

Malcolm Margolin, founder and longtime publisher of the Berkeley, Calif.–based independent press Heyday, died on August 20 from complications of Parkinson's at a medical facility in Berkeley. He was 84. Over his 41 years at the helm of Heyday, Margolin made a name for the press as a publisher of regional titles, including nature guides and books on social justice, history, and Native American studies.

Margolin founded Heyday in 1974 when he published two of his own books, *East Bay Out: A Personal Guide to the East Bay Regional Parks* and *The Ohlone Way: Indian Life in the San Francisco-Monterey Bay Area*. Both titles sold [more than 100,000 copies](#) within two years of publication.

Heyday would go on to become an award-winning publisher of nature books and field guides, which comprise [about 50%](#) of its list. Margolin rounded out Heyday's niche with regional titles on social justice, history, and Native American studies. Among the press's most popular titles are *A Californian's Guide to the Trees Among Us* and *Cityscape: San Francisco and Its Buildings*.

Born in Boston in 1940, Margolin's interest in nature began as a student at Harvard, where he took up hiking. After moving with his wife from New York City to Berkeley in 1970, Margolin was surrounded by [burgeoning Native American activism](#) and became fascinated by the Indigenous history of the land. At the time, books on the subject had been only scantily published. After three years of research, Margolin published *The Ohlone Way* in 1978, inaugurating an array of writing by and about Indigenous people at Heyday, including Deborah A. Miranda's *Bad Indians: A Tribal Memoir* (2012), which is frequently taught in California schools.

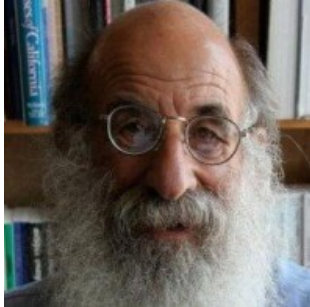
Though Margolin, who was white, was at first criticized by some for co-opting Indigenous experiences, Heyday is now [regarded as a pioneer](#) in its commitment to giving a platform to Indigenous writers. The *San Francisco Chronicle* would later call *The Ohlone Way* "one of the hundred most important books of the twentieth century by a Western writer."

Founded at the [start of the small-press movement](#), Heyday was at first surrounded by fellow indies, but Margolin watched his contemporaries—like Ten Speed Press, also founded in Berkeley in 1971 and now an imprint of Penguin Random House—get scooped up over the years by publishing conglomerates. Resolutely independent, Margolin registered Heyday as a nonprofit in 2001 to help ensure its long-term survival. "The kind of stuff I love to publish is never going to make any money," he said in [an interview with PW](#) in 2014. "Money comes second."

Margolin continued throughout his life to support regional authors. In 2001, he cofounded *Bay*

Nature magazine with David Loeb and, in 2012, he established Heyday’s Berkeley Roundhouse program, which promotes the work of Indigenous Californian writers.

Margolin retired at the end of 2015, and was [succeeded](#) by current Heyday publisher Steve Wasserman. “It is with profound grief that we mark the end of this extraordinary man,” Wasserman said, “but we are summoned to continue the legacy he has left us—a profound commitment to celebrating the beauty and joy to be found in this broken world”



Upon his [departure](#), Margolin said he felt “pride and amazement at the hundreds of books we’ve published, the communities we’ve nourished, and the wealth of ideas we’ve put forth.” In addition to a lifetime achievement award from the Bay Area Book Reviewers Association, a community leadership award from the San Francisco Foundation, and other honors, Heyday [recognized](#) Margolin with its own lifetime achievement award in October 2024, at its 50th anniversary celebration.

“If he had twice this lifetime,” Heyday associate publisher Marthine Satris said, “I am sure his imagination would still have been too large for it.”

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#### **[Malcolm Margolin’s Beautiful Life](#)**

It is with great sadness that we share Malcolm Margolin—editor, writer, publisher, and *Bay Nature*’s cofounder—died this week. Today we revisit his last interview with us, in 2016: “I find beauty everywhere, because it is everywhere, and my skills are the skills not of a creator but of a good witness.” [Read More »](#)

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White House changes course after Trump vows executive order to ‘end’ mail-in voting

ANALYSIS — The White House has abruptly altered course on President Donald Trump’s vow to have an elite legal team craft an executive order that would end mail-in voting, with a top aide saying the administration would instead forge a legislative path. [Read more...](#)

White House restores spending database it sought to keep secret

The White House has restored a website that shows how spending authority is parceled out to federal agencies throughout the year, but Democrats say some of the information that is required to be disclosed may still be missing. [Read more...](#)

Why Does the U.S. Army Own So Many Fossils?

