



**PennState**  
University Libraries

# *Documents in the News*

*An exploration of government information use in newspapers*

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# *Documents in the News*

- Highlight the use of government information in newspapers
- Not an attempt to be comprehensive but more curatorial
- Foster discovery of government information sources
- Creation of instruction tool for various levels
- Raise awareness of government information
- Understand patterns of government information use
- Professional development opportunities



# *Penn State University Libraries*

- Penn State University Libraries(PSUL), large ARL
- Microform & Government Information Unit
- Newly merged unit—program plan
- 2 FT Staff, 3-5 PT Staff/Students and Faculty Coordinator
- FT and PT Staff work across unit
- Large collection
- Service, outreach, and collections guide our work



# *Planning and Implementation*

- Initially an instruction tool and opportunity for outreach
- Curious about usage in newspapers
- Opportunity for staff development and training
- Lib Guide platform to build on existing content
- Work integrated into planned desk hours
- Covid-19 pivot to remote work
- Desire to keep people working remotely by the Libraries



# *Training and Development*

- Various in person and remote training sessions for curators
- Multiple database options
- Various strategies explored with curator input
- Producer driven announcements from agencies/departments
- Both US Docs and PA State Docs
- Some guidelines established, but encouraged independence
- Workflow established to deliver content for guide publishing



# *Project Workflow*

- Established guidelines for curators
- New tabs on our Government Information guide
- Curators collect articles monthly in specific format
- Review and editorial work
- Space for both US Docs and PA State Docs
- Monthly archives in PDF format



# *Content*

- Covid-19 dominated coverage
- Impeachment/Election content
- The courts drive production and coverage in session
- Agency/Department through announcements
- Executive Branch is covered extensively
- State content followed similar patterns.



# *Changes and Challenges*

- Continued training and discussion for curators
- Remote work and connectivity
- Loss of PT staff and reduced staffing
- Communication and management
- Loss of newspaper database





# *Curation Experiences*

- Continued training and discussion—staff questions
- Changing strategies for searching—databases vary
- Time delay factor in newspaper coverage
- Loss of Access World News--state documents
- Search skills increased over length of time



# *Moving Forward*

- Documents in the News internship
- Recruitment of more curators dedicated to certain areas
- Increased promotion and engagement with instruction
- Subject or Agency/Department rotation
- Analysis of content we have collected
- Expand analysis of government information use



# *Feedback and Thoughts*

- Your feedback is welcome
- Ideas for Instructional use?
- A special thanks to everyone in the MGI unit who worked or continues to work on this project



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*Questions, Comments??*

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