

Hello, I'm Kelly Bilz, the Reference and Government Documents Librarian at Thomas More University in northern Kentucky. This is my poster, "Displays as a Digital Depository, Constitution Day Display 2022."

Thomas More University is a private, Catholic, liberal arts university, that has been a depository since 1970. We've since transitioned to being a digital depository.

This is the second display that we've done at the library, and we chose Constitution Day as our theme, to accompany programming from the First Year Experience program, that had a focus on civic engagement.

For my process, I started by selecting key topics: America's founding documents, voting rights, students' rights, the federal depository library program, of course, and Title IX, since it celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. Now, Title IX isn't actually in the Constitution, but it does use the equal protection clause protections from the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment, so I figured that was close enough!

Then I located materials such as the books in our collection, weeded government documents, and images from government libraries like the Library of Congress as well as our institution's yearbooks to tie it to our local community.

Then, I wrote captions to provide context for students, both for our international students who wouldn't have taken a U.S. civics class, and for our domestic students who might not remember their high school civics class.

Then, I printed and mounted images and materials on cardboard. Again, this is our second display, so we don't have foam core or matboard or things like that. So the cardboard works for us, but it does have a wicked curve. So, for example, this is an image that didn't make the cut, and if I turn it on its side, you can see how badly it has curved. But again, it worked for us. But it is something to keep in mind.

Now, I also talk about the materials I used, I talk about localizing the display and measures for our assessment, but I also want to focus on the Lessons Learned for the rest of this video.

First, and perhaps most important, is to consider lighting. Now, I took these pictures with the case doors open, but when the case doors are closed, it is very hard to see the materials inside of the display. So perhaps, LED tea lights might be a solution for us, or the battery powered light strips that the kids use on Tik Toks, but those might prove to be more of an obstacle than an advantage.

Also, add interactive elements. So, I think I could have done a scavenger hunt or had a QR code to a survey that posed questions like, "What does the Constitution mean to you? What kind of amendment would you propose, if given the opportunity?", things of that nature.

Finally, localize content to your community. So, for example, we're a Catholic university, so I found a book in our collection called, "Voting and Holiness," which I thought was an interesting enough title to add.

Also, find objects that add color and visual interest. So, fortunately, the Library of Congress and the National Archives had color images as well, to balance the black-and-white.

Next, contextualize QR codes. So, I had QR codes to *Constitution Annotated* and *GovInfo*, to the digital assets in our digital depository, and while I did have the name with the QR code, I think a header or picture of the website or even a logo would have encouraged more exploration.

Finally, have an assessment plan. I should have done this more intentionally, but I do talk about the measures that I have. But I think a survey asking for more direct feedback would have been beneficial.

And then finally—people who have done displays before will know this—plan for more content than what you need. This is only the second display, but I swear that display case gets bigger every year, so it's much easier to cut content than to have to add it on the fly.

So I think that, um, displays are a really low-stakes way for patrons to engage with library material, and I also think that they're fun to put together. So, I hope that this can provide some inspiration, or at least help you from avoiding the same pitfalls that we fell into (especially the lighting).

Thank you so much for viewing, and I have my email if you have any questions. Thank you!