Turns out massive flood control projects are a great way to find dinosaurs.
[https://getpocket.com/explore/item/why-does-the-u-s-army-own-so-many-fossils?](https://getpocket.com/explore/item/why-does-the-u-s-army-own-so-many-fossils?utm_source=firefox-newtab-en-us)
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When new leaders took over in ancient Maya, they didn't just bury the former royals. They burned their bodies in public <https://www.ctvnews.ca/sci-tech/article/when-new-leaders-took-over-in-ancient-maya-they-didnt-just-bury-the-former-royals-they-burned-their-bodies-in-public/>

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*As readers know, I try to keep up with the presidential executive orders, proclamations, nominations and memoranda. While they come fast and furious, they often do not come in chronological order.....and some take a long time to be posted. As such, these pages cannot be relied upon for timely reporting, just chronicling of things that come along. But reading these documents (average two pages) is essential for although the titles are often benign, the content is not. Do use [whitehouse.gov](https://www.whitehouse.gov) as a regular site to visit. sdc*

## PREVENTING WOKE AI IN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

### Executive Orders      July 23, 2025

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, it is hereby ordered:

Section 1. Purpose. Artificial intelligence (AI) will play a critical role in how Americans of all ages learn new skills, consume information, and navigate their daily lives. Americans will require reliable outputs from AI, but when ideological biases or social agendas are built into AI models, they can distort the quality and accuracy of the output.

One of the most pervasive and destructive of these ideologies is so-called “diversity, equity, and inclusion” (DEI). In the AI context, DEI includes the suppression or distortion of factual information about race or sex; manipulation of racial or sexual representation in model outputs; incorporation of concepts like critical race theory, transgenderism, unconscious bias, intersectionality, and systemic racism; and discrimination on the basis of race or sex. DEI displaces the commitment to truth in favor of preferred outcomes and, as recent history illustrates, poses an existential threat to reliable AI.

For example, one major AI model changed the race or sex of historical figures — including the Pope, the Founding Fathers, and Vikings — when prompted for images because it was trained to prioritize DEI requirements at the cost of accuracy. Another AI model refused to produce images celebrating the achievements of white people, even while complying with the same request for people of other races. In yet another case, an AI model asserted that a user should not “misgender” another person even if necessary to stop a nuclear apocalypse.

While the Federal Government should be hesitant to regulate the functionality of AI models in the private marketplace, in the context of Federal procurement, it has the obligation not to procure models that sacrifice truthfulness and accuracy to ideological agendas. Building on Executive Order 13960 of December 3, 2020 (Promoting the Use of Trustworthy Artificial Intelligence in the Federal Government), this order helps fulfill that obligation in the context of large language models.

Sec. 2. Definitions. For purposes of this order:

(a) The term “agency” means an executive department, a military department, or any independent establishment within the meaning of 5 U.S.C. 101, 102, and 104(1), respectively, and any wholly owned Government corporation within the meaning of 31 U.S.C. 9101.

(b) The term “agency head” means the highest-ranking

official or officials of an agency, such as the Secretary, Administrator, Chairman, Director, Commissioners, or Board of Directors.

(c) The term “LLM” means a large language model, which is a generative AI model trained on vast, diverse datasets that enable the model to generate natural-language responses to user prompts.

(d) The term “national security system” has the same meaning as in 44 U.S.C. 3552(b)(6).

Sec. 3. Unbiased AI Principles. It is the policy of the United States to promote the innovation and use of trustworthy AI. To advance that policy, agency heads shall, consistent with applicable law and in consideration of guidance issued pursuant to section 4 of this order, procure only those LLMs developed in accordance with the following two principles (Unbiased AI Principles):

(a) Truth-seeking. LLMs shall be truthful in responding to user prompts seeking factual information or analysis. LLMs shall prioritize historical accuracy, scientific inquiry, and objectivity, and shall acknowledge uncertainty where reliable information is incomplete or contradictory.

(b) Ideological Neutrality. LLMs shall be neutral, nonpartisan tools that do not manipulate responses in favor of ideological dogmas such as DEI. Developers shall not intentionally encode partisan or ideological judgments into an LLM’s outputs unless those judgments are prompted by or otherwise readily accessible to the end user.

Sec. 4. Implementation. (a) Within 120 days of the date of this order, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), in consultation with the Administrator for Federal Procurement Policy, the Administrator of General Services, and the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, shall issue guidance to agencies to implement section 3 of this order. That guidance shall:

(i) account for technical limitations in complying with this order;

- (ii) permit vendors to comply with the requirement in the second Unbiased AI Principle to be transparent about ideological judgments through disclosure of the LLM’s system prompt, specifications, evaluations, or other relevant documentation, and avoid requiring disclosure of specific model weights or other sensitive technical data where practicable;
  - (iii) avoid over-prescription and afford latitude for vendors to comply with the Unbiased AI Principles and take different approaches to innovation;
  - (iv) specify factors for agency heads to consider in determining whether to apply the Unbiased AI Principles to LLMs developed by the agencies and to AI models other than LLMs; and
  - (v) make exceptions as appropriate for the use of LLMs in national security systems.
- (b) Each agency head shall, to the maximum extent consistent with applicable law:
- (i) include in each Federal contract for an LLM entered into following the date of the OMB guidance issued under subsection (a) of this section terms requiring that the procured LLM comply with the Unbiased AI Principles and providing that decommissioning costs shall be charged to the vendor in the event of termination by the agency for the vendor’s noncompliance with the contract following a reasonable period to cure;
  - (ii) to the extent practicable and consistent with contract terms, revise existing contracts for LLMs to include the terms specified in subsection (b)(i) of this section; and
  - (iii) within 90 days of the OMB guidance issued under subsection (a) of this section, adopt procedures to ensure that LLMs procured by the agency comply with the Unbiased AI Principles.

Sec. 5. General Provisions. (a) Nothing in this order shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect:

- (i) the authority granted by law to an executive department or agency, or the head thereof; or
  - (ii) the functions of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget relating to budgetary, administrative, or legislative proposals.
- (b) This order shall be implemented consistent with applicable law and subject to the availability of appropriations.
- (c) This order is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.
- (d) The costs for publication of this order shall be borne by the General Services Administration.

DONALD J. TRUMP      THE WHITE HOUSE, July 23, 2025.

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[Trump administration investigating UNLV over diversity efforts](#)

JOBS & INTERNSHIPS

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

[Editorial Assistant \(Vacancy#:VAR003150\)](#)

- **Opening Date:** August 21, 2025
- **OPM Control Number:** 843967100
- **LC Organization Unit:** Office of the Librarian
- **Minimum Salary:** \$57,164.00 per year
- **Availability:** Open to All
- **Closing Date:** September 5, 2025
- **Vacancy Number:** VAR003150
- **Grade:** GS-07 **Series:** 1082
- **Maximum Salary:** \$74,318.00 per year
- **Telework Eligibility:** Hybrid

This position is located in the general Publishing Office (Office) of the Center for Exhibits and Interpretation (CEI) in the Office of the Librarian. The mission of the Office is to showcase the Library's collections and services through the publication of books and related products and to facilitate accomplishment of the Library's mission to inform, inspire and engage the public.

This is an entry level position performing duties in research, writing and editing; project management; and other developmental assignments, while maintaining the highest levels of integrity in scholarship and editorial practice.

[Click here for more information.](#)

To see more current job and internship opportunities at the Library of Congress, [visit our careers site](#) and our [internship and fellowships site](#).

Denmark

This Nordic country scrapped its 25% sales tax on books to address a national reading crisis.

Denmark is known for its high standard of living, progressive social policies, and cultural contributions, including fairy tales and modern design. The country has traditionally taken pride in its education and literacy, making recent developments particularly concerning for policymakers. Now, officials are grappling with alarming statistics that challenge Denmark's educational reputation.

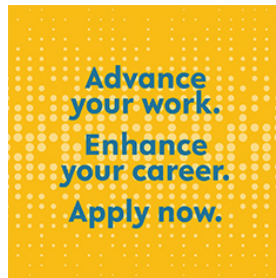
According to research from the OECD, an intergovernmental forum, one in four Danish 15-year-olds cannot understand basic written text. Denmark's culture minister described the situation as a "reading crisis" that has been "spreading in recent years" throughout the country. Another official said young people face constant distractions in the digital age, making it harder to develop essential reading skills.

This week, Denmark announced it would abolish the 25% value-added tax on books, making it one of the most aggressive policy responses to declining literacy in Europe. The measure will cost the government approximately 330M kroner (\$50M) annually. The culture minister said he was "incredibly proud" of the decision and argued that "massive money should be spent on investing in the consumption and culture" of Danish citizens.

Danish officials warned that while younger children can still improve their reading abilities relatively easily, literacy gaps become much harder to close by age 15. The timing makes Denmark's intervention critical for preventing long-term educational consequences. In a country famous for storytelling, officials hope cheaper books will help write a better ending to the reading crisis.

Rural Communities, Tribes Sue EPA Over \$2.8 Billion in Canceled Funding for Flood Mitigation and Resilience Projects

The sudden withholding of federal funds poses an existential threat to projects that have been in the works for years in communities across the U.S.



READ | [Deadlines Approaching for 2026–2027 Radcliffe Fellowships](#)

The online application deadlines for our 2026–2027 fellowship year are fast approaching. Humanities, social sciences, and creative arts applications are due on September 11, 2025, 11:59 PM ET. Science, engineering, and mathematics applications are due on September 30, 2025, 11:59 ET. [Apply today!](#)

[Lombardo supports Trump's executive order to dismantle education department](#)



Tools and Techniques for Streamlining the Transfer of Agency Records

[REGISTER FOR Session 3](#) **August 28, 2025**

[Session 1 Recording Available](#)

[Session 2 Recording Available](#)

This year, the Council of State Archivists (CoSA) and [Preservica](#) launched a new Digital Preservation Education and Advocacy program which includes Preservica's continued support of the State Electronic Records Initiative (SERI).

Against a backdrop of new challenges for State Archives, the 2025 program focuses on supporting CoSA members in elevating the value of digital records preservation with internal stakeholders, including IT, as well using the latest records preservation technologies to automate records transfers, create efficiencies, reduce costs and deliver improved citizen services.

About The Workshop Series

[Tools and Techniques for Streamlining the Transfer of Agency Records](#) is a 3-session **practical and interactive exploration** of the challenges and potential solutions for efficient and automated transfers for different sizes and frequency of records.

Topics will also begin to examine the use of AI for automating transfers and classifying and enriching transferred records.

Featured presenters will include staff from state archives and Preservica experts.

The series is open to all without charge.

In 2021 CoSA, with support from Preservica, published the [MoVE-IT report \(Modelling Viable Electronic Information Transfers\)](#). Since publication, the landscape of software and technology used across government has changed significantly, most notably the use of Microsoft 365. At the same time, records capture, digitization and digital preservation technologies have also rapidly advanced to provide new, faster and more automated options for transfer. The series picks up where *MoVE-IT* left off.

Session 1: *Overcoming people and process challenges to records transfers*
[RECORDING NOW AVAILABLE](#)

Session 2: *Practical tools and technologies for transfers*
[RECORDING NOW AVAILABLE](#)

Session 3: Thursday, August 28th, 3-4pm Eastern | [REGISTER](#)
Looking to the future: The impact of AI and transferring Teams and Outlook

Join Doug Robinson, NASCIO Executive Director; Mike Davis, Preservica Solutions Architect; and state archives representatives to explore the challenges around transferring emerging records types including:

- Exploring the use of AI to automate transfers
- Exploring the use of AI tools for metadata enrichment such as AV transcription, image recognition, and scene description
- Exploring the use of AI tools for content classification such as emails and PII detection Transferring Microsoft Teams meeting recordings and transcripts
- Transferring Microsoft Outlook

In the Mail: 7 Postcards Explore Nature and Landscapes Along Route 66

More: [Preserve Route 66](#)

By: Hardt Bergmann

In the Spring and Early summer of 2025 as I worked with the National Trust for Historic Preservation to transcribe and map a **collection of over 3,000 historic Route 66 postcards from [the Newberry Library](#)**, it became clear to me that nature and landscape constitute more than just a passive backdrop through which Route 66 passes. In a concrete sense, natural sites were significant draws for Route 66 tourists, actively shaping the flow of traffic and commerce along the route.

In a more profound sense, many of the landscapes found [along Route 66](#) have woven their way into our collective imagination, often appearing in places like travel magazines, road trip and vacation movies, and other forms of cultural media that shape perceptions about what nature is, what kinds of natural things are worth seeing and protecting, and what kinds of activities are ideal for tourists to do.

San Francisco Peaks (Arizona)

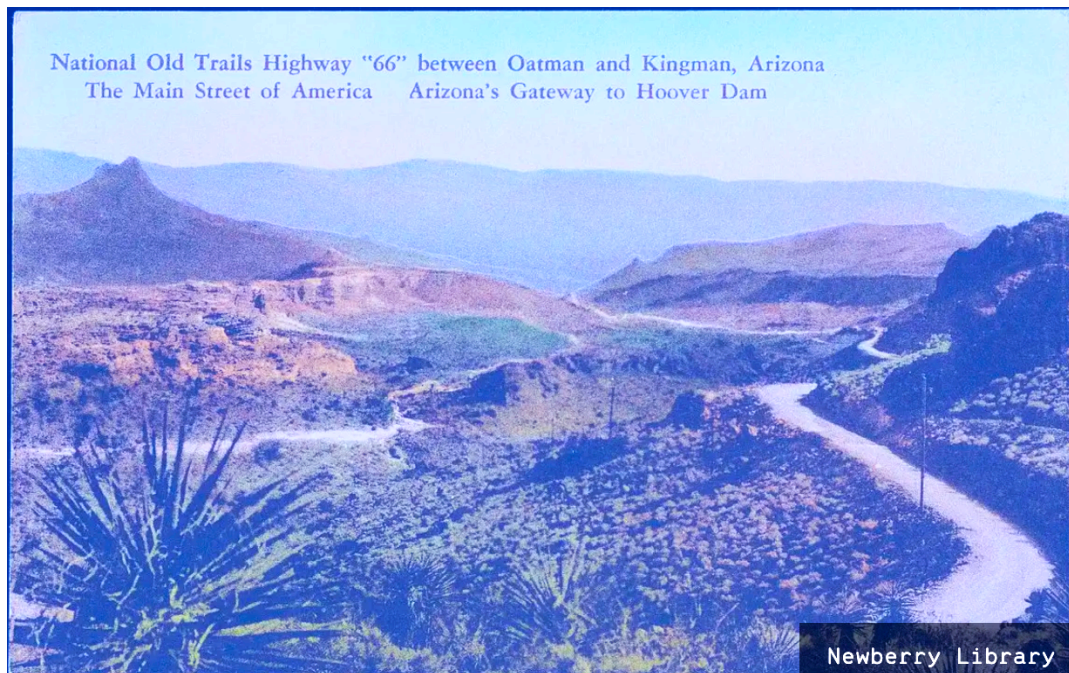


The San Francisco Peaks are a small range of high mountains whose jutting summits can be seen by Route 66 travelers approaching Flagstaff, Arizona from either the east or the west. Remnants of what was once a large stratovolcano that reached altitudes even greater than their current high point—Humphery’s Peak at 12,633 ft. —the San Francisco Peaks hold longstanding significance for many local Native American tribes. In Navajo culture, for example, the San Francisco Peaks (called Dook’o’ooshtid, or “the summit that never melts”) are one of the four sacred mountains marking the boundaries of Dinétah—the traditional Navajo homelands.

In Hopi culture, the peaks are known as Nuva’tukya’ovi (“place-of-snow-on-the-very-top”) and are considered home to ancestors whose spirits have departed to become clouds. The Hopi also use the alignment of the sunset in relation to Nuva’tukya’ovi and their villages on Black Mesa to

calculate the winter solstice. These and similar cultural relationships between the San Francisco Peaks and other local Indigenous groups, as well as the peaks' frequent presence in Route 66 postcard imagery, demonstrate how natural features can shape the day-to-day activities, customs, and experiences of humans.

7. Black Mountains (Arizona)



The Black Mountains, a range of low igneous peaks southwest of Kingman, Arizona, are home to a scenic stretch of Route 66 nicknamed the Oatman Highway. Along this stretch are several locations featured prominently in the Newberry postcards. Starting from the east, the first is Sitgreaves Pass, a popular lookout along Route 66 mistakenly named after American Explorer Lorenzo Sitgreaves (his expedition likely crossed the Black Mountains via a different pass farther north). From Sitgreaves Pass, the Oatman Highway meanders through the Black Mountains' rugged desert terrain to Oatman, a historic gold mining town turned kitschy tourist stop with various shops, eateries, and galleries housed in both historic and rebuilt Old-West-style buildings. At the western end of the Black Mountains sits Boundary Cone, a striking rocky promontory that has served as a landmark for both European and Native American navigators for centuries.

Postcard images of these and other locations along the Oatman Highway resemble the kinds of images that might come to mind when one pictures the quintessential southwestern road trip: remote arid mountains, desert scrub, cacti, abandoned mines, a small dusty town or two. It would not be surprising to find that decades of Route 66 travelers passing through the Black Mountains and their surrounds has helped shape popular imagery of the Southwest often seen in TV, movies, and other media. Another example of the ways Route 66 and the landscapes it traverses might continue to inform our collective perception of American nature, history, and geography.